



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

June 2025



What's On in and around Longstowe

Date/Time	Event	Location
Sun 8 th June 9.30am	Holy Communion at Longstowe	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Thus 19 th June 7:15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tue 24 th June 7:30pm	History Society meeting	Village Hall
Sun 29 th June 11.00am	HC and farewell to Nigel and Annie	St Peter's Church Boxworth
Sun 29 th June 2-5pm	Village Fete	Village Hall and Sports Field
Sun 6 th July 5pm	Sung Evensong with Selwyn Choir	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Thus 17 th July 7:15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Fri 27 th August 7pm	S Cambs. community policing meetings	See back page
Tue 30 th September 7:30pm	History Society meeting	Village Hall

Parish Council Update from the Annual General Meeting of 15th May 2025

Barbara Cooper stepped down as Chair and Bobbie Coe was unanimously elected for the forthcoming year. Bobbie took over as Chair from the May meeting

Barbara was thanked for her energy and commitment throughout her 12 years in office.

Parish Council Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2025

Parish Councillors for 2024/25:

- Barbara Cooper (Chairperson)
- William Bevan
- Bobbie Coe
- Ben Holland
- Peter White

A big thank you to all our councillors for their invaluable contributions, and to our Clerk, Sharon Brown, for her exceptional work.

Special Thanks:

- Councillor Tumi Hawkins (SCDC) and Mark Howell (CCC) for their dedication to village issues.
- Village Hall Committee for their fundraising efforts.
- Sports Committee for maintaining the sports field.
- Michael Murden for bus shelters.
- Andy Church for grass cutting.
- Ben Holland for footpaths.
- Chris Morton for the Skylark production.
- Charlotte Hemmins for auditing our accounts.

Meetings: Your Council met monthly (except August) to discuss local matters, planning, environmental issues, correspondence, and finances. We've also attended various additional meetings for training and planning.

Finance: Our main funding source is the precept (£9,500). This covers the Clerk's salary, street-lighting, bus shelters, footpaths, fees, and insurance. The full accounts will be available after audit.

Parish Clerk: Sharon Brown works 12-16 hours/month, handling meetings, finances, and correspondence. Her pay reflects her experience, and we're lucky to have her.

Funds/Grants:

- Community Chest Grant towards the cost of the village sign & noticeboard refurbishment.
- Jubilee grant for tree and daffodil planting – volunteers needed!

Speed Limit Campaign: We're working to reduce the speed limit through Longstowe for safety, especially for the elderly and children. Despite challenges, we're renewing efforts.



Yet another accident on the crossroads but still the powers that be refuse to slow traffic down. Please be careful when turning out of the side roads.

If you see any accidents or close shaves, please continue to report them to the Parish Council with dates, times and a description of the incident. This will all help towards our campaign for slower speed limits.

Parish Clerk - longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com or 07561606080

🦜 Late one night a burglar broke into a house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say, "Jesús is watching you." In a dark corner, he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Was it you who said Jesús is watching me?" The parrot replied, "Yes." Relieved, the burglar asked, "What is your name?" The parrot said, "Clarence." The burglar said, "What idiot named you Clarence?" The parrot answered, "The same idiot that named the rottweiler Jesús." 🦜

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: longstovewillagehall@proton.me

Village Hall Monthly Teas



The June Teas will be replaced by the Fete on 29th June and there will be no teas in July or August.

Next Village Teas on 26th September.

V.E. Day Celebrations

The April Village Teas event was replaced by our V.E. Day Celebrations. We kept open later than normal for a full tea with sandwiches and cream teas along with our normal homemade cakes, teas and coffees.



Items of wartime memorabilia from our village and beyond were on display and old wartime songs were played in the background.

We had lovely weather and the event was very well attended.



Report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

The principal development in the last year has been the successful application to South Cambs District Council for the approval of Longstowe as a Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area. That approval was granted, without difficulty, last August.

The main issue for consideration was whether Longstowe should join with Bourn to produce a joint Plan. There are a few instances of such collaborations elsewhere in Cambridgeshire and it was an approach which our previous contact at South Cambs encouraged us to consider, largely to spread the administrative burden of the process.

In the end, that issue fell away because Bourn Parish Council decided to go ahead with its own (successful) application covering the entirety of Bourn CP except for the Bourn Airfield Development site. That decision also pre-empted any possibility that the residences on the Bourn side of Old North Road and Fox Road, which had participated in our Residents' Survey, would be included in our Plan Area.

The result, therefore, is that our Plan Area covers the whole of the area served by Longstowe Parish Council but nothing more. Although the omission of the neighbouring Bourn residences is a loss in terms of the comprehensiveness of the Plan's coverage, there are compensations in terms of the simplification of the process.

More importantly, we have not lost touch with our neighbours in Bourn. Barbara and Steve continue to serve on the Steering Group and we have agreed with our opposite numbers at Bourn Parish Council that we should keep in contact to share experience and ideas in the development of our respective Plans.

In terms of developing the Plan, the context continues to be in a state of flux. As you have no doubt seen, at the national level, the Government sets great store by a relaxation in planning constraints and a strengthening of housebuilding targets (with the Planning and Infrastructure Bill currently in Committee in the House of Commons and a revised National Planning Policy Framework published last December).

Closer to home, South Cambs Local Plan (now to be folded into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, covering Cambridge City and SCDC) provides a critical framework for any Neighbourhood Plan that we adopt. The revision of the current (2018) Local Plan remains a work in progress. The current deadline for submission of a draft Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination is the end of December

2026, with a target for publication of a Consultation Draft during next Autumn/Winter. Under current Government policy, failure to meet the December 2026 deadline would throw the whole process out of the current plan-making system. GCP has described that deadline as extremely tight with numerous risk factors including the water shortage issues which have been a serious obstacle for several years: earlier this year, the Government announced additional support measures but whether they will prove sufficient is debatable.

To focus our own work, we are setting up sub-groups of the Steering Group to assemble the evidence and develop the policies for specific topics within the overall Plan. Details of these groups were provided in the last issue of Skylark but, briefly, they cover the scale, location and mix of residential new builds; design and infrastructure relating to any new builds; environmental protection and access; roads, safety and traffic; and community facilities.

We have always been, and remain, keen to welcome new members to the Group – but this, more focused, structure provides an additional opportunity for anyone who has a particular interest in one of these topics to get involved. If you would like to do so, please get in touch with Barbara, Sharon (our Parish Clerk) or me.

In the near future, we will be looking at commissioning outside research, particularly for housing needs. This research, which is a standard feature of Neighbourhood Plans, will (hopefully) be supported by grant money originating from the Ministry for Housing etc. These grants have been renewed annually for the past 7 years. I have not seen any announcement for the present year but, assuming that past practice continues, a window for the assessment of applications will open in July and we shall be looking seriously at that possibility.

This and all the other activities of the Group are undertaken with a view to achieving the policy vision that was endorsed by the Parish Council following the Residents' Survey, namely:

“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.”

This remains our mission.

If you have any questions arising from this report or otherwise, please do email him at bill.allan735@gmail.com

Longstowe Village Fete



APPEAL from your VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Your Village Hall Committee of seven or eight volunteers organises the Village Fete every year as well as the odd Car Boot Sale, Christmas Fair, Village BBQ, Friday Teas, Quiz Nights... It's a lot of work and we would really appreciate some help from residents at these events.

When it comes to the Fete (on Sunday, 29th June this year), we simply don't have the peoplepower to man every stall which is why the Fete had to be cancelled last year.

So this year, we are appealing to residents to promise some definite help with the following. Lots of support, help and advice is available from the committee and your contribution, however small, would be very much appreciated:

- Loan of gazebos and help putting them up
- On the bar, selling beer, cider, individual bottles of wine, coke, Pimms, fizzy cans. (Stock will be ordered by the committee)
- On stalls (bric-a-brac, books, tombola...)

- Running games e.g. 'Welly Wanging', 'Jacob's Ladder', 'Hook a Duck' (ducks supplied), 'Knock a Dice' (bean bags supplied), Bowls, Guess the weight/number, perhaps some Jumbo Games or anything else you can think of... take your pick
- Organising the raffle or simply offering to source a few of the larger prizes
- On the BBQ with preparation and sales.

Suggestions for other activities together with offers of help would be warmly welcomed.

This year we are inviting one or two commercial stallholders to take stands. The cricket club will be organising a 5 a side match and we would love to have a display of some sort.

We have had some volunteers come forward but we could still use some more. There is still time. Please consider volunteering help. We are determined not to cancel another Fete.

To volunteer your time please either email longstovevillagehall@proton.me or telephone Peter on 01954 719669 or Chris on 07747 307833.

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.

Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council):

Services

Sun 6th July 5pm ~ Sung Evensong with Selwyn College Choir (see page 7 for details)

We also have two important services in the next couple of months- **Harvest Service**, and our special **Pet Service in 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!

We will be holding 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.

Team Holy Communion



29th June 11.00am at St Peter's Church Boxworth to celebrate 25 years of Papworth Team Ministry and farewell to Nigel and Annie. With the Right Reverend

Dr Graham Kings. Followed by lunch at Church Farm Barn. **RSVP for the lunch by 19th June to the [Team Administrator](#)**

(Suggested donation £10 pp)

Parking at the end of School Lane

Note The Team office will be closed from 3rd June - 11th June inclusive

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.

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(Solution on the back page)

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

Household Support Fund reopens for applications - Cambridgeshire County Council

In April, applications to the Household Support Fund (HSF) reopened. The HSF is a grant funded by the UK Government to support households experiencing immediate financial hardship and the rising cost of living.

The extension of the HSF will run from Tuesday 1 April 2025 to Tuesday 31 March 2026. Eligible households can apply for one £110 voucher in this period. More information, including [eligibility criteria and the application form](#), and can found on our website. Please contact CommunityCV@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with any further queries.

Wildlife Trust West Cambridgeshire

Submitting official wildlife records is valuable, and data can contribute to research, direct green space management, and inform local planning. Anyone can submit records directly to the county-based biological records centres, (ours is [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre](#)), or using the free app [iRecord](#). Any wildlife record is valid, from the blackbird in your garden, to the orchid in your nature reserve. If you can get a photo, your record is more likely to be accepted. You need to know the name of the species though, so here are some identification tips:

The fold-out guides made by the [Field Studies Council](#) are great for common wildlife, fairly cheap, and are accessible for children. There are lots of different guides; I recommend: butterflies, garden birds, trees, woodland plants, and bees.

Websites

- The [Wildlife Trust BCN's website](#) has guides, biological keys, and information
- The [Wildlife Trust BCNs Monitoring and Research Facebook page](#) has knowledgeable staff and volunteers who can help identify all kinds of wildlife
- [The RSPB website](#) has an A-Z of birds including bird songs
- [The Woodland Trust website](#) has an A-Z of trees

Free apps

- [Merlin](#) is a brilliant app to identify bird song
- [ObsIdentify](#) uses photos to identify any species with a % confidence level
- [Seek](#) does a similar thing to ObsIdentify

- [Froglife's Dragonfinder app](#) helps identify and record reptiles and amphibians
- [Google Lens](#) (not as good as other options as it is not regionally specific)

June events

All events involve a chance to improve your identification skills. For a complete list, please visit wildlifebcn.org/events

- Sit and Chat in Nature (for adults)
 - Trumpington Meadows: Wed 4th 1.30-3.30pm, and Tues 24th June 10am-12
 - Cambourne: Wed 25th June 10-12
- Wildlife Trust BCN Open Garden event, Cambourne: Sat 7th June, 11am-5pm
- Gamlingay Bioblitz (Gamlingay Climate Action Group), Wed 11th June
- Little Bugs pre-school sessions, Cambourne: Friday mornings, 9.30-11ish
- Seasonal stroll at Trumpington Meadows: Tues 17th June 7-8.15pm
- Nature and Natter bug hunting for adults, Trumpington Meadows: Sat 21st June 9.30-11.30
- Trumpington Meadows biodiversity event (a council event): Sat 21st June
- Youth Rangers evening wildflower walk, Trumpington Meadows: Fri 27th June 6.30-8.30pm

Helping wildlife

Here are some of the easiest and most impactful things you can do for wildlife in your garden. For more advice, to buy a plant, sit in a tractor, or chat to a staff member, please visit our Open Gardens at our head-office in Cambourne on Saturday June 7th (part of a wider Cambourne Open Gardens event)

Be more wild (they're not weeds, they're wildflowers!)

- Cut your lawn less frequently (you can mow a path through, or keep the edges mown to give variety, and show your neighbours it's deliberate)
- Leave areas to do their own thing (maybe put up a "Wild for Nature" sign)

Add water

- Any amount is good, go for the biggest you can

- Make sure amphibians and hedgehogs can get in and out
- The best is a fish-free pond with different depths and native plants
- The easiest is a dish of water on the ground
- You could consider a bog garden or a mini-pond

Select plants for pollen, nectar, berries and seeds

- When visiting a garden centre, look for flowers that have bees and butterflies on them
- Choose plants that flower at different times in the year (for example, red deadnettle flowers early, honey suckle and teasel flower in the summer, and ivy in the autumn)
- Choose native plants (guelder rose is a shrub with beautiful red leaves and berries in autumn)

Connect your garden

- If you have a gap that is around 13cm high and wide, hedgehogs and amphibians will be able to use this to move between gardens

There are lots of other things you can do to help, here are a few places to find out more:

- Wild about gardens wildaboutgardens.org.uk
- Help wildlife at home: wildlifebcn.org/actions
- There is a series of blogs on our website: wildlifebcn.org/blog

Further information

- www.wildlifebcn.org
- cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

Quality of Life Survey - Cambridgeshire County Council - closes 21st July 2025

Our third annual countywide survey has launched to understand and track the views of residents across Cambridgeshire.

Initially launched in 2023, the annual survey tracks responses over time to give Councillors and decision makers vital insight into business planning decisions. It also means we can see how changes to decisions and policies affect people's views across Cambridgeshire.

The online and telephone survey is run by an independent research company, [Thinks Insight](#), who

will aim to speak to 1,100 people over the age of 18 and living in each of Cambridgeshire's five district areas.

There is an opportunity for everyone to take part if they want to, with the survey available via the county council's website.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/quality-of-life-surveylife-survey>

Mobile Libraries



The mobile library visits Longstowe every 3rd Friday in the month.
Location: Rushbrook Close
Arrival Time: 11:10 am
Departure: Time 11:25 am
Frequency: Monthly

Longstowe History Society

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



My Grandfather's exploits with the SAS in WW2

As a medical student, being 'White Feathered' three times by the girls of Cambridge led to signing on for "The Duration" and later to joining 1st SAS.

Taking out coastal batteries before the invasion of Sicily, action in Italy, 500 miles behind enemy lines in France, fighting their way into Germany and taking the surrender of troops and U-boat flotilla in Norway, "The Duration" turned out to be a much greater chunk of his life than he'd expected - 6 years, 3 months and 4 days!

illustrated talk by
Nicky Muirhead
(whose childhood was spent at Lower Farm, Longstowe)

Tuesday 24th June 2025, 7.30 for 8pm
LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

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

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

Did Cromwell Really Cancel Christmas?



One of the things that everyone thinks they know about Oliver Cromwell is that he banned Christmas. There was a real ban, but what was behind it? Was it effective? Were mince pies outlawed? Did Cromwell really have very much to do with it? This talk reveals the fascinating story behind the myth of how the festive season was outlawed in the 1640s.

illustrated talk by
Stuart Orme

(Curator of the Cromwell Museum,
Huntingdon)

Tuesday 30th September 2025,
7.30 for 8pm
LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

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

Sung Evensong – Selwyn College Choir



SUNDAY 6th JULY 5PM

St Mary the Virgin, Longstowe

EVENSONG

SUNG BY SELWYN COLLEGE CHOIR
Revd Dr Arabella Milbank Robinson

It is utterly sublime

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

South Cambridgeshire community policing meetings for 2025

This year's online meetings will take place at 7pm on:

- 27 August
- 26 November

If you haven't attended one of the meetings before, it is chaired by our neighbourhood Inspector Simon Birch and his team. They allow members of the public to virtually meet their neighbourhood officers and hear about recent activity. Attendees will also get the opportunity to raise any concerns they have and help shape future priorities.

We also have a survey we encourage residents to complete once a quarter so we can understand their concerns and address them regularly - [https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-](https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/nhp/neighbourhood-policing/South-Cambridgeshire/)

[constabulary/areas/campaigns/nhp/neighbourhood-policing/South-Cambridgeshire/](https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/nhp/neighbourhood-policing/South-Cambridgeshire/)

- Do you live in South Cambridgeshire?
- Would you like to meet your neighbourhood policing team?
- Hear what they have been working on over the past three months?
- Help set the priorities for the coming quarter?

If you've answered yes to all of the above then sign up to the online police community meeting on 27 August at 7pm.

Email 'SOUTH CAMBS' to communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk and you will be sent an invite.

We hope to see you at one of our meetings soon.

Longstowe Cricket Club Fixtures 2025

Cambs. Junior League Division 3 West

(Matches start at 1-00pm and are 40 overs per side)

Why not go along and support your cricket club. Spectators welcome – take a picnic if the weather is nice.

Date	Home/ Away	Opponent	Venue
31 st May	A	Bar Hill CC- 1st XI	Bar Hill
7 th June	H	Cambridge Tamil Sangam CC- 2nd XI	Longstowe Village Hall
14 th June	A	Elsworth CC- 1st XI Elsworth CC- 1st XI	Elsworth Cricket Ground
28 th June	H	Cherry Hinton CC- 2nd XI	Longstowe Village Hall
5 th July	A	Fulbourn Institute CC- 2nd XI	Fulbourn Recreation Ground
12 th July	H	Cambridge St. Giles CC- 4th XI	Longstowe Village Hall
19 th July	A	Comberton CC- 1st XI	Comberton Recreation Ground
26 th July	H	Elsworth CC- 1st XI	Longstowe Village Hall
2 nd August	A	Milton CC, Cambs- 3rd XI	North Lodge Park
9 th August	A	Cambridge Tamil Sangam CC- 2nd XI	Waterbeach
23 rd August	H	Bar Hill CC- 1st XI	Longstowe Village Hall
6 th September	A	Cherry Hinton CC- 2nd XI	Stow cum Quy Recreation Ground

Sudoku Solution

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

Please send items for publication in the September 2025 Skylark by no later than **Thursday 14th August** to LongstoweSkylark@hotmail.com

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