



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

August 2026



What's On in and around Longstowe

Date/Time	Event	Location
Sat/Sun 8 th /9 th August 10am–5pm	Cambridge Country Show	Stowe Cum Quy Estate
Sun 9 th August 9:30–12:30	Caxton Farmers Market	Caxton Village Hall
Mon 17 th August 10–11:30am (ages 12–25)	Behind the Scenes at Cambridge University Zoology Museum	One of many events of Wildlife Trust (see article for others)
Sat 22 nd August mid-afternoon	Cricket Tea	Longstowe Village Hall
Sun 30 th August 9am–1pm	The Gransdens Farmers' Market	Little Gransden Village Hall
Sun 6 th September 3pm	Pet service	Longstowe Parish Church
Thu 17 th September 7 for 7:15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Longstowe Village Hall
Fri 25 th September 2–4pm	Tea & Cake	Longstowe Village Hall
Sun 27 th September 10:30am	West Cambridge Joint Service	Comberton Village College
Tue 29 th September 7:30 for 8pm	Longstowe History Society	Longstowe Village Hall
Future dates for your diary		
Sun 4 th October 9am to 12pm	Car Boot and Table-Top Sale	Longstowe Village Hall

Parish Council news

The web site, the Clerk and all the Councillors now have longstoweparishcouncil.gov.uk addresses. Although there is a cost to the Village for this change, it does mean that all Government and Parish contact will be kept separate from private and business email addresses. We believe this is more secure and professional.

Next Parish Council meeting:

There is no meeting in August;
Thursday 17th September, 7pm for 7.15pm start.

Blood pressure monitor loan scheme at Cambridgeshire Libraries



High blood pressure is one of the leading risk factors for cardiovascular disease, yet many people are unaware they have it.

Around 1 in 12 adults* in Cambridgeshire are estimated to have undiagnosed high blood pressure, equivalent to around 50,000 residents living with this condition but not knowing they have it.

Early detection and follow-up can significantly reduce risk of stroke, heart attack, and other illnesses. Therefore, it is important to check our blood pressure regularly.

Cambridgeshire Libraries offer blood pressure monitors for loan from all 33 libraries and 3 mobile libraries. Any library member aged 18 or over can borrow a monitor for 3 weeks – just like borrowing a book. And it's free!

To borrow a monitor, simply visit your local library and speak to a member of staff.

For more information, visit

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/advice-and-support/libraries-and-wellbeing/blood-pressure-monitor-loan-scheme>

Blood pressure monitor library loan scheme

**Know your numbers,
check your blood pressure at home**

High blood pressure is a leading cause of heart attacks and strokes - and often has no symptoms.

The great news is you can borrow a blood pressure monitor from your library. It's free – you just need your library card. Ask at your library today.



Visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraryandwellbeing to find out how Cambridgeshire Libraries support your health and wellbeing.

* Editor's note: Based on 2021 data published on Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care

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



Village Teas are back on 25th September (2–4pm).

Come along for home baked cakes, hot or cold drinks and convivial chat.

Interested Bystander:

Longstowe Hall Estate has over the last few years been following a regime of caring for our wild bird population with use of special seed crops (cover crops) in land lying adjacent to the major woods. There is no specific bird count for Longstowe but you may be interested to read the nationwide Big Farmland Bird Count Results.

Big Farmland Bird Count 2026:

The results of the 2026 Big Farmland Bird Count (BFBC) show that farms providing supplementary feeding, as does the Longstowe Hall Estate, are supporting higher numbers of many farmland bird species whose breeding populations are declining nationally.

Run by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT).

Despite poor weather conditions this spring, this year a total of 275,024 birds were counted over 292,828 hectares of farmland by farmers, land managers, or their helpers. This year we found that 67% of farms surveyed were in an agri-environment scheme, with 64% providing supplementary feeding for birds on their farm. In total, 69,222 red-listed birds were counted including 34 different species, with the most abundant of those being starling (25,306), lapwing (19,198), and fieldfare (15,816).

In Longstowe the set aside margins have attracted a large population of linnets and it is a delight to walk along the old rail track past the trees at dusk to hear them twittering.

LONGSTOWE CHURCH PCC (PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL)

We are fast approaching the “Dog days of Summer”, traditionally the hottest and most uncomfortable weeks of summer, typically spanning July 3 to August 11 in the Northern Hemisphere, following the summer solstice, associated with high heat, humidity, and sometimes lethargy or discomfort.

The term originates from Sirius, the Dog Star, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major. Ancient Greeks and Romans observed that Sirius rose in the sky just before the Sun during midsummer.

Historically, the dog days were linked to drought, fever, sudden thunderstorms. Today it evokes images of lazy, hot summer days. But before we leave the freshness of June we were delighted to welcome back for a sung service, Selwyn College Choir. It was absolutely wonderful and so serene, the weather

perfect: warm and sunny. A brilliant way to say goodbye to a very hectic and rather toasty Fete Weekend! We welcomed around 90 people. It was particularly thanks to Dr Richard Medd for arranging. It truly is a beautiful and very special evening. Stop Press they are returning 27th June 2027!!

DATES for your diary: Events & Services

No services in August

6 September 2026 3pm Pet Service Leader: NP

27 September 2026 10:30am West Cambridge

Joint Service at Comberton Village College

Longstowe Parish Church

Calling all Pets & Pet People!



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

**Sunday 6th September
2026
At 3.00pm**

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.

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(Solution on the back page)

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

Wildlife Trust BCN update: August 2026

When our planet is handed over to the next generation, we need young people who are knowledgeable and passionate about local wildlife and sustainability. These people will ensure wildlife continues to thrive, for its own sake, and also for the role it has in human survival. We need wilder green spaces for our health, we need pollinators and functioning soil for our crops, shade from trees, clean water, and leaky dams and spongy soils to slow the flow. This year, our annual celebration of young people and conservation runs from Saturday 15th August to Sunday 23rd August 2026 and includes an exciting mix of activities for 11–25 year olds who love wildlife. Youth Week is an opportunity for young people to experience new activities, get outdoors, and meet like-minded people. Local events are listed below, and some further afield and at a later date can be found on our website: wildlifebcn.org/events.

August events in Cambourne and Cambridge:

- Tues 4th Aug 7–8.30pm: Rescheduled seasonal wildflower stroll in Cambourne
- Wed 5th Aug 8–10am: Wild in the Woods family session on moths and bugs in Cambourne
- Sat 8th Aug 9.30am–12.30pm: Launch of Cambridgeshire Nature Girls (social activities in nature for women 18+)
- Thurs 6th Aug 7.30–9.30am: Wild in the Meadows family session on swifts and bugs at Trumpington Meadows

- Mon 17th Aug 10–11.30am: Behind the Scenes at Cambridge University Zoology Museum for Youth Week (ages 12–25)
- Tues 18th Aug 7.30–10am: Youth Rangers moth trapping for Youth Week in Cambourne (ages 11–17)
- Thurs 20th Aug 7.45–9.45am: Wild in the Meadows family session on small mammal trapping at Trumpington Meadows
- Fri 21st Aug 8.30–10pm: Adult guided night walk in Cambourne
- Sat 22nd Aug 7–10pm: Youth Rangers night walk for Youth Week (ages 11–17)
- Fri 28th Aug 8.30–10pm: Adult guided night walk at Trumpington Meadows

Local enquiries:

Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

TrumpingtonMeadows@wildlifebcn.org

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.

restricting the useful area we could use on the other. It was a league match and Longstowe won.



Caxton FARMERS MARKET

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

Mark your 2026 calendar:

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

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

Longstowe Fete

We did get a few volunteers to help set up and man the stalls for whom we are very grateful and offer our thanks – you know who you are. Despite the heat, we got a few stalwart people braving the sun to attend the Fete. Because of this, takings were down (just over £800). The VH Committee are planning more fund-raising events later in the year that will need your support to keep your village hall afloat (see adverts elsewhere in this issue).

The dog event had to be cancelled because of the heat and some stalls moved inside into the shade. Burgers were again popular and benefited from the new card payment facility – at least until a late-planned outage by our internet provider took the internet down halfway through the afternoon. The bar also benefited from card payment but suffered the same fate. The cricket proved to be a two-edged sword, adding entertainment on the one hand but

2026 8TH & 9TH AUGUST

THE CAMBRIDGE COUNTRY SHOW & WE LOVE DOGS



Stow Cum Quy Estate, CB25 9AJ

DISCOUNTED TICKETS ONLINE

www.cambridgecountryshow.co.uk

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 light refreshments (which are free!) at 7:30 pm and the talks begin at 8:00 pm. See poster for next event.

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

12,000 years of (modern) humans in Britain



*What science and archaeology
can tell us about the changes in
our heritage, pets and farm
animals, and recurrent plagues
that occurred since modern
humans came to Britain 12,000
years ago.*

an illustrated talk
by Chris Thomas
(Norris Museum, St Ives)

Tuesday 29th Sept 2026, 7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

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

Longstowe Village Hall



Car Boot & Tabletop Sale



Sunday, 4th October

Open 9am to 12pm

Free entry for buyers

Pitch prices – cash/card on day:

Cars £10

Vans £15

Indoor tables £12

Sellers on ground from 8.30am

No need to book, just turn up

Refreshments available:

Bacon Rolls from 10am

Further details:

Maddy on 01954 718303 or madeleinejones@btconnect.com

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

COME TO OUR

CHRISTMAS FAIR

**LONGSTOWE VILLAGE
HALL**

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

Cards

Sweeties

Paintings

*Wood
items*

Children's Craft Kits

Honey Gifts 

Jewellery

Lots more stalls

Stalls subject to confirmation

Refreshments

Free entry



Longstowe Cricket Club



The Village Hall tea in August has been replaced by the Cricket Tea for the last home game of the season. Why not come along and enjoy a few overs as you dine.



Fixtures 2026

CCA Junior League Division 3

Date	Home/Away	Time	Opponent	Venue
1 st August	A	1 pm	Elsworth CC- 1st XI	Elsworth Cricket Ground
8 th August	A	1 pm	Bassingbourn CC- 1st XI	Recreation Ground
22 nd August	H	1 pm	Girton CC- 2nd XI	Longstowe Village Hall

Sudoku Solution

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

www.LongstoweParishCouncil.gov.uk

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

Please submit articles for the October Skylark by no later than **Thursday 17th September** to LongstoweSkylark@gmail.com

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