

Longstanton Life

Volume 21 Issue No. 2

April - May 2021

Life in Your Locality

All Together At School Again!



Photos: Anthony Aguda and Lucy Shaw

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: Manjeet Bolla, Beth Baker, Lucy Shaw, Victoria Stevens, Anna Rudd and John Pratt.

VILLAGE DIARY

DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PLEASE CHECK WITH THE ORGANISER FIRST

SUNDAY	09.30-10.30	Sunday School	Village Institute*	Susan Meah	01954 781258
	11.00	Tennis Club Sessions	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
MONDAY	11.00-12.00	Zumba Gold	Village Institute*	Davina Mee	07779 244250
	18.00-20.00	Bowls Club	The Pavilion	Marion Edwards	01954 780118
	19.00-20.00	Jazzercise	Hatton Park School	Tina Chasse	01487 841811
	2nd of month	19.30	Parish Council	Village Institute*	(Open meeting)
3rd of month	19.45	W.I.	Village Institute*	Patrizia Peters	01954 781283
TUESDAY	10.00-12.00	Coffee morning (over 55's)	The Dale Comm. Hall	Please just turn up	
	10.30-11.15	Mini JAFFAs (pre-schoolers)	All Saints' Church	Susan Meah	01954 781258
	18.00	Tennis Club Night	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
	18.30-20.00	Adult Cricket Training (May-August)	Recreation Ground	Wayne Markillie	07737 313225
	19.00-21.00	Cambridge Freestyle Martial Arts	Village Institute*	Rory/Martin	07523 854251/07535 646234
	19.00-21.30	ATC (Air Training Corps)	Cadet Centre		
WEDNESDAY	10.00-11.00	Music Madness (0-5yrs)	Village Institute*	Sharon Sennitt	07762 206320
	19.10-21.30	Army Cadet Force (12-18yrs)	Cadet Centre	Sgt. Rudderham	07759 056154
	19.00-20.00	Jazzercise	Hatton Park School	Tina Chasse	01487 841811
THURSDAY	10.00-11.30	Rainbow Club (bump-1yr)	Village Institute*	Susan Meah	01954 781258
FRIDAY	09.30-11.00	Little Leprechauns playgroup (0-4yrs)	Village Institute*	Jane Hordern	07960952182
	14.00-16.00	Afternoon tea (over 55s)	The Dale Comm. Hall	Please just turn up	
	18.00	Tennis Club Night	The Pavilion	Sarah Ballard	07985 938959
	19.00-21.30	ATC (Air Training Corps)	Cadet Centre		
	18.00-20.00	Longstanton Juniors Cricket (5-16yrs) includes	Recreation Ground	Richard Jenkins	rkbjenkins@gmail.com
SATURDAY	10.00-11.00	*Longstanton Colts Football Club (6-12yrs)	Recreation Ground	Louise Gamon	07429 317803

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

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

Longstanton and District Heritage Society Memory Lane



This photograph is from the LDHS Archives, via John Fletcher. It shows children, from the Methodist chapel on Over Road, on a Sunday School outing. The photograph is estimated to have been taken in the mid 1920's.

Although the chapel on the Over Road has seen better days it is an important landmark for the village and over the last couple of years, LDHS has responded to planning applications for the Over Road site and has called for the chapel to be retained in any re-development scheme.

This area of Cambridgeshire was at the forefront of the Protestantism movement and this is reflected in the siting of the Martyrs Graves in Oakington. Although the Over Road Chapel does not have the same importance as the graves in Oakington, the chapel had a very important role in the life of villagers. For whatever reason, Methodist chapels were synonymous with working men and women in our rural communities. Our churches of All Saints' and St Michael's have been given Listed status but this little chapel does not have protection. It's preservation is vital to ensure its important contribution to the social and spiritual heritage of Longstanton is duly acknowledged

*Hilary Stroude
LDHS Memory Lane Update*

LONGSTANTON LIFE EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

We hope you are well and enjoying the milder weather.

The days are getting longer, plants are awakening, the birds are busy chirping, and spring is here! So it's not a surprise that this issue has a spring theme to it.



In our feature article, you can read about some interesting facts about spring and there's also a poem about daffodils (page 11).

In early March all pupils were allowed once more to attend school and were reunited with their friends and staff. The pupils and staff have all been very happy to be together again in school (see front cover and page 7).

In February, the Over 60's enjoyed their spring meal thanks to the Parish Council and others (page 11).

Don't miss our word search spring competition (page 16).

Finally, if you would like to join our editorial team (see page 16) please get in touch.

Enjoy springtime!

The Editorial Team

Our contact details:

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

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Please note that the **copy deadline** for the June — July 2021 edition of Longstanton Life is:

Thursday, 13th May 2021

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

Longstanton Life Advertising Rates 2021

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

Colour Adverts Prices = B/W plus 20%

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

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

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

County Councillor

Peter Hudson



Brookfield Drive and Ladywalk Re-surfacing

The Brookfield Drive and Ladywalk re-surfacing will be completed in March with Micro Asphalt Surface Treatment. I have also asked for the High Street cracks to be filled and the traffic calming measures resurfaced. This should hopefully be completed within the next couple of months.

County Council Budget

Cambridgeshire County Council pledged to fund improvements to footpaths and roads as the annual budget was passed. The Council voted through a budget of £660.3 million for the 2021-22 financial year with an increase of around £47.3 million – or 7.7% – compared to last year's budget, for county services, which include schools, social care, public health, highways, libraries, waste disposal and recycling. Some examples of some of the new spending on top of existing budgets are: £20 million extra in footpath maintenance, £2.7 million extra in measures to prevent flooding and improve local biodiversity, and £7 million to reconstruct the B1050 Shelfords Road at Willingham.

The County Council's precept for Council Tax will rise by 1.9%, and the Adult Social Care Precept will rise by 1% giving a total increase of 2.9%.

Self-Isolation Support

Almost £1 million has been awarded to residents across Cambridgeshire to support them to self-isolate and reduce the spread of Covid-19. Since the scheme launched last October, almost 2,000 claims from people requesting financial support to self-isolate have been approved totalling £996,500. The scheme was due to expire at the end of February but has been extended until the end of June. It has also been expanded to include parents who need to have time off work to look after a child who is self-isolating. Parents will be able to apply for this support soon and further details will be provided.

For some people, financial assistance is the only way they feel able to self-isolate when needed, which is why the scheme is so vital. Rates are reducing in most parts of Cambridgeshire, but to ensure that trend continues we have to make sure we all continue to self-isolate when asked to by NHS Test and Trace.

The support includes:

- A one-off payment of £500 if someone loses income as a result of not being able to work. This payment can be made available on multiple occasions if a person comes into contact with people who test positive a second or even third time.

- For anyone not eligible for the government support, access to a local discretionary fund.

To be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme people must meet all of the following criteria. The person must:

- Have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;
- Be employed or self-employed;
- Not be able to work from home and will lose income as a result;
- Be claiming at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credits, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit or Housing Benefit.

If the claimant does not receive one of the above benefits they may still be eligible for a discretionary payment if they are going to suffer financial hardship by isolating.

NHS Test and Trace ID number, bank statement and proof of employment or self-assessment returns will need to be provided.

Details of both schemes are available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Schools Re-Opening

Schools across Cambridgeshire re-opened their doors on March 8th. Director for Education Jonathan Lewis held a session with around 400 school staff to go through the latest Government guidance and answer any questions in order to facilitate a smooth return.

There will be additional help to support the COVID testing process. Children will do three tests at school, followed by home testing. Test and trace will continue. The number of positive cases in schools last term was relatively low, helped by good ventilation and schools' rigorous approach to cleaning. There have been some small changes since last term but headteachers have been advised as to what they need to do differently, including guidance around face coverings.

The County Council recognises this is a difficult time for students and will be sharing further guidance as soon as possible. Headteachers, staff, governors and education officers have done an extraordinary job in keeping our children educated in what has been an intensely challenging time. Children have suffered a lot less because of the care, commitment and support of all the staff.

*Peter Hudson, County Councillor
Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Oakington and Westwick*

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

District Councillors Notes



We hope that you have all been staying safe and well. It is now more than a year since we entered the first lockdown and I do not think any of us expected that the restrictions would last for as long as they have. We are hopeful for the spring and Summer, but our thoughts remain with those who have been

affected by Covid. We continue to thank all of those who have worked tirelessly to support our communities through this pandemic.

COVID-19 Business Support

The Council is still providing advice, grants and other support for businesses disrupted by the pandemic. For information, please go to: www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses

Update on 'Laptops for Schools Appeal'

Together with local campaigner Firouz Thompson, we ran an appeal to provide laptops for our local schools to support children learning at home. Through an appeal on social media and to local businesses, a total of 33 pre-loved laptops and 14 tablets were distributed. Martin Bacon Academy received 7 laptops from the local community, plus a brand-new desktop, monitor and printer from construction company MACE. Firouz also arranged for her workplace, Royal Society of Chemistry, to donate 10 laptops. The Pathfinder Primary School received 16 and Hattton Park 10, plus 14 tablets and a brand-new laptop paid for by Northstowe Foodies. Other donors were CN Bio, Dr Reddy's, PigCasso's food truck and employees from Abbexa, Synaptics and Citrix, as well as residents. Thank you very much to the members of the community who have supported this appeal - it has made a real difference for schools and children.

Electoral Changes in our Ward

Following the Community Governance review, the area of Longstanton Parish to the north of the guided busway has now moved to become part of Willingham Parish. An order has therefore also been made to move these residents into the Over & Willingham ward for the District Council and into the Cottenham & Willingham division for the County Council. These changes take effect at the next scheduled elections, so for the County this changes from May this year and for the District this changes from May next year.

A reminder that local elections for Cambridgeshire County Council, Mayor, and Police and Crime Commissioner take place on 6th May. There will also be elections for the new Northstowe Town Council and Longstanton and Willingham Parish Councils.

Northstowe Planning Updates

Phase 2B - Many of you will already know that Keepmoat Homes will be working with Homes England to deliver the next 298 homes for Northstowe Phase 2B, known as the Fenway. 20% of the homes built will be affordable rent homes, with another 40% Northstowe Starter Homes. These are sold at a discounted rate, with prices capped at £250,000 and designed to help people get on the property ladder. They plan to submit a planning application in early April.

Phases 3A and 3B - Following a further period of consultation on amended plans for Northstowe Phase 3 we have continued to raise objections to the plans. We have concerns regarding the lack of green separation, the current proposals for the Southern Access Road East, concerns about flooding and the plans to protect biodiversity and existing habitats, particularly around the Military Lake. We also did not feel that the updated plans provided necessary assurance that the impacts of construction on residents from noise, dust and construction traffic will be satisfactorily managed.

Fly-tipping

After we chased up a number of fly-tipping reports, we are pleased to say that fly-tipped rubbish has been cleared, either by the Council or landowners. If you witness someone fly-tipping, call the police on 999 and report it as a crime in progress. All instances of fly-tipping should be reported to South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). The easiest way to do this is online via: www.scambs.gov.uk/environment/envirocrime/fly-tipping

Flooding and Drainage

We have been working with our new SCDC Drainage engineer to resolve issues with a blockage in the SCDC awarded drain on Station Road, just past the Busway. All the open watercourses have been scoured and the culverts jetted under the various bridges towards Willingham. Work should have now been completed by the County Council on a damaged culvert.

Email Newsletter: We have a monthly email newsletter with updates on local news as well as wider district issues which will impact us. To sign up please go to: www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_longstanton.

As ever, feel free to contact us on these or any other issues:

Sarah Cheung Johnson:
cldr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk

Alex Malyon:
cldr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk

*Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson
District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington &
Northstowe*

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Longstanton Parish Council Dan delaMare-Lyon



Hello Longstanton,
I hope everyone continues to weather the impact COVID-19 is still having on our community. I want to thank everyone working tirelessly to administer vaccines and help support our community - it seems brighter days are coming at last.

Elections and Longstanton Parish Council

You may be aware there are elections in May both for your parish council, and for Northstowe Town Council. Longstanton is losing several of the members of the parish council to stand as councillors for Northstowe, and we risk ending up being short of a full complement of councillors in Longstanton. If we fail to reach that level we will lose some of our local control over how we support our village (including how we can spend the money you pay in council tax). If you would like to help by becoming a councillor, please reach out to Libby White, our Parish Clerk, for more information (or contact any of your current parish councillors). We are a small but enthusiastic group and are keen to welcome more members, especially at this time.

Hatton and Poors Charity

A local charity is seeking new trustees; all members of the current board of trustees have stepped down after a sad bereavement and after many years of service. Longstanton Parish Council has a commitment to ensure that this charity has the correct quota of Trustees. They seek new trustees to take the charity forward and to continue to support our community. Please contact Libby White if you would like to become a trustee.

Kingfisher Pond

You may have noted that we have received the first phase report into the Kingfisher Pond, and the wider issue of the changing state of water levels in Longstanton/Oakington since 2015. This phase of the report was intended to confirm the hydrology and hydrogeology in/around the village over time, and the study looked at over 50 years of data. It concludes that, despite suggestions to the contrary from the developers at Northstowe, there is no evidence of a decreased amount of rainfall since 2015. The next phase will investigate what happened since 2015, and the Parish Council will keep you up to date as the second phase progresses.

Earth Hour - 27th March

Earth Hour on 27th March involved switching off non-essential electrical devices for one hour to acknowledge the challenge this planet faces with global warming. One of the largest contributors to carbon emissions is our homes, and we can help by switching to LED lights. These use at least 90 percent less energy than traditional bulbs, and also less than compact fluorescent bulbs. The bulbs typically pay for themselves in the first year and last much longer than other types of light bulb. Longstanton Parish Council has recently declared a climate emergency, and wants to actively encourage adoption of such affordable changes in our community. Our community sustainability group is

happy to help where it can. Please also consider if you can help a friend or neighbour change their bulbs (while complying with COVID restrictions). Together, we can make a sustained difference.us.

Please, continue to stay safe, and hopefully by the next Chairman's update we will have seen the lifting of some restrictions on our daily lives, and will be on a path to something much more like our old daily lives by summer. If the Parish Council can help in any way, please feel free to contact us. Thanks,

*Dan delaMare-Lyon
Chairman, LPC*



MP for South Cambs Anthony Browne

South Cambridgeshire Strides Ahead:

The pandemic remains at the forefront of everyone's mind, but I'm pleased that we're now

charting the course away from the difficulties of the last year. The vaccination programme continues apace in South Cambridgeshire, thanks to the enormous efforts of our NHS staff and volunteers. We now have the government's roadmap to help schools, businesses, and families to plan for the future.

My Activities: Over the last month, I've been:

- Making the case for an upgraded Girton Interchange.
- Pushing Thakeham to drop their proposed 25,000 home scheme.
- Holding meetings with ministers and campaign groups to push for a full consultation on a northern route for East-West Rail.
- Bringing together industry leaders to promote negative carbon emissions standards.
- Campaigning for South Cambridgeshire to be classed as water-stressed to help save our chalk streams.
- Holding the inaugural South Cambridgeshire Life Sciences Forum, which allowed local life science businesses direct access to top Government policy makers.

You can find out more about all my work at www.anthonybrowne.org/news

Upcoming Events: I hold regular surgeries to meet constituents and discuss their concerns. The next is on Friday 16 April from 13:00 to 15:00. Additionally, on Thursday 17 June at 16:00 will be the bi-annual Constituent Environment Forum, an opportunity for constituents to meet and talk about environmental issues. Find out more and register to attend at:

www.facebook.com/events/1094624764349774

You can email me at:

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

*Anthony Browne
MP for South Cambs*

HATTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



Hello to all of Longstanton!

Our apologies for not sending an update in the last issue; things have been a bit different for us at Hatton Park. As you are well aware, many children did not return to learn on the school site after the Christmas break. Instead they accessed remote education provided by

us and supported by their parents. Our families were absolutely amazing and managed to juggle remote learning with the challenges of working from home. Our sincere thanks to everyone who made it work despite the challenges! There were highs and lows for everyone but the real stars were the children who, once again, adapted to another new situation. We were proud too of our staff as the school site had over 100 children coming in so that their Critical Worker parents could go to work. It was not easy juggling both onsite and remote education, keeping all of the children included and feeling part of the Hatton Park family when so spread out.

Now, we have welcomed back all the school community to teach and learn on site. Once again, it is testament to the community all working together that we are able to do this. The children and staff have loved all being back together again. Our families have followed the processes and procedures that we have put in

place to make it as safe for everyone as we possibly can. Lastly, our local residents have been instrumental in getting the temporary road closure back up and running so that everyone can come and go safely. Our lovely Mrs Morley and Mr Smith would love some more volunteers to help out with their small team. Do let us know if you could do this!

We have only been back a week and a half and the children are working hard. There has been lots of springtime learning around plants and growing – it's been great to get outside. Our Year 2 children have been writing some amazing work on The Great Fire of London too. Some of the learning has to be different as we still have to be careful with trips and visits. Our Year 3 and 4 children accessed some great RE / History learning from Ely Cathedral via Zoom!



Like the rest of the country, we still do not know exactly how things are going to progress in the strange world we find ourselves in. However, what we do know is that it is wonderful to be all back together and with children, every day is unexpected anyway!

Stay safe and keep well.

Anthony Aguda, Headteacher, and the Hatton Park Team

NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE (NSC) NEWS

I write this article on the day we welcome our children back to school. It has been a real joy to see them all again - of course everyone's hair has got long, or in some cases been cut short, and so many have grown upwards over the last 2 months since we saw them last! It was wonderful to see their happiness with being with their friends again, seeing their teachers and getting back into classes. They have returned with renewed enthusiasm and curiosity. We are looking forward to making the most of the next three weeks before Easter.



Our young people have continued to demonstrate our school values of 'Kindness, Curiosity and Hard work' while at home, not only working on their school work, but also reading to try and achieve the million word reader status.

They have also been working on their pledges, with students concentrating on their environmental pledge by litter picking in their local villages and upcycling at home. Some have been learning new skills cooking at home and learning about other cultures. Others have been looking after younger siblings and teaching them new things or baking for friends and neighbours. One of our year 8 students, Joshua, even made us a swallow out of wooden planks; it is an amazing piece of work, that so accurately depicts our Northstowe swallow. Very fitting then that our swallow represents the fact there is no ceiling to a child's achievement, when they are given the wings to fly. We continue to be impressed by the kindness and ingenuity of our young people.

We also had an art competition before the lockdown, focusing on love and we involved our feeder primary schools Hatton Park and

Pathfinder, with some beautiful pieces of art work with winners and runners up in the different age categories and Lexie and Laxmi our winners. The talent and thoughtfulness of our children in primary and secondary was outstanding, it really makes you proud of the kindness of our youth.

At Northstowe our vision is to put the wellbeing of our children first, and, our work around mental health has been recognised in the achievement of the Carnegie Mental Health Award in Silver. Mr Russell, Assistant Head, has been leading on this, collating a wide range of evidence to show what we have in place to support young people, staff, and families. We are one of a tiny handful of schools in Cambridgeshire to have met the tough categories and achieved the Silver award. A huge well-done to the team. We will continue to work on our offer, aiming to achieve the Gold category next year.



We have also found out the names of all those children joining NSC next September in Year 7. It is a very exciting time for us as the school will be full with 120 children coming to us next academic year. We have already sent out our welcome pack and look forward to meeting them in the summer term, hopefully in person!

So whilst schools have not been open in their normal format, we have not stopped and are grateful to now have our NSC family back together again.

Carole Moss, Headteacher

VILLAGE SPORTING ACTIVITIES

LONGSTANTON GRASSHOPPERS CRICKET CLUB



With the prospect of the easing of lockdown rules, and with warmer weather just around the corner, there is genuine optimism about the prospect of cricket this summer. Preparations continue both at Longstanton CC in terms of ground works and planning for training, and

also at the 'league' level with senior team fixtures planned and published. Momentum is gathering for the upcoming season.

Longstanton CC will run two senior teams this coming season and is working to understand what can be made available for youth cricket in terms of matches and of regular training. Please keep an eye out for new information as these discussions progress. If you have any

questions, there is a contact email address below.

Over the winter months, work does still go on, and the square and ground will be ready for action to start on May 1st. The committee is ensuring all of the preparation is done in readiness for the cricket to begin and we look forward to good times at Longstanton CC.

We will hope to build upon the success of our 2020 season and continue to have fun while we do so. If you (or your family) are interested in cricket at Longstanton, please do not hesitate to contact us – we are always on the lookout for new players and will give you a warm welcome.

For more information on Longstanton cricket club you could also visit:

https://lpg.play-cricket.com/website/web_pages/60010

Ian Handy
info@longstantoncc.co.uk



The first signs of warmer weather and sunshine mean that spring is upon us, so you'd be very

welcome to join us down at the tennis courts. As I write, the courts will soon be opening after lockdown and the 2021 season is just about to begin. Now is the perfect time to join the club and really make the most of your money. Visit www.longstantontennis.co.uk/membership for further information on how to join. We have several different membership packages, so take a look and see which one fits you best. If you are new to the club, you can even join us for a 3-month trial for just £30!

Due to the pandemic, play has been somewhat intermittent over the last twelve months to say the least! However, whenever we were permitted to do so, we kept the courts open and many members took advantage of the facilities to play some socially distanced tennis. We actually had several new members join us last year, eager to get on

court and get some games in after the long periods of lockdown.

We will continue to follow all COVID-19-related rules as advised by the government and the LTA, but we hope that we are now through the worst of it and can look forward to a great tennis season ahead. As soon as it's practical to do so, we hope to organise some events—so keep an eye on our website for more details.

Our club social nights are Tuesdays and Fridays from 6pm and Sunday mornings from 11am and they are popular in almost any weather. You can book a court any time outside of these sessions; members can book for free or you can simply book to use the courts on a 'pay and play' basis. Full details are on our website: www.longstantontennis.co.uk/courts

Happy playing and we hope to see you on the courts soon!

Damian Kramer, Club Chair

LONGSTANTON LIMPERS



Our Winter Warmers events aimed to help people to stay active and have been a big success. During lockdown, we held 6 virtual races; a challenge to get out and about over 80 days and even a virtual Couch to 5k. I'm very pleased to say that a lot of people got into the spirit of it and collectively completed over 3500

miles – the equivalent of the distance to New York!

We also raised £600 to be shared between Hatton Park, The Pathfinder, and Northstowe Secondary College. It went very well and we learnt a lot, so we're busy planning something similar for the summer. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details. It's likely to be bigger and better, and I'm very pleased to say we've secured some funding from England Athletics to help us improve the

prizes. Although, it was great to hand out £75 in Advance Performance vouchers this time! Thanks to everyone that took part and supported the events.

We've also had an exciting time drawing our lucky winner in our club ballot for the London Marathon. As an affiliated club, we get a guaranteed place each year and Jon Fuller has this year's club slot to represent the Limpers. Good luck and enjoy your training!

Like everyone else at the moment, we've got our fingers crossed for a return to more normal conditions. We're planning to get ready for bringing back our Monday night social runs, and some other events, so we can enjoy the summer conditions and the droves and more rural routes that have been harder to use over the wet winter.

Give us a wave if you see us out and about!

Chris Poultney
www.facebook.com/LandNLimpers

VILLAGE SPORTING ACTIVITIES continued

LONGSTANTON BOWLS CLUB



Spring is here at last with the longer evenings and easing of lockdown restrictions. Last year, we managed socially distanced friendly bowling and even some competitive bowling. This year, we expect to be back to playing all our league fixtures as well as holding our regular club nights.

Longstanton Bowls Club is recruiting new members; we pride ourselves on being a friendly club where the enjoyment comes from taking part. It doesn't matter if you haven't played Lawn Bowls before as we have plenty of members always willing to provide help and guidance. Everyone is welcome and our membership ranges from juniors to retirees and novices to experienced players, and includes members from surrounding villages too. Don't worry about equipment as the club can assist with this – just wear flat shoes. Our bowls green is located on the recreation ground, between the Longstanton Pavilion and the tennis courts, Over Road, Longstanton.

Monday evenings are club roll-up nights reserved for informal practice in a mildly competitive environment - ideal for beginners. We also have a fun league on Thursday afternoons. The club plays in a number of inter-club leagues, some of which are more competitive than others. Most of our league matches are during the light summer evenings, starting at 6:30pm. There is also an afternoon league with matches starting at 2pm.

There is plenty of bowls to suit everyone, so why not come along and give it a try? The outdoor season runs from late April to September. If you're tempted, please come along to our open day on Saturday, 17th April 2021 (from 2pm) or, alternatively, on Monday evenings in season (from 6pm) to meet some of the members and possibly try your hand. If you just want to watch, that's fine too.

For more information contact Marion Edwards, 01954 780118, marionedwards1@btinternet.com

Our website is www.longstanton-bowls-club.co.uk

Corinne Walsham



AN UPDATE FROM FEN DRAYTON LAKES

Floating Fences

Ferry Lagoon is one of our larger lakes and the one that many visitors walk around when coming to the reserve. With a large expanse of open water and good views from all sides, you are always guaranteed to see something when following the Ferry Lagoon trail. The north side of the lake is an area of grazed wet grassland containing ditches, shallow pools of water (scrapes), and a small island just off-shore between Ferry Mere and the main lake. It is an important area for some of our target breeding species.

Many ducks and other waterbirds nest around the lake and ground nesting birds such as common tern, black-headed gull, and waders including lapwing and oystercatcher make use of the wet grassland and island. These species make small piles of vegetation on the ground to nest on or often lay their eggs directly on the ground in slight depressions or in clumps of vegetation.

In order to give ground nesting birds the best chance to successfully fledge their young, we have been working to construct a new floating fence around Ferry Mere island to protect it from ground predators, such as badgers and foxes. Both of these species have been known to swim across to islands to predate the birds nesting there and their chicks.

Anyone who has been up to the hide on Moore Lake will likely have seen the floating fence around one of the islands there. This consists of wire mesh panels, extending above and below the surface, connected to floating booms encircling the island. Installed in 2017, this fence has proved to be a success. Using the same



Oystercatcher with chicks. The new floating fence will protect these and other species on Ferry Mere. Photo credit: Richard Brooks (rspp-images.com)

design, but smaller diameter floatation and a lighter weight mesh, the new anti-predator fence should confer the same protection to the island on Ferry Mere as the existing one on Moore.

Wading birds tend to begin nesting in mid to late April and terns in May so we should soon be seeing them make use of the island

Events

Under current circumstances, we are not running any events at present.

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspp.org.uk

Phone: 01954 233260

Visit rspp.org.uk/fendraytonlakes

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

WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES

Reception Tel: Willingham 01954 260230 Longstanton 207600 Dispensary: 207602 District Nurse Team: 01223 726469 Option 2
Health Visitors: 0300 029 50 50 Out of hours cover: Ring 111 Website: www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Easter Closures The surgery will be closed on Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) and Monday 5th April (Easter Monday). Please ensure you have enough medication for the holiday weekend. Please order from Dispensary no later than Tuesday 30th March.

Contact Details Please ensure the surgery has your most up to date contact details including your mobile number and home phone. We are using the details on your medical record to invite you for your Covid vaccine as soon as you are eligible. If we cannot get hold of you by phone, we will write to your home address.

Covid Vaccination Programme The surgery is under immense pressure as we continue to support the local GP hub in collaboration with neighbouring practices. Please only contact the surgery about the vaccine if you have been invited. We are getting a vast amount of queries about medical conditions which are exhausting our already stretched resources. We will contact you when it is your turn.

Some patients will receive a letter from NHS England and Public Health inviting them for vaccine before the surgery has been in touch. This is because the large vaccination hubs are able to provide more appointment availability and can work through the eligible cohorts at a different pace. These letters will provide a website address or ask you to call 119 to book an appointment, and divert you to vaccination centres within a 40 mile radius (the most local being centres in Cambridge and Chesterton)

You can choose to wait to be invited by the GP to the local hub in Over, but we cannot indicate time scales as to when this will be. Please do not contact the surgery – we will contact you when it is your turn.

Second vaccinations will soon be due. The surgery will contact you when it is your turn.

Dr Stevens maternity leave Dr Stevens has now started her maternity leave and will be due back in the surgery later this year. Dr Bhandari and Dr Rej will regularly attend the surgery to cover Dr Stevens. We will provide an update when the baby arrives!

Travel Vaccinations Due to the travel restrictions, the surgery have a number of specialist vaccinations in stock which need to be used. If you believe you will need Hepatitis A or Typhoid boosters this year, please contact the surgery to make an appointment with a nurse.

Hearing aid maintenance and batteries Cambridge Hearing Help (CAMTAD) are still unable to return to the surgery for hearing aid maintenance, however they continue to provide batteries in the post and maintenance/re-tubing service appointments at other locations as part of a limited service.

If your Hearing Aid needs cleaning and maintenance, they have launched a 'drop-off and pick-up 20 minutes later' service at local Hearing Aid Maintenance Centers.

For further information please call 01223 416141 or visit the website: www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk.

Carers Meeting Due to the pandemic, the carer's meetings are still currently postponed until further notice. They will be reinstated as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we would like to continue to support carers in our local community in any way possible. If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please contact Sue Lawson at susan.lawson7@nhs.net or 01954 260230.

Lisa Smith

Assistant Practice Manager - April 2021

The Pavilion

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

Are we back to normal now? Hope so, as we have been working hard to prepare to reopen to you all. We are anticipating the reopening at 3pm on 12th April and are looking forward to seeing everyone in the outside seating area. We are marking out socially distanced seating areas for groups of six and we are also looking to have some shelter put up to allow us to remain open whatever the weather. Once the weather reaches higher temperatures, we will use these for shade.

We are hoping to re-open the kitchen around May. Some of the food suggestions have been pie and mash/chips, nachos with dips and ploughman's plates, with children's meals being fish fingers, pizza, nuggets and chips. We are looking for input from our customers and would greatly value any ideas and foods that you think might work.

In the summer holidays, we are hoping to open during the day with a tuck shop/drinks stall. We will ensure the toilets are accessible at these times as we know the park will be popular with families, especially once we can all meet up without such tight restrictions. We are wondering what time would be most suitable—perhaps 1-4pm on a few weekdays. Again, any

feedback would be hugely appreciated.

Once we are okay to meet indoors, we are also hoping to start a mum's club for some of the new mums in the area to come together and enjoy a coffee and a slice of cake.

We would like to support two charities this year: East Anglia Air Ambulance and Stand up 2 Cancer. With this in mind, depending on restrictions, we would like to have a Longstanton Bake Off to raise money. Details will be confirmed towards the start of the school summer holidays.

Please feel free to message via Longstanton Pavilion Facebook page or make an enquiry via our web page (longstantonpavilion.weebly.com) to provide ideas on any of the above points or other ideas you may have. We will also keep you informed on the current opening hours.

We really appreciate your support and we look forward to seeing you all again soon, especially to cheer on all our various sports teams!

Suzanne, Michael and the Pavilion team

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 17.00 until 23.00
Friday: 17.00 until 23.30
Saturday: 10.00 until 23.30
Sunday: 12.00 until 22.30



TEN LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT SPRING



Photo by Marc Koteczky

After a particularly long winter, for many reasons, we are finally starting to enjoy bluer skies, longer days and warmer weather. Spring has arrived, bringing with it fresh hopes for a brighter future. We know that spring is the season during which much of nature comes alive, but there are a few other interesting facts about spring you may not know...

1. The official first day of spring, in the Northern hemisphere, is known as

the vernal equinox. The vernal equinox marks when the sun is directly above the equator and the length of day and night is nearly equal (12 hours each) across the world. Hence the name equinox, which comes from the Latin word for 'equal'.

2. Ancient Rome's earliest calendar actually began in the month of March. It is thought that the Roman ruler Numa Pompilius later made January the first calendar month as January was named after Janus, the Roman god of new beginnings.

3. It is believed that 'April' originates from the Latin verb 'aperire' meaning 'to open' as April is a time when flowers and trees 'open' and blossom. This is, however, only one theory as the word is thousands of years old, so it cannot be known for sure.

4. Legend has it that gifting a person a bunch of daffodils will bring them happiness and good luck. However, the gift of a single daffodil is thought to bring the recipient sorrow and spells unlucky times ahead.

5. A spring marriage in the month of May is also considered unlucky: 'Marry in May, rue the day'.

6. Superstitions aside, spring would appear to be a lucky time to be born! A 2014 study conducted in Hungary found

that people born in springtime are more optimistic. They are more likely to have a 'hyperthymic temperament', which is associated with being overly positive.

7. As well as being more optimistic, people born in springtime are more likely to become leaders. A study by the University of British Columbia found that most CEOs were born in the months of March and April.

8. Spring welcomes a number of birds back from their migrations. The house martin returns to the UK mid-April after its migration to Africa. The birds build their nests using more than 1000 beak-sized pellets of mud.

9. Spring also hosts the re-emergence of bats. After hibernating for the winter, they have used up their fat reserves and feast on the abundance of insects that arrive with spring. Many of the female bats will be pregnant following the mating season in the autumn.

10. April is also the birth month of two of history's greatest Williams: Shakespeare and Wordsworth. Wordsworth's famous poem 'Daffodils' shows the affinity he had with his birth month.

Spring is a season full of beauty and wonder. Hopefully it can be enjoyed with the loosening of restrictions we have all longed for!

Lucy Shaw

OVER 60s SPRING MEAL

On Monday 22nd February, wearing face masks and rubber gloves, we delivered 51 meals to the over 60s. It was lovely to see people and have a chat, even if at a distance. We hope you all enjoyed your meal.

With thanks to Little Piggy Catering for supplying the meal,

Longstanton Parish Council for funding it, the Cambridge Building Society at Bar Hill for providing sweets, Libby White for designing and printing the leaflets, and the children who wrote letters and drawings which were sent with the food.

Margaret Hazel and the Over 60s Team

Daffodils by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not be but gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LONGSTANTON



Alleluia - Jesus is risen.

This is the traditional Easter message in four words. Many soundbites have been tweeted and hash-tagged throughout this last year that has been dominated by Covid-19. #You are not alone has been etched in my mind. 'Do not be afraid' and 'Peace be

with you' are equally apt. These straplines hail from the Scriptures and are especially evident in the Easter story.

Have you ever noticed how the first followers of Jesus are never alone in the Easter gospel accounts? It is Mary and her friends who first declare 'Alleluia - Jesus is risen'. Peter and his fellow disciple race one another to the empty tomb. Cleopas and his companion walk along the Emmaus Road discussing the events of that first Easter Day. Once Thomas is re-united with his fellow disciples, the risen Jesus reassures them with the wonderfully warming words 'Peace be with you.... Receive the Holy Spirit.'

'You are not alone' characterises how many parish councils, local communities and churches up and down the land have

responded to Covid-19. From meeting the needs of neighbours to 1 to 1 walks, from household bubbles to delivery folk at the door. Virtual gatherings on screen have helped to keep dispersed members of many families in contact. Video messages from loved ones have lifted the spirits of those confined to nursing homes.

I am comforted by the opportunity to walk with a companion, just as Cleopas was. These four soundbites from Jesus and his followers have carried me through the last year, all the way from Lent 2020 to Easter 2021. Alleluia - Jesus is risen.... Thanks be to God.

In April and May, we will probably offer a combination of services in church and online. The ongoing audio services and talks are accessed via: <https://www.5folds.org.uk/page/online-services-and-resources>

Extra video resources can be accessed at: <https://5folds.online/YouTubevids>

*Rev'd Lucy Cleland, Team Vicar (Designate) in Longstanton, Over, Swavesey and Willingham.
T: (01954) 277758 E: lucy@5folds.org.uk*

THE FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



Some time ago, the Friends looked for any records of burials, gravestones and memorials in the churchyard. It proved impossible to find any, though we looked in the likely places. This prompted a Project, listing all the gravestones and memorials in St Michael's churchyard. The outcome is planned to be a small book, containing a map and photos of all the gravestones and memorials, together with any known facts

about the people buried there.

The recording has begun, with initial photographs. Some gravestones and memorials are more legible than others, and a few are unreadable because of moss and lichen. We need to learn the best way to go about clearing those, as the last thing we want to do is any damage.

All the gravestones and memorials are of interest for local

history and family history purposes. The churchyard itself is no relic of the past, as it is still in use, with memorials to three people who died in the 21st century, who were all well known to many people still living in Longstanton.

Our list is far from comprehensive yet, but just to whet your appetite, names already noted from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries include Crisp, Ellwood, Gordon, Haringdon, Morris, Nikson, Shipp, Swann, Temple and Willson. The unexpected spelling of some of the surnames is as on the gravestones! If any of these names are familiar to you, do please get in touch and let us know about your ancestors.

The work carries on, documenting the names and details on the gravestones and memorials. This will include those inside the church. After that is completed, we shall draw up a map of the church and churchyard, with gravestones and memorials shown and identified.

We feel this is a very interesting and important project, which will document the history of the graveyard, and make it easier for people to locate their family gravestones and memorials.

The Friends of St. Michael's Church
Email: fosm2017@gmail.com

EMMANUEL CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

As we enter spring, hope is finally rising that we can live free from the threat of Coronavirus and free from the restrictions on our lives. The return to 'normal' coinciding with life springing up after winter will be joy-giving. The words sung by Jews returning from exile to Jerusalem will hopefully be echoed in our experience:

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy. (Psalm 126:1-2 NIV UK 2011)*

And yet even if we escape from Covid-19, we will not escape the frustrations and futility of this world. We will still have limitations, still have injustice, still struggle to communicate at times. And we will still get sick and eventually every single one of us will die. We will continue to hope for something better than our current frustration and futility.

*Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.*

*Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy. (Psalm 126:4-5 NIVUK 2011)*

That reality - that we are all certain to die- is what makes Easter uniquely good news. There have been many moments of relief at reaching the end of a particular disaster. But there is only one man in history who has risen from death, never to die again. Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate. The Roman historian Tacitus confirms this. But he rose to life on the Sunday, and was seen by many witnesses. And he promises to share his death-conquering life with all who follow him. Life with a connection to the eternal God right now. And life with the eternal God in a perfect world to come.

If you'd like to know more about this hope, we are giving away books for Easter, including 'Love Story' which tells about the meaning of Easter, and 'The Case for Easter' which looks at the evidence for Jesus rising to life. Email: contact@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org to ask for a book.

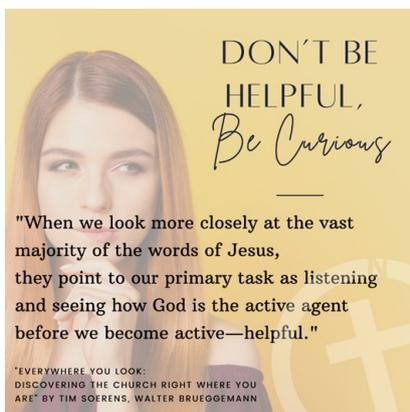
Pastor Josh Monteiro

PATHFINDER CHURCH, NORTHSTOWE

A Church of England Church, with an inclusive ecumenical welcome

Perhaps one of the most defining features of the community making up Pathfinder Church is that we love to start with questions. We've found this a great way to get to know each other as we move into our new town and start to put down roots. It helps us focus our attention and activities on respecting and partnering with those we meet, responding to the real needs in our community, as well as ensuring we have the skills to do those things well.

But the quote "Don't be helpful, be curious" doesn't mean that we never turn these questions into action. For those of us with a faith, 'starting with questions' means both listening to our community and to God (through prayer, bible study, and reflection), and then moving on in the journey in partnership with those around us.



Through our online gatherings, letter-exchanges, midweek Prayer and Reflection broadcasts, and social media pages, we've been asking things like:

- What helps you feel calm when you are anxious or angry?
- How can we encourage each other?
- What has been the best part of this week?

- What social justice issues need attention right now?
- What are you learning?
- Whose voices aren't we hearing yet?
- What happens when take time to stop and reflect?
- What have we learnt in lockdown that we need to hold on to? And what was just for that time?

Whatever your faith position, I wonder what Curious Questions might help you make a meaningful difference?

Praying, exploring, and sharing whether we're apart or together.

Alongside our sister churches, whether we meet online or in person, we are still here to walk with and listen to those of all traditions, supporting each other practically (e.g., litter picks, food banks, friendship) as well as prayerfully.

Find out more: www.northstowe.church

Revd Dr Beth Cope is the Pioneer Minister for Northstowe, working closely with Revds Lucy and Simon from the 5folds Family of Churches which includes All Saints' Longstanton. She is available to talk through the Big Questions of life, as well as for Northstowe's weddings, baptisms, and funerals whether you are a regular churchgoer or not. Contact her at Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close, Northstowe (01954 261 181) contact@northstowe.church

**PATHFINDER CHURCH
NORTHSTOWE**

praying, exploring and sharing



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www.northstowe.church fb.me/PathfinderChurch
instagram.com/pathfinder_church_northstowe



IN MEMORIAM - PHILIP DALE

It is with great sadness that Longstanton Parish Council heard of the passing of Mr Philip Dale on 25th January 2021 at the age of 91 years. Philip and his wife Rachel were active Parish Councillors between 2012 and 2016 and have been deeply committed to the community they call home.



Though in his 80s at the time, Philip attended all meetings with his trusty magnifying glass and was actively involved in the various committees the Council had at the time.

Philip will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with Rachel and her family at this difficult time. If anyone would like to make a donation to their preferred charity, they have chosen the Dwarf Sports Association UK - www.dsauk.org.



READERS' LETTERS

The best thing about Longstanton is 'hello'.

After 14 years living in Arbury, it's fair to say we had put down some roots. Friends from church, antenatal classes, nursery, school, neighbours – a community of people got us through some challenging times as new homeowners and parents (still haven't found that instruction manual), and I hope that they felt supported by us also. However, growing children (physically and decibel-wise) and only one toilet just proved too much in the last lockdown. Thus, it was with some trepidation that we sold up and emigrated to...Longstanton. Hardly an epic journey, but we are absolutely delighted. Not only because we have more space and some lovely walks on our doorstep, not only because my mother-in-law exclaims how the little store seems to sell 'everything' every time she visits, not only because the incredible selection of garden birds here have turned our seven-year-old into an avid ornithologist, and not only because the queue for the toilet is far shorter. These things are indeed fabulous. However, the best thing about Longstanton is 'hello'. People say it. They look you in the eye, smile, and say 'hello'. Because of this, we have gotten to know our neighbours and others very quickly and have immediately felt part of the community, even in these socially distant, mask-wearing, Boris-watching times. So, as newbies in town, we would like to say 'hello' and 'thank you' for making us feel so welcome.

Michael & Sarah Phillips & family, Stokes Close



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NEIGHBOURLY SHOUT OUT!

Over the last year, we've all appreciated our local community. So why not show your fellow residents some love?! Have you enjoyed a chat with a friendly dogwalker? Been helped by a village COVID volunteer? Smiled at a neighbour's festive lights?

Send your thank you by emailing longstantonlife@hotmail.com, using "Thank you" as the subject line, and we'll print it here. Include your name and street if you like!

I'd like to thank my next door neighbour Junior Herbert for giving me impromptu and professional fitness advice at the same time as bringing round his freshly baked blueberry muffins.

Both things very gratefully received. Thank you Junior!
Jill Parks, Hardy Close

We would like to thank our neighbours, Anna and Matthew, for all the lovely treats they have dropped round recently! We would also like to thank them for making us feel so welcome as their new neighbours.

Lucy, Marc and family

SHOUT OUT TO LITTER LEGENDS

In March, high winds swept through the villages, knocking over bins and strewing rubbish across gardens, paths and roadways. Crisp packets and sweet wrappers dressed the bases of hedgerows, and milk cartons, plastic shopping bags and beer cans continued their long life cycle in ditches— as surely only the wind could be blamed for such strange choice of spring decoration.

Fighting against the elements, which mock our use of bins in the management of waste, a special society of people known only as the 'litter legends', walk among us collecting the debris of human consumption, putting rubbish in its rightful place.

This particular breed of person has no outstanding superpower. Only the wish to live in a world where plastic litter can't be broken down by the wind, rain, and their compatriots, and turned into micro plastics whose fate it is to become part of the water and prey cycles which sustain our environment, and eventually reunite themselves in the body of the humans who thought them discarded.



It is to these humans, who take a moment to look at a piece of rubbish, and think about where it truly belongs, that we owe our thanks.

Extended further to include those who go the extra mile, and pick up rubbish previously not acquainted to them, such as the lady with the large dog spotted picking up litter on her walks recently.

Or anyone a part of a society which organises litter picks, such as our local churches and the Sustainability Working Group, whose next litter picks are over the 9th/10th April.

Thank you to anyone who doesn't give the weather more litter to play its games with.

Vicky Stevens

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COMMUNITY RESEARCH: LONGSTANTON

Longstanton & District
Heritage Society



Protecting and Promoting
the Heritage of
Longstanton & District

The work of the Longstanton & District Heritage Society covers many different areas and in recent years this has meant that there has not been the time to carry out our own research into Longstanton's history, or the history of our neighbouring area. However, last year we were approached for help by Roger Hetherington who was working on a

*research project of his own. On completing his research Roger kindly agreed to write a series of three articles for us to publish in Longstanton Life. Below is Roger's **second** article - we hope you enjoy it. We were delighted to be able to help Roger and if anyone else has research they would like to carry out we would be delighted to assist if we can and to publish summaries of the work here. Please see the LDHS Update for our contact information.*

The shapers of Longstanton

- stories behind the stones.

Inside and outside All Saints' church are impressive memorials and many gravestones marking one-time members of the parish community. But who were they and what influence did they have on Longstanton village? Over the next few months there will be a series of articles about some of these characters based on evidence I gathered from a survey of memorials for my Archaeology and Heritage studies and other research.

Edward Prior - faithful steward

This unassuming and heavily weathered stone has an interesting story to tell. It is the left one of two stones in front of the church tower. Looking closely, you can just make out the name "Edward Prior" who died 17th April 1793 in his 50th year and "Katharine".

Who were Edward and Katharine Prior?

A couple of entries in the All Saints Church burial register for that period (now available at the Cambridgeshire Archives in Ely) shed some light on this. There is a burial record for a "Kitty" Prior on 14th August 1778. ("Kitty" was a common pet name for "Katharine" in the 18th Century). There is a burial

record for Edward Prior on 10th April 1793. (There must be a mistake here or on the stone as I don't think he could have been buried seven days before he died. Such mistakes did happen!) What makes this record particularly interesting is the note (presumably added by the vicar):

"Farmer & Steward to Sir Tho^s: Hatton & Family upwards of 35 years"

Edward Prior seems to have had wealth for, in his will, he was able to leave some £950 distributed between his sister, three half-brothers, two nieces and a nephew, presumably leaving sufficient for his surviving wife, Susanna. £950 would have been worth about £140,000 today. The will does not record any provision for sons or daughters and so, rather sadly, "Kitty" appears to have been an only child who did not survive childhood.



Recent research by the late Jane Lane showed that the Hatton estate was divided into a small number of farms leased to tenant farming families. The Priors were one such family whom, it would seem, were middle class. However, as tenants rather than freehold farmers, they effectively owed their status,

and so were duty bound, to their landlords, the Lords of the Manor, the Hattons.

You may wonder what the elaborate carving above the inscription is about. At its centre is a winged cherub. You will see one or two other stones of around this date with such a symbol. It is believed to have signified the hope of the resurrection of all faithful souls on the last day. There is one stone in the churchyard with a skull and bones carving dating to 1771 (close to the chancel door). That represents an earlier, more austere protestant tradition reminding the living of the inevitability of death and judgement, and therefore the need to live "good lives".

Roger Hetherington



Swavesey Camera Club
One of the leading clubs in East Anglia

SWAVESEY CAMERA CLUB

Annual Photographic Exhibition

Our Annual Exhibition has been an established event for many years. It is an important opportunity for club members to demonstrate our photographic vision and skills to the public. Unfortunately, we could not hold the 2020 exhibition last April because of the Covid lockdown. Given the continuing uncertainty over public gatherings as we move towards spring, we have decided that we will be holding our 2021 Photographic Exhibition online. Participation by all club members is encouraged and we will have a diverse and fascinating display of digital photographs, AV presentations, and images that have scored highly in the club's internal competitions as well as in external competitions. The exhibition will commence on Saturday 10th April and will run for 2 weeks.

Each year we host an Open Photographic Competition within our Annual Exhibition. Our aim is to encourage photography amongst everyone in the local community. The Competition is open to all amateur photographers. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: Junior school age, Senior school age, and



Green Woodpecker by Maggie O'Moore

Adults (see website below for further details).

www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk

Maggie O'Moore
Committee member



SPRING COMPETITION



Spring is in the air and in this issue we have a spring themed word search competition for our readers. Hidden in the grid opposite are the names of 13 spring plants/flowers. The words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal in either forward or reverse orientation. All you have to do is find them! Some of them may even "spring" straight at you!!

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 2nd May**. Remember to include your name and phone number with your entry.

The first person randomly selected from those with the correct answers will receive a pair of shears/pruners of choice, up to the value of £15, kindly donated by the

Oakington Garden Centre. The winner will be announced in the next issue.



Good luck!

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P	W	Y	H	T	U	L	I	V	S	R	O	H
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EASTER COMPETITION WINNERS

There were no entries received for the seniors category of the Easter competition. So we selected extra winners from the juniors category instead. The winners of the juniors competition were Evelyn Clements (age 3), and brother and sister Logan and Leila Brittan (age 3 and 5). They are pictured here with their chocolate Easter eggs prizes. Our congratulations to all 3 winners.



The answer to the juniors competition was 20, and the answers for the seniors competition were: 1. Joe Wicks, 2. Tobias Weller, 3. NHS, 4. Pfizer, 5. Joan Rich, 6. AstraZeneca, 7. Captain Tom Moore, and 8. Max Woosey.

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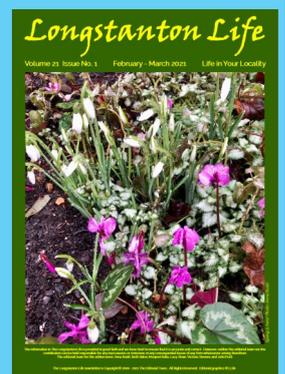
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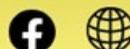
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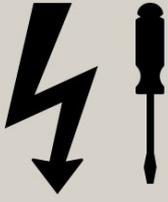
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LONGSTANTON GROUNDWATER UPDATE

Longstanton & District
Heritage Society



Protecting and Promoting
the Heritage of
Longstanton & District

Members and long-term residents of Longstanton will know that Tony, the Heritage Society and I spent much time since 2015, trying to raise awareness of the collapse in the groundwater in the Longstanton gravels. These gravels or River Terrace Deposits (RTD), to give them their technical name, run for the length of the village and beyond. Located

on the RTD are both our Listed churches, the Listed Manor House, the entire Longstanton Conservation Area and a series of ponds, lakes and wells. Whilst in recent years our publicity has focused on the Kingfisher Pond specifically, the hydraulic connectivity of water flow through the RTD means that any damage to the gravel's aquifer on the Phase 1 site can negatively impact other ponds, wells, trees and other heritage and property assets across the village.

Local residents first sounded the alarm about falling water levels in our ponds and wells towards the end of 2015. This timing coincided with works having started earlier in the year out on the Northstowe Phase 1 site. Despite repeated and escalating cries of concern in 2016 and 2017, no mitigation or enforcement action was called for and by the end of 2017, the Kingfisher Pond was virtually empty. Still the problem was not addressed despite the Parish Council joining the clamour for answers. Finally, over the last year SCDC, in conjunction with Longstanton Parish Council, arranged for an investigation to be carried out by H R Wallingford. Along with a number of Longstanton residents I have supplied information to this investigation.

Of course, any investigation is progress but the recent release of the first report, which just looks at the functioning and hydrology of the Kingfisher Pond, takes place 5 years after concerns were first raised about this issue. Having looked at the report in detail; whilst it is positive to see an explanation of the hydrological workings of the Kingfisher Pond and affirmation that rainfall up to 2015 was within a normal range; the report's focus on a single pond situated in Phase 1 of Northstowe fails to take into account the sheer scale of the groundwater collapse across the whole length of Longstanton. The report confirms that there is hydraulic connectivity of the groundwater in the gravels, meaning that if water is lost at one point along the gravels it will impact all the way along.

I have commented on this report in a personal capacity but refer to it here because there is no mistaking the damage that has been caused to numerous landscape features and the potential future risks to the heritage assets of this village. My personal view is that the scope of the investigation is too narrow and fails to address the seriousness and scale of the situation that we find across Longstanton.

What is most concerning is that investigations into the cause of the damage remain to be carried out so currently the reason for the groundwater collapse is not known. If the cause of the problem is unidentified it could happen again or be exacerbated by further development. Also unanswered is the question of who is responsible if damage is shown to have a man-made cause and who should be responsible for mitigating the damage to the aquifer and the groundwater across the village? SCDC are on the verge of approving the planning applications for Phases 3A and 3B whilst the facts about whether Phase 1 works caused significant and potentially irrevocable environmental damage is unknown.

How can this be right?

When the Northstowe Masterplan was approved it was as a single deliverable entity not the phased approach we see now.

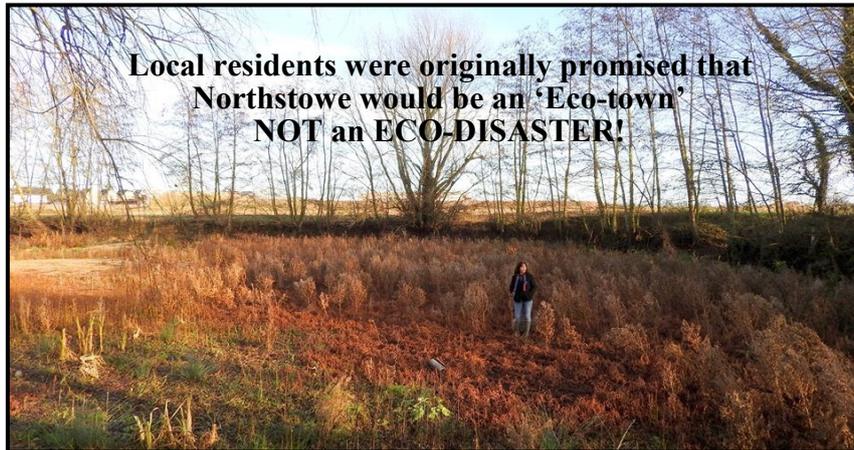
Surely, any planning approval for the final phase of Northstowe should contain a legal requirement to ensure that any environmental damage caused by previous phases of work, is rectified? If this is not the case who is going to undertake the mitigation work required to bring the RTD aquifer under

Longstanton back to pre-Northstowe levels? Our local councillors should be demanding that mitigation is a condition of Phase 3A and 3B approvals because the long term damage to our natural habitats, heritage and properties is not fully understood. Surely no more planning permissions should be granted until this issue is dealt with in a manner that is acceptable to Longstanton residents and those individuals whose property has been directly affected?

Hilary Stroude

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*Kingfisher Pond located on the former golf course site (Northstowe Phase 1)
26 December 2017*