



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

March 2024



Longstowe Parish Council

Your help is needed

Fund Raising

Are you passionate about making a difference in our community? Do you have skills in fundraising or a desire to learn and contribute? The Parish Council is seeking volunteers who are interested in joining efforts to raise funds for various community projects. We believe that together, we can enhance the standard of facilities for all residents of Longstowe by supporting initiatives that benefit our community. Whether you have experience in fundraising or are simply eager to lend a helping hand, we welcome your participation.

If you are interested in assisting the Parish Council, we encourage you to get in touch with our Clerk, Sharon Brown. Your involvement could make a significant impact on the success of our fundraising endeavours.

Play Equipment

Longstowe takes pride in ensuring the safety and well-being of all its residents, particularly the children who enjoy the facilities available at the sportsfield. With this in mind, we are reaching out to you .

The playground is a cherished space where the children gather to play, learn, and grow. It's essential that we maintain a safe environment for them to enjoy their time outdoors. To ensure this, we are seeking a volunteer from within our community who may have experience or interest in health and safety matters to support us in regularly checking the playground equipment.

If you have any prior experience in health and safety, whether through professional roles, personal interests, or community involvement, we invite you to consider lending your expertise to this important cause. Your assistance will involve conducting routine inspections of the playground equipment to identify any potential hazards, ensuring that they are promptly addressed, and reporting any concerns to the Council.

If you are interested in supporting this initiative or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Sharon Brown.

Bus shelter

The Parish Council is keen to establish some valuable feedback regarding the utilisation of the bus shelter in Longstowe. Your input is crucial in helping us assess the necessity of maintaining this facility for the benefit of our community.

Could you please take a moment to respond to the following questions:

1. Do you currently utilise the bus shelter in Longstowe?
2. If yes, what purposes do you typically use the bus shelter for? Is it for commuting to work, accessing essential services, or other reasons?
3. In your opinion, is it essential for Longstowe to maintain its bus shelter?

Your responses will greatly assist us in understanding the significance of the bus shelter and its role in our community. Your feedback will help inform any decisions regarding the maintenance and future of this facility.

Please contact the Clerk with your responses by the 30th March 2024.

Accident Reporting

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance safety within Longstowe , we are launching a campaign to advocate for a reduction in the speed limit within the village and along the Old North Road . One crucial aspect of this initiative involves keeping comprehensive records of all vehicle accidents or near misses that occur within our vicinity.

Your assistance in this matter would be invaluable, and we kindly request your cooperation in documenting any such incidents. By collecting accurate data, we can strengthen our case and work towards implementing measures that prioritise the safety and well-being of all residents.

To facilitate this process, we kindly ask that you provide the following information for each incident:

1. Date of the incident:
2. Time of the incident:
3. Location of the incident:
4. Nature of the accident or near miss:
5. Any witnesses present:
6. Details of any injuries sustained:

Please feel free to submit your reports online via email, or in person to the Parish Clerk . Alternatively, you can reach out to Chair of the Parish Council Barbara Cooper on 07803903047
bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk

The Village Hall

Longstowe Village Hall Hire Charges

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 07747 307833

email: longstowevillagehall@proton.me

Village Hall Monthly Teas



The monthly Village Hall tea party will be from 2pm to 4pm on:-

22 March (turns out 29th is Good Friday)

26 April

31 May

28 June

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!

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.

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(Solution on the back page)

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

The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council)

We have some fantastic volunteers and we would like to thank them all for their generosity of time and willingness to turn up to meetings of the PCC, put on the rubber gloves, ring the bells or start up the grass mowers etc. Without them we really would be unable to open the church. It is important especially when we open the doors to 50 people on Christmas morning, which we did in 2023!

Particular thanks for the maintenance of the building of our lovely church must go to Stephen Owen and Peter White and to the Hemmins' Family and to Michael and Dick Murden for the churchyard and to Daphne Ford for helping us keep the church clean.

However, we have an urgent need to increase our volunteer base so do please think about coming along or joining the Electoral Roll. We do not want to see decisions made about the continuing of our pattern of service we currently enjoy. We need to show that we are a vibrant Christian Community. Bourn Church as you will know, currently has no incumbent and nor do they have church warden(s) and, as a consequence, the Team is very stretched. It is unlikely that a new appointee will happen before the Autumn. Please take a moment to consider supporting St Mary the Virgin.

There is a strong association of snowdrops with churchyards dating back to medieval times when they were possibly planted to "light the way" to the church especially as they flower in time for Candlemas. The snowdrops, which we have been talking about for years in Skylark, are finally making a sensible contribution to the landscape. Do take the opportunity of coming down to see them.



True or False

The following comes to mind as we prepare for Easter:

- Was Pontius Pilot born in Fortingall, Perthshire Scotland?

Pontius Pilate lived from around 20BC until some time after AD36. He was the Prefect of the Roman province of Judaea from AD26 to AD36, and was the judge at the trial of Jesus Christ in AD33, and the man who subsequently ordered his crucifixion. Folk law suggests Pontius Pilate was born in Fortingall also known as home to an ancient yew tree that could be as much as 5,000 years old . At first sight the story of Pilate's birth here looks unlikely. The Romans arrived in southern Britain in 55BC, but only briefly. They returned to invade what is now England in AD43, and only invaded Scotland for the first time in AD80, reaching the area including Perthshire in about AD83. Against this background, how could a Roman have been born here in, roughly, the decade either side of 20BC which seems necessary to have allowed him to become Prefect of Judaea in AD26?

The story of Pilate's Scottish origins was set out most fully in an article published in the New York Times on 15 January 1899. It seems that between the Romans' first incursion into Britain and their later invasion, Ceasar Augustus dispatched envoys to establish diplomatic relations with some of the important British and Caledonian chieftains. These included a Caledonian chieftain called Metellanus, whose stronghold was at the head of Glen Lyon. A member of the Roman delegation to Metellanus's tribe fathered a child with a Caledonian woman and this child subsequently returned to Rome with his father (and, possibly, his mother), and was brought up as Pontius Pilate.

So the answer is "No" but it may be worth a visit to see the historic relic of the Fortingall Yew said to be thousands of years old.

A Forthcoming Service Later this Summer:

Not to be missed, the return visit of Selwyn College Choir at the start of July. Details to follow in the next issue of Skylark.

Future Dates for Your Diary:

10th March 9:30am – Mothering Sunday (Morning Prayer)

31st March 9:30am – Easter Sunday (Holy Communion)

14th April 10:30am – Easter 3 (Lay Ms)

28th April 9:30am – Easter 5 (Holy Communion)

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.

District Councillor News



Here to Help You so contact me if you need help with SCDC services (planning, housing, housing repairs, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health, noise nuisance, etc) by phone 01954 210840 or 07802 323269, email tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk,

@CouncillorTumi on Twitter.

Cost of Living Support

SDCC continues to assist residents in taking advantage of all the cost-of-living support they are entitled to this winter. Heating bills have gone up again so make sure you make full use of all assistance available. Check what you are entitled to at <https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>. List of local foodbanks is at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/foodbanks>. More details on the council's webpage at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>.

Home energy support

SCDC is part of the Action on Energy partnership which provides advice, guidance, and support on making homes more energy efficient, the aim being helping people save money on fuel bills. There are grants available for installing insulation, solar panels and heat pumps for those who qualify. To check if you can take advantage, check out this webpage <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/home-energy-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-residents/>

Civil Parking Enforcement service

New Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers in South Cambridgeshire has been given to Cambridgeshire County Council following Parliamentary approval. It came into effect on 19 December 2023 and in January motorists in areas of parking demand were made aware by issuing warning notices. Penalty Charge Notices started being issued from 1 February, for fines between £50 and £70, depending on the severity of the offence. So please be careful.

Online Checker for Home Improvement Projects

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has launched a user-friendly online checker to help homeowners find out if planning permission is needed for home improvement projects such as dormer windows, fence installations, outbuildings, front porches, flue installations and more! The checker is at <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/check-if-i-need-planning-permission/>. For those thinking about installing solar panels, check out the dedicated webpage for planning permission requirements at <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/solar-panels/>. If still unclear, then book the free 15 minute advice pre-app session through here <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/householder-and-small-business-planning-advice/>.

Cambridge 2040 – Gove Plan

This is the grand plan the current Government announced to build revised number 150,000+ houses in the Cambridge area between now and 2040. Note the “+plus” that Michael Gove said in his speech in November! The timeframe may now extend to 2050 as it seems the Gove plan is estimating a 200,000 increase in jobs by then and a population growth nearly three times as much. Huge and scary numbers that bear no resemblance to, and so much higher than the figures that both Cambridge City & South Cambridgeshire are using for the emerging joint local plan! The Gove plan cannot even see light of day with current water and transport constraints but Gove and DLUHC are carrying on. And the Ministers are still not talking to the local councils so we don't know if it will be in addition to our numbers or included!! So much for localism.

East West Rail

This rail line is still planned to go ahead, primarily because it is seen as contributing to the transport solution for the “Silicon Valley” that the Gove Cambridge 2040 plan is planning to create in our region centred on Cambridge and surrounding (that is us). EWR say they aim to do a statutory consultation within the first half of this year. So look out. If you want to receive the E-W Rail Newsletter you can sign up at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/>

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: March 2024



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

One of our charitable aims is to enhance everyone's enjoyment and

understanding of wildlife. Our events programme is quieter over the colder months, but now spring has arrived, here's a snap-shot of some things on offer over the next few months in our West Cambs 100a area between Gamlingay, Cambourne and Comberton. You can find events from a wider area, and more details on our website: wildlifebcn.org/events

Sit and chat in nature:

These sessions are designed for those who want to enjoy nature on our reserves, alongside a sit down

and a cuppa (we won't walk far!). They are running in Gamlingay Wood (21st and 25th April 10-12ish) and on Cambourne Nature Reserve (13th June and 4th July 10-12ish).

Walks for adults

My spring wildflower strolls are 2-3 mile walks around our four local woodland reserves in the West Cambs 100s:

- Hayley 17th April 10am-12
- Gamlingay 20th April 10am-12
- Hardwick 24th April 6-8pm
- Waresley and Gransden Woods 27th April 8-10am

Cambourne Nature Reserve is an accessible reserve with paths suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. You can enjoy a not-quite dawn chorus on 5th May, and an evening summer stroll on the 4th June. There's a longer walk from Cambourne to Bourn Windmill on 22nd June, for those confident on more uneven terrain.

Millbridge Brook Meadows

I'll be celebrating the 10 year anniversary of this greenspace in Gamlingay with an adult walk focussing on common wildlife identification on 6th May, and a family session on 30th May.

Wilder home-school

These child-led outdoor sessions in Cambourne are for home-school families with children from ages 5-13. They happen Wednesday mornings during term-time from April to October

Wild in the Woods

These are family sessions for primary-aged children with a variety of themes on Wednesday mornings during school holidays.

Little Bugs

These pre-school sessions involve a nature walk and story with a wildlife theme. We do simple outdoor activities and talk about whatever wildlife comes up! They run Friday mornings, April- Oct.

Youth Rangers

These monthly sessions are for secondary-school age young people who are interested in local wildlife and environmental issues. They run all year around on Fridays during school holidays and Saturday mornings in between. We do practical activities, walks, talks, surveys and socials.

Email: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

Wildlife Trust BCN main 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, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY The Wintringham Excavations

St Neots



Four years of excavations at Wintringham, St Neots, have recently concluded. These revealed glimpses of a Middle Bronze Age landscape, and Middle Iron Age settlements, followed by a busy Roman rural settlement. Hints of a post-Roman presence, and Early Anglo-Saxon activity will also be explored.

illustrated talk by

Stuart Ladd

of Oxford Archaeology
Tuesday 30th April 2024

7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

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

Fresh Scam Warnings

Scammers are still very much around and active. Please remember that banks will NEVER ask you to move money into a different account. They will NEVER send a courier round to collect debit / credit cards. They will NEVER ask you to reveal passwords or pin numbers. They will NEVER ask you to take part in trapping "rogue bank employees". Do not rely on your phone's caller display to verify a support number from your bank. Caller displays can be fooled. If you get a call from your "bank" telling you your account has been compromised, end the call, wait 10 minutes or call your bank from another phone and verify your account with them.

Amazon will NEVER ask you fill in on-line forms to get a refund on an Amazon Prime subscription you did

not ask for. (If you do find you have actually been charged for a subscription you did not want e.g. after a free trial period, contact Amazon yourself. Do not respond to a cold phone contact.) You should NEVER EVER be asked to install any software (e.g. AnyDesk, Remote Desktop Manager) on your computer / tablet / phone to “help” you through a transaction. This will allow scammers to see everything on your computer \ tablet \ phone, take it over and effectively do anything they want with it.

Non delivery of South Cambs magazine

Longstowe still has problems with the non-delivery of the South Cambs Magazine. The Spring Issue is due to be delivered by 9th March. Although the magazine is mainly adverts, there is sometimes useful information in it that is worth getting.

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

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

In the case of non-delivery by 9th March, please email our Parish Clerk (longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com) giving your address. There is more for the Council to go on when chasing it at a higher level.

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

Car Theft Warning

The new cars with proximity keys (keys that unlock the car doors just by being close to the car) are allowing thieves to steal your car in seconds if you are not careful with your keys. Thieves have devices that allow them to be close to your house with one device, relay and boost the signal from your keys a second device close to your car acting as a key allowing them to start the car and drive it off.

Some car manufacturers allow you to “turn off” the keys when you are not using them. Failing that, for a few pounds you can buy a Faraday pouch to keep your keys in. This is a metal lined pouch, bag or box that blocks off the signal from the keys. Keep one by the door and always drop your car keys in it when you get home.

Don't be lazy, protect your car by always making sure you protect your keys.

GRANSDEN ALLOTMENTS

A friendly and welcoming community garden for all local villages

Grow your own plots
Heritage orchard
Wildflower Meadow
Wildlife pond
Beehives

Full and half plots available or try a mini starter plot

For more information or to arrange a visit email us at: greatgransdenallotments@gmail.com

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

The Norman Conquest & Domesday Survey



Its impact on Cambridgeshire and the area of the 'Longstowe Hundred'

illustrated talk by
Prof. Stephen Baxter

Stephen grew up in Bourn and his TV documentary, 'Domesday', was illustrated with references to his home county and village

Tuesday 25th June 2024 7.30 for 8pm
LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

Admission: £3 (members free) refreshments included
Everyone Welcome

Longstowe Cricket Club



Why not come along and support your local Cricket Club.

First fixture of the season Sunday 2nd June at 2pm weather permitting.

**Save the date – we've ordered the sun
Come along and enjoy the fun**



Longstowe Village Fete

SUNDAY 30th June 2.00pm



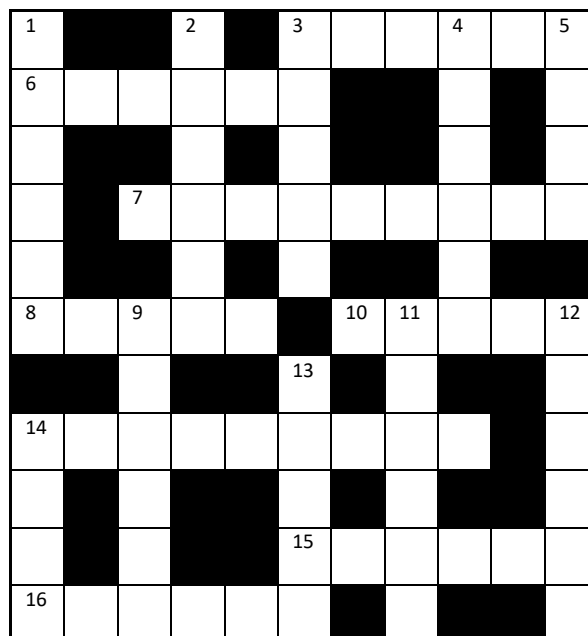
Stalls

Teas

Barbecue

Raffle

Crossword



Across

- 3 Back scrubber (6)
- 6 Settlement (6)
- 7 Aide (9)
- 8 PM before Browm (5)
- 10 Sat for an artist (5)
- 14 Ammunition belt (9)
- 15 Quarreled (6)
- 16 Begrudge (6)

Down

- 1 Dung Beetle (6)
- 2 Dwarf tree (6)
- 3 Line from a song (5)
- 4 Hovers (6)
- 5 Warmth (4)
- 9 Irritates (6)
- 11 Ill at ease (2, 4)
- 12 Disparage (6)
- 13 Swell up (5)
- 14 Lout (4)

Sudoku Solution

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

Crossword Solution

Across

3 Loofah 6 colony 7 assistant 8 Blair
10 Posed 14 bandolier 15 argued 16 resent

Down

1 Scarab 2 bonsai 3 lyric 4 floats 5 heat
9 Irritates 11 on edge 12 annoy 13 bloat
14 boor

Please send items for publication in the June 2024 Skylark by
no later than **Thursday 9th May** to LongstoweSkylark@hotmail.com

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

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