



The SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter April 2018



Village News

Community & Church happenings:

It is very easy to believe that nothing ever happens with the church in Longstowe, but that would be an imprudent thought – there are not many days of the week when one can walk down the path and not see someone or something; as I write today we have an ever spreading collection of beautiful wild snowdrops which have given visitors many hours of pleasure. We can assist their spread if over the next two weeks any keen gardeners would like to join me, Maddy, with a sharp spade to spread the bulbs over a wider area. It is best done in the green. Most of the snowdrops are single flowered but double flowers have been spotted. This is as far as

my knowledge as a galanthophile (in other words a snowdrop anorak) extends but I am sure someone can tell me differently. The point of extending the flower spread is really twofold:-to enhance the beauty of the churchyard and secondly to encourage more visitors from both the village and outside to enjoy this wonderful picture and place.

We will soon be back into grass mowing mode and the PCC would like to thank everyone involved or who supports the work to keep everything so fine – it doesn't happen either by magic or the intercession of God, just time and effort. Volunteers are always very welcome to join with looking after the churchyard or help clean and do flowers etc. or helping with

events. Do come and join us, please.

This brings us nicely to the Quiz Night just a few weekends ago. An excellent evening, which brought together over 65 people from the local villages including Cambourne, for what was a great fun evening including a sausage supper. A question for next year Mr White MC, How long to cook 200 sausages and jacket potatoes? Answer: hours! Huge thanks Peter for putting the quiz together, and to all involved whether as a helper or contestant. We have raised well over £600. Thank you. PS It was so warm at one stage in our new super insulated Village Hall we had to open the doors to let some of the heat escape!



An email from one of the contestants:

“We had a brilliant night at the quiz, it was lovely to see so many people turn up. It was a shame we didn't get to finish all the questions, but they were an amazing mix and we loved how much variety there was (even I was able to answer a few)”.



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LONGSTOWE OPEN PARISH MEETING

Thursday 19th April 2018

Longstowe Village Hall from 7.00 pm

Tea and Coffee will be served

7.15 pm Meeting to start

Apologies for absence

Chairman's Report:

- Neighbourhood Development Plan
- GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

We hope to discuss:

Speed limit changes / Speedwatch

Gliding Club Report

This is your meeting, your chance to speak about anything to do with Longstowe. What is the Parish Council doing wrong? What is it doing right? What changes do you want to see in your village.

WARNING - ANTIFREEZE IS KILLING OUR PETS

One of my cats has just spent Christmas fighting for his life in the animal hospital with suspected poisoning and renal failure. Although he is still not out of the woods yet, the prognosis is looking much better and we are hoping that he will make a full recovery. The vet told us that it is very difficult to know the cause of his symptoms, but apparently they are seeing a high increase in the number of cases of antifreeze poisoning in cats (and dogs) because people are using antifreeze in the cold weather to prevent their water features and ponds, etc. from freezing up. Antifreeze, even in tiny doses, is lethal to cats and dogs and apparently its sweet taste is actually attractive to them and overrides their natural ability to reject poisonous food. So PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE be very careful with how you use antifreeze, particularly outdoors. I suspect that like me, most of the residents in Longstowe would previously have had no idea about how dangerous antifreeze is to their pets.

NEW NUMBER: Call 105 to report power cuts and damage to the electricity

Parish Council: Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19th April 2018 at 7.15
Open Parish meeting

Thursday 3rd May 2018: all Parish Councillors up for election along with South Cambs District Councillors and Cambs County Councillors.

Wednesday 16th May 2018 at 7.15 Annual General Meeting (meet your new or used Councillors)

Please note that the elections for the Parish Council and South Cambs District Council take place on Thursday 3rd May. All seats are up for election.

Reported to the Parish Council: Two incidents of hare-coursing between Longstowe and the Gliding Club (these usually happen in daylight on a Friday or Saturday); if you see something suspicious, please report to the Police immediately.

Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmins 719638

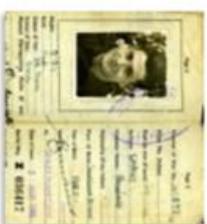
Peter Hemmins 719372

If you see an incident, please take all the details and jot them down. Numbers, dates, times, descriptions. If matters are urgent then dial 999 directly. Otherwise telephone 101. You can also report online at www.cambs.police.uk/report/ and there is a live webchat function which is available by clicking on the green icon on the bottom right of the report web page

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

WW2 P.O.W. Camps

...and some escape stories



In a nation at war, this is a story of British internment of enemy residents at the onset of WW2, capture of foreign Prisoners of War in N Africa and Germany, location of camps around the UK, putting of men to work and the experience of the local population ... and one or two attempted escapes

Illustrated talk by

Kenneth Lewis OBE

Tuesday 24th April 2018, 7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

Admission: **£3 everyone welcome** (Members free)
Refreshments included

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

History of the Grounds at Wimpole Hall



Tracing the evolution of the landscape and gardens of Wimpole Hall from its medieval landscape onwards. Contributions made by Charles Bridgeman, 'Capability' Brown, John Soane, Humphry Repton and others will all be examined in this lecture.

Illustrated talk by

Alison Moller

Tuesday 26th June, 7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

Admission: **£3 everyone welcome** (Members free)
Refreshments included

**Cambridge Gliding Centre
Open Day, Sunday 8th April,
10am - 5pm.**

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 (subject to weather).

Refreshments. Free admission, aircraft displays and talks about gliding. To fly in a glider you must be 13+ and weigh no more than 103Kg.

Airfield entrance on B1046 between Little Gransden & Longstowe, opposite Gransden Lodge Farm (enter SG19 3EB into your SatNav). More information: <http://www.camgliding.uk/> or via Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/cgc-2018-openday>



Community Welfare

It is the time of year that various pieces of information apparently leaked from fairly reliable sources, come to light.

It has become apparent that the local authority is as keen as ever to reduce costs, reduce emissions and provide as much housing as possible.

Involving ecology and economy, it has been leaked that to reduce costs of disposal and transport, much of the content of our black bins will be used to fill pot holes within the village roads. No shortage of these miniature landfill sites in Longstowe.

The amount of green bin contents needing to be removed is planned to be reduced, by the installation of vintage looking gas lamps in the High Street which are powered by biogas generated within the lamps, which look rather like an oversize green bin with a wrought iron lamp rising to an appropriate height. These will give a similar light to the old gas lamps and will cost nothing to run, being kept loaded by contents of green bins.

As ever the thoughts of low cost high rise starter homes around the periphery of the sports field seem ever more appealing. This would give so much benefit to the community as well as providing much-needed homes. Such structures in place would reduce the time needed to mow the sports field. Assuming of course that the once planned drilling for

oil is no longer pursued. Many felt that was a non-starter from early discussions.

The dog waste bins continue to be well used, though due to the short sighted nature of canines, the "dog waste bin" signs will be remade and mounted around 100cms above the ground enabling the dogs to see them more easily.

Speed of traffic in the village is still a concern. Putting bumps in the road is an effective way of slowing traffic, but a cheaper way is to dig a number of inverse speed humps. Already in place, these are known as "potholes". The council is careful to see these are kept in place and maintained as long as possible. Speeding is such an issue that one wonders whether Skylark ought to be renamed "Skidmark".

Finally, it was noted that The Village Pound is just about big enough to accommodate the footprint of a wind turbine tower. Such a structure could be decorated in such a way as to make it a tourist attraction as well as providing entertainment for locals.

If you need any more information on any of these topics, please don't ask the Parish Council!

A. F. Day.

£1 Park & Ride car-park charge is being dropped from 1st April.
-NB I don't think this is a joke....

CAMBRIDGE GLIDING CLUB

Representatives of all the local Parish Councils were invited to attend a meeting convened by the Cambridge Gliding Club, which took place on the 8th March 2018. The purpose was to explain the proposed planning application that will be submitted this spring.

The main points can be summarised as below, and relate to seeking variations to the original planning conditions imposed at the time of the arrival of the Gliding Club in 1991, when it re-located from Duxford.

1. Vary the start and finish times for the aerotow planes

Currently 9am – 6pm

Wanted 8am – sunset, but considered too vague by the Planning Authority

Will apply for 8am – 9.30pm

To allow occasional training flights, and to allow extended time for visiting gliders to be retrieved by aerotow

For competition craft there will be no launches before 10am and after 5pm

2. Remove the limit of aerotows per day currently 40 to no limit

Changing weather patterns make predicting good gliding days less predictable.

Find that the need to apply in advance for exemptions to this condition when competitions are being held is bureaucratic. These temporary permissions are for 80 per day

3. Allow the permitted noise level of aerotows to increase from 68dB to 75dB

Would make it easier to hire in extra planes for competitions (6 extra) as not many are available at 68dB

4. Allow the use of Self Launching Sail Planes

Technology has moved on since 1991. Becoming more popular. Would reduce potentially the number of persons involved in launching a glider. Noise is similar to current aerotow planes 68dB

Power mower (96 dB); motorcycle at 25 ft (90 dB). Newspaper press (97 dB). Screaming, yelling, shouting.	90	4 times as loud as 70 dB. Likely damage in <u>8 hour</u> exposure.
Dishwasher; average factory. Diesel truck 40 mph at 50 ft (84 dB). Food blender (88 dB). Alarm clock.	80	2 times as loud as 70 dB. Possible damage in <u>8 hour</u> exposure.
Television set on loud, vacuum cleaner, several people on the telephone.	70	Arbitrary base of comparison. Upper 70s are annoyingly loud to some people.
Conversation in restaurant, office, background music, Air conditioning unit at 100 feet.	60	Half as loud as 70 dB. Fairly quiet.
Quiet suburb, conversation at home. Refrigerator working.	50	One-fourth as loud as 70 dB.

LONGSTOWE PARISH AND THE GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will take effect in the UK from the 25th May 2018. This will give individuals more rights and protection in how their personal data is used. Longstowe Parish Council must comply with the GDPR. We will be publishing a Frequently Asked Questions and a data audit in order to determine how we will comply. A privacy notice for our website is currently being prepared and regular updates on the GDPR will continue to be communicated via Skylark. Anyone who has any queries on the GDPR should contact the Chairman:

Barbara Cooper
The Dene, Old North Road,
Bourn, Cambridge CB23 2TZ
Tel No. 07803 903047

GEORGE PETTIT

26-3-1932 - 21-12-2017

Born in The Terrace, Old North Road, Longstowe, 2nd son to Stan & Rose Pettit. He attended Longstowe school, leaving in the spring of 1946, aged 14. He first worked along with his father at Longstowe Estate, His father being the horse keeper, so George was also involved, as well as driving tractors. Later he worked as a gardener at the Hall.

By the 1960s he worked on the highways for the County Council, then for a landscaping company at the local airfields and other military sites. From the time he left school, George was a member of the sports club, playing both football – being a keen Cambridge Utd and Chelsea fan - and cricket. He became an excellent bowler and batsman and his team won the Cambs. Junior League championship in 1961.

Although he lived in Bourn for the last 25 years or so, George remained loyal to his home village, Longstowe, making regular visits to family and friends.

He will be remembered with affection by the family and all who knew him.



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*For tickets and info please contact Maddie Crowther 01954 718303 or email
madeleinejones@btconnect.com*

**LONGSTOWE
VILLAGE
HALL**

A.G.M.

**Wednesday, 4th APRIL 2018
at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall**

OPEN to ALL RESIDENTS
Please support your Village Hall

Please send items for the next edition
By the 14th of June

Clare.rebbeck@cruk.cam.ac.uk