



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

September 2025



What's On in and around Longstowe

Date/Time	Event	Location
Sun 7 th September 3pm	Pet Service	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Thu 18 th September 7:15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Fri 26 th September 2–4pm	Village Hall teas	Village Hall
Sun 28 th September 10:30am	Harvest service	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Tue 30 th September 7:30pm	History Society meeting	Village Hall
Sat 4 th October 2–6pm	Charity Games Afternoon	Village Hall
Sun 12 th October 10:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Thu 16 th October 7:15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Sun 26 th October 10:30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Fri 31 st October 2–4pm	Village Hall teas	Village Hall
Thu 20 th November 7:15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tue 25 th November 7:30pm	History Society meeting	Village Hall
Sat 29 th November 1–5pm	Christmas Fair	Village Hall

Parish Council Update

Litter

May I encourage you to pick up litter through the village, even if only a can or plastic bottle.

A couple of weeks ago or so, I picked 1 large bag of litter between Rushbrook Close going south & west to the 40mph sign, a second large bag between Rushbrook Close to the footpath entrance on School Lane (nearest to the crossroads). I also went on to the Parish boundary at the water tower / Hayley Lane, and I have collected another 6 large bags and still not finished. I estimate at least another 3 bags there. I haven't even attempted the crossroads and north along the A1198, but there is plenty of litter there, having checked when doing the walk over to Bourn.

Sharon

Street lighting

Please would you report any street light not working. The Parish Council (you, through your Council Tax)

pay for the lights, working or not (there are no meters, we pay for each light for the number of hours it should be working). There is a number on each street light which will be needed for your report. It can be reported to any member of the Parish Council, or directly to the Clerk (Sharon <Longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com>).

A1198 crossroads

Please continue to report any problems you have with the crossroads to the Parish Council with dates, times and a description of the incident. This is important, as the Police and County Council do not believe we have any problems. (As I had a very "near miss" on Thursday 14th August at lunch-time, I disagree with them! – Bobbie.)

If you see any accidents or close shaves, please continue to report them. This will all help towards our campaign for lower speed limits.

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

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



Come along for refreshments and a chat. Tea, coffee and home-baked cakes available.

Next Village Teas on 26th September

and 31st October

Note: Village Teas in November will be replaced by the Christmas Fair on Saturday 29th November (see poster page 7).

Longstowe Village Fete

Huge thanks to all who helped!

The Village Fete took place at the end of June. After our appeal in the last *Skylark* we had several offers to help with the setting up and for manning stalls. The committee members are very grateful for this and extend our thanks to those people. Without their help we may not have been able to run the Fete.

We had a glorious hot day and many people attended – some who had not attended before and some from other villages. We started with a cricket match and there were stalls to browse and games for the children. Burgers and Hot Dogs were on sale with tea and cakes available in the Hall. We had a bar selling beer, cider and Pimms (with ice!).



The Fete made over £1,300 – a welcome sum as the Village Hall is supported solely by hires and fund-raising such as this. It was a very enjoyable day all round.

If we can get the same extra help next year we will be able to continue with this village tradition.

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.

Have your say!

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region is open to public consultation, where you can have your say on the strategy that has been developed and view the local habitat map that sets out the priority areas for nature recovery in the region. The consultation will run for 8 weeks, ending Thursday 11 September.

The consultation is available here:

<https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lnrs/consultation/>

Printed versions of the survey and documentation will also be available at all 33 libraries within the region, as well as available to download.

Why is the strategy important?

Everything we do, from the water we drink, the air we breathe and the food we eat is dependent on the natural world, yet England is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has one of the lowest proportions of land designated for nature in the UK.

The team at Cambridgeshire County Council is available via

localnaturerecoverystrategy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to help answer any questions you may have.

The Library Presents Autumn 2025 season

The Library Presents returns this September with a fourteen-week Autumn Season.

The thrilling programme starts in September and includes music, puppetry, dance, theatre, storytelling and workshops in arts, crafts and much more. With 33 events hosted in 26 venues across the county, there is sure to be something for everyone.

Events in your area include: *A Noise Annoys* (poetry & Music), *Soothe* (Dance) and *Billy Kidd Show (Magic)*. Additionally, we have workshops with *Sea Shanty*, *Fun Dance* and *Africa Music*.

Thanks to public funding from Arts Council England, tickets are affordably priced between £3 and £9, with concessions available.

Guests can look forward to a unique and intimate experience, quite unlike anything offered by a traditional theatre or larger entertainment venue. Everyone is welcome - we aim to make our activities as welcoming and accessible as possible. Detailed access information for all activities is on the Events page on our website.

Tickets are now on sale. Take a look at the full programme schedule, pick up a brochure and purchase tickets in participating libraries and online www.library.live/the-library-presents

Are you paying too much for electricity?

You may be able to save 15% on your electricity bill, without shopping around.

Over the years we have stayed on the same "Economy 7" tariff that we inherited when we moved into the house on Old North Rd. It seemed a good idea at the time. But we used very little electricity during the off-peak hours, just enough to keep the fridge and few other low consumption items going. We don't use electricity for any form of heating, other than cooking, almost none of which happened in off-peak hours.

We found that around 90% of our power usage was during daytime. The way the Economy 7 tariff is structured means that one pays a little less for off-peak electricity, but a higher than standard rate during the day.

So, the decision was made to abandon Economy 7 and just run Standard rate 24/7. This has had the effect of reducing our electricity bill by 15% over the past three months.

Well worth thinking about, unless of course, you use a significant amount of electricity during the night. So if you use night storage heaters or heat water overnight you may be better sticking to Economy 7.

Peter White

Charity Games Afternoon

Come and enjoy an afternoon of games in aid of Alzheimer's Society and the Brain and Spine Foundation – two very worthy charities.

Children especially welcome. Tea, coffee and cakes for the adults.



LONGSTOWE CHURCH PCC (PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL):

It has been an interesting and varied summer, from weddings and visitors, to again enjoying a fabulous Choral Evensong on Sunday 6th July when we welcomed Selwyn College Choir. Our congregation was some 50 people, many who do not regularly attend church, but appreciate the peace and tranquility of our beautiful church. This Service was kindly organised by Dr Richard Medd; and wonderful news is they have already agreed to come again in 2026. We really are most fortunate.

What you may not know is that Selwyn College is a Patron of Longstowe, and which perhaps does sound a little old-fashioned. However, we did see it in operation with the recent appointment process of our new Team Rector, Revd Matthew Paul Philips, when Selwyn was represented on the selection panel by the Dean and Chaplin.

Matt Philips officially takes up the role on 1st September and will be introduced at Elsworth Church. You will be most welcome to join the celebrations which start at 7pm. Matt and his young family and dog will live in Elsworth but we are expecting to see him out and about, getting to know us.

We have two important services in the next three months – Harvest Service and Remembrance Sunday. Before those we are holding our annual Pet Service, another Longstowe tradition. Do come along and join us. However be warned, bringing your pet for a blessing may still not guarantee good behaviour!

Calling all Pets & Pet People!



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

Longstowe Parish Church

on

Sunday 7th September 2025

At 3.00pm

Notes from the Churchyard:

The butterflies have been wonderful in the churchyard this year, and walking through the grass one can hear the grasshoppers rubbing their back legs together. There are in fact 23 different types of grasshoppers and 11 types of crickets in the UK. Please do not ask how to identify! The butterflies are far easier and already spotted are the Comma, and Holly Blues which are a classic churchyard butterfly

because they love feeding on the ivy. Butterflies are not only beautiful but good pollinators. We know when we first introduced a no cut period for part of the churchyard there were concerns but as we now have it we think most would say it is rather attractive.

Dates For Services:

Pet Service 7th September 3pm
Harvest Service..... 28th September 10.30am
Holy Communion..... 12th October 10.30am
Morning Prayer..... 26th October 10.30am

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(Solution on the back page)

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

**Household Support Fund –
Cambridgeshire County Council**

The HSF is a grant funded by the UK Government to support households experiencing immediate financial hardship and the rising cost of living.

The fund will run until Tuesday 31 March 2026. Eligible households can apply for one £110 voucher in this period. More information, including [eligibility criteria and the application form](#), can be found on our website. For any further queries, please contact CommunityCV@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants (BCN) Update

September

Did you know?

- Only honey bees make honey

- Not all bees are yellow and black
- There are over 270 species of bee in the UK, only 24 are bumblebees

Bumblebees are large hairy insects with a rounded abdomen (tail). You can make an educated guess at identification because the common species have different patterns and colours.

You need to look at the colour of the tail and the thorax (the middle section) and then see if there are any stripes. If you see a large bumblebee that is black all over, it might be the rarer ruderal bumblebee.

	White tipped tail	Red/orange tipped tail	Tail gingery all over
Thorax gingery all over	Tree bumblebee		Common carder bee
Thorax with 1 yellow stripe	Buff-tailed, or white-tailed bumblebee	Early bumblebee	
Thorax with 2 yellow stripes	Garden bumblebee		
Thorax black		Red-tailed bumblebee	

There are also six species of cuckoo bumblebees that often mimic their host but are rarer. These species do not produce worker bees but instead hijack the nest of another species and then con the workers into raising the next generation. Cuckoo bumblebees are a bit less hairy and therefore appear to have a more pointed abdomen. Some species have smoky wings. Cuckoo bumblebees do not collect food, so will not be seen with a blob of pollen on the inside of their back leg.

You can help bumblebees by encouraging the right species to grow in your garden. This might just mean letting a few “weeds” grow. Here are a few easy win plants that can be grown in pots:

- Sunflowers, Sweetpeas, Geraniums
- French beans, Lemon balm, Chives

September events (booking is essential wildlifebcn.org/events)

Trumpington Meadows

- Monthly meander: a longer morning walk
Monday 9th Sept

- Seasonal stroll: a shorter afternoon amble Friday 12th Sept
- Nature and Natter (creative writing): an informal evening session for adults to socialise Wed 17th Sept.

Cambourne

- Cambourne Community Fete: 20th Sept
- Little Bugs pre-school sessions: Friday mornings over 5 weeks starting 26th Sept.

October

Team Wilder

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is embracing a new approach to working with people. Team Wilder aims to support community groups and individuals who have ideas and ongoing projects that look to achieve aims that align with our own. Our mission is to achieve nature in recovery by conserving local wildlife, inspiring people to take action for wildlife, and sharing knowledge. We are looking to empower people to take action at a grass-roots level, so the support we can offer might be training, signposting, or advice. We might be able to help you connect with more community champions, create better advertising, look for funding, or teach you how to identify the wildlife on your patch so you can share it with others. Maybe you want to encourage your allotment friends to be more wildlife-friendly, help your neighbourhood hedgehogs, or transform a neglected patch in your community for wildlife. You might want to set up an eco-group, organise a bioblitz, or campaign for nature. Whether you are an existing group or just a person with a passion for wildlife, we want to hear from you!

Nearby October events

(Booking is essential. Search for events and book at wildlifebcn.org/events)

Trumpington Meadows

- Monday 13th am Monthly meander for adults
- Wed 15th am Seasonal stroll for adults
- Sat 18th am Nature and Natter: pond dipping for adults
- Thurs 30th am Wilder Stories at Rock Road Library for ages 3–8
- Fri 31st am Youth Rangers practical volunteering task.

Cambourne

- Friday mornings Little Bugs pre-school sessions for ages 2–4
- Thurs 23rd pm Wilder Stories at Cambourne Library for ages 3–8
- Wed 29th pm Family night walk for ages 7+

Local enquiries

- Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN
- TrumpingtonMeadows@wildlifebcn.org Facebook: @TrumpingtonMeadowsNatureReserve

General enquiries

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

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better, and more joined-up habitats for wildlife and people. We do this by working in partnership to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and through community work, helping people enjoy, understand, and take action for wildlife.

Mobile Libraries



The mobile library visits Longstowe every 3rd Friday in the month.

Location Rushbrook Close, Longstowe, CB23 2UL

Visits 9:40 am - 10:15 am

Report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

I am disappointed to report that, after the optimism of the report in the June edition of Skylark, prospects for the Neighbourhood Plan have substantially diminished. This follows the central government Spending Review, published in June, in which the Ministry of Housing etc announced that there would be no funding for new Neighbourhood Plan projects.

The availability of such funding was a critical element in our scheme for the creation of a Plan for Longstowe. As indicated in this Westminster Hall debate following the announcement, the Ministry considers that it is for Local Planning Authorities (in our case, South Cambs DC) and Parish Councils to fund neighbourhood planning from their own resources and to make such funding decisions by reference to the importance attached to neighbourhood planning relative to other calls upon their resources.

As far as I am aware, South Cambs has not adopted any policy addressing this change in circumstances – though the parlous financial position in which many local authorities find themselves makes it difficult to be optimistic in this respect. Be that as it may, pending clarification of the position for the future, the Group's activities are suspended.

Even if this does mark the end of this project, it has been a useful exercise most notably in the survey of residents' opinions which will be a continuing resource.

South Cambridgeshire community policing meetings for 2025

The last 2025 online meeting will take place at 7pm on:

- Wednesday 26th 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-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.

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 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

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

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

A History of Aviation in East Anglia



Pilot, historian and native East Anglian Terry Holloway, will be tracing the history of aviation in East Anglia from its very beginnings in the early 1900s. Terry worked for Marshall of Cambridge for 30 years, working closely with both Sir Arthur and Sir Michael Marshall and a significant part of his presentation will cover the remarkable fortunes of Marshall of Cambridge since its entry into aviation in 1927.

illustrated talk by

Terry Holloway

Tuesday 25th November 2025, 7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

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

The Return of the Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair last year was a resounding success and we are repeating it this year. Some stalls will be returning and we will have some new ones. Come and shop for your Christmas presents.

CAN'T THINK OF WHAT TO BUY THEM FOR CHRISTMAS ??

COME TO OUR

CHRISTMAS FAIR

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER

1 PM TO 5 PM

Cards Sweeties Paintings
Engraved wooden Sewn bags and Honey Gifts
and slate articles fabric stuff
Candles Treasure Box Children's Craft Kits

Lots more stalls

Refreshments

Free entry

Stalls subject to confirmation

Longstowe Cricket Club

For the last home game of the season, the Cricket Club and the Village Hall joined forces to provide a sumptuous tea that was soon demolished. Sandwiches, pies, sausage rolls, cakes and strawberries (with cream) all contributed to the feast.



We had about 40 people including cricketers and their families and a few people from the village who came to the match.



We had just enough cloud to make it the ideal temperature for watching. It was an exciting match against Bar Hill. Bar Hill won by just 12 runs.



A small amount of profit was shared between the Village Hall and the Cricket Club. The event was such a success that it will be attempted next season for the first and last home games. Watch out for dates in the March Skylark.

Longstowe Cricket Club Fixtures 2025

Cambs. Junior League Division 3 West (<https://www.play-cricket.com/>)

(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
6 th September	A	Cherry Hinton CC- 2nd XI	Stow cum Quy Recreation Ground

Sudoku Solution

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

www.LongstoweParishCouncil.co.uk

Did you know that the Longstowe web pages include copies of the Skylark should you wish to search or download them, as well as a calendar showing 'what's on' (under *The Parish*).

Please send items for publication in the December 2025 Skylark by no later than **Thursday 13th November** to LongstoweSkylark@gmail.com
Note: new email address

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