Longstanton Life

Volume 16, Issue No. 1 February - March 2016

Life in Your Locality



Over 60s Christmas Lunch in the Black Bull, December 2015. Photos sent by Margaret Hunt.

In this issue: Christmas lights switch on, Longstanton Floods Group, Letters to the Editor, plus other regular features including: Sports News, Community Concerns, Memory Lane, LDHS Update, Surgery Update, etc.

Also: Solution to the Christmas crossword and the winner. Complete our Word Search competition for a chance to win a portion of fish and chips donated by the newly opened Longstanton Fish & Chip shop!

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, Keir Giles and John Pratt.

VILLAGE DIARY

Sunday	0930-1030	Sunday School	The Rectory, High St.	Susan Meah	01954 781258
Sunday	1100	Tennis Club	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
3rd of month	1600-1800	Messy Church	Village Institute*	Susan Meah	01954 781258
Mondov	1800-2000	Bowls Club	The Pavilion	Marion Edwards	01954 780118
Monday	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
Term time	1100-1200	Zumba Gold	Village Institute*	Davina Mee	07779244250
T 1	1030-1115	Mini JAFFAs (pre-schoolers)	All Saints' Church	Susan Meah	01954 781258
2nd of month 3rd of month Term time Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	1800	Tennis Club night	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
		Adult Cricket training	Recreation Ground	Please just turn up	
	1900-2100	Cambridge Freestyle Martial Arts	Village Institute*	Rory / Martin	07523 854251 07535 646234
	1900-2130	ATC (Air Training Corps)	Cadet Centre		
Wadaaaday	1000-1100	Music Madness (0-3yrs)	Village Institute*	Sharon Sennitt	07762206320
wednesday	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	Jazzereise	Hatton Park School	Tina Chasse	01487 841811
Thursday	1000-1100	Rainbow Club (bump-1yr)	Village Institute*	Susan Meah	01954 781258
Thursday	1900	Football training	Recreation Ground	Luke McAvoy	07795 321494
	1900-2000	Ballroom Dancers, beginners	Hatton Park School	Mike Cartwright	01954 781275
3rd of month Term time Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	2000	Ballroom Dancer, advanced	Hatton Park School	Mike Cartwright	01954 781275
	1900-2130	ATC (Air Training Corps)	Cadet Centre		01954 781180
	TBA	Longstanton Art Group	TBA	Christine Shephard	01954 781625
Dalder	0930-1130	Little Leprechauns playgroup (0-4)	Village Institute*	Alice Burrell	07779 363990
riiday		Junior Cricket training	Call for details	Janet Hill	01954 261009
	1800	Tennis Club Night	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
Saturday	1000-1100	Longstanton Colts Football Club	Recreation Ground	Louise Gamon	07429 317803
Sucur unj	1400	(6 - 12yrs) Tennis Club	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959

^{*} 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?



Answers to Dec/ Jan's W, W, W & W?

Where: School Lane looking back towards All Saints' church from the small white bridge over the culvert carrying Longstanton Brook into the village from Bar Hill.

Footpath sign points in the Hattons Road direction. Church Farm fence, on the left, marks the spot where 20

years or so later the entrance to Stokes Close will stand.

When: c.1980 After a good covering of snow over the village, vehicles were just beginning to move carefully around again.



S via Carol Collis



LONGSTANTON LIFE EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

In this first issue of the year, we have some pictures for you from two events which happened in December in our village. The first one was the very successful Christmas Lights Switch On, attended by many villagers on 5th December on the Village Green. The lights were switched on by Captain Lucas, High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire (the Queen's representative for the County) to the sound of music performed by a brass band from Waterbeach. It was a lovely evening - please read more on page 7. On the front page you can see some pictures from the second December event - the Over 60s Christmas Lunch, this year organised in the Black Bull on 7th December and attended and enjoyed by many. Read more on page 8.

We have also picked the winner of our Christmas Crossword competition, please look at page 10. We had many entries, a big thank you to everyone who took part. As it was so popular, we decided to have a competition with a prize in every issue. This time we have a Word Search for you, please send us your answers by 22nd February for a chance to win a portion of fish and chips from our newly opened Fish and Chip shop in the village.

And as usual - we always want to hear your stories and opinions so please keep sending us your articles, letters and photos. Thank you for your input so far! Our contact details:

- · e-mail: longstantonlife@hotmail.com
- correspondence address:
 Longstanton Life
 c/o The Village Institute
 24 High Street
 Longstanton CB24 3BS
- · Twitter account: (a)LongstantonLife

The Editorial Team



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Please note that the copy deadline for the April/May 2016 edition of Longstanton Life is

Mon 29th February 2016

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



Lithographic, Digital & Large Format Printers

Unit 1 Alington Road, Little Barford, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 6YH

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COMMUNITY CONCERNS

MP for Cambridgeshire Heidi Allen



I was joined by two potential future scientists on Wednesday as I welcomed two students from Icknield Primary to Westminster who had come for a tour of Parliament and to make a presentation at the 'Earth to Space -Taking the challenge' Parliamentary event.

Tom Snowdon, the deputy head who came with the pupils said "We had a fantastic time at Westminster today. To be involved in such

an exciting event really has inspired the two children who attended the event, as well as all of the other pupils at our school. We met some really interesting people today who shared their experiences and expertise with us and it was clear how inspired all of the children and young people at the event were. Anna and Ben were a little bit nervous before their brief

presentation but did a great job and were expertly supported by Dr Helen Mason OBE from University of Cambridge. The day has been a huge success, and it all started with a great tour around Westminster which was kindly organised by Heidi's office.'



I joined them at the end of their day to hear about their adventure and their plans for the future. It was just brilliant to hear them talk about their love of science and their desire to study maths and physics. Enthusing young students at an early age is vital if we are to increase our engineering and technical capability in this country. I was also delighted to receive 3 hand written letters from other students, inviting me to Icknield Primary School. I look forward to visiting very soon.

This last month has demonstrated to me the power of the House of Commons and also the responsibility that comes with being a member of it.

On 25th November, the Chancellor unveiled his Autumn statement. As always with these things, there is an awful lot of speculation beforehand as people try and second guess the contents. From my point of view, there were two especially sweet triumphs. Firstly, the decision to scrap the planned changes to tax credits. If you read my article last month, you will recall I had dedicated my maiden speech somewhat controversially to encouraging the Chancellor to think again about his plans in this area. So I was absolutely delighted to hear the Chancellor's acknowledgement that this was the right thing to do. This is democracy in action.

And if that wasn't enough, there was the announcement we had all been waiting to hear for decades - the commitment to deliver a fairer funding formula for our schools by 2017. For years, Cambridgeshire has been one of the very lowest funded authorities in the country - indeed for some time, we were right at the bottom of the list.

Since being elected, I have visited many of our schools and seen first-hand the amazing dedication of our teachers to deliver an outstanding education despite having to mend and make do. Many of our schools are at breaking point and honestly, I don't think we could have continued as we were for any longer without educational standards really starting to slide. So this announcement could not have come a moment sooner

But days aren't always as positive as this in Westminster. You will I am sure, know Parliament recently voted on bombing Daesh targets in Syria. Undoubtedly the most difficult and significant vote of my parliamentary career so far, I took the decision to vote in favour of this action.

You can read my reasoning for why I voted as I did here on my website.

http://www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/military-intervention-syria-0 In early December, I also spoke in the Commons on the subject of mental health, a topic very close to my heart.

In my first few months as an MP I received a letter from a constituent from Meldreth. Steve Mallen about the tragic suicide of his son Edward. As I write this newsletter, it would have been Edward's 19th birthday. Following the death of his gifted and wonderful son, Steve set up the MindEd Trust, and with the support of schools, charities and world leading academics, Steve's ambition is to roll out a wellbeing programme in schools to help with young people's mental health. Steve and I have met with Government ministers to enlist their help and the Rt Hon Alistair Burt, the Minister for Care and Support has agreed to attend the launch conference in Cambridge on 18 March 2016.

If you would like to learn more or be involved, please do get in touch with my office.

You can contact me at: 01954 212707 heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk @heidiallen75 My next surgery dates are:

5 February Sawston, 11 March Melbourn.

District Councillor Notes



Northstowe Update These are my notes from a meeting of the Northstowe Community Forum on 20 January. Some 50 members of the public turned up which is good going for a freezing January evening. Tim Wotherspoon chaired the meeting. The meeting was both constructive and informative. There were four items to be discussed.

> 1. Phase 2 Update. Site surveys have revealed a handful of buried items which might be lumps of concrete but also could be

unexploded ordnance (UXO). These are to be investigated. If they are UXO they will be blown up on site. Unlike the events of 9 years ago, disposal will use much more sand than then and will consequently require neither road closures nor evacuations. I asked for some advance warning, just so we know. The site is known to have heavy metal contamination but I was assured that no mustard gas was ever dumped there. Questions were asked about the use of School Lane / Rampton Road by heavy vehicles accessing the Phase 2 site. Construction traffic is explicitly barred from using village roads. This needs to be watched. The \$106 agreement was due to be completed by now and is now due "by Easter". The problem is the Government's pronouncements on Starter Homes which, if applied to Northstowe, will have a huge impact on the \$106. The promise was made some months ago that the S106 would go back to the (now disbanded) Northstowe committee before final agreement. This is particularly important if major changes are made to it. Paul Kitson stated that the HCA expects to deliver initial Phase 2 housing in 2019.

2. Phase 1 Planning Applications. Gallagher have recently submitted three planning applications for a) Local Centre Square (to lie between the B1050 and the Phase 1 shops and Community Centre), b) Drainage swales and c) Waterpark (a very large balancing pond). There will be a later application to deal with the shops and parking around the Local Centre Square. The Waterpark is designed to cater for a 1:200 year flood, + 30% to allow for Climate Change.

Continued on next page ...

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

As a result of these works there has been a worrying reduction of water level on the Northstowe site. Normally at this time of year it would be under water but currently it is several metres below normal. It is permitted to "dewater" the site by pumping out water, in order to lay sewers and land drains in soil that is not saturated but it is important that the normal levels are restored very soon in order to minimise environmental damage to local ponds etc.

- 3. Phase 1 Primary School. This is expected to be completed on schedule at Easter time. Unfortunately the delay in Phase 1 housing means that it will not have an immediate use, but the County Council is talking to the Diocese of Ely about finding an interim use for the building. The anticipated date for the opening of the Secondary School is September 2019. It will be a 12 Form Entry school.
- 4. Phase 1 Update. First houses are expected 1st Quarter of 2017. The current B1050 works will finish early Feb. The Hattons Road ponds are designed to mitigate flooding in Longstanton, not to prevent it. Table 9.1 of the Flood Risk Assessment document gives the figures. It is anticipated that for 6 months, starting in spring, 12 lorries will each transport 2 or 3 loads per hour of 8.5 m³ from 8am 6pm daily. This soil will go onto the Phase 1 site in sections and be compacted prior to house construction starting section-by-section. There will be wheel washing at both ends of the journey. Access to the Phase 1 site will be via the Golf Course roundabout, not off the Northstowe stretch of the B1050. A hint of caution is necessary about these plans. As yet no builders have been announced for Phase 1 and without them the dates for home completions will continue to slip. However, the good news for Longstanton is that the flood mitigation measures are proceeding regardless.

If you have any concern or need clarification please contact me on cllr.riley@scambs.gov.uk or ring me on 01954 208000 and I will do my best to help.

Alex Riley, District Councillor

Longstanton Parish Council, January 2016

Northstowe

Longstanton Parish Council is aware that there have been press reports about growth of Northstowe, however, please see the report from District Councillor Riley for more information. The primary school is on track and can be seen progressing from the B1050. Village Finances

At the Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th January 2016 the precept was agreed for the

next financial year 2016/17. We are pleased to announce that the Reserve account is now complete at £75,000.00, having taken 3 years to build up to its agreed required amount. This has meant there can be a reduction in the precept, from £128,000 for 2015/16 to £94,360.00 for 2016/17. This is a reduction of 26.07% on the previous year. Our finances are in very good shape for the following year and I must thank all Council members and Clerk and past RFO's for their help in this matter.

At this point I would like to add our congratulations from the whole Council to Mrs Libby White who has gained her CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) and is now a fully qualified Clerk. Libby joined us and has trained throughout her

time with us to get her qualification.

Village Questionnaire

Many thanks to everyone who filled in their questionnaire online and on paper. Your response was more than what we would have expected which is great as it shows a keen interest to provide a facility which will serve many. They have now been collated and the team working on this project can now process what has been asked for and put some draft ideas together and draft costings.

Further meetings will be held to show everyone what has been requested. This is so we can provide something that will suit the needs of the village going forward and raise the money accordingly. It is at this point that we would really like people to come forward and offer their expertise to help drive this project forward and so we can get it in place as quickly as possible. We will also be approaching anyone and everyone, businesses and individuals who would like to contribute financially to this project. Therefore, if you know of any business who we could approach please get in touch with Cllr John Street.

Facilities for Young Adults (11-18 years)

Council are also looking at facilities for young adults and an online questionnaire for all young people to take part is now available on the website. What facilities would you like to see in the village? Would you like to see a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), outdoor gym equipment, Skateboard Park? We need to know what you would like before the Council can do anything so tell us what you would like then we can put a plan together and include you in the decision.

The **Christmas Tree Lighting event** on 5th December 2015 was a huge success and this is now in the calendar as an annual event. Thank you everyone for your help and support hopefully next year the wind will not be that strong.

Vacancies within the Council

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor at the moment so if you would like to help your Community please get in touch with Libby or myself or any other Councillor who can tell you about what is involved. We also have a vacancy for a Responsible Financial Officer so if you would like to be part of the Finance side of the Council and have a background in accounts please get in touch with Libby for a job description.

Full Council Election May 2016

In May this year we will have a full Council election as it is 4 years from the last full election. This means the whole Council will stand down allowing a new Council be elected. Hopefully many will stand for re-election as there are some projects that would really benefit from continuity. Looking forward, the new town of Northstowe will continue to take a lot of time but offers a great opportunity for the residents of Longstanton. The new community facilities, in whatever form that takes, will require a lot of input but again being able to build a building for the future of our village is a fantastic opportunity and challenge.

The next Council will serve for 2 years not 4 due to election reforms taking place which will put this Council in step with the District Council. Who do you know who would like to stand for Council? It is a very interesting and worthwhile job, yes it was challenging in the early days until due processes were sorted and put in place but I have found it very rewarding and my fellow Councillors have given great support and input from finances to planning for new developments. It is a voluntary role and its hours tend to be varied. We have many different committees: Finance, Pavilion and Recreation Ground. Employment and Events committees so different people share their commitments over a range of activities. It would appear to take about 6 to 8 hours per month. Full training is provided and it can also be fun.

The Council continue to work on your behalf on all aspects of the village and really appreciate your input so if you have any questions or want to be kept up to date with what's happening please contact the Parish Office or send an email so we can add you to the database for the Parish.

Please contact me with questions or ideas on: gillashby21@gmail.com or ring me on 01954 260595 and I will do my best to help.

Gill Ashby, Chairman LPC

LONGSTANTON FLOODS GROUP

WE DON'T WANT TO BE ANOTHER YORK OR CUMBRIA!

As many of you know, there are many of our homes that have been flooded over the years, the most recent being in August 2014 and prior to that 2001. Following the August flood a Group was formed of some 20 people from Spiggots Close, Colesfield and Hattons Road, to 'Fight to keep our homes and village flood free', as well as to share ideas of how to protect our properties from further flooding. We can get some good prices on bulk buying of sand bags, some of us have purchased flood gates whilst others have made their own, bricked up unnecessary airbricks, had repointing done on brick work and used a sealant on the lower bricks.

After the first meeting we decided to have a regular monthly meeting at the Pavilion, the next one being on 9th February at 7.30pm. They will take place every 4 weeks on the same day and at the same time.

Our Group have progressed our cause to 'Fight to keep our homes and village flood free'. We are now a sub group of the Parish Council and are affiliated to the National Flood Forum (NFF).

Parish Council Elections 5th May 2016

Would you be interested in being a Parish Councillor?

Nomination forms will be accepted by South Cambridgeshire District Council

from 30th March until 4pm on 7th April 2016

If you are over 18 years of age, are a British,
Commonwealth or EU citizen and comply with a
brief list of qualifications regarding where you live
or work, plus have a healthy interest in your
village, what goes on in it and its future then you
could become a Parish Councillor.

Being a parish councillor is a voluntary position and Council Meetings

are held monthly in the Village Institute.

Longstanton Parish Council consists of 11 Councillors and is a "voice" representing the village and its inhabitants.

The Parish Council carries out many duties within and on behalf of the village including management and maintenance of the public open spaces within the village, support of village organisations, consultee on local development plan issues, liaison with County and District Councils on many differing subjects, comments on all planning applications relating to the parish as well as many other topics.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Parish Councillor or wish to collect a nomination form then please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council

Tel: 01954 782323 Email: parish.clerk@longstantonvillage.org

parishcouncil.longstantonvillage.org

We have recently had a meeting at the offices of SCDC in Cambourne, convened by our MP Heidi Allen and her aide, Paula Wade, with representatives of SCDC, The Environment Agency, Anglian Water & Cambridgeshire County Council. We now have their support and ear.

We also met with the NFF, where the Chief Executive attended, as did representatives from Girton, Bar Hill and Oakington Flood Groups. We shared ideas and put together an action plan of 8 points which we would like the NFF to lead on for us to stop future flooding. These have also been shared with our MP and our District Councillor Alex Riley, who is also responsible for driving many of these for us. The points include:

- 1. Balancing Ponds (making sure the planned October 2016 date doesn't slip, as we are led to believe this will benefit the Village from future flooding).
- Brooks, de silting, who is responsible and where should they tackle first.
- Culvert widening.
- Vegetation on the banks, growth and maintenance.
- Areas where we would like to hold flood water away from the village, such as farmers' fields.
- Farmland ditches, is water being held on the farmland or allowed to flow into the ditches and subsequently flow into the village.
- Co-ordinated approach/routes into the various authorities.
- Possibly dealing with concerns over the flooding that occurs on the recreation ground towards the far end of Spiggots Close.

We would welcome anyone to our future meetings and if anyone has expertise/skills to bring to the Group, such as PR, Engineering, Flooding, Water flow, etc. we will be pleased to have you in the Group. You can reach us at:

webmaster@longstantonfloodaction.org

Our web site can be found at:

http://www.longstantonfloodaction.org/

Jackie Long

LONGSTANTON CHURCH ALLOTMENTS

We have recently taken back an area of land so there are a number of allotments available to rent. The Church Allotments are located close to the Busway Station on the Willingham Road. The site has excellent soil but there is no water on site. Full plots cost £26 per year with a further £26 deposit for newcomers. Anyone who is interested should contact me and I can meet you on site and show you what is available.

Jim McVittie

23 High Street, Longstanton, Cambridge CB24 3BP Tel: 01954 782217. Email: dalefield@ntlworld.com

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

On Saturday 5th December 2015, Longstanton Parish Council held its first 'Christmas Light Switch On' at the Village Green, Nelson Crescent. Though the evening was extremely blustery, it was fantastic to see so many parishioners turn out to sing some Christmas carols and watch the lights be switched on by Captain Lucas, High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire (the Queen's representative for the County).

We wish to express our thanks to Waterbeach Brass who really helped to make the event a success with their hearty music. It was amazing to see that Santa was able to take a break from his busy preparations for Christmas to come and meet with our local children. Finally, Longstanton Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success including the Co-operative Food Store, Brookfield Groundcare, all the volunteers and many more.

Libby White Parish Clerk - Longstanton Parish Council Photos: Ray McMurray













VILLAGE SPORTING ACTIVITIES

LONGSTANTON TENNIS CLUB

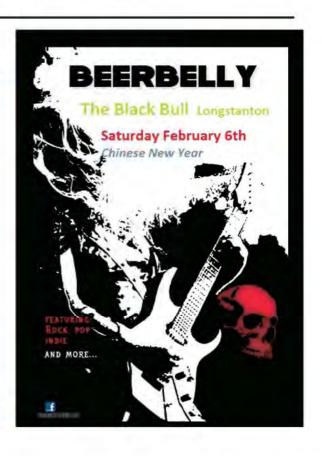
It's been a chilly start to the New Year after such a mild December, but the tennis carries on regardless! Courts are available for use by everyone; you can either join as a member for the season or you can borrow a key and use them on a 'pay and play' basis. The new season starts on April 1st, but there's nothing to stop you coming to play before then. Current members, don't forget the AGM towards the end of March; come along and have your say.

Our end of season / Christmas party was great fun and enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to those involved in organising it. We also said 'farewell for now' at the end of last year to Cheryl, our long-serving Treasurer. She is making the most of her new-found freedom in retirement for an extended trip sailing around Australia and New Zealand, together with Bill. Hope all is going well and we look forward to seeing you both again soon. Thank you to Fred Chatfield for agreeing to fill the position of Acting Treasurer in Cheryl's absence.

Do get in touch if you'd like to find out more about any of the club's activities, and hope to see you down on the courts soon.

For all the latest notices and information, please check our website www.longstantontennis.co.uk

Sarah Ballard 07985 938959



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Longstanton Life.

Whilst parking is an obvious problem, it does appear that the Co-op as a shop is proving a real asset to our village. Having said that, I must admit that I do miss visiting our village store that was run by that wonderful character. the one and only. Mick Yarrow and his lovely female team.

Every time I go to the Co-op I get a very friendly welcome from the wonderful staff there. The greeting I used to get from Mick was invariably along the lines of. "Oh, not you again"-"what do you want"-"I haven't got time to mess about serving you", etc. All delivered in that grumpy voice that had taken years to perfect and with a deadpan expression on his face.

During the summer months he always wore those 'Eric Morecambe' shorts that displayed his knobbly knees so well. In the colder weather it always seemed to be a v-neck jumper that always looked a size too small (or was his stomach a size too big?)

Try as they might, the staff at the Co-op will never be able to match Mick. If you wanted help or advice he was only too willing to give his time. The long hours he put into that shop were amazing and yet he still found time to serve as a Parish Councillor and at one point, our Chairman. On many occasions he even delivered papers himself rather than let us down if a paperboy/girl didn't turn up.

He is a true friend indeed.

I know I am not alone in expressing these sentiments so it seems only right to say a belated thank you to Mick and many years of happy retirement, it's been well earned.

Royston Rose

Dear Longstanton Life,

Thank you for bringing to everybody's attention the problems with the Connections bus. It seems a shame that a scheme which was supposed to keep teenagers occupied, off the streets, and out of trouble had exactly the opposite effect. But since the problems have stopped since the bus was withdrawn, it appears this was certainly the right thing to do.

I just hope that at some point in the future a similar project can be reintroduced, but with appropriate supervision and enough to keep the young people busy and engaged so that knocking on doors and blocking the street with bins doesn't look like a more entertaining option.

Sincerely, Bill Wright



Dear Longstanton Life.

I would like to add my voice to the correspondents in your previous issue who pointed out the deficiencies with the parking provided at the Co-op. Apart from the fact that far too few parking places have been provided, the current arrangement for getting into and out of them provides constant irritation with cars blocking each other, and is quite likely eventually to result in an accident. As has already been pointed out, the fact that cars are also forced to park on the road by the Co-op, restricting visibility for pedestrians and for cars coming out of the car park itself, also presents a completely unnecessary danger.

I don't understand how it is possible to get it so wrong. I know problems like these are going to be even worse, if Northstowe goes ahead with its plan to provide fewer than two parking spaces for each house. How many households do we all know of these days that only have one car? Parking spaces in the centre of the village, already under intense pressure, will become simply unbearable. Why do people not think these things through in advance?

Yours faithfully.

Pauline Jones Rampton Drift

Dear Longstanton Life.

I am writing to say that I very much enjoyed your last issue. The magazine has suddenly come up with a lot of interesting features about village life, and I learned about things that I probably wouldn't have otherwise. In particular I never guessed that the village had its own "first responder scheme". I think this sounds like an excellent initiative, and I'm glad it's there, and thank you for letting us know about it!

I hope that more people will come up with topics and events that are happening in the village that they can write about for your pages. It all helps us find out what is going on in our own neighbourhood.

Best regards, Samir Prasad Thornhill Place

OVER 60s CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Monday 7th December 2015, 60 people gathered for our annual Christmas Lunch at the Black Bull, Longstanton. On arrival the guests were offered sherry or orange juice before they sat down to listen to the children of Hatton Park sing for them. The children were fantastic and our thanks go to all of them and their music teacher Mrs Ewing. Chou, Andy and their staff made us all very welcome and cooked us a lovely traditional Christmas lunch with



all the trimmings, followed by mince pies and custard/ice cream. We even had fortune cookies!!! After lunch we enjoyed the ukulele music playing from The Stiffs, which was great fun and thoroughly enjoyable. We ended the afternoon with a raffle, for which we would like to thank all the people that donated the prizes. This is a free afternoon for the over 60s residents of



gifts, donations and a lot of fund raising during the year, so a very special thank you goes to each and every one of you and also to the Council Parish for donation. Finally, there are a lot of new people in the village now, so please feel free to join us next year, you will be made very welcome!

> Margaret Hunt More pictures on the front page.

The Over 60s Christmas Lunch Committee: Margaret Coxall, Erica McAvoy, Hazel Minnett, Rachel Dale, Jean Stripe, Kim Swann, Pat Allen, Sue Morley, Libby White and Margaret Hunt.

HATTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Introductions

Hello to all of Longstanton! As the new Headteacher of Hatton Primary School, I want to say a huge thank you to all of the staff, pupils and their families for making me feel so welcome since joining. Hatton Park is a wonderful place to be and I am excited to continue the good work undertaken by Mr Try over the past years. Through the Longstanton Life, I will keep you all informed of the exciting things happening at our school as the year progresses. I am happy to say that I am not a stranger to Longstanton. I was a past villager myself for 5 years before moving slightly further afield. The Village has certainly changed over the years and I am looking forward to the school continuing to be a key part of Longstanton.

Christmas productions

It seems a very long time away, but the children once again did us proud in their performances. The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children blew us away with 'Hey Ewe!' They sang, danced, and most importantly had a great time on the stage, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. They also then upped their game by learning more songs for our visit to the church. Mayflies Class stole the show with their rendition of Boney M's Mary's Boy Child, complete with dance moves. Key Stage 2 then echoed this with their beautifully sung songs and clear readers. Both visits to the church were well attended with standing room only left.

Westenders

It was with great pleasure that I accompanied our wonderful singers to their first performance away from our local area. We were booked by a company to sing for the guests as they arrived to their Christmas dinner. The setting was amazing with all of the old planes around us. The singers were very well received by the guests and were very happy to be presented with a chocolate selection pack each as a thank you. A big thank you to Mrs Ripley for organising the event, and Mrs Walters and Mrs Ewing for giving up their time to teach the group. Also, thanks to the Friends PTA for funding the lovely new T-shirts for the children to wear. A big 'well done' all round!

Tag Rugby

The school has claimed its first tag rugby victory. At the end of term, a mixed year 4, 5 and 6 team played against 10 other schools and won all 5 of their matches. Well done to Will Coleman, Archie Scott, Abi Markillie, Steffanie Jenkins, Fraser



Jones, Tomas Jenkins, Isabella Stagg, Ryan Sweeney and Aiden Rowney! We have a shiny new trophy to keep until next year and are now looking forward to the next set of matches against schools from a wider area.

Pet Club

Last term, our oldest children enjoyed the opportunity to attend a pet club run by Wood Green Animal Shelter. It was a great opportunity to learn about caring for different types of pets and even meeting some! A big thank you to Mrs Wagstaff for organising the club.

Friends of Hatton Park

The PTA has always been a strength, with parents committing their time to raising funds for projects at the school. The Friends (FOHPS) are launching some new initiatives and would greatly appreciate the support of the community. Please see their section in the Longstanton Life for how you can best support our village school.

Friendship Bench

We have been lucky enough to win a new bench from the When I Was A Kid toyshop in Cambridge. The Friends of Hatton Park encouraged our parents to say why and how the school would benefit and our lovely School Council pupils came up with the



engraved inscription "If you see someone sitting on me, ask them to play!" The bench will take pride of place on the playground.

New Caretaker

We have welcomed Tim Simpson as our new caretaker to follow in Mike Cartwright's footsteps and care for our school and its grounds. Tim is settling into Longstanton and has already earnt the praise of staff, children and parents alike.

Coming up...

We have some exciting events planned for the term. There will be a theatre group presenting to the younger children, World Book Day to enjoy and a CPET Science day in partnership with the Histon Junior and Infant schools. I look forward to telling you all about them in the next issue.

The children at Hatton Park never cease to amaze me. They work hard, they are polite and they are a credit to the Village. Having shown many new families around recently, the comments were lovely and well deserved. Keep it up Hatton Park!

I hope to meet many more of you as time goes on. If you come to support our events at school, please do come and introduce yourself to me; it will be a pleasure to meet you.

Anthony Aguda, Headteacher

LONGSTANTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



A new year and a new set of speakers. January's speaker gave us a fascinating account of life as an immigration judge, which in turn provoked many questions as IRING WOMEN well as quiet gasps or nods at statistics.

February's speaker is the author of "The Shop Girls". Ellee Seymour. We're all looking forward to hearing about Heyworth's

department store that once graced the streets of Cambridge.

If you'd like to join us for a chatter and cake, then please feel free to pop along. We meet at the Village Institute on the 3rd Monday of the month from 7.45pm - 10pm. Hope to see you there!

Debbie Lienau

NEWS FROM LONGSTANTON BREAKFAST CLUB, PRE-SCHOOL & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Just before the end of term we held a very successful Cake & Craft fund raiser. We would like to thank all the families and children who came along - we were once again overwhelmed by the level of support we received.





Following on from our Letters from Uganda project and, after a suggestion from parents, we also collected donations at this event for children in Uganda. All donations have now been safely delivered to Kids Club Kampala. Our last half term of the year also

included two parents coming in to share German and Belgian traditional seasonal stories about St Martin and St Nicholas.

The children enjoyed decorating their own Christmas tree and we then used this interest to talk about shapes and colours.

Happy New Year! We have had a very positive and busy start to 2016: settling new children and welcoming a new member of staff. The children have returned with lots of stories about presents and celebrations with families and friends.

Your Junk Our Treasure - as mentioned in previous articles, although we have a well resourced setting, we are always on the lookout for new and interesting things for the children to explore and play with, the quirkier the better. Please ring us to arrange



collection/delivery (number below). We would like to say a big thank you for the great craft materials recently donated

Longstanton breakfast club, pre-school and after school club is an established childcare service located in Hatton Park Primary School managed by the Pre-school Learning Alliance. We provide high quality sessional care for children aged 2 years to 11 years old. We are open term time from 7.45am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. If you would like to discuss your childcare needs further, please feel free to visit during our working hours or you can contact the manager on 01954 780987 or by email at longstanton@pre-school.org.uk



Tracey Leach, Manager

FRIENDS OF HATTON PARK SCHOOL UPDATE & DATES FOR DIARY 2016



Last term ended on a high with Nativity refreshments and the Christmas Disco bringing in over £600; huge thanks go to everyone who helped out with these activities, which would not have happened without you! We also had the first

chance to see the Westenders perform in their new t-shirts, funded by FOHPS, at the Duxford War Museum. The children looked very smart in their matching outfits, and it was a joy to hear them sing.

Spring term promises to be even busier. Our first event of the year, the Indoor Car Boot Sale and Silent Auction, took place on Jan 31. Particular thanks go to Star Radio for providing a studio tour. Cambridge-based light therapy specialists Lumie. Ely's Babylon Gallery for providing cinema posters, Paula Armstrong

Ceramics, local jeweller Weaversfield, and Jagex for their support,

Coming up:

Feb 11: We have a children's Art Exhibition at the school, after school.

Feb 26: The ever-popular Quiz returns to the Black Bull on Feb 26th. Register your team by emailing lizzmayers@tiscali.co.uk or messaging our Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/hattonpark/

Apr 30: We are pleased to announce the Longstanton Spring Fling, a celebration of Spring including traditional May Day activities, craft fair and workshops with fun for all the family. For details on these and other events, please keep an eye on our website, www.fohps.moonfruit.com or the school newsletter.

FOHPS

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD COMPETITION WINNER & SOLUTION

The **co-operative** food

The winner of our Christmas competition was Abby Orchard,

was Abby Orchard, she is pictured here receiving the prize from Martin, Manager of the Longstanton Co-op. Congratulations Abby! Thanks once again to the Co-op for generously donating the box of Milk Tray chocolates.



The solution for the crossword: "MISTLETOE".

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winners. The total amount raised for Magpas was £335. Many Attorney, Please pop along and get some free support and advice, thanks for all the wonderful donations and gifts from patients.

of wasted Doctor time and 9 hours of wasted Nurse time and when necessary, just pop along for your free NHS hearing aid batteries appointments are not cancelled we are unable to reuse them for oth- and for help and advice regarding hearing loss. er patients. "PLEASE CANCEL YOUR APPOINTMENT IF YOU NO LONGER NEED IT!"

Antibiotic resistance. Both the NHS and health organisations across the world are trying to reduce the use of antibiotics, especially for conditions that are not serious. This is to try to combat the problem of antibiotic resistance, which is when a strain of bacteria no longer responds to treatment with one or more types of antibiotics. The overuse of antibiotics in recent years has played a major part in antibiotic resistance. This includes using antibiotics to treat minor conditions that would have got better anyway. It has led to the emergence of "superbugs". These are strains of bacteria that have devel-

Carers Support Meetings. Our next meeting at Willingham Surgery Christmas Lucky Squares in aid of Magpas. A very big thank you to is on Wednesday 9th March, 2pm - 4.30pm. Stephen Duffy from all patients who purchased a ticket and well done to all the lucky Buckles Solicitors is coming in to talk about Wills and Power of

Camtad Hearing Clinics. The next Hearing Aid Clinics will be held Missed Appointments in December 2015 = 58 Doctors Appoint- at Willingham Surgery on Wed 17th February from 2-4pm, ments & 33 Nurse Appointments. This amounts to approx. 10 hours Wednesday 16th March & Wednesday 20th April. No appointment

Sharon Unwin - Practice Manager - February 2016

Chiropodist/Podiatrist available on Mondays at: Willingham Medical Practice Mrs Casey A. Javed BSc (Hons) Pod SRCh MChS The Foot Care Clinic - Willingham 01480 464507 / 07807505534 for appointments/queries www.stiveschiropody.co.uk

The Pavilion

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Although Christmas seems to have been ages ago we would like to thank all the people who came to meet Father Christmas and for dancing the night away on New Year's Eve (with thanks to Game Over for supplying the entertainment in the conservatory).

We are now looking forward to getting back into the swing with football on Saturday mornings, with hot dogs, bacon and breakfast rolls and of course the hand warmer that is the tea. coffee and hot chocolate. We wish all the teams well and hope that it is a great season for them all.

We are receiving quite a few bookings for the conservatory in the New Year but have not had any suggestions on any functions that people would enjoy. We are looking at having more boxing evenings as the last one was a success, but we are open to suggestions. The next big function being St George's Day which will be on the actual day this year - we will let you work out the date!

We now have free pool on a Monday evening with a Happy Hour between 6 and 7 with 50p off per pint of beer.

Here's to a mild winter, spring is just around the corner.

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Sunday: 12.00 until 22.30



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All Saints Bell Ringers



Our tower is going from strength to strength. Christmas was busy, Christmas Eve and Christmas day as well as the Christmas weekend. We have attracted two new youngsters and already they are progressing well. There is no doubt that youngsters learn very quickly and this makes the atmosphere in our tower exciting as they push hard to learn more.

November 2015 saw our first anniversary since the youngsters first joined us to ring the bells for their school Carol Service, out of the 12 that joined us we still have ten with us. For the anniversary we took them all to the Ten Pin bowling alley to let off some steam. A good time was held by all, we plan to arrange further interesting trips during the coming year.

On Saturday 14th of May our tower will be hosting the district ringing competition starting time 6.00 pm. We are able to form three bands from within our group; each band has its own name:

Band 1. The Supremes - a mixed band of our more experienced ringers.

Band 2. The Black Doves - an all young girl band.

Band 3. The All Stars - a mixed band of established ringers and youngsters.

The bands are made up of six ringers in each band, we also have three reserves.

In forming these bands we have created a healthy competitive spirit within the tower, each band claiming they are going to win the striking competition. I would be delighted if our bands came first, second, and third.

If you are interested in learning to ring don't hesitate to get in touch with me on:

07768 735910 or mikec321@btinternet.com



Mike Cartwright

WORD SEARCH COMPETITION!

Here's a word search to pass away the cold winter evenings....and also the chance to win a prize that will warm you up!

There are 16 words related to winter to find in the grid below. The words can run horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in either forward or reverse orientation.

To enter the competition, mark all 16 words visibly on the grid. Then send the completed grid to Longstanton Life either by (a) posting at the Village Institute, or (b) scanning and email to longstantonlife@hotmail.com Entries should be received by Monday 22nd February. Remember to include your name and contact details whichever method you use to enter.

The first person randomly selected from those with the correct answers will receive a free portion of fish and chips, kindly donated by the newly opened Longstanton Fish & Chip shop. Their opening hours are:



4.30pm - 8.30pm, 7 days a week.

The winner will be announced in the next issue. Good luck!

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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: http://friends-ofall-saints-church-longstanton.org.uk//







and Sunday club for children Every Sunday for traditional evening worship. Lots more detail of weekly events and news on the website: willinghambaptist.org

Please contact: Paul Joel (Minister) 07955071160 Alan Wright (Secretary) 01954261770 Church Office 01954260538 Church is situated on George Street

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Woodland Walk

Sunday 6 March 2016

A snowdrop woodland walk in aid of dementia research. 12 noon to 4pm at Pole Barn Farm, Woodside. All welcome!

*Tea and biscuits *Parking available *Bucket collection



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Ball Room Dancing

The dancers are progressing! Our Thursday evening meetings are essentially for couples who already dance and it is a useful place to show each other some moves. If you would like to come along, don't hesitate to get in touch.

We meet at Hatton Park Primary School on Thursday evenings at 7.30 for one hour.

> You can always contact me via email: mikec321@btinternet.com or on mobile: 07768 735910

Mike Cartwright

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Northstowe Phase 1 Impact on Longstanton's Water Table

Longstanton residents and Heritage Society members should be aware of a very real problem that lies

beneath their feet! Longstanton stands on a gravel bed, out of sight some distance below its surface. For countless years it has acted as a hidden reservoir of water flowing slowly in a natural underground 'stream' lying mainly on a impermeable lay of clay. It has acted for centuries as a conduit that has permitted the local water table to stabilise, subject only to natural variations in the rain fall. Now, Phase 1 drainage work and gravel extraction are having a detrimental affect on this water table (i.e. the water levels beneath the surface).

The digging of two wide and deep ditches below the top this gravel seam leading to the new constructed balancing pond close to the Guided Bus Way, is likely to be a major cause of these reported drops in the locally observed water levels. It's effect is now being felt in licensed wells, ponds and more seriously will, quite possibly, destabilise foundations of older properties, constructed of bricks and mortar, all lying over and close

to this band of gravel. This depletion of water is likely to affect all buildings within Longstanton's Conservation Area and our two ancient churches of All Saints' and St Michael's.

A recent mining of gravel of, some say an industrial scale, between the Kingfisher and other ponds in the area undoubtedly is responsible for a disruption in the established water flow in the gravel seam.

Similarly, any water loss is destroying the habitats for protected species, i.e.: kingfishers, great crested newts and water voles. Already, the water levels in the Kingfisher pond and other open ponds are recording an approximate drop of 3ft/1m.

A local well that has a protected Water Abstraction Licence has also reported a serious 4ft/ 1.3m depletion and this when it's winter and the water table is usually high. The landowner, who relies on water to irrigate horticultural produce during the summer months, is understandably very concerned.

Of course, we realise that the half of the village that has been subjected to flash flooding, devastating many homes, may not be too interested in hearing about this apparently rather less important problem. But nevertheless, it's one that is likely to affect All Saints' and St Michael's end of the village on higher ground away from the poorly maintained Longstanton brook and its clogged conducts.



Map of Longstanton Parish boundary (red) illustrates the approximate location this gravel bed, (yellow) and importantly the large ditches (blue) that have been cut, apparently, to drain water from the gravel bed to the balancing ponds

Construction of the Cambridge Guided Bus concrete tracks, some 5 years ago, manufactured on site, a short distance from our Park & Ride area, should have provided a wake up call. Water for this process was drawn from a pond created for the purpose that is still to be seen to the right of the entrance to the P & R car park. It acted as almost a very shallow well from which a continuous supply of water could be drawn by the very fact it sat over this gravel band. It too quite possibly disturbed the village's water table but the effects only lasted a relatively short time.

Membership Reminder Once again a new year means our membership reminders will soon be sent out and this seems like a good time to stress once again, now more than ever, we also need the strength of our members when we consult with developers and local authorities on your behalf. LDHS also needs your support: to adapt to changing circumstances in order to protect the archive and the LDHS website and to allow us to continue to provide the six free talks annually together with the annual newsletter, report, plus other benefits for our members.

Haven't already joined LDHS? Every member is vital - its our membership that provides the mandate for all the work that we do.



If you are interested in joining the society please e-mail ldhssec@hotmail.co.uk for a membership form, or visit our website on http://www.ldhs.org If you do not have a computer, please ring Hilary Stroude on a new number 07595907300 to request a form. Please leave a message with your name, address and telephone number. A membership form will then be sent out to you.

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



LDHS Public Spring Talks 2016

Friday 4 March: 'Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Oddities and Ghosts'

by Robert Halliday

Friday 1 April: 'Ouse Washes, People & Places'

by Mike Petty

Friday 6 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.