

Longstanton Life & Northstowe

Volume 16, Issue No. 6 December 2017 - January 2018 Life in Your Locality

Merry Christmas



Christmas robin photo by Luke Wake

In this issue: Community Speed Watch Update, Longstanton Limpers, Letters, Northstowe Update. Our regular features, including Sports News, Community Concerns, LDHS Update, Longstanton Wildlife, Hatton Park News, Memory Lane, Surgery Update and many more.

Christmas Competition - make sure you don't miss it!

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: Anna Rudd, Tony Cowley, Manjeet Bolla, Natasha Chambers, Beth Jones, Pia Spry-Marqués and John Pratt.

VILLAGE DIARY

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| SUNDAY | 0930-1030 | Sunday School | The Rectory, High St. | Susan Meah | 01954 781258 |
| | 1100 | Tennis Club Sessions | The Pavilion | Sarah Ballard | 07985 938959 |
| 3rd of month | 1600-1800 | Messy Church | Village Institute* | Susan Meah | 01954 781258 |
| MONDAY | 1100-1200 | Zumba Gold | Village Institute* | Davina Mee | 07779 244250 |
| | 1800-2000 | Bowls Club | The Pavilion | Marion Edwards | 01954 780118 |
| | 17.30-18.30 | Judo (5-7yrs) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |
| | 18.30-19.30 | Judo (8+ yrs) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |
| | 1930-2030 | Jazzercise | Hatton Park School | Tina Chasse | 01487 841811 |
| 2nd of month | 1930 | Parish Council | Village Institute* | (Open meeting) | |
| 3rd of month | 1945 | W.I. | Village Institute* | Patrizia Peters | 01954 781283 |
| TUESDAY | 1000-1200 | Coffee morning (over 55's) | The Dale Comm. Hall | Please just turn up | |
| | 1030-1115 | Mini JAFFAs (pre-schoolers) | All Saints' Church | Susan Meah | 01954 781258 |
| | 1700-2000 | Tennis - Junior and adult coaching | The Pavilion | | coaching@longstantontennis.co.uk |
| | 1830-2000 | Adult Cricket training | Recreation Ground | Please just turn up | |
| | 1845-1930 | BodyMod Bootcamp | Recreation Ground | Danny Williams | 07946 286068 |
| | 1900-2100 | Cambridge Freestyle Martial Arts | Village Institute* | Rory / Martin | 07523 854251 / 07535 646234 |
| | 1900-2130 | ATC (Air Training Corps) | Cadet Centre | | |
| WEDNESDAY | 1000-1100 | Music Madness (0-3yrs) | Village Institute* | Sharon Sennitt | 07762 206320 |
| | 16.30-17.30 | Judo (5-7yrs) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |
| | 17.30-18.30 | Judo (8+ yrs) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |
| | 1800 | Tennis Club Night | The Pavilion | Sarah Ballard | 07985 938959 |
| | 1910-2130 | Army Cadet Force (12-18yrs) | Cadet Centre | Sgt. Rudderham | 07759 056154 |
| | 1900-2100 | Bell ringers practice | All Saints' Church | Mike Cartwright | 01954 781275 |
| | 1930-2030 | Jazzercise | Hatton Park School | Tina Chasse | 01487 841811 |
| THURSDAY | 0630-0715 | BodyMod Bootcamp | Recreation Ground | Danny Williams | 07946 286068 |
| | 1000-1100 | Rainbow Club (bump-1yr) | Village Institute* | Susan Meah | 01954 781258 |
| | 1700-2000 | Junior coaching and team play | The Pavilion | | coaching@longstantontennis.co.uk |
| | 1845-1930 | BodyMod Bootcamp | Recreation Ground | Danny Williams | 07946 286068 |
| | 1900 | Football training | Recreation Ground | Luke McAvoy | 07795 321494 |
| | 1900-2000 | Ballroom Dancers, beginners | Hatton Park School | Mike Cartwright | 01954 781275 |
| | 2000-2100 | Ballroom Dancer, advanced | Hatton Park School | Mike Cartwright | 01954 781275 |
| FRIDAY | 0930-1130 | Little Leprechauns playgroup (0-4yrs) | Village Institute* | Alice Burrell | 07779 363990 |
| | 1400-1600 | Afternoon tea (over 55's) | The Dale Comm. Hall | Please just turn up | |
| | 16.30-18.00 | Judo (8+ yrs sparing sessions) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |
| | 17.30-18.30 | Judo (Adult Session/ Beginner+Experienced) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |
| | 1800 | Tennis Club Night | The Pavilion | Sarah Ballard | 07985 938959 |
| | 1900-2130 | ATC (Air Training Corps) | Cadet Centre | | 01954 781180 |
| | 1800-2000 | Junior Cricket training | Recreation Ground | Janet Hill | 01954 261009 |
| SATURDAY | 0915-1000 | BodyMod Bootcamp | Recreation Ground | Danny Williams | 07946 286068 |
| | 9.45-10.30 | Judo (5-7yrs) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |
| | 1000-1100 | Longstanton Colts Football Club (6-12yrs) | Recreation Ground | Louise Gamon | 07429 317803 |
| | 10.30-11.30 | Judo (8-12yrs) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |
| | 11.30-12.30 | Judo (12+ & family session) | Hatton Park School | Szandra Szogedi | |

* It should be noted that the Village Institute is available for hiring for a variety of functions; provisional bookings can be made via <http://community.longstantonvillage.org/village-institute/>. 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

Memory Lane, Who, Where, When and Why?



Photo LDHS via Sylvia Hicks

Answers to Oct/ Nov's W, W & W?

Where: Aerial view flying above new southern roundabout.

Why: Roundabout connecting new route of B1050, bypassing Longstanton village, School Lane and Hatton Road via 'Haul Road' (Originally constructed to build Phase 1 of Home Farm - seen in distance far right).

When: c. 2009



Photo LDHS via P Stroude



LONGSTANTON LIFE EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

How many sleeps till Christmas? Judging by the temperatures outside - not that many!

Perhaps you have noticed a small change in our magazine's title - a small gesture to welcome the new residents of Northstowe to our ever expanding community. Increasing number of houses are now occupied, perhaps someone who lives there would like to join our editorial team to look after any Northstowe-related issues? Please email us!

We would like to thank our readers for your contributions, our advertisers for your support and our very special thanks go to our wonderful team of distributors, led by Emma Wilson. Our thanks also go to Luke Wake for the cute Christmas robin on the front cover. Read his article on page 12 for an update on what's been happening at the RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes Nature Reserve.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and very happy New Year 2018!

*Keep warm,
The Editorial Team*

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- Twitter account: @LongstantonLife

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Please note that the copy deadline for the February - March 2018 edition of Longstanton Life is:

Thursday, 11th January 2018

Contributions for the next issue: by email to longstantonlife@hotmail.com or drop off at the Village Institute

Longstanton Life Advertising Rates 2017

If you are interested in advertising in our magazine, please contact **John** on 780527 or email longstantonlife@hotmail.com with 'advertising' in the subject line. New advertisements and advert changes are reviewed twice yearly:

| Adverts Start Date | Adverts Accepted Until |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| February/March Edition | 1st December |
| August/September Edition | 1st June |

Colour Adverts 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 | £116/140 | £232/280 | £150/180 | £300/360 |
| 1/8 | N/A | £58/70 | £116/140 | £75/90 | £150/180 |
| Line | N/A | £12 | £24 | | |

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

MP for South Cambs

Heidi Allen



Welcome to my latest newsletter; lots has been happening!

You may be aware of plans to create North Uttlesford Garden Community which, if permitted, could adversely impact the southernmost part of Cambridgeshire. As such, I met with multiple Parish Councils to discuss their concerns around increased congestion. I have submitted my views to Uttlesford District Council

and will keep residents apprised of developments.

The Boundary Commission is tasked with redrawing constituency boundaries so that each has a similar number of electors, and on 17th October, it published its revised plans for South Cambridgeshire. I was bitterly disappointed to read that, despite the general opposition to their proposal and my submission of a counter-proposal, they still plan for South Cambridgeshire to lose the wards of the Mordens, Bassingbourn, Melbourn and Meldreth, to Hertfordshire. I will be challenging these proposals again, and you can also comment on the plans until the 11th December. Please see my website for details of my opposition strategy and how to participate.

You may remember that the Department for Transport have launched a consultation on public transport accessibility for disabled people; I have been working with local and national groups to bring about improvements. BBC Look East kindly filmed me at Whittlesford station, demonstrating issues disabled people face when there is no lift connecting the platforms. You can watch it on YouTube. South Cambridgeshire District Council have coincidentally also launched a consultation on taxi licensing, and is proposing to introduce a stringent policy requiring all hackney carriages to be wheelchair-accessible. The consultation closes on 5th January 2018, and you can find details at www.scambs.gov.uk/consultations.

Parliament returned from recess in October, and since then I have focused on improving the Universal Credit benefit system. I raised this issue during Prime Minister's Questions on the 11th October, and the Prime Minister agreed to meet with me to discuss this further. There will be more debate in the House ahead of the budget. I am optimistic that the Government will reduce the six-week delay claimants currently experience before receiving their first payment. You can read more about this issue on my website.

It is always a pleasure to visit schools in my constituency, and at the beginning of October, I was grilled by The Perse Pelican's Mini Parliament! I thoroughly enjoyed listening to their thoughtful contributions and answering their questions. I plan more school visits, so if you are involved with a local school, please do get in touch to arrange a visit.

I also support local enterprise and was pleased to be able to open the new John Henry Group operations centre in Longstanton. This family business has gone from strength to strength and I was delighted to cut the ribbon and declare their new centre open!

Finally, Christmas is approaching (how did that happen!?) so it's time to switch on the lights: join me in Great Cambourne's Market Square at 5pm on 25th November, and opposite Caxton Manor at 5pm on 9th December. Come and get the festivities underway!

My next drop-in surgeries will be Saturday 18th November, 10am until 12 midday at Rocky's Bar & Restaurant, Chequers Lane, Papworth Everard, CB23 3QQ, and Saturday 16th December, 10am - until 12 midday at Gamlingay Village College, Station Road, Gamlingay SG19 3HD. Details of all upcoming surgeries can be found on my website www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk. Email me at heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk, or also phone my Westminster Office on 020 7219 5091 about national issues or my constituency office on 01223 830 037 to raise local concerns.

See you in February!

Heidi

Longstanton Youth Council Trip to Parliament



On Monday 6th November, the Longstanton Youth Council visited Parliament. Even saying it is absurd. After all, not many people can make that claim. During our visit we were fortunate enough to visit both chambers: House of Lords and House of Commons – the timing was perfect as they were closing these off for meetings minutes after we entered the areas. The tour itself should have been 1 hour 15 minutes but our tour guide stretched this by an extra 30 minutes. It was fun to see how much 'Horrible Histories' has taught our members when answering his questions.



We would like to thank our wonderful MP, Heidi Allen. She recognised the work we had done towards the Picnic in the Park and made this visit possible. Our hard work also includes trying to build a community for our peers and to make our village the best possible place to live and this comes from passion. Having her recognise this passion is very rewarding. I speak for everyone on the Youth Council when I say thank you for all your support.

In return we promise to keep working our socks off to provide for Longstanton. Our home.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Daly and Mr Rudkin from Swavesey Village College as the school has given us so much support both in authorising our absence for the day and support with our new Youth Club... @the Hind Out.

Akshita Anand
Chair of Longstanton Youth Council

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

District Councillor Notes

Alex Riley



The Northstowe Community Forum met on 18th October at the Pathfinder Northstowe Primary School. Around 50 residents turned up despite the dark, dank autumn weather. The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Simon Edwards.

The first agenda item was **Stagecoach Services** to the Longstanton Park & Ride, presented by Andy Campbell himself,

Managing Director of Stagecoach East. I thought it was very good of Mr Campbell, a new Northstowe resident himself, to attend. He gave us a very frank and informative presentation despite some quite confrontational questions.

We learned:

- Stagecoach receives no subsidy for most of their services – in fact, they pay money to operate Cambridge Guided Bus (CGB) services.
- It costs £150,000 to run one bus service every day.
- From 7am to 8am, Stagecoach runs 15 buses from the Longstanton Park and Ride.
- There are no services to the new Cambridge North station, because when Stagecoach trialled this service, the average number of passengers per journey was just 2.
- After concerns were expressed that some drivers are not allowing the correct number of passengers to stand, Mr Campbell informed us that single decker buses are restricted to carrying 53 passengers. Buses can take one person in a wheelchair.

The next agenda item was the **Northstowe Phase 1 Work Programme**, presented by Stuart Field (email: stuart.field@gallagherestates.co.uk) who recently succeeded Andrew Lawson. We heard that Gallaghers are undertaking the earthworks for the Western Park, have got approval for footpath rerouting, and will start work on the Western Park and local centre in March. We were also informed that there has been some improvement in groundwater levels, which should improve further by the end of winter.

Frustratingly, Mr Field was not supported by someone from Gallagher's with on-site knowledge. We expect future meetings to include a site management representative as well as representatives of all active housebuilders.

Issues and questions raised included:

- Use of forbidden impact pile drivers, loud reversing

alarms, and out-of-hours work.

- Why has the overflow pipe been removed from the kingfisher pond? The pond is currently empty. Will kingfisher banks be included in the balancing ponds alongside the B1050?

- Given previous issues at Orchard Park, all future Gallagher presentations ought to contain deadlines.

- The Western Park earthworks appear to be tearing up all the pitches which we had been told were completed

- The attenuation ponds already seem to be very full, and the landscaping around them was due to be completed this autumn.

Mr Field has committed to look into the outstanding questions.

Finally, the **Northstowe Phase 2 Work Programme** was presented by Philip Harker. A head contractor, John Sisk & Son, has been selected for the Education campus, with the secondary school and special needs school both due to open in September 2019. Access to the secondary school site will be via the Phase 1 site. We should hear at the January meeting when the Southern Access Road West (SARW), which will link the B1050 to the south west of Phase 2, will open.

The HCA will set up temporary offices on the Phase 2 site, south of the main avenue off Rampton Road. They will comprise around 650m², split over two floors, and will house 30 permanent and 20 temporary staff members. The modular offices will be designed to be re-used afterwards: I asked if they might donate the building to Longstanton Parish Council. No answer yet, but I am hopeful...

The architects have proposed a glazed terracotta cladding for the offices, "reminiscent of the pottery shards found on site". The architects' pictures of a Tuscan vineyard caused much amusement, but it all looked very whizzy. These architects will also be designing the first Phase 2 houses.

Timings for the closure of Rampton Road have not been finalised, but initially there will be no vehicular access from Northstowe to either Rampton Drift or Rampton Road. Rampton Road will only be closed once the SARW is up and running and replacement road connections are in place.

Please also refer to the Northstowe Update in this Longstanton Life issue.

The 2018 Community Forum meetings will take place on 17th January, 18th April, 18th July and 17th October. Meanwhile, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Alex Riley

LONGSTANTON FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Longstanton Flood Action Group continues to meet regularly to monitor and discuss the risk of flooding to the village and to consider ways to mitigate against any future risk. Longstanton Brook plays a pivotal part during flooding in the village, most recently in 2014. At the most recent meeting of the group, it was discussed whether the group should consider approaching Longstanton Parish Council to use the right to challenge under the Localism Act (2011), to take over the maintenance of the brook from SCDC.

The Flood Group held discussions on the future of the recently 'completed' balancing ponds and how the group are to monitor the future care, maintenance and effectiveness of the ponds,

that may not fully be known until a serious rainfall occurs. The Flood Group are also seeking to confirm how exactly the ponds are to work and will be contacting the Main Contractors for this information. The Flood Group have been informed that there is to be further landscaping works; though the nature of this work is not clear, the group understand that this should not affect the workings of the ponds. The Flood Group hope to have further information by the time of the next issue of Longstanton Life.



Jackie Long

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

County Councillor

Peter Hudson



New Child and Family Centre for Longstanton and Northstowe.

After many weeks of lobbying and making persuasive arguments to committees and meetings, I am really pleased to report that a new Child and Family Centre will be opened in the new Pathfinder School as part of Northstowe Phase 1, providing children's services along with parental advice and support from April 2018.

In August, I reported on plans to reduce Cambridgeshire's spend on buildings and building maintenance, instead focusing funding on child and family services. Following a ten-week consultation from 2280 people – a record response to a Cambridgeshire County Council consultation – the County Council held a full debate on the 17th October. The plans have now been approved.

This proposal will transform Children's Centre services from next April, creating a more flexible, targeted and responsive service delivered from 27 buildings and supported by increased outreach. These plans were revised in response to the consultation to include more outreach services across the county, particularly in the southern part of Cambridge City. Whilst the overall cost saving will now be reduced from £1 million to £900,000 per year, the reinvestment will support this change as well as allowing for extra management and business support.

Overall, respondents to the consultation supported the proposals' key ambitions:

- funding should be directed towards those most in need,
- services should be co-located with partner services such as health wherever possible,
- services should be widened to support families with children aged 0-19 years old.

Community consultation continues to decide the focus for this reinvestment, but initial plans allow for:

- the creation of ten extra apprenticeship positions, providing extra frontline services
- more flexible use of existing staff for outreach
- more targeted support for vulnerable families, particularly in north Cambridgeshire.

The total budget for the new Child and Family Centre services will now be £4.3m, complementing the Early Help services' additional £7.2 million.

The reinvestment decision demonstrates our County Council's commitment to early intervention for families. Alongside early help, health and other community teams, the new service is intended to provide flexible, targeted and responsive support to meet the needs of a rapidly changing and growing County. Locally, some services will still be available at Bar Hill, with more at the Pathfinder School's new Child and Family Centre in the Pathfinder School, as well as in surrounding villages.

New Cycle Paths for Longstanton

After a long three-year campaign, a new cycle path will be constructed between Longstanton and Bar Hill, and I'm very happy to report that it has now been included within Cambridgeshire's Transport Investment Plan Scheme List. **More good news** is that the track from Longstanton to Rampton will be upgraded to a cycle/foot path, and is also included on the Transport Investment Plan. **Even more good news** is that the cycle way between Longstanton and Swavesey will be improved - and yes, this has also made the Transport Investment Plan. There are also plans for a new cycle/foot path along the airfield road when it closes. Whilst there are no time limits on these schemes, they have been budgeted for.

Winter Gritting

As winter approaches, Cambridgeshire County Council's 37-strong gritter fleet and crews are readying themselves, and the salt domes and barns are filled with 10,300 tonnes of rock salt. Our gritter crews do a fantastic job in all weathers, even leaving their families to grit roads in the middle of Christmas. Last year the crews went out 43 times and spent many nights and early mornings treating roads. The team held a trial run for this winter on 24th October – such trials allow the drivers to train to grit each of their specific assigned routes, incorporating feedback to ensure the crews are ready to go at a moment's notice.



Peter Hudson
County Councillor

Longstanton Parish Council



The Youth Council have officially launched their new club for secondary school-aged children. @The Hind Out meets every Tuesday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm at the Village Institute. Events in the run-up to Christmas will include Karaoke, crafts and popcorn making. The club require adults to attend for safety reasons; if you can spare this time, please email the Parish Clerk at parish.clerk@longstantonvillage.org.

Ongoing Parish Council Work

Special projects include:

- Construction of the council budget and business plan for the next three years.
- Organisation of December's Christmas Light Switch-On.
- A new contract for grass-cutting and village maintenance from 2018, with enhanced services including monthly verge-cutting, extra winter grass-cutting on the Recreation Ground and maintenance of the ditches for which the council has riparian rights.
- Adoption of Longstanton's third and final phone box, in Magdalene Close – we'd greatly appreciated ideas on how best to use this would be much appreciated.
- Liaison with various bodies with respect to Northstowe, concerning footpath debris, notifications of planning applications and new occupations, and breaches of planning conditions.
- Work towards adopting two further areas of land within Home Farm Phase 3a.
- Ongoing liaison with developers on the adoption of Home Farm roads. This includes the roads in Phase 2 which have been outstanding for 10 years.

Ongoing Projects and Ideas

Longstanton Parish Council has been considering the creation of a Community-Led Plan and the possibility of introducing a 'Longstanton Feast'. Unfortunately, we have had insufficient volunteers for these projects. We are therefore constructing a three-year business plan concurrently with our next budget (until such time as a Community-Led Plan is in place).

If you would like to suggest areas of focus for the parish council, please email the Parish Clerk as soon as possible.

Northstowe

The Clerk and I attended the most recent Community Forum at the Pathfinder School, which included a presentation from the HCA on their new 'temporary' offices to be built near the barracks entrance. The office will move to the town centre once this area is built. The remainder of the meeting focused on the rate of build and the approval of the Design Code for Phase 2 as well as including a Q&A session with the Managing Director for Stagecoach. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 7.30pm, with a drop-in session from 6pm, and will include a presentation on the new southern access road which will bisect the old airfield road between Longstanton and Oakington.

Christmas Tree Collection

In an attempt to avoid a repeat of last year's fly-tipping, Brookfield Groundcare have kindly agreed to remove old Christmas trees in the New Year. An area will be provided on the Village Green for the purpose between 1st January and 6th January 2018 at 11am. Please only leave real Christmas trees for disposal in this area. If you miss this slot, you will need to visit the appropriate County Council recycling depots.

Finally, may I take this opportunity on behalf of Longstanton Parish Council to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

John Street
Chairman, LPC

NORTHSTOWE UPDATE

Welcome - At the time of writing there are 26 occupied Northstowe homes, and building work continues to pick up pace. The first primary school, Pathfinder Church of England Primary School, has opened its doors to its first few pupils and is preparing to open its community wing too. Planning is also underway for the first secondary school and Special Educational Needs schools.

What's happening on site? - All five housebuilders are now on site and most have open sales offices. More people will soon be moving in to join the 26 existing households. Gallagher will soon be seeking planning permission for the new play areas and work on the Western Park and the local centre continues. The HCA is also progressing with Phase Two, appointing contractors and designing an onsite temporary office building, perhaps trialling modular and eco build techniques.

Planning News - 51 percent of Phase One now have planning permission granted, and pre-application discussions are also happening on more plots. The first pre-application discussions for Phase Two homes will begin in November, so that building can start as soon as the A14 is complete.

October Community Forum - Andy Campbell from Stagecoach attended to hear residents' views about guided busway timetabling and availability. Residents shared frustrations around expensive tickets, full buses and buses not connecting with Cambridge North Station. Andy noted that Stagecoach have increased busway vehicles from 20 to 43 since opening; he anticipates increasing this further as new residents increase demand. Timetabling issues were discussed in depth, and mention was also made of collaboration with the Greater Cambridge Partnership around increasing buses into and out of Cambridge if congestion is reduced.

In response to a question regarding timings for closing Rampton Road, attendees were informed that the HCA would hope to discuss this with Rampton Drift residents. It is currently anticipated that Rampton Drift will join up with Northstowe fairly late in the process, though this decision can be made later. The HCA also committed to providing an update on local drainage issues at all future forums.

Community news - Local residents from the Northstowe Community Working Group (NCWG) have been visiting new residents and offering them a welcome pack. This includes valuable information about local services, facilities, clubs and organisations, and the residents also answer any questions.

Behind the scenes, local people have also been helping to shape the town's first allotments, play areas, community orchards, sports facilities and parks, ensuring that they meet the needs of both new and existing residents.

- **To join the NCWG** or volunteer for community projects, please contact us (see below). Please also get in touch if you are a group interested in using the community wing facilities.
- **The 2018 community forum** (7pm) and drop-ins (6pm) will provide the latest updates and information, and will be held at The Community Wing, Pathfinder C of E Primary School on 17 January, 18 April, 18 July and 17 October (access off Station Rd B1050).
- **For more information** about Northstowe visit northstowe.com or www.facebook.com/northstowe
- **Contact us** at northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713070

Community Speed Watch Update



After a gap of 18 months or more, the eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that the Community Speed Watch programme has been out and about in the village. The group was re-formed with the full support of both the Parish Council and Cambridgeshire Police with just a few volunteers, who give their time to help address the many complaints of excessive vehicle speed in the village.

We can imagine what you are thinking... "wannabe Police officers" etc. and the general disdain regarding speed cameras, but remember that the Community Speed Watch initiative is directly related to community feedback and works to serve the village, aiming for a safer environment for all its residents, drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and most importantly Children (you've seen the signs the pupils at Hatton Park created...?).

Our aim is not to penalise, our aim is to EDUCATE. We all lead busy lives, rushing from here to there, and it's all too easy to lose focus on our speed when our focus is elsewhere. Sadly, it's that lack of focus that causes speeds to drift ever higher. Suddenly, if the person in front braked heavily, a child ran out, or a pet ran into the road...the result doesn't bear thinking about.

So, what have we learned after our first 3 months?

"Everyone that stops to chat is really glad that we are doing something, be they pedestrians, cyclists or motorists.

- *The airfield road is very well used for a road that isn't supposed to be...
- *The village is clearly used as a "through route" to avoid the A14...
- *People are in much more of a hurry at certain times of the day...
- *We've recorded more than 40 speeding motorists (doing 35mph or more in a 30mph limit).
- *The highest recorded was 48mph, and sadly that was a village resident!

If you are wondering what we do with the data we record, it gets sent to Cambridgeshire Police. They use it to compile a view of traffic volume, speed, issues with speed, time/date etc., and use that to set sensible speed limits for roads around the county. They also use it to help focus where Police speed monitoring should take place.

So, those of you that live in the village and have received a letter from the Police about the speed of your driving, please do think twice. It's your village, and you probably have family, friends and possibly even children here - Community Speed Watch only exists because your fellow villagers see a problem.

We'd love to hear of areas where villagers believe there's a problem with the speed of vehicles. We'd also really like to hear from anyone that can spare a few hours here and there to come and get involved. Being a "through route" and with all the construction and expansion of surrounding villages the problem of speed won't stop unless we help it.

If you'd like to get involved, or would like more information, feel free to e-mail the team:

csw.longstanton@gmail.com

HATTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Hello to you all again!

Hatton Park is its usual busy self. The children have really made the building a school and at the time of writing, it is an absolute pleasure to see the variety of learning experiences around the school. This has been confirmed by the feedback from many new families hoping to send their children to Hatton Park.

Recently, we have been competing in varied events. Our football team have got through to the next stage of their competition, where they will play against teams from around the county. They also played a friendly game against our sister school, Histon & Impington Juniors, and were victorious with a 4-3 win. It was a great game played by both teams and we look forward to being welcomed to theirs for another game. Four of our Year 6 children represented the school in the county's English Challenge competition at Girton. They showed great teamwork and, although not placed high enough to go on to the next rounds, came away with a certificate for their book character knowledge. Well done to them all. We have also had success in chess! Our dedicated players won or drew their games against other schools and Hatton Park now stands at 15th out of 30 in the championship. Excellent efforts, and many thanks to Mrs Atkins who coaches our chess club. We are now looking forward to the netball tournament and to the cross country running competition over the next few weeks.



Our children showed many of our Hatton Park Values – Respect, Relationships, Responsibility, Risk-Taking, Resilience and being Reflective – when thinking about some bigger issues recently. Firstly, they worked together to create a beautiful poppy display across the front of the school. Each child

contributed and reflected on why it is important to remember. Lego Club even got involved and spent a calm lunchtime reflecting whilst creating poppies. Secondly, we have been taking part in the countryside anti-bullying event with the slogan "All different, all equal". We have been celebrating what makes us all special and that we should be proud of who we are. This will be captured with the installation of about 300 painted rock fish, by both staff and pupils, which are all unique. Huge thanks to the Friends of Hatton Park for providing all of the resources.



We are looking forward to getting out and about in the village in the lead up to Christmas. Our choir, The Westenders, will be performing at the Longstanton Lights switch-on and also at the Over 60's Christmas Lunch. They have their playlist ready and are practising hard! The village has also been getting to know us a bit more with villagers volunteering their time and also donating bulbs and bird boxes for our hard-working gardening club. Our donator wishes to remain anonymous but that doesn't stop me saying a public thank you – the gesture was very much appreciated.

In addition to working hard, we also play hard too. The recent school disco was very well attended and raised a great amount towards the Friends of Hatton Park's projects. The much looked forward to Pub Quiz pulled both school and community together for a great evening. The staff team didn't do quite as well as last time but we will return!



Lastly, do not think that we have forgotten to invite you all in to our lovely school for an 'official opening'. With the business of the Christmas lead-up, we felt it would be best to do it in the New Year - as I said before, watch out for the posters.



Thank you for your continued support of our village school.

Anthony Aguda, Headteacher

LITTLE LEPRECHAUNS PLAYGROUP

Our toddler group has been having lots of fun over the term with crafts ranging from making Pudsey bear ears to wear and firework sparklers to shake around as well as some autumn leaf crafts. We are entering into the Christmas spirit with some winter scenes to decorate the Village Institute boards coming up, and plan to end term with a bring and share party on the 15th of December. Look out for our Christmas advent window as a part of the village project which will be displayed in the Village Institute above the front door as you pass by!

Little Leprechauns Playgroup meets every Friday morning during term time from 9.30am to 11am in the Village Institute. Ages 0-4 welcome. We have free play followed by a fruit snack, a story, and a craft. Tea and coffee available for adults; baby area available for tiny tots. Only £1 per family.

The Little Leprechauns Committee



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Longstanton Life,



Dominic Simpson asked in your last edition why the "Airfield Road" is shut to normal traffic. Here is my version. During WW2 Stirling bombers were stationed at RAF Oakington. These aircraft had a short wingspan and consequently needed a long distance to take off when fully laden. The solution was for them to take off across the Airfield Road ("Longstanton Road" at the Oakington end). You can still see where that happened – at the large double gates just past the sharp left-hand bend. The field opposite the airfield was concreted over for this purpose (I believe the concrete was later dug up as hard core for the M11). For this reason the road was closed to traffic. After the war the Oakington crossroads were considered dangerous because there were no traffic lights, so the understanding was that the road would be opened to traffic if the intersection should ever receive traffic lights. When this happened the road still remained closed!

Before the occupation of any houses on Phase 2 of Northstowe, and after the A14 has been upgraded, a new road has to be constructed between the Oakington end of the Airfield Road and Bar Hill. That road will cut across the Airfield Road, preventing its use by vehicular traffic.



Kind regards
Alex Riley
St Michaels



I read with interest the letter from Dominic Simpson with regard to the above.

For his information, the Airfield Road was closed to all but essential traffic, e.g public service, farm vehicles, by a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in 1979 as a result of pressure from the MOD since Oakington Airfield was still operational and remained so for a number of years longer.

There have been numerous complaints from Oakington and Longstanton residents about the unacceptable level of traffic using it illegally and causing problems for those residents, particularly given the dangerous state of the road surface. Councils have looked several times at taking measures to resolve the problem, e.g gates but decided that this was too expensive. On the other side of the coin, to reverse the TRO would be both expensive and time-consuming.

So it stands unchanged at present. However, when the Southern Access Road to Northstowe is finished in early 2019, and perhaps earlier as work progresses, the Airfield Road will finally physically close. Until that happens, no council, whether County or Parish, is willing to do anything to improve the situation.

I hope that this answers Mr Simpson's queries.

Sincerely,
Brian Baxter
(member of O & W Transport Action Group)
Oakington

LONGSTANTON CROCHET AND KNITTING



We have had some very well-attended meetings since our last update; it's been a pleasure to welcome new joiners to knit, crochet and natter! We've also met for charity knit nights, where crafters have been finishing off anxiety-reducing twiddle mitts for dementia patients and starting knitted and crocheted squares for a group blanket for charity.

The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month in The Black Bull pub and often again in the last week of the month for a Charity craft session. We share a love for anything yarn-related,

and knit and crochet together, enjoying seeing each other's ongoing projects and admiring completed ones. Beginners are also welcome! For our December Christmas meeting, we will be having a meal at The Black Bull before our usual session. Do join us!



Please check out our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/longstantonknitandcrochet for all the latest news on meetups and join our conversations on knitting and crochet.

The group continues to be grateful to The Black Bull for hosting us.

Your enthusiastic knit-committee: Alice, Samanta & Sarah

LONGSTANTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

We had a wonderful spooky storyteller over Halloween who took us on a historical journey in the most animated way. The lights were low and the scene was tense: it's amazing when a story is told so well. We all got into the spirit of things, and some ladies even produced WI pumpkins! In November, we entered not one but two teams into the Federation Quiz and we did the village proud; though we didn't win, we did come close.



This month's meeting sees us listening to a lady from Action for Children in Cambridge-shire. It should be quite an eye opener. Then it's party time in December – why not come and say hello?!

Debbie Lienau

VILLAGE SPORTING ACTIVITIES

LONGSTANTON GRASSHOPPERS CRICKET CLUB



We will be running indoor nets at Swavesey Village College Sports centre on six consecutive Sundays between 18 February 2018 and 25 March 2018 (inclusive). There will be two sessions each day coached by Steve Taylor: 09:15 to 10:00 (for ages 7-10) 10:00 to 10:45 (for ages 11-12).

Cost will be £4 per 45 minute session.
Please contact **Janet Hill** for more details:
Email: abjv2000@hotmail.com;
Tel: 01954 261009



To find out more information on how to get into cricket, playing or organising, you can contact Longstanton Grasshoppers Cricket Club at sjpryor1@gmail.com.

Steve Pryor

LONGSTANTON RUNNING CLUB



As the name suggests, Longstanton Limpers is Longstanton's local running club. It has been active in the village for a lot longer than I have been running.

Last Autumn I saw a post on Facebook asking if anyone was interested in joining a beginners running group called the 'Couch to 5k' (C25K) which would be meeting by the Pavilion car park. I was quite nervous about turning up, not knowing if I would see any familiar faces, but on the evening there was quite a bunch; someone I already knew, a few familiar faces and a lot of people I had never met before; people who had run before, people who had never run, younger people, older people, men and women. Chris and Jonathon, who were running the sessions, got us all to introduce ourselves and explained how the sessions would run, with an emphasis on having fun and building confidence and stamina in a really inclusive way. Over the first few sessions they quickly got to know us as individuals and could tailor the sessions to cater for all our needs. At first we ran for 1 minute intervals – it seemed pretty manageable. We were given 2 'homeworks' each week, which usually mirrored the group sessions (or were sometimes easier, but never harder). After a few sessions some of us started meeting up to do our homework together – chatting whilst running helped our breathing and moderated our pace and made it a lot more fun. 1 minute led to 2, then 3, then 5 and then to our horror, 8 minutes non-stop run-

ning. We thought it would be awful but we all managed it. Before we knew it we were at 20 minutes, then 30 minutes and ready for our first 5 Kilometre run. After our first 5Km run we celebrated in the Black Bull and were awarded certificates.

Following the C25K course Chris and Jonathon suggested that we run how we like for a couple of months and then meet back up to see if anyone wanted to take their running further. Over the winter I ran regularly with a small group and in the spring we all signed back up for the next step – increasing from 5Km to 10! Alongside this, Chris and Jonathon re-ran the C25K course, which I enjoyed helping with – it was really enjoyable to run alongside people and reassure them that they wouldn't be asked to do anything that we didn't already believe they could achieve.

Around this time, some of us had developed the confidence to take part in some local running events. My first was the Swavesey 5 Miler. I loved the sense of achievement of having tried my best, and of course, the medal. I've since run in 8 more events, and at each one there have been other Limpers. We share lifts, support each other, cheer each other over the finish line and occasionally celebrate with brunch! From the very first course I have made some great new friends – Kimberley, Helen and I have been running together for a year now. Kimberley and I ran our first Half Marathon in Peterborough this October; Kimberley has dreams of running the London Marathon (I'm not so sure).

Right now is quite an exciting time for the Limpers – we are looking to affiliate to become a recognised UK Athletics running club. We'll still be friendly and informal, and we still plan to offer free C25K courses (watch this space, the next one should be coming in the new year). It means as a club we'll be covered by insurance, members will get reduced entry fees to running events and we'll be better able to cater for the needs of a growing village. If you'd like to start running, have some company on your runs or want some support with your training or events please get in touch – there doesn't have to be any regular commitment but as a growing group you'll be sure to find someone like-minded (some of us actually enjoy interval training and at least two members actively look for hills to run up!). We have a Facebook group – search for Longstanton Limpers, or flag down one of us in a purple Limpers T-shirt. We look forward to running with you soon!

Lizz Not Mayers (and a not-limping Limper)

VILLAGE SPORTING ACTIVITIES

LONGSTANTON FOOTBALL CLUB



The season is in full flow now and after playing 10 matches at time of writing, 7 in the league (where we have won 2, drawn 3 and lost 2) and 3 in the cup we find ourselves mid-table in the league and in the Quarter final of the Reg Haigh/Arthur Peck Cup with an away tie at Barrington

in February where the leagues current top two goal scorers will pit themselves against each other (Luke Chadwick – Barrington FC: 17 & Dan Parker – Longstanton FC: 16)... In reflection a third of the way through the season we are on target for the goals myself and Phil set ourselves pre-season. We look forward to seeing you at home or even away matches supporting the lads and enjoying watching and supporting your village football team.

We play most Saturdays and our fixtures can be found on our website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/longstantonfc, Facebook page or on posters at the Pavilion.

Mead Plant & Grab 5A

| League Table | | P | W | D | L | GD | PTS |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| 1 | Clare Town F.C. Reserves | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 21 |
| 2 | Histon Hornets First | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 15 |
| 3 | Thaxted Rangers Reserves | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 13 |
| 4 | Barrington 1st | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 12 |
| 5 | Milton B Team | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | -3 | 10 |
| 6 | Herston Bostocks Reserves | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | -9 | 10 |
| 7 | Oakington Vikings Saturday 1st | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | Longstanton FC Mens Senior Team | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 9 | Barton Mills F.C. First | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | -10 | 9 |
| 10 | Mott MacDonald Reserves | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | -8 | 7 |
| 11 | Hardwick FC Reserves | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| 12 | Orwell Reserves | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | -7 | 5 |
| 13 | Steeple Bumpstead Reserves | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | -5 | 4 |
| 14 | Botisham Men | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Ben Lee - Longstanton FC Manager

LONGSTANTON TENNIS CLUB

It may be the middle of Winter but there are still signs of life at the Tennis Club! We play throughout the year so do come and join us – a great way to keep those New Year resolutions and work off the Christmas excesses. Club nights are Wednesdays and Fridays from 6pm, and Sunday mornings from 11am. Competitive players are also welcome to hit on Thursdays from 7:30pm. Alternatively, the tennis courts are available to all on a 'pay and play' basis (£5 per hour). Simply book a court via our online system <http://www.longstantontennis.co.uk/book-a-court/> and you'll get instructions on how to borrow a key.

Why not buy a set of tennis lessons for a loved one this Christmas? Could be the perfect present, as David Nation's

coaching continues to be extremely popular. Coaching is available to both members and non-members, and we have both adult and junior sessions. The current half term course runs until Dec 14th, but do please contact David directly on davidnation@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested in signing up for future courses. Further details, including the cost of each course, can also be found on our website <http://www.longstantontennis.co.uk/coaching.html>

Personal / individual lessons are also available.

Finally, hope to see all members at our end of season/ Christmas party to celebrate another successful year – Friday 15th December in the Pavilion.

Sarah Ballard
Tel. 07985 938959

COMMUNITY CONCERNS - UPDATE FROM SCDC



South Cambridgeshire District Council is changing the way used paper is collected from residents for recycling.

From 11 December, residents won't need to use their caddies to recycle paper anymore.

From that date, residents should place their used paper directly into their blue wheelie bins instead. This used paper will still be recycled after being sorted from other materials at our facility near Waterbeach.

Residents can keep their caddy to use for anything they like. Alternatively, they can be recycled by being dropped off at the nearest household waste recycling centre. They should not be placed into wheelie bins.

The decision to withdraw the paper caddy service was taken at South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet meeting in September. The decision will save taxpayers money and simplify the recycling process for residents.

Because of this upcoming change, the District Council will not be delivering any new paper caddies. If they are lost or stolen before 11 December, residents can begin putting paper in their blue bin.

More information can be found here: www.scams.gov.uk/recycling

What's been happening

We have recently been removing trees from the shores of the grassland on Ferry lagoon. This work is part of the ongoing improvements being made for waders and wildfowl. The felling of the large willows around Ferry Lagoon opens up this area and goes some way to making this area more suitable for these species.



Ferry Lagoon - Photo by Tim Fisher

We have also been felling some of the trees directly into the lakes. This fairly recent management technique has many benefits for wildlife, whilst also opening up views across the

lakes. Moreover, egrets, herons and cormorants take full advantage of this, patiently stalking their prey from these vantage points, whilst coot will use these areas to nest. A further advantage of this work is protection of the banks from wave damage. The extra light which can now penetrate these areas will hopefully see some emergent vegetation take hold, which helps protect the bank and benefit grebes and coots among other species.

Wildlife

The wildlife spectacle at the lakes has had a fishy theme of late, with over 50 little egrets, at least three great white egrets and over 100 cormorants. These birds are taking advantage of the plentiful supply of fish in Moore Lake and Ferry Lagoon and are a real delight to see, whether they are stalking the shallows or gathering in the lake edge willows.

As the weather turns colder we should expect to see an increase in wildfowl on the reserve, including tufted duck and goldeneye. More winter visitors should begin to arrive soon including short-eared owls and starlings.

There is always plenty to see at the lakes, so why not wrap up warm and head on down.

Luke Wake (luke.wake@rspb.org.uk)
Assistant Warden, RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes

LONGSTANTON WILDLIFE

Autumn has passed us by and the deciduous trees and plants are starting to look bare. We've had the first frosts and winter is now upon us. But there's still plenty of wildlife out there for us to see. In fact, in some ways it can be easier to see animals in the trees and shrubs that have lost their leaves. Watch out for finches, dunnocks, goldcrests, blackbirds, redwings, robins, and many other birds. The robin is Britain's National Bird! Winter is a good time to look out for wildfowl such as ducks, geese, swans. Wetland nature reserves such as RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes are an excellent place to see these. Some birds such as starlings, pied wagtails, and marsh harriers roost together in winter for safety and warmth, and large flocks can be seen coming into roost.

If it snows, take a look in the snow for footprints or trails of animals such as foxes, badgers and deer. You can also look for animal trails in muddy areas.

Don't forget to listen out for wildlife too. Some species of animals begin their courtship displays in winter. Tawny owls can be heard "hooting", they are the noisiest from December, whilst great-spotted woodpeckers begin "drumming" in January.

Winter is a difficult season for wildlife as the days become

shorter, limiting the amount of daylight for animals to search for food. Winter solstice (or the shortest day) is on 21st December. After this the days do slowly get longer but then the temperatures drop and the availability of food becomes limited. We can help wildlife by putting out food for the animals that visit our gardens such as birds. You can either make your own bird feeder or buy one. Then sit back and watch the birds come to have their meals! Early winter is also a good time to put up nest boxes.

Evergreen plants provide some colour to the otherwise dreariness of winter. Some of these evergreen plants are commonly used at Christmas time such as ivy, mistletoe and holly. Did you know only the female holly plant has red berries? Maybe you can spot some birds feasting on the berries this winter?



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Manjeet Bolla

SWAVESEY CAMERA CLUB

At Swavesey Camera Club we are proud to cater for photographers of all standards; our programme is designed to help you get the best out of your camera. Some of our meetings are instructional and some are meant to inspire with the opportunity to listen to and meet accomplished local and national photographers and to look at some great images. One way we share our own work with other members is via our programme of competitions, where independent judges provide a useful and always constructive commentary on the pictures entered. We also have a public exhibition (free entry) in spring each year, when all members are invited to contribute their work.

We charge a nominal guest fee of £4 per meeting. If you decide to join the club, any guest fees you have paid during the season will be offset pro-rata against your annual fee. The full annual subscription this season is £63 (Concessions £50, Youth membership - £17).

The Club meets in the 'Global Environment Centre' at Swavesey Village College, which is at the end of the corridor to the right of reception, every Thursday 7.30-9.30pm during term time.

For further info and to see some of our members photos check out our website:

www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk



Richard Harrison, Swavesey Camera Club President
(richardharrison340@gmail.com)

WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES

Reception Tel: Willingham 260230 Longstanton 207600 Dispensary: 207602 District Nurse Team: 01223 726469
Option 2 Health Visitors: 01954 207612 Out of hours cover: Ring 111 Website: www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Out of Hours Care Please remember to phone Urgent Care Cambridge on **111** if you require medical attention when the surgery is closed. Please help our Emergency Services and only call **999** for a life threatening condition. Remember that Accident & Emergency is intended for life threatening conditions or if you are likely to need an x-ray.

Repeat Prescriptions Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication. The last date for ordering repeat prescriptions in time for the Christmas holidays is **Wednesday 20th December**. The last date for collection before the Christmas holidays is **Friday 22nd December** by 1pm at Longstanton Surgery and 6:30pm at Willingham Pharmacy. The last date for ordering repeat medication before New year will be **Weds 27th December** and collection is no later than **29th of December**. The surgeries will re-open as normal on Tuesday 2nd January.

Christmas Lucky Squares on aid of Magpas £1 each are available from reception in Willingham and Longstanton Surgeries. Many prizes including food hampers and other goodies can be won so please buy a ticket or donate a prize. Last year this raised £300 for Magpas and we would love to break this record with your support. Thank you and good luck!

Emergency Appointments Please help us treat those most in need this Christmas, and only book an emergency appointment for conditions that require immediate treatment. The surgery experiences very high demand through the Winter months due to holiday closures and seasonal illnesses, so please consider those most in need and book a routine appointment where possible.

Don't swallow up your NHS - use it wisely this winter Every time you visit your GP it costs the NHS £45* You can treat minor winter illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs easily at home with medicines, which you can easily buy at low cost from your local pharmacy.

So be prepared and stock up on winter essentials today:

- pain relief (paracetamol)
- cough and sore throat remedies
- first aid kit
- upset stomach treatment
- rehydration treatment
- heartburn and indigestion treatment

Having these winter essentials at hand will not only save you time and help you to feel better quicker, but help save the NHS much needed resources.

*£45 is the average cost for GP consultation time, cost of the medication, and dispensing fee.

Carers Support Meetings

Our next meeting is at Willingham Surgery on the 6th December at 2pm. If you are a carer, please pop along and get some support from other people in the local community. We will put you in touch with other agencies who can advise on benefits, and offer support and relief when you most need it. Refreshments provided, no need to pre-book and completely FREE! Please contact Sue Lawson at the surgery or email her at susan.lawson7@nhs.net for more information.

Cambridgeshire Hearing Clinics

The next Hearing Aid Clinic at Willingham Surgery is on 20th December. No appointment necessary, just pop along for your free NHS hearing aid batteries and for help and advice regarding hearing loss.

All the Staff at the Surgery would like to wish our patients a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Sharon Unwin – Practice Manager – December 2017

The Pavilion

Tel: 01954 782233, Over Road, Longstanton
longstantonpavilion@gmail.com
www.longstantonpavilion.weebly.com
Find us on Facebook



We are fast approaching the end of another year with all the sports teams going great guns, thank you for all the support you have all given us over the year.

To finish off the year we will be having a children's Christmas party on Saturday 23rd December

from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Put on your party clothes and come along and meet our special guest.

We will be open on Christmas Day from 12.00 to 2.00. We can have a drink whilst the turkey is cooking and we will make sure you leave at 2.00 to rescue the dinner in time!

New Years Eve this year is with the theme of red. Please interpret this any way you like, a full red outfit or just a red tie (plus the rest of the clothes). We will have our own red cocktails to welcome in the New Year. We will be partying from 8.00 with The Binkster and go on until 2.00 am.

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 17.00 until 23.00
Friday: 17.00 until 23.30
Saturday: 12.00 until 23.30
Sunday: 12.00 until 22.30



If anyone has any ideas on functions you would like in January please let us know, we would like to make January less of a miserable month. It would be great to try out some new ideas be it a band we have not had before, a visit from a medium or a games night.

The quiz nights are well attended the next one being 15th December, come along, the more people taking part the higher the prize.

Please note that now the weather is dropping in temperature we will be keeping the door to the car park closed so this can only be opened from the inside. Please work with us on this as you will probably be aware that the Pavilion is not the easiest place to keep toasty!

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year and thank you again for your support this year.

Michael, Suzanne and The Pavilion team

Christmas Fayre

Mon 11th December

Get into the Christmas spirit at the Over Day Centre's Christmas Fayre, from 2pm on Monday December 11th at the Over Day Centre

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW!

1st prize: £200 John Lewis vouchers
 2nd prize: Food Hamper 3rd prize: Case of wine
 4th prize: Meal for 2 Plus many other prizes!

Including:

Cake and Pie Stall, Tombola, Plant Stall, plus Crafts and Gifts

Come and join us for a cuppa!

The Over Day Centre
 1 Drings Close, Over, Cambs CB24 5NZ

Registered Charity No: 800829



All Saints' Bell Ringers



Well, we are still maintaining numbers which is better than most bell towers. Our youngsters are going from strength to strength.

Of course, while they are still young, they are now more young men and young ladies entering their teens.

We were approached by the air cadets to teach the bells for their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, I think we now have 4 takers from that source.

If you would like to come along for a trial ring give me a call. Please contact me on: mikec321@btinternet.com or tel. 07768 735910

Mike Cartwright

Ball Room Dancing

As I type this report I am reminded that it is only six weeks until Christmas. This term has started well; looking around our group I can see we are certainly looking a little bit more like dancers with a variety of moves for each of the individual dances.



We are of course, halfway with 'Strictly' and there are so many really good celebrity dancers it is hard to predict who is going to claim the glitter ball this year.

We would like to see more beginners join the class for the first half hour to help to get a couple of popular dances under their belts, this will encourage them to go on to bigger and better dances.

We meet Thursday evenings at 7.30 for one hour - you would be made very welcome.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail on: mikec321@btinternet.com or tel. 07768 735910.

Mike Cartwright

Longstanton 2018 Calendar



12 images of Longstanton

Christmas cards, notebooks and notelets also available

Supporting St. Michael's Church fundraising

Please contact: fosm2017@gmail.com or call 01954 201766

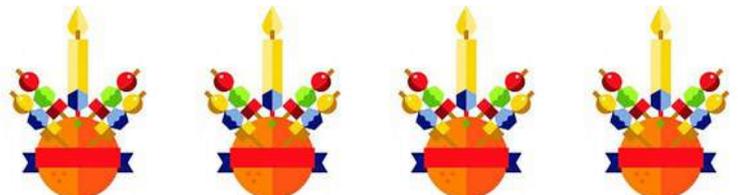


St. Michael's Church

Sat 9th December, 4pm

Due to a restriction on numbers, this will be a ticketed event. Please contact Friends of St. Michael's Church, tel. 01954 201766 or email fosm2017@gmail.com

Please be aware the church does not have electricity so you must wrap up warm!



CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Christmas is fast approaching so in this issue we have a Christmas-themed competition. There are two prizes, one for the younger readers and one for the rest of you.

1. Junior – open to all those aged 10 years or under. There are 6 Santa hats like this one hidden in the magazine, each with a letter on it. Find all 6 and re-arrange the letters to make a word related to Christmas. 

2. Senior – open to everyone over 10 years. For the seniors we have some picture puzzles to solve. As an example of how the picture puzzles work, here we have "fire" + "engine" = fire-engine. Easy! Opposite are 8 picture puzzles to solve: the answers are all words relating to Christmas.



| | |
|--|--|
| 1.  + π = | 5.  +  = |
| 2.  +  = | 6.  +  = |
| 3.  +  = | 7.  +  = |
| 4.  +  = | 8.  +  +  = |

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 **Sunday 17th December**. Remember to include your name and phone number with your entry. For the juniors entry, please also include your age.

The first person randomly selected from those with the correct

answers from each category will each receive a mini food hamper **kindly donated by the Co-op**.

The winners will be announced in the next issue.



Good luck!

Advertisement

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24hr emergency call out service offered
with local operatives in Longstanton area

Shaun Rivers: 07967 095721
Andy Day: 07967 095720
Office: 01223 870580
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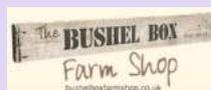

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DINGBATS COMPETITION WINNER

The lucky winner of the dingbats competition was Aimee Preston. She is pictured here (on the left) receiving a tray of seasonal produce from Wendy. Congratulations! Our thanks again to the Bushel Box Farm Shop.



The answers were:

1. Four wheel drive, 2. Baker's dozen,
3. Count on us, 4. Too big for your boots,
5. Beat around the bush, 6. Belt up.

LONGSTANTON HATTON CHARITY

Longstanton Hatton Charity was set up by the Charity Commissioners in 1898 for the benefit of deserving persons residing in the Village. The Charity owns two pieces of land, one situated in Over village and the other at Gravel Bridge. They are leased to two local Farmers and the rents from these parcels of land provide a modest monetary gift at Christmas for deserving elderly residents of Longstanton. The criteria required to benefit from this Charity is that recipients must be over 70 years of age and have resided in the village for at least 20 years. If you fulfil the above conditions and would like to add your name to the waiting list please contact one of the Trustees on the telephone numbers below:

Sylvia Hicks 01954 780840
Carol Collis 01954 201083
Ann Meadows 01954 780373
Pat Sheridan 01954 260758

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LONGSTANTON

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat!!! A timely reminder for us to prepare for Christmas and to remember those not so well off as ourselves as through Advent we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

At All Saints' we have a busy Advent, preparing for the coming of our Lord, and we hope you will join us in these preparations.

On Sunday 10th December we have a Traditional service of Lessons and Carols. This will be a candle lit service at 6pm followed by time of fellowship over mulled wine and mince pies.

We are breaking with tradition this year and holding a separate Crib Service on Sunday 17th December at 3pm. This is an opportunity for all the family to hear the story of Christ's coming and for the children to dress up and take part at the crib in the churchyard. If you would like to join in then arrive a bit early so we can fit you out with a costume or you can come ready dressed as shepherds, kings or angels and join in the fun. This service will last about 40 minutes and be followed by refreshments in the church.

Our community cafe serving cake and tea or coffee takes place every Monday afternoon at the Dale between 2 and 4pm and on Monday December 11th we will be singing carols together so do come and join us.

December service dates and times at All Saints' Longstanton are as follows:

- Sunday 3rd - 9.30 am: Holy Communion
- Sunday 10th - 6pm: Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols
- Sunday 17th - 9.30am: Holy Communion; 3pm: Crib Service
- Sunday 24th - 9.30am: Holy Communion
- Sunday 24th - 11.30pm: Midnight Communion
- Monday 25th - 9.30am: Family Service with Communion
- Sunday 31st - 10.30am: a joint 5 Folds Communion Service at Longstanton

If you would like more information on any of the above or have questions about baptism, marriages or funerals, please don't hesitate to contact our Administrator, Gillian Beale (01954 203459 admin@5folds.org.uk) or our vicar, Rev. Julie Anderson (01954 231496, julie_anderson51@yahoo.co.uk).

Or contact one of the Church Wardens: Roger Valentine (01954230519, rvalen6199@aol.com) or Sue Gamon (01954 782371, sgcoutures64@gmail.com).

**Julie Anderson, Team Rector
and Sue Gamon, Church Warden**

100 CLUB



A small lottery that has been set up to help raise money for the proposed re-ordering project in All Saints' Church, Longstanton. The Friends would like everyone to come and see what is afoot. A display with graphic impressions is in the church, which is open during daylight hours every day.

You can take part in the project's realisation. The '100 Club' is one way of doing that. If you like the idea of supporting the project and feel you have a small amount to give towards the funds then this could be a way for you to do so. It has the added benefit of the chance to win some money back. A donation of £2 per number per month (for a year) will buy you entry into the lottery. The lottery will be drawn monthly with a chance to win £50 (based on 100 members).

For more details and a full set of rules please contact: Louise Gamon - louise.gamon@gmail.com or 07429 317803

Or details about our **re-ordering project** and the **'100 Club'** can be found on the Friend's website at www.friends-of-all-saints-church-longstanton.org.uk

'100 Club' winners so far:

**October: 1st - No. 25, 2nd - No. 43
November: 1st - No. 40, 2nd - No. 70**

The Friends of All Saints' Church, Longstanton
Charity Registration Number 1115069

Church Times

All Saints' Church, Longstanton

For exact dates and details of activities being held please refer to the church notice board or go to the website:

www.friends-of-all-saints-church-longstanton.org.uk



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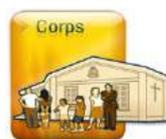
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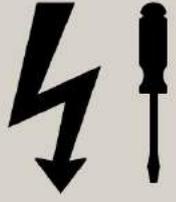


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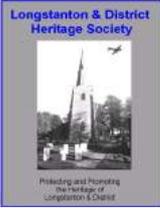
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Dewatering Threatens to Destroy Longstanton/ Northstowe Kingfisher Pond?

Not long ago Jeff Harrison, our very own wildlife photographer, reported that he had successfully captured images of Kingfishers breeding in a pond situated somewhere in the old Golf Course area. Jeff then provided the LLife with exclusive photographs of these delightful, wonderful little birds with their iridescent blue/ green wings and orange/ chestnut under parts. This pond is now part of Northstowe (Phase 1), hence now comes under the responsibility of Gallagher.



Photo by Geoff Harrison, LLife V.11, No. 4

Quoting directly for the RSPB website, *“As a fairly rare, easily disturbed bird, the kingfisher is afforded the highest degree of legal protection under the Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 ... It is an offence to take, injure or kill a kingfisher or to take, damage or destroy its nest, eggs or young. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the birds close to their nest during the breeding season. Violation of the law can attract fines up to £5,000 per offence and/or a prison sentence of up to six months.”*

By all recent accounts this pond has been decimated; now virtually empty, its small fish killed the food for the Kingfisher and vegetation is now reclaiming it. Equally, an overflow pipe that once ensured the water level did not exceed a maximum level thus swamping the Kingfisher nests, has been blocked. Unless the pond is re-instated and restocked with fish, kingfishers will **not** be attracted to breed there. Has this all been caused by the dewatering of the area to provide adequate drainage for the Phase 1 development? By the extraction of water from the gravel seam that lies just below the surface to the north/ east of Longstanton High Street, lowering of the local natural water table has been achieved; but this is also at the expense of the destruction of ponds and wells in this area, not to mention possible other long term more serious consequences.



These are images taken from the internet illustrate nature of the kingfisher's precarious nesting habits of burying in the bank of rivers and ponds just above the waterline

Former Spitfire Lady Joy Lofthouse dies at 94



Joy was one of the many brave young lady pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary of WWII who flew, single-handed, Lancasters, Spitfires, Hurricanes, etc, from their factories to their various airbases around the country. These courageous ferry pilots flew without being able to use their radio for security reasons and navigating with the aid of maps



often resting on their knees! Weather was their worst enemy and claimed many lives. It was through flying Joyce met and married her husband Charles Lofthouse OBE DFC, who flew Lancasters of 7 Squadron from RAF Oakington. Charles who worshiped at All Saints church Longstanton is buried in a war grave there. Joy also visited Longstanton several times as a member of the 7 Squadron Appreciation Society when they held their annual remembrance service in All Saints church.



This summer, Joy was invited to sit in the royal box at Wimbledon to watch Andy Murray on centre court. When she was introduced by Sue Barker all the spectators put their hands together to give her an emotional welcome.



The LDHS will long remember Joy as one the jewels in our national crown. Joy Lofthouse we salute you. RIP

LDHS Autumn Talks, 2017

‘Basket Weaving in Cambridgeshire’

by Gill Shapland, Friday 6 October. Gill provide an illustrated presentation of basket weaving giving an insight into the sources of the willow used in this process. This talk was well received although audience numbers were down. (Gill did not charge for the talk, in return for her missing her advertised slot after last year’s AGM, 2016)

‘History of Bricks in West Cambridgeshire’ by Michael Cole, Friday 3 November. Michael gave a very detailed history of handmade bricks in



Cambridgeshire, after outlining an early recorded use from c. 2000BC, found in modern day Syria! He brought with him many samples of local handmade bricks that were examined after his talk by his appreciative audience.



Tony Cowley



Dates for LDHS Public Talks for Spring 2018

- Friday: 2 March TBA
- Friday: 6 April TBA
- Friday: 4 May TBA

All talks/ AGM to be held at 7.30pm in the Village Institute, High Street, Longstanton.

Everyone welcome: members free - non-members £2.00. Talks followed by tea, biscuits and chat.

Hilary Stroude, Secretary, Longstanton & District Heritage Society, The Manor, Woodside, Longstanton, Cambridge. CB24 3BU
For more information on any of the above, please contact us on: Tel: **01954 782560** or e-mail **hilarystroude@hotmail.co.uk**