

Longstanton Life

Volume 22 Issue No. 6 December 2022 - January 2023 Life in Your Locality

Merry Christmas!



The information in The Longstanton Life is provided in good faith and we have tried to ensure that it is accurate and correct. However, neither the editorial team nor the contributors can be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions or any consequential losses of any form whatsoever arising therefrom.
The editorial team for this edition were: Lucy Shaw, Beth Baker, Silke Scott-Mance, Victoria Stevens, Anna Rudd, and Gosia Lelusz.

VILLAGE DIARY

SUNDAY	11.00	Tennis Club Sessions	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
MONDAY	18.00-20.00	Bowls Club	The Pavilion	Marion Edwards	01954 780118
	19.00-20.00	Jazzercise	Hatton Park School	Tina Chasse	01487 841811
2nd of month	19.30	Parish Council	Village Institute*	(Open meeting)	
3rd of month	19.45	W.I.	Village Institute*	Patrizia Peters	01954 781283
TUESDAY	09.00-10.30	Mini JAFFAs (pre-schoolers)	All Saints' Church	Diane Herrington	
	10.00-12.00	Coffee morning (over 55's)	The Dale Comm. Hall	Please just turn up	
	18.00	Tennis Club Night	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
	18.30-20.00	Adult Cricket Training (May-August)	Recreation Ground	Wayne Markillie	07737 313225
	19.00-21.00	Cambridge Freestyle Martial Arts	Village Institute*	Rory/Martin	07523 854251/07535 646234
	19.00-21.30	ATC (Air Training Corps)	Cadet Centre		
WEDNESDAY	09.30-10.30	Music Madness (0-5yrs)	Village Institute*	Sharon Sennitt	07762 206320
	15.30-16.30	Acro/Street Dance Club (Reception-Year 2)	Hatton Park School	Inspirations Dance	07565 513291
	16.45-18.45	Acro/Street Dance (5-14yrs)	Village Institute*	Inspirations Dance	07565 513291
	19.10-21.30	Army Cadet Force (12-18yrs)	Cadet Centre	Sgt. Rudderham	07759 056154
	19.00-20.00	Jazzercise	Hatton Park School	Tina Chasse	01487 841811
THURSDAY	15.30-16.30	Acro/Street Dance Club (Years 3-6)	Hatton Park School	Inspirations Dance	07565 513291
FRIDAY	09.30-11.00	Little Leprechauns playgroup (0-4yrs)	Village Institute*	Felicity Timpanist	07870588777
	14.00-16.00	Afternoon tea (over 55s)	The Dale Comm. Hall	Please just turn up	
	18.00	Tennis Club Night	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
	19.00-21.30	ATC (Air Training Corps)	Cadet Centre		
	18.00-20.00	Longstanton Juniors Cricket (5-16yrs) includes the All Stars (5-8yrs) (April-July)	Recreation Ground	Richard Jenkins	rkbjenkins@gmail.com
SATURDAY	9.30-12.30	Longstanton Dance Classes (Variety of classes for ages 2-15yrs)	Hatton Park School	Inspirations Dance	07565 513291
	10.00-11.00	*Longstanton Colts Football Club (6-12yrs)	Recreation Ground	Louise Gamon	07429 317803

*Mid week football training available, please contact Louise Gamon (Tel: 07429 317803).

*It should be noted that the Village Institute is available for hiring for a variety of functions; provisional bookings can be made via www.longstanton-pc.gov.uk/Longstanton_Village_Institute_Hall_23070.aspx. Email: villageinstitute@gmail.com or telephone **01954 782323**. The Pavilion also offers private party function facilities; discuss your requirements for any family & friends gatherings - e.g.: weddings, birthdays, funerals, with **Michael Binks** on **01954 782233** or email longstantonpav@btinternet.com

Longstanton Hatton's Charity

The Charity provides a modest monetary gift at Christmas to residents of Longstanton parish who are aged over 70 and have resided in the village for over 20 years.

Anyone who fulfils the above two conditions is eligible, so please contact one of the trustees on the telephone numbers below:

Mark Stevens: 07789-118339
Nanci Delamare-Lyon: 07889-801460
Victoria Sharland: 07722-044057
Libby White: 07808 524875

In 1659, Sir Thomas Hatton left £100 in his will to buy land for the benefit of the poor. This provision formed the basis of the Longstanton Hatton's Charity, which was set up by the Charity Commissioners in 1898. We know that in the 1830s the income from the land was used to buy coal for the poor, but nowadays the charity uses its income to provide a modest gift to deserving residents. The charity currently owns approximately 3 acres of land at Bare Fen, and around 7 acres at Gravel Bridge both in Over, which are leased to local farmers.





Dear Readers,

Christmas is on its way, and there are plenty of events happening in Longstanton and Northstowe for the community to enjoy: the Longstanton Lights Switch On, Village Market, Northstowe Winter Festival and many more. Read on for the details.

We would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to our new District Councillors, Tom Bygott and Natalie Warren-Green. We wish you the best of luck in your new roles.

This issue features 'Low-cost Christmas ideas', with some great tips for a fun-filled Christmas without needing to break the bank. Sustainable Northstowe are also running an upcycled decorations craft session at the Northstowe Christmas Fayre (page 4) if you are interested in a more environmentally friendly Christmas.

Tesco have generously donated a Christmas hamper for this issue's competition winner (for older readers). Our younger winner will get a bag of Christmas goodies funded by Longstanton Life. To be in with a chance of winning, give our competition a go on page 14. Good luck!

We wish you a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**

The Editorial Team

Contact Us:

- e-mail: longstantonlife@hotmail.com
- correspondence address: Longstanton Life, c/o The Village Institute, 24 High Street, Longstanton CB24 3BS
- Twitter account: @LongstantonLife
- find us on Facebook – Longstanton Life Magazine

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Please note that the **copy deadline** for the February - March 2023 edition of Longstanton Life is:
Friday, 13th January 2023
 Contributions for the next issue: by email to longstantonlife@hotmail.com or drop off at the Village Institute

Longstanton Life Advertising Rates 2022

If you are interested in advertising in our magazine, please email longstantonlife@hotmail.com with 'advertising' in the subject line.

Colour Adverts Prices = B/W plus 20%

Ad Size	1 Edition	3 Editions (6 months)	6 Editions (1 year)	3 Editions Spot Ads	6 Editions Spot Ads
1/4	N/A	£130/156	£255/305	£165/198	£330/395
1/8	N/A	£65/78	£130/156	£82/99	£165/198
Line	N/A	£15	£30		

Issue 1: February/March	Issue 4: August/September
Issue 2: April/May	Issue 5: October/November
Issue 3: June/July	Issue 6: December/January

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Longstanton Parish Council

Dan delaMare-Lyon



Hello Everyone,

As we head into winter, it is nice to see rain falling at last and everything briefly green again as the last of the leaves fall. As always, a short update on activity at the Parish Council to keep you up to date.

Dog Mess: We've had reports in several locations, but specifically in Over

Road and the surrounding streets, about people letting their dogs foul on the pavements and verges and irresponsible owners not picking it up. It goes without saying that this isn't acceptable, and it is also a crime. Please, if you have a dog, always carry poo bags with you to clear up as you go and put it in a bin or take it home with you.

Events Working Group: Our appeal for help has yielded five people coming forward to help with organising events. This has meant we've been able to make rapid progress with the Christmas event, and, once the planning is complete, we will move onto planning events next year. We can always do with more hands to help, so please contact the Parish Clerk if you are able to help us.

Planting Trees: We've been lucky enough to secure a substantial number of trees from the various initiatives being run around the Queens Green Canopy initiative. We are hoping to be able to plant some 2000 saplings in the early new year around the village. Some of these will be planted for us, with help provided by the Ministry of Justice as part of their community work; with the rest, we hope to be able to have a community event to plant in certain locations around the village. More details to come on this in December - watch out on Facebook for more information!

Speeding in the Village: While we are working on gathering your feedback on speeding in the village as part of wider traffic and roads issues, our Community Speed-Watch team are eager to continue to operate. Sadly, due to one member stepping down owing to other commitments, they need more people to help out. The commitment isn't huge (a short training course plus as many hours as the members can spend monitoring vehicle speeds) and can make a big difference in our community. Please contact the team by e-mail (csw.longstanton@gmail.com) if you can help - they will be happy to hear from you!

As always, if the Parish Council can help in any way, please contact any of your councillors directly, e-mail the Parish Clerk (clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk) or call the parish office on 01954 782323.

Until next time, thanks for reading.

Dan delaMare-Lyon
Chairman, LPC

MP for South Cambs

Anthony Browne



Dear Residents,

As stability returns to Westminster, I am glad to welcome Rishi Sunak as our next Prime Minister. Rishi clearly has the support of the vast majority of his colleagues. Moreover, he has the support of

South Cambs - in a survey, residents told me they found him honest, competent, best able to represent us on the world stage, and in the best position to manage the economy. We are already seeing the results of this.

Rishi is right to put the focus back on our 2019 manifesto, the commitments we made when getting elected. Those have never left my mind, and I have reiterated my promises to South Cambridgeshire with letters to ministers on issues including transport plans such as East West Rail, environmental concerns like sewage discharge, and problems with overdevelopment in our area. I will continue to work hard for South Cambridgeshire.

Recently, I have:

- Campaigned to put a stop to the GCP's draconian driving tax, which will add £5 to car journeys for anyone living or working in Cambridge, or using our hospitals.
- Welcomed the Farming Minister to South Cambridgeshire and lobbied for more information and support to help our local farmers.
- Pushed the Combined Authority to tackle the bus crisis facing our residents, seeking answers on why their 'urgent process' was not more efficient.
- Spent time out and about in South Cambridgeshire, visiting schools and meeting both hosts and refugees we have helped via the Homes for Ukraine programme.
- Pushed letting agents and local Councillors to act over the former Barclays Bank site in Sawston, which they have now committed to clean up and let.
- Assisted with constituents' visa applications, energy concerns, emergency support, and over 1,000 other cases.

I also recently made two speeches in the House of Commons; the first backing the State Triple Pension Lock; the second concerning Management of the Economy. The full video clips are available on my website, www.anthonybrowne.org.

To contact me about any issue:
anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk
01223 603677

Anthony Browne

Anthony Browne
MP for South Cambs

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

County Councillor

Firouz Thompson



With winter now setting in, we are asking residents to take extra care in the darker evenings, especially in bad weather, as the days are getting shorter and visibility may be reduced.

With the recent by-election in our ward, I would like to congratulate my fellow LibDem District Councillor, Natalie Warren-Green, and Conservative Councillor, Tom Bygott. Well done to all other 7 candidates who stood.

Support for residents in coping with the cost of living: The Council is continuing to collate information about the various sources of help for individuals and households struggling with the cost of living crisis.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living

Bus Route: Citi 5 Bus route – Longstanton-Bar Hill-Cambridge:

This bus will now be stopping as a "hail and ride" service in Northstowe for both inbound and outbound journeys. The route will go in via Pathfinder Way, onto Links Lane then onto Stirling Road, before joining Station Road. Then the reverse coming back into Cambridge City.

Frequency is 30 mins peak, hourly evening. See the timetable <https://tinyurl.com/bdfcb79d> or use your app. Hopefully this will provide an alternative route to the Busway for our residents. The extension to the route into Northstowe has been funded by Northstowe S106.

Combined Authority (CA) Bus Procurement: The CA's bus procurement concluded last month, with all eighteen routes which had been cut by Stagecoach, along with all of the five reduced services, seeing some level of service reinstated. Part of the Citi5 bus that was cut beyond Northstowe is now a new route 5A that will be a loop around Longstanton Park and Ride, Willingham, Over and Swavesey.

The CA had set aside £1.7M for subsidies to operators to keep them running. Currently, the total cost is expected to be about £1.25M because bus operators were limited in what services they were prepared to provide. The CA will be monitoring how the new services are working. I am working with parents of pupils who attend Swavesey Village College to ensure that the buses get the pupils to/from school.

As well as ensuring vital bus services continue between October and the end of March 2023, the CA is working to put in place a sustainable and affordable bus network from April 2023 onwards.

All this is a sharp reminder of the reality of the current deregulated bus system and the problems caused by sixty per cent of bidding authorities in England, including Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, receiving no Government funding for their Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs).

The CA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee was told in a report from its lead member for buses that two reasons had been given for the failure of the Department for Transport to fund Cambridgeshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan:

- In DfT's view, we had insufficient commitment to road charging, active travel and bus priority schemes in our area.
- The DfT subsequently applied a deprivation index score to each BSIP submitted and, given our high overall growth, this meant that the money tended to be allocated in the north of England rather than to us.

A refreshed Bus Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is due to be presented to the CA's Transport & Infrastructure Committee in November, alongside a refreshed Bus Service Improvement Plan and a case for Government investment.

Work is also continuing to further develop the business case for a franchised bus network in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, but this will need money for the necessary investment in the service.

Passengers with questions about bus services can email passenger.transport@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk.

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP): The Greater Cambridge Partnership has now opened its public consultation on its proposals for a significant expansion of bus services in Cambridge and the city's travel to work area, including South Cambridgeshire, to be paid for by the introduction of a congestion charge in Cambridge in 2027/28.

It is very important indeed that local residents here in South Cambridgeshire read the proposals, complete the survey and let the Greater Cambridge Partnership know what the proposals would mean for them.

The survey closes at midday on Friday 23 December. The consultation website, including the survey, brochure, map book, frequently asked questions, public events and webinar dates and contact details can be found at <https://consultcambs.uk/engagementthq.com/making-connections-2022>

Mayoral precept: The Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough meets regularly and informally with leaders of the member councils of the Combined Authority. One idea he raised in one such meeting was whether there might be a case for setting a Mayoral precept to be added to the Council Tax, to fund bus services beyond March 2023. This suggestion was then leaked to the media, with some council leaders then taking the opportunity to oppose the idea from the outset.

We understand Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council would both have a veto over such a proposal. A bus network covering more than just a few key urban routes will need public subsidy, and the money for this will need to come from somewhere—either central government or local government.

The government has already refused to fund Cambridgeshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan once. Will we be more fortunate this time? The Chancellor of the Exchequer is also known to be looking for billions of pounds in spending cuts. How likely are we to see the kind of government investment we need?

Locally, some politicians have opposed the Greater Cambridge Partnership congestion charge proposals, and also opposed the idea of a Mayoral precept as we have seen in our local by-election. If we continue to receive no money from central government, and if all sources of local government funding for improved buses are opposed, how else will the necessary investment in bus services be raised to move Cambridgeshire to a more sustainable franchised model of bus transport?

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions: firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Longstanton, Oakington & Northstowe Facebook group: www.facebook.com/longstantonoakingtonnorthstowe

*Firouz Thompson, County Councillor
Longstanton, Northstowe, Over,
Oakington and Westwick*

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Northstowe Community Development Officer

Community Development Officer for Phase 2: Our new CDO for Phase 2, Michele Eidevik-Skinner, is now in post and is looking forward to meeting the community members and getting involved in as many activities as possible. We are available on Wednesdays (9:30am – 3pm) at Northstowe Secondary College for an informal chat, by appointment: Northstowe.Community@scambs.gov.uk.

Northstowe Community Forum 11 January: Northstowe Community Forum will take place on 11 January and, once again, this will be held in person at Northstowe Secondary College. There will be a diverse range of stakeholders coming along to provide interesting topics of conversation.

Sports Pavilion and Heritage Annex Update: Pentaco started building the Sports Pavilion in October and will keep residents informed on their progress via monthly newsletters. Please be aware that the footpath leading to the allotments is closed for the duration of the works. We aim to keep residents updated via social media posts, and a map of the area indicating access routes will be made available soon.

Groundwork has started on the **Heritage Annex**. The building works are due to finish at the end of February, with the exhibition installed by the end of March.

Winter Festival: We are very excited about the upcoming Winter Festival which runs from November – February; it is led by Northstowe Arts and will include a wide range of events, from festive carol singing, lantern parade and workshop, Christmas jumper swap, running winter challenge to a craft fair and much more. Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved. We would also love to celebrate the Chinese New Year, so we're putting a call out to our community for anyone who would like to get involved.

Groups Update: Looking back, Northstowe Running Festival was a success again this year, with over £3000 having been raised for local causes. The Great Big Green Week was also a success with a well-attended Wellbeing Walk, nature themed talks, upcycling workshops and more.

A quick reminder that food from the Community Larder continues to be available on the Olio app, and this could potentially be used to provide refreshments at local events/meetings or to take home.

*Northstowe Community Development Officer
Mihaela Stan*

Why the Cambridge Congestion Charge proposals deserve your attention?

There are still many Cambridgeshire residents unaware of current proposals for a 'Sustainable Travel Zone' in the city, AKA the Cambridge Congestion Charge. If put in place, it would affect a great number of us in South Cambs, as well as those living in the city. As we only have until 23 December to take part in the public consultation, it's important to understand the implications.

The charging zone would extend across a large area of Cambridge, including suburbs, closer villages and the city hospitals. Drivers would pay a daily fee for movements of motor vehicles into, out of and inside it between 7am and 7pm, ranging from £5 per weekday for cars (including electric cars), motorbikes and mopeds, through to £10 for vans and £50 for coaches and HGVs. Money raised from drivers



Image credit: ITV News Anglia

would be used to fund a significant expansion of the bus network and better cycling and walking links. Main improvements under the proposals would be new bus routes, an increase in rural coverage, longer operating hours, more frequent services, and flat one-way fares of £1 in the city and £2 in the 'travel to work' area. The Greater Cambridge Partnership, who developed the proposal, also say it would reduce traffic congestion and pollution.

Many people would welcome the kinds of public transport improvements being envisaged, but lots of questions are still being asked — for example, about whether it's fair to fund public transport with a charge only on drivers; the practicality of using buses, bikes and walking for all the many complex and time-sensitive journeys people have to make; why the hospitals are inside the zone; the impact on businesses and the high cost of building and administering the charging infrastructure. There's also the very real issue of affordability: discounts are being developed for those on low pay, but for anyone not eligible, and with no choice but to use their car within the zone on a daily basis, the charge would be equivalent to an annual tax of up to £1200.

The public consultation running until 23 December is your chance to influence the STZ proposals.

Whether you support or oppose the plans, please fill in the survey at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022 (scroll down the page for the survey link).

If friends or relatives without internet access would like to take part, consider helping them fill it in. Note that you don't have to answer all the questions, except those marked with an asterisk, but your contact details should be filled in. You can also attend consultation events online or in person and put your questions. Find out where and when at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-event.

Debbie Poyser



**LONGSTANTON CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

Saturday 3rd December 2022
From 4.00pm on The Green
(next to the Coop)

Children's Merry-go-round, Festive Music, Food Stalls and a very special visit from Father Christmas

4.00pm Welcome & Brass Band
4.15pm Father Christmas Arrives
5.30pm Christmas Lights Switch-On
There is an approximate 10 minute delay

Refreshments available throughout

Father Christmas will be extra special this year as he hasn't been able to visit us properly the last couple of years.
Don't miss out, and don't forget your cameras!

There will be a small charge for the merry-go-round and to personally meet Father Christmas and receive a gift. Money raised will go to local charities.

Father Christmas will be in his Grotto - an ideal photo opportunity!

All Proceeds to Local Charities

LONGSTANTON ENVIRONMENTAL & GROUNDWATER GROUP (LEGG)

OUR GROUNDWATER WAS A KEY ELECTION ISSUE!!

On 3 November, less than six months from the election for the whole of South Cambs DC, we had a by-election in Longstanton ward to replace our two councillors who had resigned together. For a frenzied month, our ward was full of every Liberal Democrat, Conservative and Labour activist from miles around. But then they started talking to people on their doorsteps and found out that our vanished groundwater is a big issue, one that our elected representatives have got to address. Here's what the literature they sent us on a daily basis stated:

Conservative: "Tackle the groundwater collapse – mistakes made during the construction of Northstowe have caused our groundwater levels to fall significantly. Nearby waterways have dried up, destroying precious wildlife habitats, and the resulting ground conditions are damaging buildings. We demand immediate action to halt and reverse this environmental destruction."

Green: "Pause further expansion of Northstowe until the impact on the local water table has been assessed."

Independent: "Longstanton's groundwater table has been dramatically lowered by massive construction. I want the groundwater collapse fully investigated and repaired." "Future development must also be prevented from making the situation worse."

Labour: "There's widespread concern in Longstanton and beyond about the loss of water in local ponds. This all began as work on Northstowe started."

Liberal Democrat: "[We] are committed to uncovering the cause of pond dewatering in Longstanton. The team care a great deal about this issue. They will fight to make sure developers pay for this mistake, not taxpayers."

Well done indeed to residents for ensuring that the groundwater collapse got the prominence it needed in this controversial by-election! Here are the election results:

Name	Party	Community	Votes
BYGOTT, Tom	Conservative	Oakington	566 ELECTED
COE, Colin Green	Green	Cottenham	85
GREEF, Dan	Labour	South Cambs	411
PILLAI, Annand	Labour	South Cambs	266
POYSER, Debbie	Independent	Longstanton	422
SCOTT-MANCE, Silke	Green	Longstanton	169
WARREN-GREEN, Natalie	Liberal Democrat	South Cambs	578 ELECTED
ZARGAR, Khadijeh	Conservative	South Cambs	394
ZEEGEN, Lawrence	Liberal Democrat	South Cambs	534

Congratulations to the two successful candidates: Natalie Warren-Green (Liberal Democrat) and Tom Bygott (Conservative). We look to both of them to live up to their election promises.

To find out more about the Longstanton Environment and Groundwater Group go to our web page www.LEGGinfo.co.uk

Longstanton Village Market



Libby and I would like to say a really big thank you to everyone who has come to support the Village Markets this year. Whether you came for a coffee and a chat, bought treats for yourself or gifts for loved ones, every visitor has made a real difference. Often stalls have sold out (especially cakes) and we now have a mix of regular stallholders and a few new stalls each time, offering a variety of interesting food and gifts to peruse, buy and enjoy.

Thanks also to the Parish Council, who allow us to hold the market on the Village Green (next to the Co-Op). It's a lovely location for people to meet up and explore the stalls.

The reason I volunteered to help run the markets was to connect local creatives with local residents. I have also really enjoyed involving local community groups and charities, which has been so rewarding. I plan to continue to volunteer in 2023.

Our final market of the year will be our **Christmas Market on Saturday 3rd December**, 10am-12.30pm.

We have some wonderful stalls booked in, which will be stocked with festive gifts and treats. Please do come along and support our last market of 2022.

We wish you a very healthy, happy festive break, however you choose to celebrate, and we very much look forward to seeing everyone in 2023!

Ali & Libby
Email: longstantonvillagemarket@gmail.com



SUSTAINABLE NORTHSTOWE

September and October were busy months, with lots of events during the Great Big Green Week, the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. It included several talks (trees, sustainable food, and wildlife gardening), upcycling and swap event, as well as a wellbeing and wildlife walk and a community litter pick. Save the date for the 2023 Great Big Green Week, which will take place 10-18 June, 2023. We would love to hear ideas for events or whether you would like to host your own event.

After the summer break, Super Saturdays are back at the Green. We will continue holding these events outdoors (weather permitting!), including, most days, free food from the Community Pantry, Clare's Refills stall and local sustainable home décor, Stanley and Floyd. The Community Pantry (now online using Olio App) has since reached the amazing mark of 20,000 items saved from landfill since its set up in March 2022! We now bring the pantry to the mobile library on the second Friday of the month and also the Longstanton Village Market.

At the Christmas Fayre in Pathfinder School, we will be holding a Toy Swap and a Christmas jumper and upcycled decorations craft session alongside Northstowe Arts. Come and visit us!

We have lots of volunteering opportunities, and plenty of ideas for new projects, so do get in touch if you would like to get involved in taking them off the ground.

Do you want to know more? Email us to sign up for our monthly newsletter or follow us on social media. A brand-new website is coming very soon. Watch this space!

Sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com
[FB @sustainablenorthstowe](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablenorthstowe)



LOW-COST CHRISTMAS IDEAS

Christmas can be an expensive time, but it doesn't necessarily have to be. Of course time saving sometimes has to take precedent over cost, but hopefully some of our ideas on how to save money over this season and utilise creativity will help relieve some of the pressure.

Décor:

Compact Tree - Why not have a go at making your own Christmas Tree (image by Hannah) by heading out on a walk and collecting branches to create something like this tree shown on the right. The branches are bound together with a length of ribbon and secured with knots, you can find instructions online and spend a small amount on removable self-adhesive hooks to hang it up on your wall.

You could also learn a new skill by researching some simple origami designs to make beautiful garlands of stars and cranes to decorate your tree. It's said that if you make 1000 cranes, you will be granted a wish by the gods so perhaps next year you could be spending Christmas in a warmer climate.

Food:

Share the cost - Playing host doesn't have to mean bearing the financial burden. Encourage friends and family to bring food they'd love to share (like a starter, sides or desert), and their own drinks or use a finance app to set up a pot to buy the Christmas food with.

Use the freezer - Cheese, herbs, breads, cakes, pastries... there are many foods which can be frozen to save on waste.

Reduce waste - why buy sprouts if nobody likes them? Start a new tradition by making side dishes people love instead of items which will moulder away in the fridge. Plan for leftovers, and make some tasty curries, stir-fries or sandwiches from whatever is left from Christmas day.

Gifts:

Homemade - Beautifully decorated biscuits, such as those on the right (image from Silke) make fantastic gifts and (recipe dependent) the scents of vanilla, ginger or cinnamon will make your kitchen smell fantastic.

Dependent on time, and skill, a knitted, crochet or patchwork blanket (made from outgrown clothes) can make a beautiful gift for loved ones to keep warm this winter. Or accessories such as a hat, socks or scarf can take less time to create.

Refurbished - Secondhand electronics, which have been professionally cleaned, refurbished, and come with their own warranties can provide a lower cost solution to those more expensive items on people's lists. Be sure to use a website or service which is valid, and well reviewed; if the refurb has been done properly, there shouldn't be issues with setting up or operating devices.

Secondhand - Some people (I'm not one of them) are very good at looking after their things, so buying something secondhand doesn't necessarily mean you are buying something which is damaged or dirty to give to your loved one. Finding a thoughtful gift within a charity shop, car boot or on ebay, can save you funds and if presented with a bit of care and flair, doesn't have to look shabby.

Entertainment - How did people stay entertained before Wi-Fi? There are so many games out there you can play with nothing more than a paper and pen.

Stickyheads - Grab some post-its, write the name of a celebrity, animal or well known person, and try to guess what you are.

Charades - Is it a film, a book or a song? Channel your inner Helen Mirren, Mr Bean or Phoebe Waller-Bridge and take turns playing this Christmas Classic.



Most likely - Play this one with care and take turns getting to know your family and friends by writing down common or bizarre statements, putting them in a bowl and voting for 'the most clumsy', 'most likely to become a politician'.

Treasure Hunt - Keep the kids occupied by hiding treats around the house or alternatively run a scavenger hunt by challenging them to be the first to get common items such as 'a white sock', a 'red bauble', a 'piece of wrapping paper'.

However you're spending Christmas, I hope it's a happy one.

If you have some of your own ideas for saving money during this challenging period, why not write in for us to share within the next issue?

Vicky Stevens

LONGSTANTON BELLRINGERS



Over the last couple of months, our ringers have done a bit of everything:

We have rung the bells "half muffled" to mark the death of HM Queen Elizabeth and on the day of her funeral, and again for Remembrance Sunday.

We have rung the bells for special celebrations, from the proclamation of our new King to a wedding.

We have welcomed a visiting band of experienced ringers to attempt a peal - this is about three hours of continuous ringing, with the order of the bells changing at every stroke.

We have hosted a practice for other local ringers, including some beginners for whom this was their first ring on bells other than their home tower.

We have continued to have our regular practices on Wednesday evenings and to ring for about half an hour before the service on Sundays.

One thing we haven't done recently is to welcome anyone from the village who would like to see what we do and might be interested in learning to ring. You could change that by coming along to All Saints Church at 8pm on a Wednesday.

We look forward to seeing you.

Fiona Rutter

VILLAGE SPORTING ACTIVITIES



We are fast approaching the colder months, although the mild autumn has seen an encouraging number of people down at the courts. We do play throughout the winter, so if you're up for a run around in the fresh air, why not come down and join us? If you are interested in joining the club or finding out more, please have a look at our website www.longstantontennis.co.uk. Alternatively, pop down to one of our club sessions on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6pm and Sunday mornings from 11am. The tennis

courts are also available to all on a 'pay and play' basis (£5 per hour). We are very grateful for the assistance of the Parish Council and the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity to allow us to upgrade our ageing floodlights with new greener LED units. This project has been a long time coming but will ensure we have great facilities for the future. As I write this, we don't yet have a confirmed installation date, but expect it to be shortly after Christmas, if not earlier. We are all looking forward to being able to play in the dark evenings with a fully operational set of lights again! Hope to see you on court soon!

Damian Kramer – Club Chair

LONGSTANTON BOWLS CLUB



As the last of the autumn leaves tumble to the ground, our green keepers have been busy repairing and reseeding areas of the green after the hammering from weeks of blistering heat during the summer.

Some of our members are now enjoying the indoor bowling season, playing at Chesterton and Huntingdon, while others are playing carpet bowls in various villages.

The finals of our internal club competitions were held on 3 September and produced some top-quality bowling. The winners were:

- Club Open Pairs: Marion Edwards and David Thompson
- Club Triples: George Watts, John Hodson, Stuart Hunter
- Club 2-4-2 pairs: Jackie Whybrow and Adrian Peacock
- Mixed Pairs: Jackie Whybrow and Fred Whybrow
- Men's Pairs: Rob Page and Stuart Hunter
- Captain's Cup: Stuart Hunter
- Men's Singles: David Slights

The membership will soon be attending the clubs AGM at the Longstanton Pavilion, followed two days later by our Presentation Dinner at Girton Golf Club. More news on these events will be in the next issue of Longstanton Life. Not to be missed in January 2023 is the **World Indoor Bowls Championship**, held at the Potters Holiday Resort in Norfolk. The Championship is televised (usually BBC2). What could be better than watching some top-quality bowls from the comfort of your favourite armchair. Keep an eye out for local bowlers, Nick Brett (Brampton & Huntingdon Bowls Clubs) & Greg Harlow (Ely Bowls Club). As always, we continue to seek new members from all age groups. The thirteen new members that joined this year have all really taken to the game and regretted not joining earlier in the year.

The green is now closed and will reopen in April 2023. For more information about the Bowls Club, please visit our website www.longstanton-bowls-club.co.uk or ring Marion (Membership Secretary) on 01954 780118.

Finally, a **very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year**. Why not make a New Year's resolution to become a Longstanton Lawn Bowler in 2023 or at least consider trying the sport at one of our taster events.

Happy Bowling, from "Rob the Bowler", Rob Page.

Longstanton Community Warden Scheme

How can we help you? Do you struggle with some of these things?

- Make phone calls on your behalf, such as, Pharmacy GP Energy Supplier
- Flexible to support your needs. Person centered service
- Help you access other Professional Services, for example, Occupational Therapist Dentist Optician
- Support you to access community groups and facilities
- Companionship, we can pop in for a chat
- Practical errands, like, Prescription collection Post a letter Essential shopping
- Another pair of eyes and ears, to check you are ok
- Phone call every weekday

Why not try it **FREE** for 2 weeks?
For more information call Claire on 07816 087742

www.ageukcap.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1165856

"I feel so reassured knowing someone is contacting me everyday to see how I am and have a chat"

"How did I cope before? Bits of shopping, sorting my post, watering plants, filling my bird feeder AND bringing me a cup of tea... Wonderful!"

All Saints Church Longstanton

Come and join us at the **Community Café** being held in the church meeting room

This Coming Wednesday
10.00 - 12.30.

Bring a friend and come along for a **coffee** and **chat** and meet some interesting and amazing people.

FRIENDS OF HATTON PARK SCHOOL (FOHPS)

A quick update on what we have been up to so far this term:

Firstly, representatives of FOHPS, and some of our lovely children, received an amazing £2543.65 from Longstanton Co-op Local Community Fund. This money will be used towards projects to develop the school grounds. A huge thank you to everyone that nominated Hatton Park as their chosen charity when they shopped at the Co-op. This was followed by a non-uniform day before half term. We raised £280.

We are thrilled to announce that FOHPS has secured a sponsor for two new sport kits. A big thank you to Excelcare, Cambridgeshire for sponsoring sports kit for the children to wear to fixtures. The kit is yet to arrive but will be school colours with the Hatton Park logo.



Upcoming events:

Disco

We are holding a disco for our children this month so they can have fun and we can raise some money at the same time!

Cake sale

We are holding a cake sale at school on 9 December for parents and children to buy cakes to enjoy after school!

Rainbow raffle

We are running a Rainbow Raffle between now and the end of term. Each year group has a different colour assigned and have been asked to bring in an item of that colour to donate to a raffle. The baskets of coloured goodies will be raffled off before Christmas!

The FOHPS Team

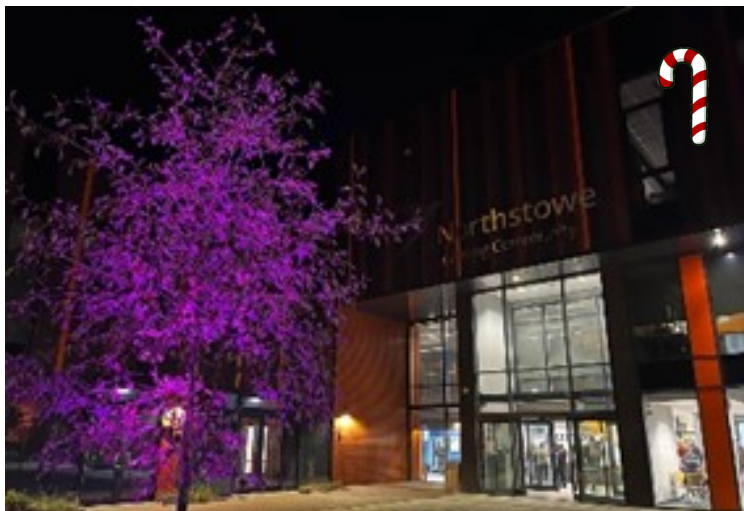
NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE (NSC) NEWS

It's been a very busy start to the new academic year for us.

Back in September, we welcomed 134 new students in Year 7, and we are now oversubscribed in Years 7 and 8. We have also welcomed 20 new members of staff, our biggest growth yet as we adjust to being a much bigger school.

It was a real privilege to have our **Open Evening** see such a great turnout. It was so wonderful to have so many of you visit and see the school for the first time. It was also fantastic to see our students volunteer to help and show off their school to prospective students and families. We are currently oversubscribed for next year's intake of Year 7, so they obviously did an excellent job!

It has been great to be able to get some of our students out on some trips and visits already this year. Our Year 7s worked on their team building skills in missions and climbing at Big Rock and Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes, and some of our Year 8 and 9 girls visited Waterbeach Barracks for a 'Make Your Mark' event along with some other local secondary schools. The event featured activities designed to promote careers in the property field to young women. We are looking forward to more trips as we get further into the year: a Year 9 and 10 French and History trip to the Somme, our annual Year 7 residential and our first ski trip as a school. Trips and visits to help students learn outside the classroom are so important for young people; therefore, our Fundraising Committee have committed to helping to support these opportunities for all, by committing to using funds raised to lower the overall costs of trips and continue to maintain our Hardship Fund, available to all families.



Our **Academy Council** are extremely proud to share the school's success over the last two years in Progress Tests and NGRT (New Group Reading Test) results. NSC students have not completed GCSEs yet; however, throughout Key Stage 3, students take nationally benchmarked tests to ensure that they are moving in the right direction to reach or exceed their targets. The tests measure students' ability and performance at the start of Year 7 and then again at the end of Year 7 and 8. Their progress is then measured against their personal starting points, so progress is measured for all students no matter their ability. Our current Year 8 and 9 performed exceptionally well in English and Maths. They performed significantly above the national average. Our whole school fluency programme and literacy strategy have ensured our students make outstanding progress in their reading tests, where reading ages have increased considerably throughout Year 7 and 8.



Our **sports department** have been busy already with fixtures. Some of our Year 9 boys played in the County Cup first round in October and are now working hard towards their fixtures with in the Meridian Trust Cup. A number of students have been involved in a variety of games that took place in September, which included badminton, netball, football and hockey against some other local secondary schools. It has been great to see all of the students involved in so much sport.



Finally, on the run up to Christmas, our performing arts department have been working hard to prepare for the NSC Christmas Show on 8th of December. We are looking forward to welcoming parents to see the show.

We wish all of our families and community a happy and healthy festive break.

*Carole Moss, Headteacher
Northstowe Secondary College*

Work is underway here at RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes on a new family trail to open in the spring. The route will take in several different habitats whilst being less than a mile long, perfect for seeing a little bit of what the reserve as a whole has to offer. Leaving the car park through the gate at the end, the trail will go north through our sandy area of 'early successional grassland', through the small wood and out into the floodplain meadow along the river, before looping back with views over Drayton Lake and Holywell reedbed.

You may have already heard that we are looking to improve our visitor facilities over the next few years. These improvements, of which the new trail is a part, have been in the planning stages for a long time, so we are pleased to say that real progress is now being made.

The first stages of this project involve providing more facilities for visitors to enhance your experience, such as repairing and improving tracks and surfaces, creating wild play features for children and families, opening new trails and providing much needed permanent toilet facilities, helping everyone to enjoy their visit even more. We hope these improvements will benefit all our visitors and that you will support us in this next important step for the reserve.

To help fund these improvements, we will shortly be introducing a £2 car park fee for non-members of RSPB visiting Fen Drayton Lakes. Further details will be posted on our reserve blog post in due course at www.rspb.org.uk/fen-drayton-lakes. RSPB members and Blue Badge holders do not need to pay. This small car parking fee will also help us ensure we are maintaining facilities to a high standard for our visitors' comfort and safety. As a charity, we need to maximise opportunities to raise income wherever possible to financially support our charitable purpose of conserving wildlife and habitats.

Winter is always busy on the reserve, with many birds from northern Europe spending the winter with us. At this time of year, you may be able to spot fieldfares, bullfinches, woodpeckers, herons, great crested grebes and hundreds of over-wintering waterbirds such as goldeneyes and teal. We hope you'll come and see us soon.

If you would like to join the 1.2 million RSPB members to help protect wildlife and the special places it lives, or would like to find out more about membership, please take a look on our website at www.rspb.org.uk/join-and-donate/join-us/.



Area of Holywell, north of the car park, that our new family trail will traverse

Wednesday Wander

If you are interested in finding out more about the wildlife you can find here, as well as the work we are doing to create and maintain valuable habitats, why not join one of our monthly 'Wednesday Wander' guided walks? These volunteer-led walks take place once a month, usually on the second Wednesday, stopping to take in the seasonal highlights. To see details and book, please visit: events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk
Phone: 01954 233260

Visit rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity. England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES

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Health Visitors: 0300 029 50 50 Out of hours cover: Ring 111 Website: www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Christmas 2022 – Opening Hours Please note the surgery will be CLOSED on the weekends and all the bank holidays including Monday 26th December, Tuesday 27th December and Monday 2nd January. Normal opening hours on all the other days during the holiday period.

Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication. The last date for ordering repeat prescriptions in time for the Christmas holidays is Tuesday 20th December. The last date for collection before Christmas is Fri 23rd December by 4pm at Longstanton Surgery and 6pm at Willingham.

The last date for ordering repeat medication before New year will be Friday 23rd December and collection is no later than Fri 30th of December by 4pm at Longstanton Surgery and 6pm at Willingham. When the surgery is closed please call 111 for medical assistance, or 999 for a life threatening emergency.

For Urgent Mental Health Support, please call 111 and select option 2.

Details of local Pharmacies that will be open over the bank holidays will be posted on the surgery doors, and also on social media and our website.

Flu Vaccinations Appointments still available. Please support your surgery and contact our receptionists to book your appointment.

Winter Illness There's loads of winter bugs already circulating in our communities. It might feel like you've been ill forever, but some things do take a while to clear. You can get medication from the pharmacy to help relieve the symptoms whilst you recover.

Help your local NHS this winter Here are some small things you can do that will make a big difference to help the NHS this winter:

- Get your flu vaccine – whether you have one for free or need to buy one from a pharmacy, it's really important for you and your family to be protected this winter
- Get your COVID-19 vaccines – Take up the offer of COVID-19 vaccines that are available to you
- Download the NHS app – for on the go access to your NHS COVID pass, book appointments, order repeat prescriptions and more.
- Use your local pharmacy – they are experts in medication and can provide lots of self-care advice and medicines for winter bugs
- Keep a well stocked medicine cabinet – you never know which bugs you and your family might catch this winter, so it's worth having a supply of basic medications at home.

Carers' Meeting If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please come along to our carers' support meeting on Weds 7th December at Willingham Surgery, where we will be holding a drop in meeting between 2pm and 4pm. Please come along and get some support from other people in the local community. Refreshments provided, no need to pre-book and completely FREE!

All the staff at Willingham and Longstanton Surgeries would like to wish our patients a happy and healthy Christmas

Lisa Smith
Assistant Practice Manager

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LONGSTANTON

Over the course of 2022, I hope that many villagers have had time to pop into All Saints' Church. It might have been to check out the re-ordered space, for a quiet moment of reflection, for Sunday worship or to enjoy refreshment at our Community Café on Wednesday mornings. Please do feel free to visit and appreciate this beautiful place.



Why not come along to one of our Christmas celebrations at All Saints' Church, Longstanton:

Sunday 11 December 6pm: Candlelit Carol Service
Come and sing Christmas carols and hear the traditional Bible readings

Christmas Eve 3pm: Outdoor All Age Crib Service
Young and old gather to remember the Nativity story in word and action

Christmas Day 9.30am: All Age Service followed by Communion
A lively, informal celebration until 10.15am then a short break before Communion

I imagine that you may be busy with online shopping ahead of Christmas, be that for gifts or groceries. Can I take this timely opportunity to highlight the easyfundraising page for All Saints' Church, Longstanton. With Christmas around the corner, you can support your local church every time you purchase online. Shopping via easyfundraising gives a gift (at no extra cost) to All Saints' Church. Thousands of retailers will make a free donation to our beautiful, historic church and its upkeep as a 'thank you' for shopping with them.

For more details, visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes> and key in "All Saints' Church - Longstanton".

I send you season's greetings and wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**Reverend Lucy Cleland, Team Vicar in the 5folds Group
Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Swavesey and Willingham
T: 01954 277758, E: lucy@5folds.org.uk**

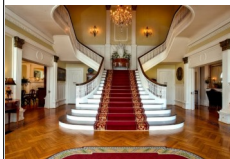
Services take place in All Saints' Church Longstanton at 9.30am:

- 1st Sundays – All Age Worship
- 2nd and 4th Sundays - Communion
- 3rd Sundays – Morning Praise



EMMANUEL CHURCH, NORTHSTOWE

We all know that our perspective affects how we understand a person or event. The angle we look from, and the background we see, change how we understand what is happening. What sort of story about the baby do you have in your head when you cover up the right-hand photo below? Is it a different story when you cover the left-hand photo?



Our Christmas events will be helping us to put the baby in a manger into perspective. The festival is named after him (Christmas celebrates Jesus Christ), but why do we still celebrate the birth of this baby?

You are warmly invited to join us at one of our Christmas events to put the baby in perspective:

18th December

9:30am - Christmas Crafts

10:30am - Christmas Nativity Service (feel free to come dressed as a character from the Nativity)

All at Northstowe Secondary College. Free refreshments.

18th December

6pm - Traditional Carol Service around the tree on

The Northstowe Green

Free carol sheets and refreshments after the service.

25th December

10:30am - Christmas morning service on The Northstowe Green

Emmanuel Church Northstowe meets **every Sunday, 10:30am**, Northstowe Secondary College, including music, children's groups and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Contact: Josh Monteiro

josh.monteiro@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

45 Eaton Way, Longstanton, CB24 3ET

Website: emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

Photo credit: Pexels; Pixabay; William Fortunato; Maksim Romashkin

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, LONGSTANTON

To the Parishioners

Standing in the surroundings of St. George's Chapel, Windsor recently, I was struck by a plea from Sir Harold Brakespear, in September 1920, for 'something drastic to be done...'

with the warning, 'unless the repairs are undertaken, serious consequences will result and there is a grave danger that the building will collapse'. It is hard to believe that the splendour of St. George's Chapel, now the final resting place of Her Majesty Elizabeth II, could have been in such a state. Thankfully, due to the action taken, it is a spectacular reminder of British history, and monarchy, and one of the most visited tourist destinations outside of London.

However, the wording and stark warning was reminiscent of a letter regarding St. Michael's Church back in the 19th century. This letter came into the possession of the Friends of St. Michael's a few years ago, the wording expressed by church architect, Robert Speechly:

Something must be done very shortly to restore this ancient & beautiful relic of Christian art to keep it from mouldering to dust

A copy of this letter is currently displayed in St. Michael's and is a work of art and a statement of history in itself – the 19th century script a delight to decipher. Reading through the description, you can imagine the poor state of the interior – the explanation for why, unusually, there is a chimney in the thatch and how the substantial

improvements of the late 1800s, thanks to Speechly's assessment, are something we can be thankful for. But ancient buildings cannot stand without some maintenance, and the condition of the roof is crucial to avoid reaching the poor state of repair described by Speechly in the 19th century.

Therefore, the Friends group continues to work at providing events and fundraising occasions for the local community to enjoy. The popularity of 'This is My Theatre' and the latest performance, 'The Nutcracker and the Mouse King', surely will have lived up to their high standards. Following the success of our Platinum Cream Teas this year, we will be celebrating **His Majesty's Coronation** in a similar way **in May, 2023**, and will advertise specific details closer to the time. We also participate in the coffee mornings at All Saints church on the first Wednesday of every month.

In the meantime, please do visit the church (open on weekends and on request during the winter) and be aware any contribution, however small, is welcome in our efforts to maintain this lovely building. Within the church, a children's quiz is provided on the noticeboard and the full copy of Robert Speechly's letter is available to read and enjoy.

We end, by wishing everyone a **Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year!**

The Friends of St. Michael's Church

PATHFINDER CHURCH NORTHSTOWE



Revd Beth Cope, Pioneer Minister for Northstowe, pictured outside Northstowe's 2021 Nativity Scene.

Three words sum up much of how we've been sharing in new town life in Northstowe:

Presence - there are times when we simply, prayerfully, hold a space where people can feel safe. For example, offering chaplaincy support in school or inviting people to "bring their blues to the Stable Scene" on Longest Night.

Participation - sometimes, another group will have started something great, and we can join in. For example, we took the Deckchair Listening Project to the Northstowe Running Festival, and we're bringing a pop-up band to the Friends of Pathfinder School Christmas Fayre.

Partnering - often, in our new town, projects are bigger than any one group could achieve, so we work together to pull off something special. For example, we brought together those of many religious and non-religious beliefs at the recent Act of Remembrance, and we're helping prepare for the Switch On event as part of Northstowe Winter Festival.

But sometimes, especially in a new town, we need to do more than just these: we need to step out, take risks, dream big... **Pioneer something new!** Pioneering starts with being present: listening to those around us... and for what God is already up to! It involves participation in what is already happening, and then, in partnership, taking the next steps together. And, through that process, starting to imagine and work for a future as yet only glimpsed in our prayers. This definition from CMS captures it well: 'Pioneers are not just dreamers, they are **'dreamers who do'**, capable of turning dreams into reality, or at least taking the risk to try and do so. **Pioneers draw in others to do this.**' So, how about it? If you have big dreams for Northstowe; if you have a sense that there is something that Someone might be preparing you to be part of, **come and join us putting dreams into action!** Especially if church isn't normally where you'd start.

Because we believe that the Christmas story is one where the impossible happens. Where a story of **No Room** is turned on its head, and God steps out of heaven in order to change Earth... and so we **make room for you** to be part of something special!

And if church is already your thing? We need your support in prayer, from right where you are!

Revd Dr. Beth Cope



PATHFINDER CHURCH NORTHSTOWE: praying, exploring, and sharing

Northstowe's local Church of England Church, supported by Churches Together to give an inclusive ecumenical welcome to those of all Christian traditions and none. Revds Beth and Stephen work closely with Revd Lucy at our sister church of All Saints' Longstanton. If you aren't already part of a local church, why not join us at community events, or for faith-based gatherings at 3.30pm on Sundays in Pathfinder Primary School



LITTLE LEPRECHAUNS

We're delighted that our group has been so popular recently.

It is wonderful to welcome more children to play, craft and listen to a story. Our crafts this term have reflected the changing seasons; the children have made scary Halloween monsters, autumn leaf paintings and poppies for Remembrance Day.

We meet at the Village Institute on Fridays during term-time at 9.30am and charge £1.50 per family. This includes a fruit bowl for the children and tea, coffee and biscuits for the adults.



The Little Leprechauns committee: Felicity, Jenny, Stephanie, and Kelly

The birth of Jesus began an incredible story where space was made at the table, the doors were opened up and all were welcomed in. This Christmas, we celebrate this with a simple invitation: Come, just as you are, because **THERE IS ROOM FOR YOU.**



Or why not "get in the picture" at the Nativity Scene outside Church House (6 Woodpecker Close) all through December?

northstowe.church/christmas



Christmas Crossword Competition

For our younger readers (those aged twelve years or under): you will find a number of candy canes hidden on the pages of this issue. How many can you find? There is one on this page to start you off!

For our older readers, test your knowledge of Christmas music by filling in the blanks of different lyrics within our crossword.

To enter the competition, send your answers to Longstanton Life either by posting at the Village Institute, or by emailing to longstantonlife@hotmail.com before 17th December. Remember to include your name and phone number with your entry.

The first person randomly selected from those with the correct answers will receive a hamper (older reader) kindly donated by Tesco/bag of goodies (younger reader). The winner will be announced in the next issue.

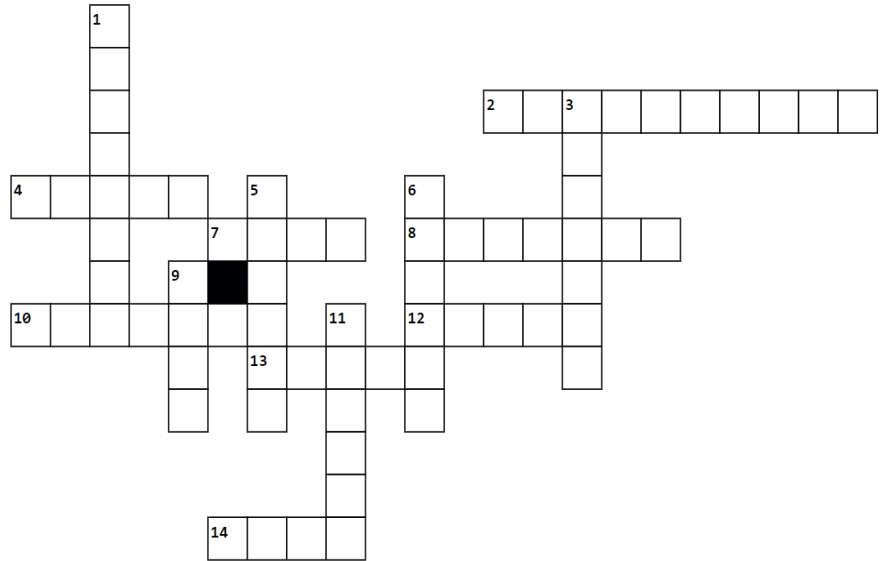


Good luck!

HALLOWEEN COMPETITION WINNER!



Congratulation to Emily Poultney, who won our Halloween Competition. We hope you enjoyed your pumpkin, kindly donated by Larksfield Farm, Longstanton.



Across

2. A beautiful sight, we're happy to-night. Walking in a winter (blank)

4. You were handsome, you were pretty, (blank) of New York City

7. Silent night (blank) night, all is calm, all is bright

8. (blank) around the Christmas tree

10. (blank) through the snow, in a one horse open sleigh

12. When (blank) got stuck up the chimney, he began to shout, 'you boys and girls won't get any toys if you don't pull me out'.

13. Last Christmas I gave you my (blank)

14. My true love sent to me, (blank) calling birds

Down

1. I don't care about the (blank) underneath the Christmas tree.

3. Feliz (blank) I want to wish you a Merry Christmas.

5. Deck the halls with (blank) of holly

6. (blank) the Snowman, was a jolly happy soul.

9. Oh it's Christmas time, mistletoe and (blank)

11. Away in a (blank) no crib for a bed



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9.30-12.30

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WORK BEGINS ON THE LONGSTANTON and NORTHSTOWE HERITAGE FACILITY

20th October 2022 was an emotional day, particularly for those of us who have been working towards a local heritage centre for many years. Fifteen years after the Longstanton & District Heritage Society launched at an inaugural meeting in May 2007, a ground-breaking ceremony took place at the site of the new heritage facility being built on the former RAF Oakington airfield. LDHS has to thank many people for their support over the years as that has got us to this point today. This project is the result of many years working alongside Homes England, CCC, and more recently National Highways and others. It's primarily funding from National Highways that has enabled this extra facility to be provided here on such a historic site. This facility will benefit the new town and the surrounding villages for years to come and will provide an important heritage and cultural focal point for the SW Fen Edge. LDHS also needs to thank local residents and members of 7 Squadron Association who have offered us unwavering support over many years. Sadly, many of our original members, including some of RAF Oakington's wartime veterans, are no longer with us to see our shared dream realised. However, they have been our inspiration to keep going every single day. We have kept the promise we made to them and our communities. All members of LDHS, past and present, should be very proud of the part that they have played in helping to achieve this facility. As we begin the next chapter of this story, new members are always welcome and details on how to join can be found on the LDHS website.



Northstowe Mayor, Hilary Stroude of LDHS and representatives of CCC, Homes England, National Highways and others take part in a ground-breaking ceremony on the former site of RAF Oakington, to celebrate work starting on a local heritage facility.



AGM & TALK 2022

This year's AGM took place both in person and remotely due to Covid circulating within our communities once again. This year's

meeting was of particular importance as it saw the Heritage Society update the LDHS Constitution, which had been unchanged since the Inaugural Meeting of the Society in May 2007.

The new Constitution is more professional and reflects the needs of the Society better, as a new era begins for both LDHS and the archives.

During 2022, AGM members also approved the proposal that, providing the Heritage Society remains an independent organisation, the LDHS Archives may move into the new heritage building. The LDHS Archives are a community owned asset, and we wish that status to be retained as this project develops. It is essential for the safe preservation of the LDHS Archives that the Society is well supported by members, volunteers, residents and councillors from Longstanton, Northstowe and the surrounding villages. Maximising the potential of the LDHS Archives and expanding public access is not something the Society can do without considerable support. We hope that as we enter a new chapter in the history of LDHS, many more people will come forward to help ensure that the next fifteen years are as successful as the last fifteen years have been.



Selwyn Richardson presenting his talk 'The 1947 Floods' following the 2022 LDHS AGM.

The AGM was followed by a fascinating and informative talk, given by Selwyn Richardson on the 1947 Floods. Selwyn has farming connections within the Fenland area and this close association shone through in his talk. This was the first talk organised by LDHS since the start of the Covid pandemic in 2020, but in-person turnout was disappointingly low. No non-members or residents of Northstowe attended despite publicity for the talk being shared across social media groups. LDHS was hoping to begin regular talks again in 2023, but in view of the turnout for this talk, we will delay restarting the programme. This delay will allow the Society to concentrate on preparations for moving to the new heritage building, and it will also allow us to investigate how we can attract more people to these talks and the Society in general.

We welcome feedback regarding our heritage talks from members and also residents of Northstowe, Longstanton, Oakington and other surrounding villages. Which night would people prefer? Which location? Which topics? Perhaps the new heritage facility could be used as a venue for these talks? Talks will be discussed at future Steering Group meetings - if we could use the building free of charge it would enable the cost for non-members to be kept to a minimum. Whatever the cause of the low in-person attendance on 27 October, LDHS feels the need to get to the bottom of it. We were fortunate on Friday to have some members accessing the talk remotely, but we do not feel it is fair to speakers to be asked to drive some distance to Longstanton or Northstowe if there are insufficient numbers of attendees to justify their effort. If anyone has any thoughts or comments on this, please do not hesitate to contact us via our Facebook page or email.

Longstanton & District Heritage Society



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Hilary Stroude