



# THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

April 2016

## Village News

### Village Hall Update

As always with these things, it takes longer than we imagine to prepare information, and we have been unable to have the village meeting as promised in the last edition of Skylark.

We **will** be having it soon though!

Strenuous efforts have been made during the past eighteen months to seek funding consideration from the bigger grant awarding bodies, but money is in short supply, and we are a very small village.

However, we have recently commissioned Bridget Smith, who has considerable expertise in fundraising for this type of project, to work with us. She is also a district councillor and was project manager for the Gamlingay Hub which was a particularly challenging local project, and we are very hopeful that this liaison will lead towards a more satisfactory outcome.

We will advise you of the date of the meeting as soon as possible. At the meeting we will be setting out important changes to the plans we have and answering any questions you may have.

*Village Hall Committee*

### Indoor Picnic Quiz Night

This was held 19th of March, a jolly evening which raised £318 all of which will go to Village Hall funds.

## Longstowe Village Hall

### A.G.M.

Wednesday 13th April 2016

7.30pm in the Village Hall

Open to *all* residents.

Please support your village hall.



Local hero, Ben Holland seen here on a cold rainy January morning, up to his armpit down a flooded and blocked drain trap. A successful mission as the hand basin in the Village Hall now runs free again. We are so fortunate to be living in a community where there are so many residents who genuinely care about the village and each other.

### A Thank You...

As a parishioner I would like to mention Andy Church who has taken it on himself to cut the grass and keep the centre part of the village so tidy. I believe we should all thank him for his efforts. Perhaps others could follow suit and pick up litter near their homes.

*Dick Murden*

### Dog Fouling

Unfortunately this problem has arisen again on our playing field by irresponsible dog owners. Notices to both entrances state no fouling by dogs. Children play in this area, sports events are also held. Please clear up behind your dogs.

Thank you.

*J Cawdery*

## Longstowe Sports Club

The sports club continues to run cricket in the village as it has done for nearly 100 years.

The season starts on 17th April. We run two teams in the Cambridgeshire Junior League, the 1st XI play in League 2 South with the 2nd XI in the Minor League.

Anyone interested in playing or maybe watching a game can obtain a fixture card from me, Dick Murden on 01954 719628.

Although the ground and Village Hall is under the control of their committee, it should be noted that it's the Sports Club with its volunteers that keep the grass in this lovely open space in good order at our expense for everyone to enjoy\*.

We are one of the few small villages that still run a cricket club in this area, so think about coming along to watch sometime. The club has to rely on most players from other villages with just a few from Longstowe. Again it's a thank you to our vice-presidents and some local businesses that support us so we can keep going forward.

*Dick Murden, President*

*\*with the exception of the playground area which Ben Holland maintains.*

## Longstowe Parish Council News

**Dates for your Diary:**

### LONGSTOWE OPEN PARISH MEETING

**Thursday 21st April 2016**

**Longstowe Village Hall  
from 6.45pm for Tea and Coffee**

**7.15pm Meeting**

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### LONGSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 19th May 2016**

**Longstowe Village Hall 7.15pm**

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Longstowe Parish Council usually meets on the third Thursday of each month (except August) in the Village Hall at 7.15pm

#### **National Fraud Warning:**

Police forces have become aware of a fraud circulating targeting elderly and vulnerable members of the community. Some older people have received telephone calls from a caller who purports to be from their G.P. surgery and asks for an appointment to discuss the persons' mobility needs. During the appointment, the older person is persuaded to buy mobility aids which are either unnecessary or inappropriate and always expensive.

If you receive a call like this, please check with your G.P. surgery first before agreeing to a visit.

South Cambs have already received a report of a similar incident in the Fen Ditton area, where a resident received a fraudulent call from a company trying to sell them medical/ vitamin equipment. The caller kept demanding their bank details, they appeared to know the individual's medical history and claimed to be from their local G.P. surgery. The caller threatened that they would continue calling until they got the response they wanted.

If you have concerns that you or a relative may have received a similar call, please do report the details via 101.

#### **Action Fraud:**

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) is warning people of the dangers of Recovery Room fraudsters targeting former victims of Timeshare fraud.

Recovery Room Fraud refers to a scam whereby fraudsters contact the victims of previous frauds, often by way of cold calling them, and claim to be able to recover previously lost funds. In July 2014 the Financial Services Authority (FSA) estimated that 30% of people who had lost money through Investment fraud would also fall victim to a Recovery Room fraud.

When Recovery Room fraudsters target victims of timeshare frauds they usually claim to be a legal professional or a representative of a government agency (normally within the country where the original timeshare property was based) in order to legitimise the scam. The fraudsters know personal details about the victim and their previous investment which gives them credibility. They claim that the advanced fees requested are for 'local taxes' or 'litigation costs' incurred during the recovery of the funds. It is suspected that the persons behind Recovery Room frauds are often the same people involved in the original scams even though these crimes may have occurred years earlier.

Initially, a small fee, typically in the region of £200-£400, is requested by the fraudsters which they often claim is refundable as part of a 'no-win no-fee' basis. The fraudsters rely on the victims seeing this as a nominal fee compared to the amounts lost, which often run into the tens-of-thousands of pounds, and therefore worth paying if it facilitates the return of their money. Once paid, various excuses are made by the fraudsters to explain delays in the recovery of the funds. Subsequently, further larger amounts are then requested by the fraudsters. Needless to say, no refunds ever materialise and no money is ever recovered.

#### *Protect Yourself*

- Never respond to unsolicited phone calls – if in doubt, hang up.

- Always check that the details of the organisation or company contacting you (such as website, address and phone number) are correct – the fraudsters may be masquerading as a legitimate organisation.
- Don't be fooled by a professional-looking website as nowadays the cost of creating a professional website is easily affordable.
- Be wary of any firms or individuals asking for advanced fees.
- Consider seeking independent legal and/or financial advice before making a decision.
- If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online: [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone: 0300 123 2040

**Tim Goddard (Police, Communications Officer, Cambridgeshire)**

LGBT. The constabulary has recently created a new role to improve the way officers liaise with people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. The officers have received specialist training and have an understanding of issues faced by people in the community. The position is a secondary skill, meaning that the officers perform the role above and beyond their full time job. They are a link between the LGBT+ community and the police, offering information, advice and support to victims and witnesses. It is hoped this relationship will encourage the reporting of transphobic, bi-phobic and homophobic incidents.

Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers (LAGLOs) are a national initiative that has been adopted by the constabulary.

To contact the LAGLOs please call 101 or email [laglo@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:laglo@cambs.pnn.police.uk). Please note the officers perform their role as a secondary skill, so it may be several days before they are able to respond. In an emergency always dial 999.

For more information please visit <http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/victims/lgbt.asp>

Fraudsters are sending out virus-infected emails that claim a package has been seized by HM Revenue & Customs upon arrival into the United Kingdom. The official-looking scam emails claiming to be from Royal Mail contain a link to a document which will install malicious software on your computer designed to steal credentials like account names, email addresses and passwords.

*An example email reads:*

Title: Your parcel has been seized

Royal Mail is sorry to inform you that a package addressed to you was seized by HM Revenue

& Customs upon arrival into the United Kingdom. A close inspection deemed your items as counterfeit and the manufacturers have been notified. If your items are declared genuine then they will be returned back to you with the appropriate custom charges. You may have been a victim of counterfeit merchandise and the RM Group UK will notify you on how to get your money back. Please review the attached PDF document for more information.

Document (RM7002137GB).Zip

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

To help the spread of the virus, the email also says: "you will need to have access to a computer to download and open the Zip file". If you receive one of these emails, do not click on any links or download any attachments and report it to Action Fraud.

*Protect Yourself*

- Royal Mail will never send an email asking for credit card numbers or other personal or confidential information.
- Royal Mail will never ask customers to enter information on a page that isn't part of the Royal Mail website.
- Royal Mail will never include attachments unless the email was solicited by a customer e.g. customer has contacted Royal Mail with an enquiry or has signed up for updates from Royal Mail.
- Royal Mail have also stressed that they do not receive a person's email address as part of any home shopping experience.
- If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online: [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone: 0300 123 2040

***In December 2015 the UK was hit by three severe storms resulting in widespread flooding across the North of England and Scotland.***

The NFIB would like to make flood victims aware of the possible threat that Rogue Traders and Bogus Trades People pose to them. Buying on your doorstep can be convenient. However, a salesman who uses clever tactics can pressurise you into buying something you actually don't want or something that's poor value for money.

*Protect yourself against bogus trades people fraud*

- Always ask for identification before letting anyone you don't know into your house.
- Check credentials, including a permanent business address and landline telephone number. The mobile phone numbers given on business cards are often pay-as-you-go

numbers which are virtually impossible to trace.

- Take control by asking the questions. Ask for references from previous customers or to see examples of their work.
- Don't sign on the spot – shop around. Get at least three written quotes to make sure you're not being ripped off.

If in any doubt, ask the person to leave or call the **Citizens Advice** consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

*If you do decide to buy:*

- Always get any agreement you make in writing.
- Beware when filling in forms or when speaking to the salesperson, and ensure you don't reveal confidential details that a fraudster could use to assume your identity or take control of your finances. This may allow a fraudster to steal money from your account or order goods and services in your name.
- Usually, you have a seven-day cooling off period. So if you decide to cancel the contract, act fast.
- Think very carefully about having any work done or goods delivered during the cooling off period. You may have to pay, even if you change your mind.
- Never pay for work before it has been completed, and only then if you are happy with it.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

## Church News

### *Vicar's letter*

There's a famous nineteenth century painting entitled "When did you last see your father?" depicting a scene from the English Civil War.

My own answer to that question is "last November" as my father has been in Australia since then, avoiding the winter!

Staying in communication has been difficult, since there's an 11-hour time difference, and his host doesn't have an Internet connection at home. But most of all, it's difficult because I'm not very good at communication! In my very slight defence, nor is my father – perhaps it's genetic?

Even so, compared to every other species on earth, I'm an incredible communicator – it's what sets humans apart from all other creatures

According to the Bible, we humans are made in the image of God, and our God is a

communicator. God's first recorded act in the Bible was to speak the universe into being, and Scripture is a record of the revelation of God's nature in communication with prophets and a people.

Then God came in the person of Jesus to speak with us face to face, using human language and partaking in human community. We have just celebrated Easter – the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins. But though Jesus left the earth, he then sent the Holy Spirit to be our way of communication with God.

Now even I have no excuse – no time zone problems, no Internet to worry about, no cost to talk. Communicating with my heavenly Father is far easier than with my earthly one!

Maybe there's someone on earth who needs you to communicate – a phone call, an email, a friendly face at the door, or even a good, old-fashioned letter? That's certainly true for me! Why not make a start on it today?

And even more, your heavenly Father is longing to communicate with you.

When did you last speak to your Father?

### ***St Mary the Virgin, Longstowe***

#### ***"Where our money comes from and what it pays"***

Income for our church is generated from six sources which are detailed below. The latest inspected accounts to **December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014, indicate total receipts to the order of £9000.** Against this we have paid out a contribution to the Papworth Team Ministry (£1500), Ministry Share to Ely, £2700 (based on a percentage of income raised from non specified donations), heat& lighting, insurance, repairs and maintenance all totalling £1950. **Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year 2014 was some £2900.** This surplus is what we use to save for major repairs - in the past the Tower and now we are saving towards the cost of some form of low level continuous heating to help maintain the fabric of the building.

Ours is a fine and ancient church but, like all such buildings, by far its biggest expenditure need is on fabric renovation and repair.

Every five years the church is inspected by specialist architects who report on the state of the fabric. Their report always recommends refurbishment and repair costs far exceeding available resources. Indeed only a few year ago we were faced with the news that the Tower was in an extremely dangerous state. After several failed applications we were eventually successful in securing several major grants for this work. In order to secure these grants it was essential to demonstrate that we had built up sufficient reserves of funds in our fabric fund

to meet the substantial balance required over and above the grant aid. This work was finally completed in 2010 but in the process the fabric fund was reduced to zero.

Thanks to a fundraising event at The Old School and to generous donations in memory of Liz Clay following her tragic death in 2013 the fabric fund at the end of 2014 had a balance to the order of £8000 but this is nowhere near enough to meet the expenditure recommended in the latest fabric inspection report. In line with the above, your PCC believes any excess generated of income over expenditure for the foreseeable future, should be used to continue to replenish the fabric fund. Thus:

Sources of Income:

- Administration fees from Marriages & Funerals (variable)
- Church Collections (variable)
- Donations other (variable)
- Fundraising (variable)
- Grants received re Insurance (currently meets annual cost)
- Gift Aid recovered (variable)

Accounts for 2015 will be inspected in good time for the Annual Church Meeting in the spring.

Details of Administration fees from Marriages and Funerals:

The current Administration cost of a **Marriage Service is £415** (excluding vergers fees and bells, organ and choir) and of this **sum we receive £226**.

**Funeral Fees** are a little more complicated depending on whether it involves a burial or cremation. But basically **a service and church yard burial is some £460 of which £350 comes to Longstowe PCC**.

You will quickly note from the above, with payment of Papworth Team Ministry and Ministry Share, the only real money generated by and for Longstowe comes from specific donations and fundraising events.

It is worth noting that in Longstowe (but this is not necessarily so in the other Team churches), there are **NO additional payments for Vergers Fees & Bells for Marriages and Funerals** which can add quite considerably to the overall costs. Our Church Wardens do this as a gift to the community.

If you have any questions or feedback please do speak to either the Church Wardens or the Treasurer to the PCC.

### **Church Electoral Roll**

To let you know that it is time to renew the Church Electoral Roll for the Parish of Longstowe and papers will be coming through doors shortly. Initially, we will approach people who

are currently on the role but if you would like to "sign up" if you have not previously done so, please just give Maddy Crowther a call on 01954 718303 or email to madeleinejones@btconnect.com and it can easily be arranged.

Finally, You will probably have heard on the grapevine that Alexandra has now moved from Bourn and is working as a Minister in a Cambridge School and that we continue to be looked after by Nigel Pearson and now also Stephen Day. You know Nigel so do come and meet Stephen at the next opportunity which will be Morning Prayer 24th April (10.30am).

### **Churchyard maintenance**

If you are one of the frequent visitors to our church in Longstowe, you may notice much has been done recently in the way of maintenance and improvements around the churchyard. Overgrown bushes and overhanging tree limbs have been cut back, ditches cleared and rabbit fencing installed all around the churchyard. So much has been carried out to keep this respected area looking tidy, attractive and helping retain the peaceful atmosphere of the churchyard.

All of this work has been very kindly carried out by volunteers who live locally. The Parochial Church Council are very grateful indeed to those who have given freely of their time, skills and advice. We wish to thank them all most sincerely and to let them know their efforts and goodwill are very much valued and appreciated by the PCC and those who visit this special place.

*Peter White, Longstowe PCC*

## **Cambridge Gliding Centre Open Day**

Sunday 10th April, 10am - 4pm.

Come and visit Gransden Lodge Airfield to find out about the sport of gliding. All welcome. Trial flights with our qualified instructors available on a first-come, first-fly basis. Refreshments. Free admission.

Free lessons in a realistic gliding simulator. Free talks about gliding and the airfield's wartime history.

Airfield entrance on the B1046 between Little Gransden & Longstowe, opposite Gransden Lodge Farm (enter SG19 3EB into your SatNav).

More information online:

<http://www.camgliding.uk/>

or via Facebook: <https://tr.im/Z8dEn>

A member of the gliding club has carried out extensive research and written this book on the history of RAF Gransden Lodge:

[http://www.troubador.co.uk/book\\_info.asp?bookid=3159](http://www.troubador.co.uk/book_info.asp?bookid=3159)

## General Interest

### Lunar panels

We are very used to seeing installations of solar panels on roofs and in fields around here. For many people, depending on contract conditions and arrangements made with the suppliers, these can bring benefits to the user as well as to the environment. There is however a drawback. Not everyone has a home with available areas suitable for fixing these panels in clear line of the sun. Their homes may just be built in an inappropriate orientation or overshadowed by trees or another structure.

There is soon to be released an alternative for those wanting to gain the benefits of such installations on property which up to now has been unsuitable.

Recently completed research has enabled the manufacture of panels, similar in appearance to the familiar solar panels, which work in a quite different way. They are made from differently structured cells which are sensitive to moonlight, rather than sunlight. They are only half the weight of currently available solar panels and can be installed in a number of orientations to enable them to catch and use the moonlight. It has been shown that even on an overcast night, enough moonlight should be received to keep the lunar panels producing a useful quantity of electricity. Early testing in the relatively low light levels of Northern Scotland were very successful and it was found that even a small additional amount of electricity was produced from the local mist.

These so called "lunar panels" would be lighter than solar units and could be safely fitted to a roof which may not support a heavier panel.

It is suggested that an average sized three bedroom house will be able to support enough lunar panels to produce enough electricity to power the family's lighting, fridge and washing machine. Of course the currently available solar panels are of no help running domestic lighting when it is most needed, that is, in the dark. There is soon to be seen on TV a short introductory film entitled "Are you bright enough?" using the fictitious Mr Bright and Mr Dim to thoroughly explain this exciting new system.

Latest leaked information leads us to believe that by this time next year, the so called "NiteLite" panel will be available. This remarkable break through in technology could make available panels which will produce electricity out of total darkness. Those having large cellars could use some of the space for an installation. It is possible that here in Longstowe, we could have a set of these panels installed beneath the floor of our Village Hall enabling us to reduce our lighting costs to virtually nothing. Who would believe it?

Despite the recent cuts, South Cambs will be setting up a "Lunar Office" to deal with the expected rush of applications as planning permission may be required in some cases.

This "Lunar office" may be contacted on the usual South Cambs number, and asking for extension 010416. It won't be set up until the beginning of April this year.

*A. F. Day, Lunar Energy Advisor  
Lunar Dept, South Cambs*

**"Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury"**

**Great British Fish and Chip Supper  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016**



Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Just £50 could contribute towards the support from our Peer Support Service for one hour, in a district general hospital or Major Trauma Centre.

In 2016 we want to make the batter matter and raise £40,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,000 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email [fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk) or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)



A 100 year history of the  
**“BEDFORD & CAMBRIDGE”**  
**Railway**



A look at the 19th century expansion of the railways; the people, and the building of a line between Bedford and Cambridge in 1862; operation, and closure of the line in 1967

**illustrated talk**

by

**Stephen Owen**

(of ‘Old North Road Station’, Bourn/Longstowe)

**Tuesday 28th June, 8.00pm**  
(doors open 7.30pm)

**Longstowe Village Hall**

**Admission: £2/£3** (£1 for children under 16)

Refreshments included, and available before and after the talk



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**Neighbourhood Watch**

**Your co-ordinators are:**

Deborah Hemmins 719638  
Bill Slater 719551  
Peter Hemmins 719372

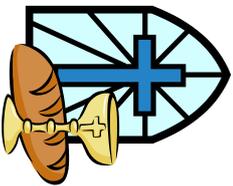
**If you see an incident, please take all the details and jot them down. Numbers, dates, times, descriptions. If matters are so urgent then dial 999 directly. Otherwise telephone 01345 456 4564.**

**Website: [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)**

Month	Sunday	Title	T.E.W	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe	Eisworth	Boxworth	Knapwell	
April	1	Sunday after Easter		8.30 am Holy Communion at Caxton							
	2	Easter 6		10.30 am WfA		10.30 am MP	8.30 am HC (2)	6.00 pm HC (2)	10.30 am FS		
	3	Easter 3	6.00 pm Caxton	8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am AAS		10.30 am AAC	10.30 am MP	8.30 am HC(2)	
	4	Easter 4		10.30 am MW	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am MP	6.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC(1)		
	1	Easter 5		10.30 am HC(1)	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC (2)		10.30 am FS	08.30 am HC (2)	3.00 pm EP	
May	2	Easter 6		10.30 am WfA		10.30 am MP+Baptism	8.30 am HC (2)	6.00 pm HC (2)	10.30 am FS		
	3	Pentecost	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30am Cluster Service for Pentecost at Bourn							
	4	Trinity		8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am AAS		6.00pm EP	10.30 am MP		
	22/05/2016	Sunday		10.30 am MW	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am MP	6.00 pm HC(2)	10.30 am HC(1)		
	29/05/2016	Trinity 1									

A short, prayerful service of  
**Holy Communion**

is celebrated  
**Wednesday**  
at **midday**  
in **Bourn Church**



Anyone from around the Team or beyond is welcome to attend.

Papworth Team Ministry  
**Team Evening Service**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 6.00 pm at Caxton

*Praise, Prayer, Teaching*



**Wave Café Church**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
at the 'Abantu' coffee shop in Bourn,  
7.45 for 8pm until 9pm

For those who are interested in exploring Christianity in a relaxed and informal way. Please come and bring a friend.  
For more information please contact Mike Bigg on 01480 839147.

Please let Sally have any items for the July  
Skylark by Tuesday 14 June.  
Tel: 719464  
Email: theskylark@rocketmail.com