



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

September 2024



Parish Council Update

General Election Results and Representation

As a result of the General Election, Cambridgeshire now has five new MPs representing constituencies across the region, alongside two returning MPs. MPs can assist with issues that fall under the responsibility of the UK Parliament. However, for many local concerns, the appropriate contact may be your local councillor (county, district, town, or parish), Citizens Advice, or an Ombudsman. More information on who to contact for various issues is available on the UK Parliament website.

Upcoming Events

Elsworth Village Show

Date: 8 September 2024

Time: From 1.30pm

Location: Elsworth Pavilion and Sports Field, Broad End, Elsworth, Cambridge, CB23 4JD

The Flood Risk team will be available throughout the afternoon to provide information and answer any questions about flooding.

Fire Safety Bill for Electric-Powered Vehicles

Longstowe Parish Council has joined other leading fire safety bodies in supporting the Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility Vehicles and Lithium-ion Batteries Bill. Organised by Electrical Safety First (ESF), this campaign aims to introduce better safety measures, responsible disposal practices and comprehensive fire safety for e-scooters and e-bikes powered by secondary lithium-ion batteries. If successful, this bill will bring significant changes to the regulation of such vehicles in the UK.

Traffic and Safety Concerns

Residents have reported numerous near-incidents involving traffic, cyclists, pedestrians, and horse riders. Whether it's people, property or well-being at stake, we encourage you to report any incidents to the Parish Clerk. Last month, four separate incidents were reported, including concerns about the junction off Fox Road with vehicles turning right from the Old

North Road. This issue has been reported to Highways and the local MP.

Longstowe Village Hall

Longstowe Village Hall is located just 11 miles from the centre of Cambridge. The Hall features a Main Hall, a small committee room and a kitchen, with access for disabled visitors and ample parking. It is available for hire year-round for regular groups and one-off events, including meetings, wedding receptions, parties and exhibitions.

For details on regular events or to discuss bookings, please contact the Booking Secretary Christine Morton at longstowevillagehall@proton.me

Becoming a Parish Councillor

If you have never attended a parish council meeting before, you might think of parish councillors as a group of people meeting occasionally in a village hall. However, in times of community need, it is often the parish council that people turn to for support and guidance.

By becoming a parish councillor, you can be someone your community looks to for help and leadership, with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Parish councils make decisions on various issues and, whilst they have limited powers, they are influential in negotiations with larger organisations that make final decisions on planning matters, crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for better services.

Council Meetings:

Councils typically meet once a month, with meetings lasting a couple of hours depending on the agenda. Councillors may also attend additional meetings and community activities representing the council.

Term Length:

Parish councillors serve for a maximum of four years. If they wish to continue, they can stand for re-election. For more information, or if you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the Parish Council.

Friends of Longstowe Village Hall

Longstowe Link

The Longstowe Link email service is up and running and many people have already joined and are getting updates of events happening in the Village Hall.

If you'd like to join this service, which aims primarily to send timely notices about events etc. at the Village Hall, especially those that haven't made it into Skylark, please contact Jane Bowden: jane.bowden@icloud.com.

Tea and Pimms Special Event



The Special Tea and Pimms event held in place of the Village Fete was a great success with £304.72 being raised for the upkeep of the Village Hall. Although the band had to cancel, everyone still enjoyed the conversation and the stalls were well supported.

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!**

Here are the collection times for our local mailboxes:

- High St, opposite to our Post Office, 4.00 p.m. weekdays, Saturday 10.45 a.m.
- High St, outside Reading Room, 9.00 a.m., weekdays, Saturday 7.00 a.m.
- Fox Rd, (Close to A1198 junction), 9.00 a.m. weekdays, Saturday 7.00 a.m.

The post box at Morrisons has now been removed following the installation of the new King Charles post box by the shops opposite the Monkfield Arms. (5pm weekdays, Saturday at 11am)



A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(solution on back page)

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

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.

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 at the time of booking.

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:-

27th September
25th October
29th November **

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

** The November Village Teas may be moved to 23rd November to coincide with the Christmas Fair should that be viable.

Village BBQ

Come and enjoy a change from cooking Sunday Roast. Join us at the Village Hall for a BBQ with salads and a bar.

Longstowe Village BBQ & Bar



Great value!
£7 per person
including salads
(cash only)

Longstowe
Village Hall

Sunday, 6th October 2024, 12.00

Booking essential for catering purposes:
Maddy Crowther, madeleinejones@btconnect.com

Our Village Hall needs YOU!

The Village Hall Committee was all set to run our annual fete in June, but we had to cancel at the last minute as we just didn't have enough volunteers to help on the day. The beer was ordered, a live band was organised, barbeque organised and various attractions all ready to go. It all had to be cancelled,

very disappointing as planning had started back in late 2023.

Our small committee can physically do only so much and needs a bit of support from villagers and friends to enable the event to run.

We are determined to do all we can to prevent having to add Longstowe to the list of local villages that have had to abandon their annual fete. We are going to do all we can to make sure that the event runs next year, but so desperately need help.

If YOU feel you could help, even if only for a couple of hours on the day, please contact us soon so we may compile a list of possible helpers. We will need someone to help run the bar, perhaps assist helping run a stall or bit of help setting up and tidying up afterwards. Even if you could spare only a couple of hours, that would be much appreciated. It is expected that the fete will be held in late June. The date will be announced in the next Skylark.

The annual fete not only provides something local for villagers to enjoy but is also a vital fund raiser for the village hall.

If you would like to help next year please either email us:

longstowevillagehall@proton.me

or telephone me, Peter White, 01954 719669.

Thank you.

Christmas Fair – coming soon



Got someone who you never know what to buy for Christmas? The Village Hall are planning a Christmas Fair on 23rd November to find those last minute or awkward presents. Watch out for a flyer once everything is confirmed. Come along and enjoy tea, coffee, cakes and mulled wine while you shop.

The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council)

We have a couple of special acknowledgements for which the PCC are very grateful.

Dr Richard Medd once again organised with Selwyn College Choir a very special and quite exceptional service of Choral Evensong early in July. Originally, we had hoped to have a game of cricket and Afternoon

Tea. However this year the weather has also been exceptional - biblical rain!

Thanks to the generosity of a Trust, St Mary's Longstowe will, in the next few months, be welcoming congregations to heated seats! The Church is now of the opinion that it is better to heat the people rather than a building so that is what we will be doing as soon as Ely confirms our intentions.

We have two important services in the next three months- **Harvest Service and Remembrance Sunday**. Before those we are holding our special **Pet Service on 1st September @3pm** 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 impeccable behaviour 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 1st September
2024
At 3.00pm

We are again holding our **Village Supper** and like last year it will be in **November**, because as we write we are expecting the second phase of refurbishment of the Village Hall to happen during September / October. The Supper celebrates both the gathering in of this year's harvest and seeding of the next and most importantly the fellowship of this special community of Longstowe. Watch 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. Over the last couple of years we have welcomed new families and it would be great if you can join this special occasion.

Forthcoming Services

- 1st September 3pm- Pet service
- 8th September 8.30pm Holy Communion
- 22nd September 10.30am Harvest Service
- 13th October 10.30 am Holy Communion
- 20th October 10.30pm Morning Prayer

Advance Notice: Village Supper Saturday 9th November 7pm

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.

Have your say on active travel in Cambridgeshire

We look after a highways network comprising of 4,500km of roads, 2,936km of footways, more than 550km of designated cycleways and more than 3,000km of public rights of way.

One of Cambridgeshire County Council's key ambitions is making "travel across the county safer and more environmentally sustainable". As part of this, we're committed to supporting and encouraging more active travel.



Active travel means making a journey in a physical or active way, such as walking and wheeling - which includes cycling, scootering, roller skating, or using a wheelchair or mobility aid. It could also mean riding a horse.

We're looking at how our footpaths, highways and public rights of way (PROW) networks could be prioritised for management and maintenance going forward. We have therefore launched an eight-week consultation (closing on Monday 16 September 2024),

asking the public how they would prioritise the maintenance of our roads and pathways.

By using the interactive maps, you will be able to give location-specific feedback which we can then analyse and consider for integration into the Active Travel Hierarchy report.

If you would like to take part in the consultation please follow this link or type it into your browser (no spaces):-

https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/active-travel-hierarchy#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=69a9bcb1-58b0-41fd-a917-1f79c1aa3d0a

In Loving Memory of Doreen Mary Brown (née Gorbold)

25th July 1932 – 24th July 2024

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Doreen Mary Brown, who left us peacefully on 24th July 2024, just hours before her 92nd birthday.

Doreen was a remarkable woman, full of life and passion, and her absence will be deeply felt by all who knew her.

Born on 25th July 1932, Doreen lived a life rich with love, wisdom, and an unyielding passion for nature and health. Her appreciation for the natural world was evident in every aspect of her life, and she inspired those around her to find joy in the simple beauty of the earth. Doreen was not just a lover of nature; she also valued the importance of health and well-being, a testament to which was her ability to sit in the Sukhasana (cross-legged yoga pose) well into her eighties—a feat many half her age would admire. Meeting Doreen, even later in life, was a privilege. She had a smile that could light up any room and a warmth that instantly put people at ease. Her spirit was as vibrant as the flowers she loved, and her presence brought comfort and joy to all who had the honour of knowing her.

Doreen has been laid to rest in the beautiful grounds of Great Gransden cemetery, beneath a lovely tree behind St. Bartholomew's Church—a fitting resting place for a woman who cherished the natural world. Our deepest condolences go out to her family: Sharon and Lucien, Rachel and Adrian, and Florrie and Celia. May you find comfort in the memories of a life well-lived and the legacy of love and kindness she leaves behind.

She will be remembered with love and admiration by all who knew her.

Rest in peace, Doreen. You will be missed, but your spirit will live on in the hearts of those you touched.

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: September 2024

Cambourne Nature Reserve has a lot of hedgerows! The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants deliberately leave them to grow tall and thick because this creates diverse “edge” habitat. They are great corridors for bats, and contain food for shortly-arriving winter migrants, like redwings, as well as our resident blackbirds and thrushes. We cut them back later in the year once most of the berries have been eaten. Please admire the autumn fruits without foraging on our nature reserves. Here are some of the berries you might find in hedgerows this time of year:

Hawthorn

· Small, dark red, slightly ovoid berries, with a dark circle at the end

Rose

· Large, deep red, ovoid berries, on thorny stems

Guellder rose



· Bright red, shiny, spherical berries, dangling in clusters

Black bryony



· Large shiny spherical berries on a climbing plant
Black/purple berries

Elder

· Clusters of small shiny black berries

Sloes

· Single purple/blue berries often with a matt coating

Blackberries

· Bobbly black berries on thorny stems
· (if they have especially big bobbles with a matt coating, they may be the closely-related dewberry)

Spindle



· Pink and orange 4-lobed berries

Our events are a great way to learn about local wildlife. Throughout the autumn we have Little Bugs sessions for pre-schoolers and family home-school sessions, in Cambourne, plus a night walk for adults at Waresley and Gransden Woods. You can find these, plus information about volunteering, on our website www.wildlifebcn.org

Local enquiries: e-mail: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

General enquiries: cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

Wildlife Trust BCN main social media: @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.

The 18th Toft Beer and Cider Festival will take place over the weekend of Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September.

Free Entry!

The Festival started in 2005 and takes place each year on the first weekend of September. We are very proud to have been awarded joint Real Ale Champions 2020 for the 2019 Beer Festival by Cambridge CAMRA.



Each year we have a selection of real ales, mostly from the local area, and a selection of draught ciders, nearly all from the local area. Beers and

ciders that prove popular at the Festival are then featured on our bar throughout the rest of the year. As in previous years, we will have a number of Gluten-free and Vegan beers on draught. On Saturday evening we will be featuring local music.

Food

As well as beer and cider, we have our fabulous range of homemade food over the whole weekend, including our famous Scotch Eggs and Pasties. There will also be burgers, toasties and other snacks, as well as a Curry on Saturday evening.

Opening Times

Friday 6th September - 16:00 to 23:00

Saturday 7th September - 12:00 to 23:00

Sunday 8th September - 12:00 to 22:30

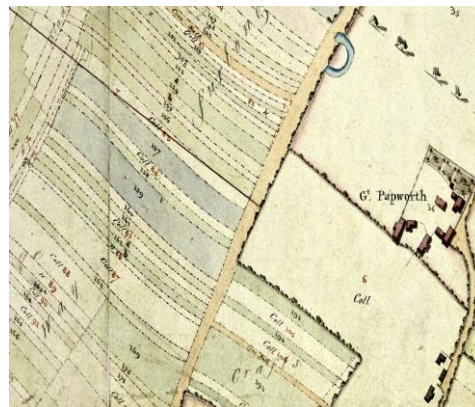
Longstowe History Society

If you are interested in the village surroundings, we have an fascinating talk on the impact of enclosure on the parish land and people in November.

DO JOIN US. There are five talks a year, £3 per talk, or membership for £10 a year. We have refreshments (which are free!) at 7.30 pm and the talks begin at 8.00 pm

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

History of Enclosure



Pre-enclosure map of Longstowe showing Middle (Gt Papworth) Farm, St Johns Farm, Horseshoe Pond & land strips... 1796

In medieval England, tenant farmers held small strips of land scattered across the parish in open fields, and under the control of the Manorial Court. From 1750 Acts of Parliament were passed to bring the open fields into cohesive blocks managed by single landowners. It improved farming techniques and output but created a landless class of farm labourers. This talk explores the medieval landscape, the motives for enclosure, the effect on the local Cambridgeshire landscape and the impact of enclosure on the parish of Longstowe

illustrated talk by

William Franklin

**Tuesday, 26th November 2024,
7.30 for 8pm**

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

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

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

History of Anglesey Abbey and Life of Lord Fairhaven



Founded as a hospital during the reign of Henry I and endowed as a priory in 1212. Closed in 1536 during the dissolution of the monasteries, its last private owner was Lord Fairhaven who landscaped the grounds and made extensive additions to the house for his collections. He left the house and contents to the National Trust

illustrated talk by
Helen Ackroyd

Tuesday, 24th September 2024,

7.30 for 8pm

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

32 Million suspicious emails reported by the public

Over 32 million suspicious emails have been reported to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS), with more than a third of all emails reported in the last year, new figures reveal.

The reports have led to more than **329,000 websites addresses being removed** by the National Cyber Security Centre. Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, launched a national phishing awareness campaign on 24 June 2024, as reporting reached its highest level since SERS launched. New data shows a rise of 44% year-on-year, with almost 11,611,400 reports made to SERS in 2023, up from 8,074,200 reports in 2022.

Alongside emails, there has also been a huge number of text messages reported to 7726. In March 2024, **more than 60,000 malicious websites were removed as a result of being reported using 7726**. This is a free service, offered by mobile network providers, allowing customers to report suspicious text messages in order to prevent other people from receiving them too.

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
0300 123 2040

**Claire Webb, Deputy Head of
Action Fraud, said:**

“When fraudsters go phishing for valuable information, anyone could be a target. They will hook an unknowing victim with a genuine-looking email, in a bid to get them to share personal information, or bank details.

“Action Fraud is urging everyone to be extra vigilant of suspicious-looking emails landing in their inbox, which could contain malicious links leading to unknown websites.

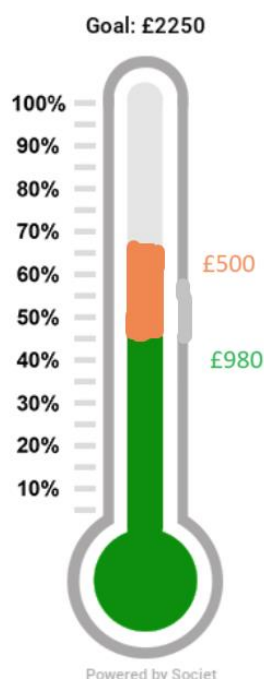
“Remember, if you think you have received a phishing email or text message, make sure you report it. You can forward emails to report@phishing.gov.uk, or forward spam text messages to 7726.”

SERS was launched by the [National Cyber Security Centre](#) (NCSC) and the City of London Police in April 2020, to enable the public to forward suspicious emails and report any malicious website links. Since its launch, more than 32 million reports have been made to the service.

What is phishing?

‘Phishing’, ‘quishing’ or ‘smishing’ is when criminals use scam emails, text messages, QR codes, or phone calls to trick victims. Whether it’s an email asking you to “verify” your bank account details, or a text message claiming you’ve missed a delivery and are required to pay a redelivery fee, the goal is usually the

Restoration of the Village Sign



The Village sign is badly in need of restoration. The Parish Council have found a person who can restore it to its former glory. £980 has been applied for in grants and some from the Longstowe Millennium Fund but they still need to raise more money to cover the cost. Can you help? Contact the Parish Clerk if you can contribute.

same - to trick you into revealing personal and financial information.

Here's some practical advice you can follow when it comes to dealing with suspicious messages and calls:

If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly using the contact details on their official website.

Do not use the number or web address in the message. Your bank, or any other official source, will not ask you to provide sensitive information by email. Received an email that doesn't feel right? STOP! Report suspicious emails by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk. Send emails to this address that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam – they will be checked.

☑ Always report suspicious text messages or scam call numbers, free of charge, to 7726. Your provider can find out where the text came from and block or ban the sender.

- To report a scam text, forward it to 7726 and then send the sender's number when prompted.
- To report a scam call, simply text 7726 with the word 'Call' followed by the scam caller's number.

☑ If you've lost money or provided financial information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, call Police Scotland on 101.

exploring the outdoors, volunteering – all these things (and more) can improve wellbeing...but it isn't always easy to know what is on your doorstep or to feel comfortable trying something new.

[How Are You South Cambs](http://HowAreYouSouthCambs) is a website that brings together everything local in the district (including Royston) that boosts mental wellbeing. Just like our physical health, we all have mental health and we all need to look after it – what that looks like for each of us is unique. The How Are You South Cambs website gives you the factual information you need to find a wellbeing boost, alongside videos, photos, quotes and a description of what to expect when you go for the first time. If you are on Facebook, give the How Are You South Cambs Facebook page a follow too [@HowAreYouSouthCambs](https://www.facebook.com/HowAreYouSouthCambs)

We're also keen to discover, share and support what is good for wellbeing in South Cambs and Royston – what it is you value for your health and wellbeing.



If you know about something that we should know about, please contact Charity Green (the How Are You South Cambs Coordinator)

on HowAreYou@cpft.nhs.uk – she'd

love to hear from you.

H.A.Y. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is brought to you by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.

Introducing 'How Are You South Cambs'



Connecting with others,
getting active, learning a new
skill, being creative, seeking
professional support,

Sudoku Solution

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

Please send items for publication in the December 2024 Skylark by no later than **Tuesday 12th November** to LongstoweSkylark@hotmail.com

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