



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

June 2023



Longstowe Parish Council

Traffic Management in Longstowe

On Thursday 18th of May Darryl Preston, the Police and Crime Commissioner, attended the Parish Council meeting. This created an opportunity for residents to raise their concerns about the speed of traffic through the village and the safety implications for residents crossing the Old North Road. Anyone walking on foot through the village will be very much aware that not all cars adhere to the 30MPH maximum speed restriction and 40MPH along the Old North Road. This is especially obvious to anyone with a small child, those who are unsteady on their feet, cyclists and horse riders.

Speed limits should be evidence-led and self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance. Speed limits should be seen by drivers as the maximum rather than a target speed.

The Highway agency set local speed limits in situations where local needs and conditions suggest a speed limit which is lower than the national speed limit. Despite previous discussions Longstowe has been unable to convince the Highways department that there is a health and safety risk for residents in the village and that further speed control is needed.

Guidance clearly states that traffic authorities must keep their speed limits under review with changing circumstances and to consider the introduction of more 20 mph limits and zones, over time, in urban areas and built-up village streets that are primarily residential, to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Darryl confirmed that traffic authorities and police forces work closely together in determining, or considering, any changes to speed limits and that any speed management measures should always be considered before a new speed limit is introduced.

The underlying aim should be to achieve a 'safe' distribution of speeds. The key factors that should be

taken into account in any decisions on local speed limits are:

- history of collisions
- road geometry and engineering
- road function
- composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users)
- existing traffic speeds
- road environment

While these factors need to be considered for all road types, they can be weighted differently in urban or rural areas. The impact on community and environmental outcomes are also considered.

So, what can we do?

Driving around Cambridgeshire there are a lot of villages that use a whole plethora of speed reduction methods, some are more effective than others, most have speed watch arrangements in place and have been able to evidence via survey the volume and speed of vehicles passing through the village. The Parish council is seeking volunteers who would be willing to fund raise for equipment, join a speed watch group and investigate the options for reducing the speed of vehicles via cameras, speed humps, give way signs, give way areas etc.

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you have some time to contribute to this worthy cause .

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.

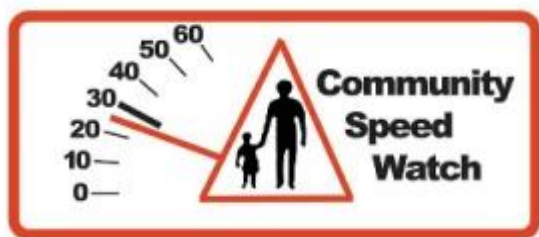
Play equipment

A request has been made to improve and/or replace the playground equipment that is located on the

Playing Field at Longstowe. Recognising that this will need to be match funded, it is proposed that a working group be established to discuss and coordinate the way forward with this project. There has been discussion during the Parish Council on separating the play area from cars and dogs. The suggestion for some new equipment will be taken to the Village Hall Committee.

If you are interested and willing to join the working group, please send your details to the longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com to be received by 15th June 2023.

Community Speed Watch



Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted - initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders will receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow based on the collated evidence.

Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in supporting this initiative please contact the Parish clerk Sharon Brown

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 June 2023	)
28 July	) 2pm to 4:00pm
25 Aug	)
29 Sept	)

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

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.

Coronation Tea



The Coronation Tea Party, held on 6th May was a great success and villagers filled the Village Hall.

Commemorative 50p pieces in a presentation box were handed out to local children and young adults under 18 yrs.

The cake was made by Helen Deeble of Gamlingay and was cut by our own Will Beven of Longstowe Hall.



Logstowe Village Fete

The Village Hall Committee are pleased to announce the return of the Village Fete with BBQ, bar, stalls, raffle and games. Come along and enjoy yourselves.

See poster below for times.

LONGSTOWE village FETE



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

SUNDAY 18th June 2.00pm

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

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 <https://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 25th June 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 July

Sunday 27th August.

Get them in your diary now.

For further information please contact
Caroline White on 01954 719669
carolinewhite1958@yahoo.com

Peter's Fund Raising Quiz

During April a quiz was held, as a fund raiser for our Village Hall. The event was well attended with around



60 contestants who all appeared to be having a good time. A feature of these quizzes is that contestants are invited to bring

their own food and drinks, which all helped to create a jolly atmosphere.

A raffle was held which also helped to raise funds. By the end of the evening the sum of £360 profit had been raised by a very happy group. The sum was donated to the Village Hall.

The organiser was most grateful to all those who had taken part in the quiz and raffle and those who had donated raffle items, and especially grateful to those who had travelled some distance.

Thank you All.

Library Services

Get more from your library

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

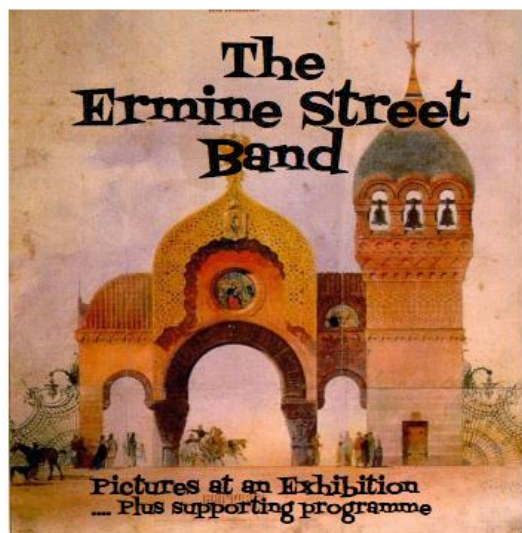
The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council)

After what has seemed to be one of the most extended and cool springs I can recall, we have suddenly arrived in full summer to an amazingly verdant display of blossom, Queen Anne's Lace and very early roses. The poor swallows have only just returned – nearly a month late. We are hoping that the summer decides to stay (has stayed) around for our Afternoon Concert 11th June with a Strawberry and Cream Tea (see poster below).

Future Dates for Your Diary:

- Friday 7th July @7pm Complin Service with the Choir of Selwyn College Cambridge.
- Holy Communion 9th July @ 10.30am
- Morning Prayer 23rd July @10.30am
- Holy Communion 13th August 9am
- 27th August 10am Team Service @ Yelling
- tbc - Pet Service During September

And Finally.....



Chamber Music for Ten Players
Saint Mary's Church, Longstowe
Sunday 11th June 2023, 3.00pm

All Proceeds to the Fabric Fund of St Mary the Virgin.
 Strawberry and Cream Tea. Tickets £12.00.
 For tickets and info please contact Maddy Crowther 01954 718303
 or email madeleinejones@btconnect.com

In the Old Church Tower

In the old church tower
 Hangs the bell
 An old friend that seems to know
 All our joy and all our woe;
 It is glad when we are wed,
 It is sad when we are dead,
 And all is well!

(Thomas Bailey Aldrich- American writer 19th Century)

How true the above is about Longstowe church, treasured even though the reader may come into the building infrequently. It is a wonderful space and a very good place to rest your seat even if it be for just a short time – do pop in or better still come and join as a volunteer to keep it clean and sparkling, and whole.

Quick fire questions:

Q: Which Pope gave a papal decree that the weather vane on a church should be a cockerel?

Answer : Pope Nicholas 1st decreed that a cock should be placed on every church as a symbol of Peter's betrayal of Christ. The cockerel was a warning to the congregation to be vigilant against the same temptation.

By the time the decree landed in England, not all churches followed, preferring a vane that was emblematic of their patron saint! However, Longstowe seems to have neither- what a pity!

Q: What does the scallop shell mean in Christianity?

Answer: The scallop shell of Saint James is believed to promote courage, strength and hope.

For centuries, the scallop shell, which is typically found on the sea coast in Galicia, northern Spain, has been the symbol of the Camino de Santiago and its pilgrims. The pilgrims carried a scallop shell and would present themselves at churches, castles, abbeys and so on where they could expect to be given as much sustenance as they could pick up with one scoop of the shell. Probably they would be given oats, barley, and perhaps beer or wine.

In the Golden Valley outside Hereford there is to this day a scallop shell trail for pilgrims (secular) and around 57 miles with overnight stopping points annotated by the sign of the shell.

Longstowe PCC officers:

Dr Sheena McRae: Church Warden

Mr Nicholas Jenkins: Treasurer

Other members of the PCC: 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.

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

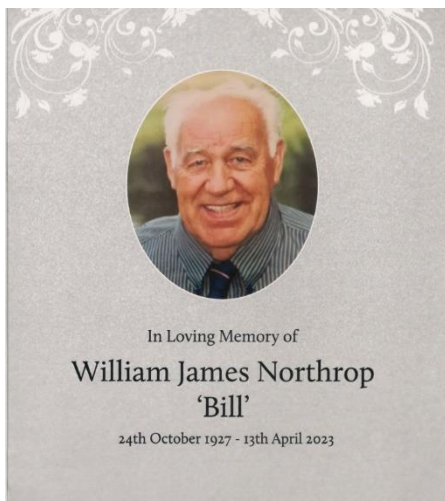
Tuesday 27th June 2023

7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

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

Obituary: Bill Northrop



Bill lived in Longstowe for many years. Working first on the family farm, then on the Estate Farm and finally working for Rugby Cement until retirement. I understand that he never really gave up work, as after retirement he continued to work in gardens.

His love of Cricket and Football is well-known and, after moving, he continued to support Longstowe events until driving became difficult. He will be much missed by his family and friends.

Bill was the most thoughtful and generous of neighbours and I wish I had spent more time with him.

Bobbie Coe

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(Solution on the back page)

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

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: June 2023

Thank you for those people who keep their dogs on a lead in our special woodlands in the West Cambs Hundreds area. Keeping dogs on leads is the default for our reserves, including Gamlingay Wood (and Sugley Wood), Waresley and Gransden Wood (and Brownes' Piece) Hayley Wood and Hardwick Wood. There are a few exceptions, which can be found on our website. We are looking to improve signage, but temporary signs are easily removed, and more permanent signs are expensive. In Waresley and Gransden Woods we have a new volunteer who walks the woods regularly and chats to people about the reserve and how to use it sustainably. If anyone is interested in doing something like this in Gamlingay Wood, please get in touch.

Here are some reasons why we want dogs on leads and on the paths

- The presence of a dog can disturb wildlife at the time (like basking reptiles, fledgling birds, or small mammal) and their scent can deter wildlife after they have left
- Dogs with topical flea treatments can poison water
- Dogs disturb sediment which covers leaves of oxygenating plants in water. This affects life at all levels (and we do love our tadpoles!)
- Dogs off a lead disturb ground or near-ground-nesting birds (like meadow pipits in Sugley Wood, skylarks in agricultural fields, willow warblers which are declining in our region, wrens, robins and blackbirds)
- Dog mess is unpleasant for people visiting and affects soil nutrient levels
- Dogs can trample plants on the woodland floor.

Here are some reasons why we ask this even from the most perfectly behaved dog:

- When people see others with their dogs off the lead, they think it is ok, but not all dogs stay close to their owners
- Some people, including some children, are scared of dogs, regardless of how they behave. It is reassuring for those people when a dog is on a lead.

These sites are owned by the Wildlife Trust BCN and are managed for wildlife with permissive access for people. We want people to enjoy the woods and we want to keep them special for generations. The more

we treat them with respect, the more likely it will be special for future generations.

We really appreciate all those people who use our sites sustainably, and those that go the extra mile by to care for these woods by doing things like picking up litter, and reporting issues.



With the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants

Summer term 2023

Join Communities and Wildlife Officer Rebecca Neal on a short course funded by Camberton Adult Education

Wildlife for Beginners: Tuesday mornings 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July
3 guided walks around Cambourne Nature Reserve focussing on identifying and enjoying common wildlife

Bird Song: Thursday mornings 4th May, 8th June, 6th July
3 guided walks on different nature reserves in the Cambourne area focussing on identifying and enjoying birds by their song

Wild in the Woods: Inner Child Series: Tuesday mornings 16th May, 20th June, 18th July
3 sessions on Cambourne Nature Reserve for adults to enjoy fun outdoor activities normally for kids only. The activities will depend on the group but might include pond dipping, shelter building and whittling

- Some longer courses are also available for parents or carers of toddlers and babies
- Our funder covers the cost for these sessions so they are **free** to participants in return for completion of some paperwork
- Booking is essential, see our website for details wildlifebcn.org/events

Explore more events online: wildlifebcn.org/events

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, The Manor House, Broad Street, Cambourne, CB23 4DH Tel: 01954 713500 Email: cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org Registered charity No. 1000412
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Some more events still bookable

Gamlingay Wood Nature Reserve : 29th June 10-12ish

Guided Night Walks:

- Saturday 26 August 2023 8.15-10pm ish
Cambourne Nature Reserve,
- Friday 22 September 2023 7.15-9pm ish
Hardwick Wood

Booking is essential at www.wildlifebcn.org/events

Rebecca Neal, Communities and Education Officer,
Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants Events:
www.wildlifebcn.org/events E-mail:
rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org Facebook:
[@BeccaBadgerWTBCN](https://www.facebook.com/BeccaBadgerWTBCN)

BCN Facebook/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 and Gransden Woods, Buff Wood, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.

U3AC Open Day

"No exams, no pressure - just learning and enjoying an activity for fun!" That's why I joined U3AC, says Tim Ewbank, Chairman of the educational charity based in Cambridge.



If you're retired or semi-retired and looking for structure to your week and want to stay mentally and physically active, then come

along to the U3AC Open Day on Thursday 6 July 10am-1pm, 27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UJ.

Run by its members for its members, U3AC offers over 300 courses and leisure activities for over 2,000 retired and semi-retired members in and around Cambridge.

Established in 1982 as an independent educational charity, U3AC's courses cover traditional subjects, such as History and Languages; leisure pursuits like bridge and board games; as well as physical activities including walking and dance.

At the Open Day you'll meet a selection of tutors, take a tour of the classrooms, pick up a courses and activities Programme and find out what U3AC has to offer. You'll also get to hear from U3AC's Mainly Madrigals singing group as you enjoy some of the free refreshments.

U3AC's course programme follows an academic cycle, with three terms, starting in October. However, new members can join at any time.

In addition to courses, U3AC offers a weekly lecture series and social events throughout the year, which brings members together and offers the chance to meet more like-minded people. You'll also find members congregating over a cup of coffee after classes in the Bridge Street premises in central Cambridge.

For further information about courses, vacancies and membership visit www.u3ac.org.uk

Arthur's Shed



Arthur's Shed is a purpose-built studio set in the beautiful grounds of the Arthur Rank Hospice. Sessions are open to the public, you do not need to

have a connection with the Charity to attend. Sessions are free of charge, although a suggested donation of £5 is welcomed to cover the cost of materials.

Sessions can be booked by emailing Arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk or calling 01223 675777. Sessions must be booked in advance.

- Paper Crafts: Learn to make paper hedgehogs and other paper crafts.
- Astronomy: Learn all about the sun, moon and stars and build your very own sun dial! (We recommend attending all 6 sessions)
- Clay Work: Design and decorate small, air-dried clay sculptures
- Flower Arranging: How to make the best of flowers
- Mindful Moments is a quiet opportunity to meet other people in a similar situation and learn how to practice mindfulness meditation as a self-care skill to reduce stress and anxiety and promote a sense of wellness and connectedness to others and to nature.

Parking: If arriving by car, please park at the Babraham Park & Ride, CB22 3AB, next door. The footpath to the Hospice is signposted on the left as you drive into the park & ride. Parking is free of charge for up to 18 hours at the Park & Ride. Please note the hospice car park is for use by our patients and their visitors (there are a limited number of disabled bays if you need one). Why not find us online at: <https://www.arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed/Contact us at> Arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk to join our mailing list.

Battery re-cycling – an update

For those lucky few who have actually received a copy of South Cambs Magazine, you will not need this information as you will have no doubt already read about the changes to the battery recycling system. For the other 95%+ of the population, the following may be of interest.

No longer do you have to patiently wait for blue bin day for battery collection. Now all one has to do is bag up batteries for disposal and attach them to the lid of ANY of your bins.

Each bin collecting vehicle is equipped with the facility to collect and safely store batteries and take them to the central collection point. Just what we need to help prevent batteries ending up in landfill.

If you have not received your copy of South Cambs Magazine by 3rd June, you can request one from scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk or by visiting South Cambs at their premises in Cambourne. It might be

worth asking the postman after that date - he is likely to have a pile of them in his van.

EVENTS COMING SOON

Car Boot Sale – September

Longstowe VILLAGE HALL

CAR BOOT & TABLE-TOP SALE

**Sunday, 10th September
9.00 till 12.00**

**Refreshments available
free entry for buyers**

Pitch prices:

- Cars £10 (cash on the day)
- Vans £15 (cash on the day)
- Indoor tables £12 (cash on the day)

Booking essential: contact Maddy on 01954 719303 or email: madeleinejones@btconnect.com

Longstowe History Society - September

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY Rise and Fall of the Victorian 'Reading Room'



A look at the rapid rise of 'Reading Rooms' in the mid-nineteenth century, and then the fast decline of this fascinating aspect of local history

illustrated talk by

Sarah Doig

Tuesday 26th September 2023

7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

**Admission: £3 (Members free) -
refreshments - everyone welcome**

Covid 19

Covid is still around and is not going away. Please continue to take precautions when out and about and be considerate to other people who may be vulnerable. 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 spring booster vaccination if you are eligible.

Cambridgeshire County Council:
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-useful-links>
 or call 119 to book a vaccination.

Longstowe Cricket Club Fixtures 2023

CCA Junior League Division 3

Date	Home/Away	Time	Opponent	Venue
10 th June	H	1 pm	Stapleford CC- 1st XI	Longstowe Village Hall
11 th June	A	2 pm	Girton CC- 2nd XI	Girton Cricket Club
24 th June	A	1 pm	Cam Kerala CC- 2nd XI	Hauxton Sports Ground
1st July	A	1 pm	Steeple Morden CC- 1st XI	Hay Street, Steeple Morden
8th July	H	1 pm	Cottenham CC- 2nd XI	Longstowe Village Hall
15 th July	H	1 pm	Madingley CC- 2nd XI	Longstowe Village Hall
22 nd July	A	1 pm	Madingley CC- 2nd XI	Cambridge University Press
29 th July	H	1 pm	Cam Kerala CC- 2nd XI	Longstowe Village Hall
5 th August	A	1 pm	Cottenham CC- 2nd XI	Cottenham Recreation Ground
12 th August	H	1 pm	Cambourne CC- 3rd XI	Longstowe Village Hall
19 th August	A	1 pm	Milton CC, Cambs- 2nd XI	Sycamores Recreation Ground
26 th August	H	1 pm	Milton CC, Cambs- 2nd XI	Longstowe Village Hall
2 nd Sept	A	1 pm	Cambourne CC- 3rd XI	Lower Cambourne

Sudoku Solution

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

Please send items for publication in the September 2023 Skylark by no later than **Friday 11th August** to LongstoweSkylark@hotmail.com

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

Printed in-house.