



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

September 2023



Longstowe Parish Council

Parish Council meetings - going Online for the Winter

Between October and March inclusive the meetings of the Parish Council will be online. There will be no meeting in February. Anyone wishing to be present at a meeting or make representation in person, please contact the Clerk for the link a few days ahead of the meeting. For those without internet access, but wishing to attend, please contact the Clerk a few days ahead of any meeting. Arrangements can be made to be at the Village Hall with the Clerk and using our new internet access there.

Traffic Management in Longstowe

The Parish Council are still looking for volunteers to take part in Community Speed Watch. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact the Parish Clerk, Sharon Brown. If enough people volunteer, we should be able to post regular checks and really encourage people to s l o w d o w n.



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.

Review of play equipment on the Field

There is still a chance to join the small group that is reviewing the play equipment. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to be involved.

Open Eco Homes



Back for their 14th year, Cambridge Carbon Footprint invites you to discover what their Open Eco Homes 2023 season has to offer.

With home tours across Cambridgeshire, online talks, and in-person home energy events, they have something for everyone. The hosts, all Cambridgeshire residents will show you how to get ready for another winter of high fuel bills wherever you live. Residents in Heydon will show you how they have transformed their historical homes into energy efficient havens, with innovative technology such as solar PV tiles made to look like slate in this beautiful conservation area. Homes in Caxton, Guilden Morden, Heydon, St Ives and across the city can demonstrate how they have gotten off gas, and used design, DIY and determination to create comfortable family homes. There will also be a unique opportunity to investigate the spectacularly sustainable modular homes that have been rolling out across the city to help tackle homelessness, see how these SoloHaus projects have transformed the lives of residents and learn about the ideas and design behind them. In addition to our home tours there will also be a series of talks and events where attendees can explore in more detail topics from eco home design, low carbon solutions in the home and through to community energy projects.

Description of each Tour and Talk via links, below.
More information and Interviews with OEH Hosts and experts can be organised on request. Contact **Fran Sutton:** fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org 07713841391 or **Tom Bragg:**

tom@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org 01223 844291,
07990 548755

[Photos and images](#) free to use for publicity.

Full information and Booking:

cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes

. **Booking Essential** for tours & talks here:

cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes-events

OEH is an annual project since 2010 of [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#) (CCF), a charity committed to creating environmental, economic, and social benefits for the Cambridge area.

OEH's 2022 programme attracted 488 bookings, and with over 49,652 YouTube views so far, we predict that we have helped to save an estimated 3,097 Tonnes CO₂, based on a survey of participants.

Videos of previous tours here:

cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes/tours-on-demand

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.

Neighbourhood Plan – Initial Results

The Parish Council would like to thank the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group for their work in preparing the Neighbourhood Planning Survey and to the residents in the village for their valuable contribution.

The responses will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our community.

Together, we can create a stronger, more inclusive, and harmonious neighbourhood for everyone to enjoy.

Your participation has allowed us to identify the key areas that require attention and improvement. We believe that your engagement doesn't end here however. We encourage you to continue actively participating in further neighbourhood initiatives and meetings.

Below is a summary detailing the involvement from all corners of our neighbourhood. Your commitment to voicing your opinions and sharing your thoughts has truly strengthened our sense of unity and collaboration. It is heartening to witness such active

engagement, and it highlights the collective determination we all share in ensuring the betterment of our neighbourhood.

	Longstowe	Bourn Residences	Total
Number of households to which questionnaires were distributed	89	23	112
Number of households from which questionnaires were returned	40	6	46
Response rate	44.9%	26.1%	41.1%

Table 2: Should the Parish Council continue to work on a Neighbourhood Plan?

Yes, I am in favour of continued work on the Neighbourhood Plan	60	67.4%
No, I am opposed to continued work on the Neighbourhood Plan	1	1.1%
I am undecided or neutral in relation to this question	24	27.0%
Not answered	4	4.5%

Table 10: Respondents' preferences for development timescale

Occasional single unit development	39
Less frequent intermittent clustered developments	27
Other	21

Table 11: Respondents' opinion as to the potential advantages of development

	High	Medium	Low	Score
Improved sustainability of village amenities	47	21	12	195
Increased number and range of people active in village life	46	22	12	194
Improved sustainability of the Longstowe area	44	22	11	187
More starter homes for young residents in the Longstowe area	37	26	20	183
Attract new amenities to the Longstowe area	30	27	23	167

More housing suitable for ageing residents in the Longstowe area	19	35	24	151
Improved employment prospects in the Longstowe area	25	19	29	142

Table 12: Respondents' opinion as to the features to be preserved in development

	High	Medium	Low	Score
The countryside and views from the village	79	3	6	249
The open green spaces between buildings and in the village	74	6	9	243
The identity of the area as a village and its particular character	69	12	8	239

Table 13: Respondents' opinion as to the improvements to be achieved in development

	High	Medium	Low	Score
The countryside and views from the village	63	16	10	231
The open green spaces between buildings and in the village	59	25	3	230
The identity of the area as a village and its particular character	56	16	16	216

"The village is a quiet, rural community with extensive green spaces that are easily accessible by and visible to residents. The objectives of the Plan are to control the extent and nature of development that is inconsistent with the present character of the village whilst supporting development that sustains and, where possible, enhances its viability and amenity to the benefit of the village community."

There is widely-held view that amenities in the village are inadequate, notably in respect of a struggling sewage system, the lack of a shop, limited social hubs and limited support services (such as meals-on-wheels) especially when combined with poor public transport links which require residents wishing to access facilities in other villages (such as the surgery) to have access to car transport.

More broadly, it is clear that Longstowe is, to a substantial extent, dependent on neighbouring areas

both for some of those amenities and for essential inputs such as employment and education.

A majority of Survey respondents would support commercial development that satisfies the following criteria:

It uses existing non-residential buildings.

There are good grounds for believing that it would provide jobs for local residents.

Its operations are not such as to add materially to the traffic or pollution in the village.

A preference for small scale and service-oriented businesses was evident.

There is a division of opinion amongst respondents on the issue of development. In summary,

The majority of respondents prefer, at most, modest levels of development though there is a minority that would prefer significantly larger scales of development in order to secure a broader array of amenities and a more active community.

The majority of respondents prefer small scale, incremental building projects spread over the 15-year period though there are minorities that would prefer either a single large project or a combination of a large project and other smaller developments executed

We are committed to addressing these issues and fostering a positive change that reflects the aspirations of all residents. Your ongoing support and active involvement will be vital as we move forward in implementing the proposed plans.

Once again, thank you for dedicating your time and effort to the neighborhood planning. Your involvement has been instrumental in shaping the future of your community.

Please contact Parish Clerk if you require a full copy of the outcomes from the report.

If you have any further questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to us via the Longstowe Parish Clerk.

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:

Christine Morton: 01954 269126 or

Caroline White: 01954 719669

email:longstowevillagehall@outlook.com

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 for Table Tops: contact
Maddy on 01954 719303 or email:
madeleinejones@btconnect.com

Fete

The Village Fete was a great success despite the rain half way through the afternoon. There were many stalls, barbeque and ice cream with teas in the Village Hall. Approximately £950 was raised for the Village Hall fund.

BOOKS	£ 21.50
BOTTLES	£169.00
CAKE STALL	£ 58.00
BRIC-A-BRAC	£131.00
RAFFLE	£205.00
TEAS/COFFEE	£191.00
BAR	£237.50
BAR-B-QUE	£230.00
LILY & ZOE (CHILDREN'S STALL)	£ 62.00
TOTAL (before expenses)	£1,100.00

Thanks to all who helped to make the event a success.

Village Hall Monthly Teas



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

29th September	)
27th October	) 2pm to 4:00pm
24th November	)

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

Possible Film Night?? Any takers??



This could be a possibility, the showing of maybe around 10 films over the year in our Village Hall.

There are expenses involved for the Village Hall, not only buying equipment but also a yearly permit. The latter is a legal requirement which would enable copyrighted films to be shown. Setting this up isn't going to happen overnight. One of the first things we need is an idea of whether there would be enough support from the village to make the project viable.

We need feedback and suggestions from YOU, a resident. Please use the contacts below to send your comments, whether for or against the project. Would YOU support it by coming to a few films a year? Would YOU be prepared to volunteer to help on the night?

Please either email mrpeterwhite@btinternet.com or telephone me on 01954 719669 and let us have your views.

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!

Post Collection times have changes. Check new Last Collection Times at village post boxes!

Collection times at Morrison's has also changed
Mon-Fri 5pm Saturday 11am

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

Here's a quick run-down of just some of the programme's highlights, featuring everything from music, theatre and dance, to magic, puppetry and film...

- The season begins on 1 October with a condensed version of Macbeth.
- Looking to embrace the spookier side of the autumn season? How about the Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde theatre performance or the Murder in the Library interactive theatre event?

- Feeling brave? Sign up for 'The Cabinet of Dr Caligari' in Ely – a sinister and unnerving evening of 1920s silent film, with live music by Minema.
- Families and young children will be spoilt for choice with events like 'Club Origami', an adventure in a land of paper and play, for families with children 0-5 years; Norwich Puppet Theatre's 'Thumbelina'; and the Little Angel Theatre's production 'WOW! Said the Owl'.
- Several events feature enhanced accessibility options, such as Relaxed Performances - including the 'Magical Honey' and 'Dance Like an Astronaut' performances.
- Performances of the 'Magicomedy', 'Macbeth' and 'Call Mr Robeson', as well as Ceramics and Fused Glass workshops, will run with a BSL interpreter.
- We are proud to include a writing workshop for neurodivergent adults and young people for the first time.

Please take a look at the full brochure to find out more about these events and the rest of the programme.

Tickets went on sale on 1st September and are once again expected to be in high demand

<https://www.library.live/the-library-presents>

Telephone: 01353 616991

In person at Participating Libraries (cash only)

On the door at all activities (subject to availability/cash only)

By Exchanging Digital Time Credits

The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council)

It has been a very busy summer for St Mary's in that it has hosted two special gatherings- one a vital fundraiser for the Church Fabric and the other a very special and quite exceptional service of Choral Compline. On both occasions we were blessed by amazing and gorgeous summer weather.

The fundraiser, a concert given by The Ermine Street Band led by Patrick Dailly playing us a great collection of classical music. Ten amateur players together with a young woman who has recently won a place to study at the Royal College of Music, with Strawberries and Cream in the Village Hall at the interval. Not a thunder cloud in sight. Thanks to the generosity of the players a wonderful sum of £430 was raised. Thank you All.

The Choral Compline was divine, and I suspect Longstowe has never heard such a beautiful sound since the church was rebuilt in the 1860s. Dr Richard

Medd who many of you know, arranged for Selwyn College Choir to come and sing Compline at the beginning of July. It was truly exquisite and after the service the choir sung for the congregation outside the porch, and gave us an impromptu rendition of Shenandoah. The choir are very keen to return next summer and have penciled in 4th July 2024, and are asking to have a cricket match before the service. We would like to think the answer is yes and yes!

We have two important services in the next couple of months- **Harvest Service**, and our special **Pet Service 10th September** which is becoming a bit of tradition for Longstowe. Do come along and join us. However, be warned, bringing your pet for a blessing DOES NOT GUARANTEE immaculate behaviours from your pet thereafter- stealing Sunday lunch is still possible!

Calling all Pets & Pet People!



You are invited, with your pet,
for an extra special Blessing Service at

Longstowe Parish Church
on
Sunday 10th September 2023
At 3.00pm

We are hoping to hold our *Village Supper* later in the year celebrating the gathering in of this year's harvest and the seeding of the next and importantly the fellowship of this special community of Longstowe. Please watch this space, and your doormat for an invitation. Everyone is very welcome and it is a great way of saying hello to others in the village who might live away from the centre.

Future Dates for Your Diary:

10th September 3pm - Pet service
24th September 10.30am Harvest Service
8th October 10.30 Holy Communion
22nd October 10.30 Morning Prayer

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.



RIDE+STRIDE
for Churches

SATURDAY 9TH SEPT. 2023

Discover and support Cambridgeshire's historic churches.



Join us and get sponsored to visit beautiful churches and chapels by bike, foot, horse or whatever way takes your fancy. All money raised will be shared between the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust and your chosen church or chapel of any denomination and will help to repair and maintain these amazing buildings.

join us

For more information visit www.camhct.uk or email t-s-treasurer@camhct.uk

Your local church is

Please contact



CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Security Warning

Thieves have been using drones in nearby villages to check access to farms and buildings. Remember to check all locks and keep valuable equipment secure.

? QUIZ NIGHT ?

A FUN quiz night

Longstowe Village Hall

Next one: Sunday 24th September 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 29th October

Sunday 26th November.

Get them in your diary now.

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

Peter Brian William Hemmins

Peter was born and bred in Longstowe. He was the oldest of eight children born to Marjorie & William Hemmins, and went to Longstowe School. Later in life, he married Sheila.

From leaving school and up until retirement, he worked various local jobs – farm work, mechanics, and general maintenance. After a spell in the Royal Artillery and being posted out to the Korean War for his National Service in 1953, he thankfully returned safe and well. He used all his experiences to become the lovely man that we all knew and respected.



However, most people in the village will remember him on his Fordson tractors when he was travelling through the village. Peter was amongst the Hemmins brothers, being instrumental in many innovations around the village from building a variety of buildings, delivering loads of logs for people's fireplaces, moving sheep between local pastures, helping with the churchyard grass cutting, church roof, church driveway, lychgate, vestry roof as well as the church bells and organ, and some village hall repairs. I'm sure I have missed a few others!

Peter was a stoic, knowledgeable and very conscientious man who couldn't be rushed. He always went at one speed – his! However, he had a great sense of humour which he kept at all times despite being tested by his grandsons over the years. It was always "Do it Grandad's way only".

After a very short spell in hospital, Peter passed away on 8th June 2023 (aged 88) from cancer, but has left a lasting memory in Longstowe to all of those that knew him. Donations and collections at his funeral amounted to £367 and will be donated in his name to his charity – Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust.

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: September 2023

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity. We are part of a

network of charities across the UK, connected by our umbrella organisation, the Wildlife Trusts. Our job is to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats, for wildlife and people. This means tackling both the biodiversity crisis and climate chaos, by working in partnership locally and nationally. We manage over 100 nature reserves, advise landowners how to manage their land better for wildlife, carry out research and monitoring to advise our work and increase scientific knowledge, and work with communities to connect people with nature, educate, and inspire action.

If you walk regularly on one of our nature reserves, please consider contributing to the costs of keeping it safe and healthy. Here are our most local sites, all within 12 miles of our head-office in Cambourne:

- Cambourne Nature Reserve
- Hardwick Wood Nature Reserve
- Gamlingay Wood Nature Reserve
- Waresley and Gransden Woods Nature Reserve
- Hayley Wood Nature Reserve
- Trumpington Meadows Nature Reserve
- Overhall Grove

People become a member of the Trust for a variety of reasons, here are a few:

- If you love seeing birds in your garden, are lucky enough to be visited by a hedgehog, or like spotting butterflies, then you can help us help them, by supporting our movement
- You can contribute towards reducing the impact of the climate crisis and therefore create a better environment for future generations. On our website, you can find out more about our Great Fen project, which is restoring peatland habitat and locking up carbon.
- Your money could support the management of the local nature reserve that you visit
- Members get discounted tickets to events like walk, talks, family activities and workshops
- Donations directly support our work inspiring and teaching children and families
- Our members magazine can help you learn more about local wildlife
- You can get a discount on joining the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens

Money isn't everything, there are other ways to support us and our cause, for example:

- Becoming a [volunteer](#)
- Getting involved by coming on a [Wild Work Day](#)
- Applying for a [Wildlife Gardening Award](#)

So, if you are looking for a way to take action on climate change, entertain your children outdoors, get some exercise, learn more about local wildlife, give something back to your community, or improve your garden for wildlife, then please join us!

Email: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

Wildlife Trust BCN main Facebook/Twitter: @wildlifebcn

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

I think you may need more than one cup of tea for this one

(Solution on the back page)

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

Changes in bin collection days

Bin collections days are permanently changing from Wednesday to Thursday from week commencing 18th September.

Date	Black bin	Blue bin	Green bin
Thursday 21 September 2023			
Thursday 28 September 2023			
Thursday 5 October 2023			
Thursday 12 October 2023			
Thursday 19 October 2023			

Longstowe History Society

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

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, 28 November 2023
7.30 for 8pm
Longstowe Village Hall
Admission: £3 (Members free) -
Refreshments included
Everyone welcome

Sudoku Solution

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

Please send items for publication in the December 2023 Skylark by
no later than **Friday 17th November** to LongstoweSkylark@hotmail.com

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

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