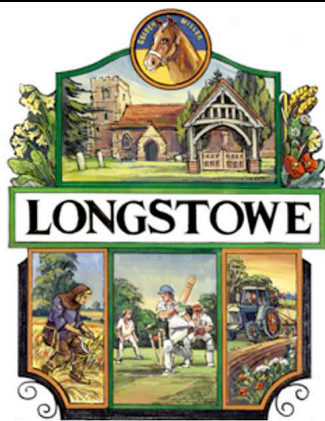
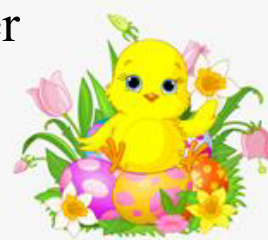




THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

April 2026



What's On in and around Longstowe

Date/Time	Event	Location
Wed 1 st April 10–12	Wild in the Woods: dens, sticks etc	Cambourne (Wildlife Trust)
Sun 5 th April 10am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Sun 12 th April 9.30am to 12.30pm	Caxton Farmers' Market	Caxton Village Hall
Tue 14 th April 10–11.30	Seasonal stroll: spring wildflowers	Cambourne (Wildlife Trust)
Thu 16 th April 7 for 7.15–8.15pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Longstowe Village Hall
Thu 16 th April 8.15pm (approx.)	Parish Council Meeting	Longstowe Village Hall
Sat 18 th April 10–12	Defibrillator training session (BOOK)	Longstowe Village Hall
Fri 24 th April 11–12.15	Seasonal stroll: spring wildflowers	Trumpington Meadows (Wildlife Tr.)
Fri 24 th April 2–4pm	Afternoon Tea	Longstowe Village Hall
Sat 25 th April 10–12	Wild in the Meadows: outdoor art	Trumpington Meadows (Wildlife Tr.)
Sun 26 th April 9am–1pm	The Gransdens Farmers' Market	Little Gransden Village Hall
Sun 26 th April 10.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Tue 28 th April 7.30 for 8pm	Longstowe History Society	Longstowe Village Hall
Thu 7 th May 7am to 10pm	Elections	Longstowe Village Hall
Sun 10 th May 9.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Sun 10 th May 9.30am to 12.30pm	Caxton Farmers' Market	Caxton Village Hall
Thu 21 st May 7 for 7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Longstowe Village Hall
Sun 24 th May 10.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church, Longstowe
Fri 29 th May 2–4pm	Afternoon Tea	Longstowe Village Hall
Sun 31 st May 9am–1pm	The Gransdens Farmers' Market	Little Gransden Village Hall
Sun 28 th June 6pm	Selwyn College Choir	St Mary's Church, Longstowe

Parish Council news

Longstowe Annual Open Parish Meeting on Thursday 16th April at 7pm (for refreshments) for 7.15–8.15pm meeting.

Although it is hosted by the Parish Council, this is NOT a Parish Council meeting, it is YOUR Parish meeting. Please come to talk about village matters.

Next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 16th April, following the Annual Open Parish Meeting.

Defibrillator training session

Would YOU know how to use this facility if someone you know needed it? Training will take place on Saturday 18th April 10am–12noon. **Booking essential.**

Please inform the Clerk if you would like to attend:
Sharon Brown longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com,
telephone 07561606080

Postal votes: Reminder that postal votes are now for a maximum period of 3 years only.

The easiest way for a resident to re-apply for a postal vote is online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote, alternatively our elections team are happy to send paper forms to anyone who needs them. If you have any questions, email elections@scambs.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



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

Next Village Teas on 24th April, 2–4pm
and 29th May, 2–4pm

£500 for Longstowe Village Hall!

During the evening of Saturday 14th March, a fund-raising quiz was held at Longstowe Village Hall. A good crowd tackled questions on a range of subjects as wide as the always included "What is the cost of a 2nd class stamp?" to some much more diverse subjects.

The quiz included a long break at half time for participants to enjoy the picnic style food they had brought together with suitable quantities and selections of beverages. The evening included a raffle with a good selection of prizes including some kindly donated by participants.

The mood of the evening was most good-humoured and convivial. Contestants had come not from just Longstowe, but as far afield as Arrington, Gransden, Bourn, Cambourne and Toft. Scores were spread over a fair range, but one team stood out as winners, they were "Brains of Pooh"! Well done! In fact well done to all who took part or contributed in any way. We raised the magnificent sum of five hundred pounds.

Thank you to all who contributed, and especially to Chris Morton who ably managed the scoring and accounting. PW

County Council information

(Cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Cambourne Library

Cambourne Library has re-opened, just in time for the National Year of Reading. Go along and support it or it may end up closing for good.

Bin collection over Easter

Bins over Easter are not disrupted and will continue to be collected every week on a THURSDAY, with blue and green bins collected on April 2nd and black bin the following Thursday and so on.

Build your cycling confidence with free cycle training sessions

From March 2026, Cambridgeshire County Council's Active Travel team, in partnership with Grafham Water Centre, will be delivering a series of adult cycle training sessions designed to improve cycling confidence.

Whether you're a beginner who has never cycled before or would like to feel more confident when cycling on the road, a mix of one-to-one and group sessions are now available to book for free. Taking place at locations across Cambridgeshire, sessions are open to all and will be tailored to the abilities of attendees. For more information, please email activetravel@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Families Information Service

[Childcare and early learning | Cambridgeshire County Council \(website\)](#)

We provide information, advice, and guidance to families to: find childcare; understand childcare funding options; find childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and to understand the [SEND Local Offer](#).

We manage the [Cambridgeshire Childcare Directory](#). Parents can use this facility to search for good or outstanding childcare providers across Cambridgeshire.

Our advice is free, confidential, and impartial.

Contact us:

email fis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk; call 0345 045 1360; connect [FIS Facebook](#).



Have you ever thought about fostering in Cambridgeshire?

As of recent reports, there are approximately 700 children and young people in care across

Cambridgeshire who need safe, nurturing homes where they can grow, thrive and feel secure. The county has experienced a notable increase in these numbers over the past year, with many children requiring placements outside of the local area due to a shortage of local foster carers.

These children come into care for many reasons — from family breakdown, neglect, or abuse to situations where their birth families can no longer provide the support they need. For many, foster carers are the lifeline that offers stability, encouragement and a sense of belonging at a time when they need it most.

Yet there simply aren't enough foster carers. There is a need for foster carers to support children of all ages, especially sibling groups, teenagers and parent and child arrangements. Nexus Fostering provides full training and dedicated support to help carers succeed in helping create positive outcomes.

Becoming a foster carer isn't about having a perfect background — it's about offering patience, compassion, and a safe home. Carers can be single, rent their home, and you don't have to have had your own children before; what matters most is a commitment to making a positive impact on a child's life.

If you've ever thought about fostering, now is the time to act. Every child deserves a home where they can feel valued, supported and safe and you could be the person who helps them get there.

📞 Get in touch

Call: 0800 389 0143

Email: foster@nexusfostering.co.uk

Visit: www.nexusfostering.co.uk to find out more or start your journey today.

Together, we can help children across Cambridgeshire have the futures they deserve.

UK Government information

Are you missing out on Pension Credit?

To get Pension Credit, you must live in the UK, be over State Pension age, have a weekly income below £218.15 if you're single, or £332.95 if you're part of a couple. In Cambridgeshire, up to one in three people who are eligible for Pension Credit are not claiming it. The average household could get around £186 per month. Claiming Pension Credit can also unlock other benefits, including the Winter Fuel Payment, help with NHS dental treatment, glasses and hospital transport costs. You can check eligibility and claim Pension Credit on the GOV.UK website. For help, contact Age UK or Citizens Advice.

Post Office

The government has confirmed that it will invest up to £483 million over the next two years to support the long-term sustainability of the Post Office network, retain a minimum of 11,500 Post Office branches and maintain the existing geographical access criteria.

Information from the Police / Fire Service

Protect your oil tank from theft !

Do you own an oil tank? Make sure it doesn't fall into the wrong hands! Oil tanks are often targeted by thieves because they are usually outside and contain valuable fuel. A few simple steps can make a big difference in protecting yours: Hide the location of your tank; Fit a padlock or lockable filler cap; Secure the tank inside a cage; Install lockable gates; Use an electronic gauge that triggers an alarm if levels drop; Fit security lighting near the tank; Install CCTV.

Taking action now could help prevent theft later. Stay one step ahead and keep your property secure. More advice at www.cambs.police.uk / Advice and information / Crime prevention advice / Protecting your home from crime

Older Driver Workshops

Are you over 65 and driving? Or have a parent who is? The Older Driver Workshops, delivered by the fire service, are free sessions designed to help us all keep driving safely for longer. They discuss how driving can become more challenging as we get older, and what simple checks we can do at home to keep ourselves fit to drive.

This interactive, two-hour session is being held at various Fire Stations through to July, including Cambourne, and covers the following topics: Age-related changes when driving; Eyesight and driving;

Conducting a vehicle check; License renewal; Signs to be aware of; Alternatives to driving.

More information at www.cambsfire.gov.uk / Home / Community Safety / Road Safety / Older Driver Workshops, email road.safety@cambsfire.gov.uk.

Wildlife Trust BCN update: April 2026

April is an exciting time for wildlife. Some wildflowers will have been out since March, like primrose, lesser celandine, red deadnettle, and the rare oxlip (found in a few of our ancient woodland nature reserves), and others will just be starting like red campion, greater



stitchwort, cowslips, wood anemones, and bluebells. At this time of year, you might find three different types of violets in some of our woodland reserves.

Resident birds like blackbirds, robins, house sparrows, starlings, goldfinches, blue tits and great tits will already be raising chicks. They might have been working on their nests since February. Common migrant birds like the chiffchaff, swallow, and blackcap, will just be arriving.

Wildlife Trust BCN events are a great way to learn about native wildlife, and tickets are cheaper for members. Events and booking links can be found at wildlifebcn.org/events.

Wed 1 st April, 10–12	Cambourne
Wild in the Woods: dens, sticks & tools	
Tues 14 th April, 10–11.30	Cambourne
Seasonal stroll: spring wildflowers	
Fri 24 th April, 11–12.15	Trumpington Meadows
Seasonal stroll: spring wildflowers	
Sat 25 th April 10–12	Trumpington Meadows
Wild in the Meadows: outdoor art	

Please check our website for more information about which nature reserves have temporary closures. Note, the default for most of our reserves is that dogs must be on leads. There are some reserves where dogs are not allowed at all (Hayley Wood has just been added to this list), and some where there are very specific places where they can be off-lead (like parts of Trumpington Meadows).

Local enquiries

Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

TrumpingtonMeadows@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: @TrumpingtonMeadowsNatureReserve

General enquiries

cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

@wildlifebcn www.wildlifebcn.org

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.

Healthy eating



Building work is going on at a good pace at a local surgery. The plan is to have it all ready and open by April 1st, a small branch of Greggs attached to it. These popular fast-food outlets are springing up all over the place, another one opened at a local petrol station only a few months ago.

The plan is that all food sold will be for "take away" rather than taking it inside to consume whilst waiting for a doctor's appointment.

(Please see first response to this item on page 8!)

LONGSTOWE CHURCH PCC (PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL)

Springtime is upon us, the birds are singing louder

Time is nature's way of making sure that everything doesn't happen at once.

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,
the song of the birds for mirth,
one is nearer God's heart in a garden,
than anyplace else on earth....*

*Time is too slow for those who wait,
Too swift for those who fear,
Too long for those who grieve,
Too short for those who rejoice.
But for those who love, time is not....*

*No minute gone comes ever back again, take heed
and see ye nothing do in vain. (Shakespear)*

This early Spring has certainly given us quite a lot to think about, both locally and worldwide. However, without getting too downhearted can we commend to you to take a walk around the churchyards across the country or our own in Longstowe. Often one may spot writings on the headstones and monuments, some of which date back to the 17th Century, or chancing upon wildlife and plants which love to inhabit quiet and undisturbed places. Not from Longstowe but a stone in a pretty Scottish church has the following:

Light and shadow by turns, but love always.

Our volunteers are fantastic and we thank them all for their generosity of time and willingness to 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 on a regular basis. Particular thanks for the maintenance of the building of our lovely church must go to Stephen Owen and Peter White and to the Hemmins and the Murdens for the churchyard and to Daphne Ford for helping us keep the church clean. A huge thank you to Trisha Chesney for playing the organ throughout the year. Thank you Trish. And given Easter will shortly be here, we will hear a rendition of "Tulips from Amsterdam" – having recently enjoyed "Rain drops keep falling...."!

Why not come and join a happy Team, there is always something to be done.

We are delighted to announce we shall once again be treated to a sung service by **Selwyn College on Sunday 28th June at 6pm**. With huge thanks to Dr Richard Medd for arranging. It truly is a beautiful and very special evening. The sound is sublime. Even if you do not normally attend church it is something worth taking time to listen to.

DATES for your diary: Events & Services

05 Apr 2026 EASTER DAY – 10am Holy Communion
Leader: Rodney H

26 Apr 2026 EASTER 4 – 10.30am Morning Prayer
Leader: NP

10 May 2026 EASTER 6 – 9.15am Holy Communion
Leader: GD

24 May 2026 PENTECOST – 10.30am Morning Prayer
Leader: NP

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(Solution on the back page)

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



It will take a society to beat dementia

**Cambridgeshire
Dementia
Support Service**

If you need dementia support, we're here for you. Our Dementia Advisers work with people with dementia, their families, and carers to provide a highly responsive and individualized information, support, and signposting service. This service is free and confidential.

As trusted experts in dementia, our advisers offer advice and support with all aspects of dementia, including:

- understanding the diagnosis
- practical tips on living with and caring for a loved one with dementia
- understanding symptoms and changes in behaviour
- advice on hospital stays and discharge
- provide emotional support
- planning for the future – legal and finance.

Get in touch today:

Cambridgeshire Dementia Support Service

Email: cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk

Telephone: 01223 620962

National Dementia Support Line:

Telephone: 0333 150 3456

(Opening hours: Mon to Weds: 9am – 8pm, Thurs and Fri: 9am – 5pm, Sat and Sun: 10am – 4pm)



Cambridge University
Botanic Garden



**Looking for something
to do with the children
over Easter?**

Cambridge Botanic Gardens have a few interesting events on that don't all need booking. Just go along. (Normal admission fees apply.)

Talking Plants in the greenhouses – Yes you can actually talk to plants and they will answer your questions. Great fun. Hint: think of some good questions first. (Scan a QR code in the greenhouse for the app download on a mobile phone.) All ages

Easter Plant Puzzle – follow a trail round the gardens and solve the puzzles. Collect a prize at the shop when you have finished. Ages 3+

***Cherry Blossoms** – Celebrate the season of cherry blossom by creating your own stunning artwork and learn some amazing facts about cherry blossom around the world. Ages 3+
Saturday 4th April 2026 10am–1pm **booking essential.**

*Children must be accompanied at all times.
Free child tickets for this event must be booked online. Ticket sales open one week before the event. Adults do not need to book to accompany however please note that adults will be required to pay for Garden entry on arrival.

Spring Paper Flowers – family activity.
Thursday 9th and Friday 10th April 2026 10am–1pm
Come and create paper flowers inspired by the spring colours in the Garden. Using paper and card, cut, stick and create a bunch of flowers to take home.

Drop-in to join in the fun. All ages welcome, no need to pre-book. Find us in the Garden Room at the Schools' Garden. All ages

***Super Seedy Stuff** – Come and plant up pots with seeds that you can grow, harvest and cook with at home. Ages 3+
Saturday 2nd May 2026 10am–1pm **booking essential.**

*Children must be accompanied at all times.
Free child tickets for this event must be booked online. Ticket sales open one week before the event. Adults do not need to book to accompany however please note that adults will be required to pay for Garden entry on arrival.

For more information, go to the web pages:

<https://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/whats-on>

Longstowe History Society

There are five talks a year, admission £3 per talk, or free if you take out an annual 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

Denny Abbey ..on the road to Ely.. a history



During its 850 years, from its founding in 1159, Denny Abbey has been a Benedictine priory, a Templar retirement home, a Poor Clare Nunnery and a working farmhouse. Today, their stories are told through an intriguing architectural jigsaw of arches, windows, and blocked doorways.

An illustrated talk

**Tuesday 28th April 2026,
7.30 for 8pm**

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

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



Longstowe Village Fete

Saturday 27th June at 2pm



We are preparing for the Village Fete again this year. We've got lots planned but your committee are getting older.



CAN YOU HELP



Contact:

jane.bowden@icloud.com



We are not asking for long-term commitment. Just helping put up marquees – help manning the BAR – BBQ – Teas – Stalls – Games – Raffle ANYTHING!!





There are over 20 food and drink stalls plus homeware, plants and a volunteer run cafe serving breakfast baps and hot drinks. With an ever-changing offering, we are truly showcasing local independent businesses.

Free entry - Refreshments - all welcome -
plenty of parking - Cycle racks

Key info

The Gransdens Farmers Market
Little Gransden Village Hall Primrose Hill
Little Gransden
Cambridge
SG19 3DP

Sunday: 9am to 1pm
last Sunday of month - March – November

Facilities

Toilets Baby Changing facilities Disabled toilet
Wheelchair access Family friendly
Dog friendly Wifi Outdoor seating



Caxton FARMERS MARKET

Come discover locally produced items, including:
food, drinks, flowers ...and more!

Mark your 2026 calendar:

- 12 April
- 10 May
- 14 June
- 12 July
- 9 August
- 13 September
- 11 October
- 15 November
- 13 December

**Find us at the
Caxton Village Hall
CB23 3PL
9:30am-12:30pm**

Response to item on page 4.

Greggs can hardly be considered healthy eating!!!
Personally, I'm appalled to learn that there will be
a Greggs in Bourn and in this traditional location

– a take-away shop is the last thing we need with
all the extra rubbish it will bring along the roads,
– what they do need is to expand the surgery and
increase the number of doctors to cover the area
adequately, but then I hear they are possibly
moving to Bourn airfield, so no use to us!!!

Sudoku Solution

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

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*).

We had complaints about the smaller size, so we are reverting to A4. However, we will still publish 6 times a year allowing for timely capture of more events locally for you to enjoy.

Please submit articles for the June Skylark by no later than **Monday 11th May** to

LongstoweSkylark@gmail.com

Note: new email address

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