



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

March 2023



Longstowe Parish Council

The County Council are continually repairing potholes but rely on the public to tell them where they are. If you see any, please report it on the council website at

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>.

The Village sign: quotes are being obtained for re-painting.

Neighbourhood Plan: It would seem that the majority of village residents are in favour of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and responses are currently being analysed.

You can contact the council by emailing the Clerk on longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com or mob: 07561 606080 or contacting the Chairperson at bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk or by phone on 07803 903047 or by post at The Dene, Old North Road, Bourn, Cambridge CB23 2TZ.

Longstowe Volunteer Help: Parish Council and Volunteer Group contacts:

Clerk, Sharon Brown 07587 781217 or 07561 606080
Longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com

Chair, Barbara Cooper 07803 903047 or
bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk

Maddy Crowther 01954 718303 – for urgent food, supplies & prescriptions

Victoria Bevan 07832 100441 – a 'phone call for a friendly chat.

Public Access Defibrillator

As many of you will already know a public access defibrillator (PAD) was fitted at **Longstowe Village Hall** in August last year. This equipment is available for members of the public to use in the event of an emergency where someone is in cardiac arrest. The Parish Council will be responsible for its upkeep.

The iPad SP1 defibrillator has been developed with the end user in mind, making it as easy as possible to

use. In operation, the iPad SP1 intelligently guides the user with calm voice prompts and large, clear illustrations which illuminate to highlight key commands. Instructions are given at every step and importantly, the voice prompts automatically adjust to background noise. This can be crucial when surrounding noise escalates and in challenging environments if sudden cardiac arrest strikes.

Should the need arise for the defibrillator to be used on a child, the iPad SP1 is equipped with pre-connected dual electrode pads that can be used on both adults and children. By simply lifting the clear, safety cover on the front, the device can be switched immediately to paediatric mode. This saves valuable time and anxiety in an emergency.

Why use the defibrillator?

When someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest, prompt action by anyone nearby offers their only realistic chance of survival.

Most people who survive will have needed a shock from a defibrillator to correct a chaotic heart rhythm. The earlier that shock is given, the better the person's chance of survival.

Who can use the defibrillator?

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can be used by a lay person with no formal training. Their use relies on someone witnessing a person having a cardiac arrest and being prepared to use a defibrillator.

They are designed to be used by anyone. Once the cabinet is opened and the defibrillator is removed it will talk to you giving audible prompts. There are clear instructions on how to attach the defibrillator pads. It assesses the heart rhythm and will only instruct you to deliver a shock if it's needed.

No-one will be placed in a legally compromising situation either by doing, or by not doing, the above.

The equipment and the consumable items, such as adhesive pads, are maintained by the Parish Council. To make sure that the defibrillator is always ready to

use when needed, please return it to the cabinet and inform the Parish clerk if you have needed to use the equipment.

How can I access the defibrillator in an emergency?

Call 999. The service will provide the code to open the defibrillator.

If you come across someone in cardiac arrest:

- first make sure you are safe
- call 999 for an ambulance and for the access code to open the cabinet.
- start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to provide the best chance of survival of the casualty
- fetch the defibrillator from the front wall of the **Longstowe Village Hall**
- Press the start button on the defibrillator machine and follow the verbal instructions it gives you. If the person starts breathing unaided, place them in the recovery position unless you suspect their spine may be damaged.

More information

Further guidance about CPR and defibrillators is available on the British Heart Foundation website.

How to use a defibrillator

<https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5>

The public access defibrillator is registered with The Circuit which is a national defibrillator database and with the East of England Ambulance Service .

The Village Hall

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL HIRE CHARGES from 1st January 2023

STANDARD HOURLY RATE £16

All lettings **must be booked in advance** and terminate by midnight. Maximum of 135 people.

NB: Licensable events and all events where alcohol is to be consumed, must be notified to the Booking Clerk.

For booking and further details, contact: Caroline

White: 01954 719669

email:longstowevillagehall@outlook.com

Village Hall Monthly Teas



The dates for the monthly Village Hall tea party will be :-

31 Mar 2023	)
28 Apr	) 2pm to 4:00pm
26 May	) (note change of finishing time)
30 June	)

All are welcome to come for a chat with tea and cake.

March 2023

Longstowe Post Office

Opening times: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00–12:30 for the sale of stamps, issue of pensions, posting letters and small parcels, obtaining an account balance and issuing cash via debit card. Collection point for some parcels. Use it or lose it!

Last collection times: High Street Mon–Fri: 16:15, Sat: 10:30 and Fox Road: Mon–Fri: 09:00, Sat: 07:00.

Library Services

Get more from your library

Mobile Library :- Rushbrook Close, Longstowe , 3rd Friday of the month 9:40 am - 10:15 am

The Library Presents has been bringing arts activities to Cambridgeshire Libraries since 2018, thanks to funding from Arts Council England. Full details of the program, along with booking information can also be found at www.library.live/the-library-presents

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the brochure please email thelibrarypresents@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

? QUIZ NIGHT ?

A FUN quiz night

Longstowe Village Hall

Next one: Sunday 26th March 2023
7.30 pm Start

This is a LIGHT HEARTED quiz with bring your own drink and snacks. It is a low cost fun night out and very entertaining.

Future dates are:

Sunday 30th April

Sunday 28th May.

Get them in your diary now.

For further information please contact

Caroline White on 01954 719669

carolinewhite1958@yahoo.com

Dog mess on public footpaths and bridle ways

There have recently been several occurrences of dog faeces either untouched or bagged and dumped by the side of public footpaths. This is very inconsiderate especially for people walking at twilight when it is more difficult to see. Please take your poop bags home or dispose of them in the bins provided. Please

report any problems with footpaths to the Footpath Warden Ben Holland at

benfootpathwarden@outlook.com

Remember the **Country Code** regarding dogs.

- Always keep your dog on a lead or in sight
- Be confident your dog will return on command
- Make sure your dog does not stray from the path or area where you have right of access
- Keep your dog under control to make sure it stays away from wildlife, livestock, horses and other people unless invited.

In short, if your dog is likely to run off the path, keep it on a lead.

2. At the same time the very successful annual Winter Bird Feed areas will be cut down, cultivated and re-sown between April and May.

3. To supplement these areas we feed weekly, a mix of grains directly on to the land adjacent, from December through to April.

4. Two-year legume mix to build natural fertility and provide an insect friendly habitat on a field scale.

To ensure we get the best results from these measures please enjoy looking at them from the many footpaths in the two Parishes, **but please avoid walking through them or letting dogs run through them.**

With thanks

William and Mercedes

Village Quiz in aid of Village Hall funds

QUIZ NIGHT



Longstowe Village Hall fundraiser

Saturday 15th April
7pm for 7.30 start

Bring a picnic + drinks

Entry - £5
(16's & under £2.50)
Tables of up to 8 people

Please book in advance:

Peter White 01954 719669

mrpeterwhite@btinternet.com

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

A Dirty History of Cambridge



Drinking water from polluted wells and a filthy River Cam, the first attempt at piped clean water in 1295. Hobson's Conduit 1610, the Victorians' pumped water supply and dealing with the waste! It's all here.

illustrated talk by

Alan Denney

Tuesday 25th April 2023

7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

Admission: £3 (Members free) - Refreshments included
Everyone welcome

Supporting Wildlife in Longstowe and Bourn

In recent years Longstowe Hall Estate has taken over 60 acres of farmland out of full time production and devoted the land to wildlife friendly projects. This area has now increased three-fold.

The principal areas are :

1. The wide field margins that are being upgraded with a mix of Wildflowers. The establishment last summer was seriously impacted by the drought and we will be re-sowing these this coming March and April. As a result, you will see them being cultivated and then drilled and rolled. These areas benefit a host of insects, bumble bees, small mammals and birds.

The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council)

Last Friday accompanying a friend to see the churchyard, it was an absolute joy to behold the snowdrops, which despite the extraordinary weather conditions of last summer have multiplied very well. They are beginning to making a sensible contribution to the landscape. Please do take the opportunity of coming down to see them.

Talking churchyard, planning is well in hand for the grass cutting this year.

In essence the grass to the right hand side of the lychgate will be allowed to flower to protect the bee orchids and will therefore be cut later in the year. The

exception will be a few graves which will be kept tidy. These are those of locals who either donated money to the Church and/or ancestors of current village families. At the time of the first cut in April, some agreed corridors to access these particular graves will be marked out. The graves to the back of the church will be mown as usual.

The Church Electoral Roll for the Parish of Longstowe is due for renewal this year. Initially, we are asking people who are currently on the roll if they would like to continue but if you would like to "sign up" and you have not previously done so, please just give Maddy a call on 01954 718303 or email to madeleinejones@btconnect.com and it can easily be arranged.

By the way there is an advantage to being on the Electoral Roll – a free pass to Ely Cathedral. It is the most wonderful of buildings and so worth a visit & there is plenty of free parking and excellent refreshments.

Forthcoming Event Early Summer:

Concert with Strawberries and Cream Afternoon of Sunday 11th June. More details to follow.

Services:

- Easter Sunday 9th April 10.30am Holy Communion Canon Andrew Norman.
- 23rd April 10.30am Morning Prayer Revd. Nigel Pearson.
- 30th April 10.00am Team Service Connington.
- 14th May 10.30am Holy Communion Dr John-David Yule.
- 28th May 10.30am - Morning Prayer Amanda Norman

Longstowe PCC officers:

Dr Sheena McRae: Church Warden

Mr Nicholas Jenkins: Treasurer

Other members of the PCC: Mr Anthony Clay, Mrs Maddy Crowther, Mr Stephen Owen, Mr Peter White.

For day to day communication about the Church in Longstowe please continue to contact Maddy Crowther on 01954 718303.

Contacting the Police

When you need to contact the police, it can often be a distressing time, and with a range of different contact methods available to you, it might not be clear which one you should choose.

This is why we want to educate our community about contacting us. It is important that our residents understand when to call us, when it's better to go

online, and when you should contact a different authority altogether.

We have put together a '[Contact us' guide](#), which can be accessed any time via the Constabulary's website.

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/>

The guide breaks down each method of contact so you can learn about how and when to use our phone lines and online services. Click into each section for further information and advice.

We believe that gaining a better understanding of our contact methods (and when to use each one) will ensure that should you require the police, you will know where to turn to receive the appropriate help. Not only that, but we also hope that it will alleviate unnecessary pressure on our call handlers, who often receive misplaced / inappropriate calls.

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(Solution on the back page)

	1	3			4	2	6	
4				5	8			
7						3		
				8			3	
3		8				9		2
	5			7				
		7						1
			9	6				3
	2	6	1			4	5	

Nature Notes from West End Longstowe March 2023

This very cold snap has brought some unusual bird life into feed around the gardens and it is a real joy for my Dad to sit looking out with his new super all singing field glasses and his eye spy book. However, he was not out of bed early enough to see the magnificent Barn Owl (Tyto alba) who very lazily waved at me, as he flew across the paddock about 30 meters from the fence line early the other morning. 7am on a winter's morning is one of his favourite times of day the other being just as dusk falls.

The barn owl with its iconic heart shaped face, buff back and wings and white underside makes him instantly recognizable. Apparently, they have a home range of around 5000 hectares, looking for their food

of field voles and wood mice. The heart shaped face facial disc collects sound, contributing to their extraordinary sensitive hearing. This allows them to locate their prey in total darkness.

I would like to think that the owl I saw was “son of Sid” who we had with his mate under an official barn owl release scheme when we first moved to Longstowe some 30 years ago. There is no doubt that the change in farming on the estate with lovely grass margins has very much helped this best loved bird to continue to survive and thrive.

This Winter we have been visited by a very large number of Woodcock, which is lovely. Also a pair of Snipe who are inhabiting the Longstowe Brook- which, despite the freezing conditions of the last 6 weeks, has continued to run most days. These are a very exciting little birds to watch and fly low to the ground and very fast. Also we do have several small coveys of grey partridge around that actually did well last year. The wonderful strips which the Estate have invested in have brought in many other small birds including linnets. Thank you.



lesser celandine: low-growing, with heart-shaped leaves and bright yellow flowers



wood anemone: white flowers with six petals with deeply divided leaves



dog's mercury: grows in large numbers, has leaves in opposite pairs and inconspicuous small green flowers



oxlip flowers are pale yellow in colour, with five petals. The flowers open out widely and they tend to face in the same direction. Flowers grow in one-sided clusters.

If you want to know more about spring wildflowers you can join me on a guided walk, and, new for this year and exclusively for local people who have trouble walking from the village, I will also be trialling some donation-only, sociable strolls with a sit down and a chat in Gamlingay Wood Nature Reserve, with controlled access to parking on the track. You'll find other walks, family sessions, and short courses (some funded) on our website, and you'll see staff members out and about more in our bluebell woodlands throughout April. Events are a great opportunity to learn more about what we do and to ask questions about why we do it! It also supports the Trust financially and enables us to manage reserves for wildlife and people.

Bluebells are vulnerable to climate change and are under threat due to habitat loss and degradation, and hybridisation. You can help keep the spectacle fantastic in your local woods by:

- Sticking to the permissive paths: every year we find trampled paths through the woods where people have been searching for the perfect photo. It can take years for bluebells to recover
- Keeping your dog on a lead
- Disposing of your garden waste responsibly
- Not picking flowers or digging up bulbs

This year we are trialling a new volunteer role in Waresley and Gransden Woods Nature Reserve to

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL



Afternoon Tea

Saturday 6th May 2023
3.00 to 5.00

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: March 2023

Bluebell season will soon be here! Just before they are out, you can look for some early flowering species in our woodlands:

help the Trust connect better with the local community, help people enjoy the reserve more, and to encourage visitors to access it safely and responsibly. The ideal person will be good at chatting with people, and someone who visits several times a week. Please get in touch if you are interested in being a Volunteer Community Ranger. There are other volunteer positions nearby, for example: supporting community engagement, helping in reception at our head office, supporting our ecologists with data input and analysis, or conducting bird surveys. Volunteer opportunities: wildlifebcn.org/get-involved Events: www.wildlifebcn.org/events E-mail: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

Rebecca Neal, Communities and Wildlife Officer,
rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

BCN Twitter: @wildlifebcn

The West Cambridgeshire Hundreds are a group of nature reserves owned and/or managed by the Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants: Hardwick, Gamlingay, Hayley, and Waresley & Gransden Woods, Buff Wood, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.

The Care Together Programme



The Care Together is a Cambridgeshire County Council programme in collaboration with local

partners, community groups and residents. Our focus will be on working together to support older people to live happily and independently in their communities for longer.

A pilot scheme in East Cambridgeshire identified the following support needs:

- Early Intervention initiatives such as social groups for hobbies and exercise
- More local homecare and day opportunities for people over 65
- Support for older people living in the community with long-term care and support needs.



Residents over the age of 55 are being invited to complete an online questionnaire. It has been acknowledged that not all residents over the age of 55 have access to the internet or have the confidence to use it.

So we have approached Parish Councils and libraries to hold printed copies of the questionnaires for resident to collect and return on completion.

To ensure that it is helpful for you, we would like your participation in answering an online questionnaire. (<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/36MHL6/>)

If you do not have access to the internet, please call 01954 286 002 or 07771 545 674 Monday – Friday between 9am – 2pm to request a paper copy or if you prefer to answer the questions over the telephone instead of on paper or online. Please leave a contact number if asked to do so. Outside of these hours paper copies can be requested via the email care.together@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

For more information access

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/care-together-a-proposed-2.9m-catalyst-for-a-fairer-and-more-caring-cambridgeshire>

Non delivery of South Cambs magazine

Dear Longstowe Residents,

I have good reason to believe that very few if any of the Longstowe residents received the Winter 2022 edition of the magazine.

After six weeks of trying to obtain a copy, I have finally done so and reported the lack of delivery to our village to the distributors.

The distributors absolutely refuse to believe that the publication hasn't been delivered here and pointed out that I was the only one to report non delivery. On the strength of that, they claimed that out of the 55,000 they had "delivered", only one going astray was far from serious.

The only way we can put pressure on them to get it right is to note as many non-delivery instances as possible, and present them with hard figures.

Here is my suggestion;

Next issue SHOULD be delivered to your home "between Monday 13th March and Saturday 25th March". I'd like to ask you, in the case of non-delivery by 25th March, to please email our Parish Clerk (longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com) giving your address. If it is not convenient to email, please do the next best thing which is to telephone me at home, 01954 719669, and either leave a message including name and address, or of course just speak with me.

I feel to stand any chance of getting this situation resolved, we need to present a list of addresses that have reported non delivery.

I need YOUR help to resolve this situation. Please do your bit!

Quite apart from needing to know bin collection dates, I bear in mind that this publication is paid for by the advertisers.

Since I wrote this article, a little more information has come to my notice. I read in February 2023 "Meldreth Matters" (Parish Council magazine for Meldreth) that many of their residents don't receive the magazine regularly, if ever. Their Parish Council urges anyone not receiving it, to contact the distributor Smart Distribution, 0800 6444011 or scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk

It is a good plan to contact the Parish Clerk also, so there is more for them to go on when chasing it at a higher level.

If all else fails, you can find the magazine online, <https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/the-south-cams-magazine>

So, if you don't receive the Spring issue by 25th March, please do something about it!

Thank you

Peter White

JOIN THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN!

We're delighted to announce the Great British Spring Clean 2023 will take place from **17 March to 2 April**.

Last year many of you were among a mass army of amazing #LitterHeroes who pledged to pick nearly *half a million* bags of litter. We are hoping to count on your support once again as we battle to clean up our streets and public spaces.

You can now pledge to pick up a bag of litter - or more - on our website.

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

This year we will be focusing on the pride our army of volunteers - our #LitterHeroes - have for their local community.

New research for Keep Britain Tidy reveals that more than 8.5 million adults in the UK have done litter-picking at least once in the past six months. That's a million more people than watched the end of the hit BBC series, "Happy Valley"!

The Great British Spring Clean is an inclusive national campaign with all members of our communities welcome to get involved - watch our video on our website to see how different groups take part each year.

Covid 19

Covid is still around and is not going away. Cambridgeshire is still one of the top areas for infection. Please continue to take precautions when out and about and be considerate to other people who may be vulnerable. Many vulnerable people are afraid to venture out as it is now becoming impossible to be sure if others out and about are infected and not isolating. If you know you may be around anyone with reduced resistance to the virus, do wear a mask and be sensitive to their fear. Regular testing and voluntary isolation will make sure you do not carry infection around. Get your booster vaccination if you are eligible.

Covid 19 Co-ordination Hubs

Cambridgeshire County Council:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Use the NHS website

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or call 119.

Cost of Living Survey

There is still time to have your say.

Rural Issues Group

Rural Households Survey on the Cost of Living



Do you live in a rural area and are you feeling the pinch?

The Rural Services Network and the Rural Issues Group of Citizens Advice are jointly running a survey to understand more about rural household budgets at, what is, a very difficult time for many.

Research commissioned by the RSN last year shows rural areas are suffering more acutely from the rise in the cost of living. Results from the survey will help us to engage more effectively with Government Departments, MPs and other policy makers.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living



<<<

Scan the QR code to access the survey and tell us your views

The survey closes on 31 March 2023

EVENTS COMING SOON

Car Boot Sale – September

Sort out the stuff hiding away in cupboards you no longer use. Watch out for more details in the June Skylark

Longstowe Fete

It's back. Contact the Village Hall committee if you can volunteer and/or run a stall.

LONGSTOWE

village FETE



*** It's back ***
with all the usual fare

SUNDAY 18th June 2.00pm

BAR - BBQ - Teas
Stalls - Raffle
*** ENTERTAINMENTS ***

The June History Society Talk

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

Ermine St Old North Road

The history of the road



Romans, Robbers, Railways and more!

illustrated talk by
Steve Owen

Tuesday 27th June 2023
7.30 for 8pm
LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

Admission: £3 (Members free) - Refreshments included
Everyone welcome

Sudoku Solution

8	5	4	7	3	1	6	2	9
3	2	7	5	9	6	4	8	1
1	6	9	2	4	8	7	3	5
9	1	8	3	7	4	6	5	2
2	4	6	9	1	5	8	7	3
7	3	5	6	8	2	1	4	9
4	8	3	1	2	9	5	6	7
6	7	1	8	5	3	2	9	4
5	9	2	4	6	7	3	1	8

Please send items for publication in the June 2023 Skylark by
no later than **Friday 12th May** to LongstoweSkylark@hotmail.com

Longstowe Parish Council: webpage address:
<http://www.longstoweparishcouncil.co.uk>

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