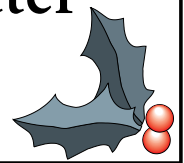
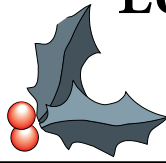




THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

January 2013



Village News

Dick Murden retires from Village Hall Committee

Dick Murden recently retired from the Village Hall Committee. He has decided that after having taken a very active part in the running of the Village Hall for almost 50 years, he needs to leave The Committee to allow himself more time to enjoy his other interests and activities in and out of the village. Dick's presence on The Committee will be greatly missed; he could always be relied upon to give us the benefit of his experience gained over the years, to be first on the scene when the hall needed setting up with tables, to undertake all sorts of maintenance work as it became necessary and to generally keep an eye on the Village Hall. Dick has kindly offered to continue to make himself available to keep an eye on the heating for us, during the cold spells and generally keep an eye on the building.

A presentation was made to Dick by The Committee of a Garden Centre token and a lovely cake made by Christiane Hoenkhaus who has recently joined the Committee.

Dick, thank you for all you have put in over the years, and for the example of dedication you have shown us, to a very important part of the social life of our wonderful community.

Village Hall Christmas Bazaar

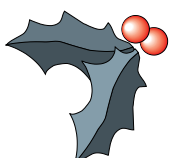
We all enjoyed a jolly afternoon with plenty of festive fare, crafts, books and gifts for sale and some topical Christmas quizzes to ponder over a glass of mulled wine, beer or a cup of tea and a mince pie. The bottle stall did a good trade and a beautiful Christmas hamper was raffled, together with a tableful of prizes in the children's raffle. The children enjoyed making decorations for the Christmas tree which was later taken over to the church for the Christingle service the following day. A big thank you to everyone who supported the event, donated gifts and prizes or helped in any way to make the afternoon such a happy occasion.

Jane Bowden

Christmas
& New Year
greetings



from *Barrie &
Lilian Dench*



Christingle 2012 (photo by Maddy Crowther)

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

This year's collection in Longstowe amounted to £268.56.

Many thanks to all of you that I managed to catch at home. This was well up on last year for a very worthy cause.

Dick Murden

LONGSTOWE HISTORY PROJECT

Meeting to be held on Thursday 24 January 2013, 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Please come if you think you might be interested in this project.

This is an invitation to all who might be interested to learn more about our village history.

We would like to tell you about and share what resources are available both in the village and in a wider context, to talk a bit about what research has already been done and to show you a few of the photographs collected over the years. We hope then to discuss what we might do either individually or as a group to learn more about our shared village history.

You may simply be interested to learn more about the history of Longstowe or you may like to do some of your own research. Alternatively, you may have a particular interest which you would like to share or may need help with, or you may like to see research done on a particular topic.

You may have information or experiences which you could share, or perhaps you know of other people who might like to share theirs. This could take the form of stories and first hand knowledge about the village, village characters and what village life used to be like. These stories are the life and soul of history.

You may even be a historian!

Apart from researching the records, there are plenty of opportunities for a range of skills and technologies, any one of which you may be able to offer; scanning and recording of documents including house deeds; scanning, copying and archiving of photographs; presentation of material in written form; possible future power-point or similar presentations; formal referencing, archiving and indexing; designing and maintaining an interactive website; house research (which involves tape measures and calculations and drawings); field walking (looking for evidence of past habitation, field divisions, land usage etc); family history; talking to past and

present residents; recording oral stories; and recording today's village – events, farming, the landscape, buildings, people – for the future...

Or, you could just be interested in the results.

We very much hope this can become a valuable community project, and one which will bring people together with a shared interest and activities.

If you are interested and/or have something to offer but cannot make the meeting, please get in touch with **Jane Bowden 719737** email: **jane@glebehouse.eu**, or **Dick Murden 719628**.

Something to ponder...

"IN THE WORKHOUSE – CHRISTMAS DAY"

by George R. Sims (1847–1922)

"It is Christmas Day in the workhouse, and
the cold, bare walls are bright

With garlands of green and holly, and the
place is a pleasant sight;

For with clean-washed hands and faces in a
long and hungry line

The paupers sit at the table, for this is the
hour they dine.

And the guardians and their ladies, although
the wind is east,

Have come in their furs and wrappers to
watch their charges feast;

To smile and be condescending, putting on
pauper plates.

To be hosts at the workhouse banquet,
they've paid for with the rates"

THE CAXTON UNION WORKHOUSE – Cambridge Weekly News, 31 Dec. 1909

"The festivities of Christmas Day passed off in a most enjoyable manner at Caxton Workhouse. The chapel, dining hall and sick wards were tastefully decorated; one dinner consisted of roast beef, mutton, pork, plum pudding, beer and mineral waters. In the evening a few friends and the officers amused the inmates with a gramophone, singing and dancing. On Boxing Day Mrs Briscoe of Longstowe Hall invited the children to tea and gave each a present"

... sounds like a jolly occasion doesn't it, but how was it the rest of the year? And residents of Longstowe did from time to time find themselves in the Workhouse – in 1881 it was Maria Cooper. The census shows there were Coopers living in the Terrace on Old North Road and in The Row, High Street.

Dave Harber

Sadly, Dave passed away 13th November. I'm sure many of you will have fond memories of happy times spent at The Golden Miller. Our thoughts are with Pauline, Karen, Colin and family at this difficult time.

Longstowe Sports Club

Longstowe Cricket Club wants new players for the 2013 season. Anyone interested can contact the secretary John Gooch email: jgooch@supernet.com, tel: 01480 434347 or Dick Murden tel: 01954 719628. There will be a club AGM on Thursday 17 January at 7.30pm. This will be held at Longstowe Village Hall, new faces always welcome.

Sports Club History of 50 years ago

Cricket

Longstowe entered the Cambs League in 1952. The very first match played on Jesus Green, Cambridge on 3rd May, result:

- Eastern Electricity Board 41
- Longstowe 53

Longstowe made steady progress through the leagues, then on the last league game of the 1961 season (12th August), result:

- Girton 34
- Longstowe 36-1

meant promotion to the senior league.

9th September Junior League play-off final on Parkers Piece, Cambridge, result:

- Over 46
- Longstowe 50-3

and champions!

Another notable event in 1961 took place in a friendly cricket match, 3rd June at Toft, result:

- Toft 57
- Longstowe 62

Albert Hemmins took all ten Toft wickets for eighteen runs a feat which has not been surpassed. Michael Bevan was the captain and the whole team elated.

Alas, Longstowe's spell in the Senior League didn't last long, on 14th September 1963 a relegation decides, (again played on Jesus Green) resulted in Longstowe losing to Little Downham by 12 runs.

Football

1961-2 Season

Longstowe had a strong team finishing third in their division just behind Coleridge and Teversham, but the highlight was first winning the Bambridge Cup semi-final 7-3 against arch rivals Meldreth at Shepreth on the evening of 19th April 1962.

The following Thursday 26th April saw the Bambridge Cup Final also at Shepreth, this time Longstowe defeated Comberton, the favourites, by two goals to one. John Crow hitting the winner for Longstowe.

Both these matches attracted huge local interest with 500 to 600 people at both games. Sandwiched between these matches on Wednesday 25th April, Longstowe were just edged out by a single goal at Teversham in the semi-final of the Lower Junior Cup.

1962-3 Season

This was the time of the coldest winter in living memory, there was no football played between 22nd December '62, till 9th March '63. This meant a heavy fixture schedule of matches in April/May, however, Longstowe won their semi-final 4-1 over Orwell Res. in the Gransden Charity Cup. This set up a final to be played at the St Neots Town ground on Friday 24th May against Huntingdonshire side Offords United.

Longstowe were outstanding, winning by six goals to one.

So, over a period of three years some 50 years ago Longstowe Sport had a golden era.

Dick Murden

New Year's Eve Grand Event !!

At the village hall, 8pm till 1am a social evening with raffle (drawn fairly early) and hopefully some lights and music later on to see in the new year.

Bring your own food and drink etc. £2 per adult for the village hall.

Any donations for the raffle and decorations for the hall gratefully received.

Rubbish



Thoughtless people had left this deposit of rubbish, comprised of fireworks remains, beer bottles and other rubbish, in the railway cutting about 200 metres to the west of the old railway bridge. It was cleared up by volunteers who managed to find some evidence of the owner of some of the rubbish. This information has been passed on to the authorities.

Longstowe Parish Council News

www.scamb.gov.uk/LongstowePC

Message from former Parish Council Chairman

Dear Longstowe Residents

As some of you may already know, I recently resigned from the position of Parish Council Chairman and also as a Parish Councillor. This was not a decision I took lightly, but I did so to ensure that Longstowe is best served now and in the future. Work commitments and family life have had to take priority and even more so now. I believe it is a great privilege to be asked to serve our community and one that must be undertaken with devotion. I also believe it is vital to have a Chairman that has the time to devote to the job at hand and I am unfortunately, currently not in a position to do this anymore.

The reason I wanted to be part of LPC was because I was keen to ensure that there was a good group of Councillors to take things forward on behalf of the village. I have no doubt that LPC is in very good shape (as it always has been) and has some excellent Councillors.

I want to thank the Councillors of LPC and our District and County Councillors for all their vital support over the years which was very much appreciated.

Yours truly,
Zoe Burton

An everyday problem for country folk.

We all know that one cannot beat the quality of ride, handling and performance of a wheelbarrow with a pneumatic tyre. Fine, but, if you have been cutting hawthorn there is a good chance you will be used to mending punctures which although not difficult, can slow the day down. Research done here in Longstowe has provided a solution to this ongoing problem. Assuming you are mending a tyre punctured in this way, proceed as normal, but before putting the tube back into the tyre, make a lining for the tyre, from a sliced up plastic oil container. These are easily available without charge from a company in Fox Road. Just cut a couple of strips of plastic to line the centre portion of the tread of the tyre, cutting slits across it to enable it to assume the correct shape as it is fitted. Reassemble as normal, re-inflate and off you go. So far, no more thorn punctures, no more lost time mending the wheelbarrow!

Peter White

The Humble Mince Pie

Mince pies became popular in the Victorian age, but their history is a long one. In the Twelfth century, knights returning from the Crusades in the Holy Land introduced to Europe many Middle Eastern ways of cooking, which mixed sweet tastes with savoury, and recipes of meat cooked with fruit and sweet spices were popular. In Elizabethan times, mince pies were still a mixture of meat and fruit and were called 'shrid' pies because they contained shredded meat and suet. The meat and suet were mixed with dried fruit such as raisins and currants, and it was traditional to add three spices – cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg – which stood for the three gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men. The mixture was baked in an oblong pastry case to represent Jesus' crib. A little pastry baby often decorated the lid. It was thought lucky to eat a mince pie on each of the twelve days of Christmas. Each pie would be eaten in a different house in order to bring good luck to the household and the eater for the next twelve months.

Barrie & Lilian Dench

Church News

Jottings from The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council):

During the Autumn we introduced several new style services including a Pet Service in September and an afternoon Family Service with tea and cakes and party invitations! It really has been an interesting time seeing new people coming and joining the congregation.

There is quite a clamour to make the Pet Service an annual date in the diary but whether we will be able to conjure up the fabulous weather we saw in September and add to the menagerie of animals which included 20 or so dogs, a horse and a snail, who is to tell? We are also hopeful that with the recently held Christingle when we were joined by around 20 children and 40 or so adults, with three young volunteers reading; we might also see enthusiasm for a regular Family Service starting up next year. Certainly watching the children signing the Lord's Prayer as they do at school was a treat, as they very much enjoyed the chance of showing their Mums and Dads how to do it!

We have some amazing and generous volunteers, many of whom are not regular worshippers, but who just enjoy becoming involved in the community. The PCC would like to thank them so much for their help and enthusiasm. Social activities like the Harvest Supper would not happen without them, and the cobwebs that would festoon the church if they were not cleaned away, would make Miss Havisham's decaying mansion look good! So please come again next year.

If you are new to the village or think you might have a spare hour or two and would also like to get involved with the Church and our Community, whether it is in an administrative role on the PCC or giving a supporting hand, on an occasional basis, say with:

- Flowers and Cleaning
- Brass Cleaning

- Fundraising and other social activities such as the Harvest Supper
- And coming soon – sorry I cannot let the cat out of the bag just yet>>>!!

Then do please give Maddy a call on 718303.

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Carol Service 23rd December 10.30am
- Christmas Day – Holy Communion 9.45am
- 1st service in 2013 – 13th January, Holy Communion 8.30am

Clergy letters

There are probably some parents who think that negotiating the run-up to Christmas with young children around is a pretty good training for a posting with an elite NATO Defence Force. The constant cries of 'how many days till Christmas?', the instant desire for every single toy and game that's advertised on TV, no matter how unsuitable, and the (probably too frequent) suggestions that Father Christmas won't come at all if behaviour isn't improved, not to mention the worries about how to afford presents and food and the age-old disputes over which family is coming to visit, mean that by the time we've slogged it through 24 days of December we feel haggard and uncharitable! No wonder the underside of the Christmas season is loneliness, anger, violence, marriage breakdown, debt and depression. Yet churches and Christians keep trying to convince us that Christmas is all about Good News, and that a birth 2000 years



Church Christmas 2011 (photo by Maddy Crowther)

ago has a bearing on our stress, finances, relationships and lives today. Do they live in cloud-cuckoo land?

I believe not. And the reason for that is that the birth of Jesus is a supreme symbol of **HOPE**; hope that absolutely nothing is beyond the reach or interest of God; absolutely no one is too insignificant or sinful to be noticed and loved by God. Jesus was born in squalid conditions, from dubious parentage, in a totally insignificant community, during a dangerous period of foreign occupation; yet this is how and where God *chose* to send his human message of love into the world. We don't impress God by what we've achieved or acquired in life; he offers his love to us simply because we're human, warts and all. It's probably true that no matter how many people tell us that Christmas isn't about the tinsel and the price tags, it's about showing love to others, we'll still fret and stress about the superficial things, but the Good News is as true for 1-24 December as it is for the day itself: God's love *can* (and *does*) change the world, because it begins by warming *individual* human hearts – for life, not just for Christmas.

Revd Dr Alexandra Clarke

Happy New Year!

When we've put Christmas decorations back in the loft and had the last of the turkey curry, we almost need another holiday to recover from all the celebrations! Our thoughts turn to starting that diet that we put off (again!), taking up a sporting activity or joining the gym. In fact it's the best time of year financially for gyms – more people join in January than at any other time of the year. By Easter, though, attendance has seriously tailed off!

The New Year gives us an opportunity to refocus, to set new goals – ones which, in management speak, are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed (SMART – as if!). It's a good time to put past regrets and mistakes behind us and start again with hope and determination. It's an opportunity to think about what's important to us, what will build us up and make us happier and more whole, and what will help and encourage the people around us over the next 12 months. We don't want these things to be important to

us in January but to have tailed off by Easter! It's important to remember that how we speak and act around one another can either build people up or hurt them. Change always needs to start inside us rather than waiting for everyone else to change. Jesus told us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. This may sound almost impossible to do but we don't do it alone and new starts are always possible – not just in January! It doesn't mean we have to like everyone, be best friends with everyone, but it does mean we need to want the best for everyone. How great this New Year would be if everyone lived that out!

Fiona

Papworth Team Ministry



Team Evening Worship

Sunday 20th January, 6.00 pm at Caxton
Speaker: Stephen Day

Sunday 17th February, 6.00 pm at Caxton
Speaker: Paul Gildersleve

Praise. Prayer. Teaching



Snow – Christmas 2011 (photo by Maddy Crowther)

Harvest Supper

27 October 2012



Photos by Peter White

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Wave Café Church

Wednesday 9th January 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 with DVDs, quizzes and discussions over coffee, tea and cake.

For more information please contact Fiona Windsor on 01954 267535 or Ruth Terrell on 01954 718575.

The Skylark

Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmins	719638
Bill Slater	719551
Peter Hemmins	719372
Peter White	719669

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

TEAM EAST

Month	Sunday	Title	T.E.W	Boxworth	Elsworth	Knapwell	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
January	1	Epiphany		08.30 am HC (2)	10.30 am FS	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC(1)	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC (2)	
	2	Baptism of Christ		10.30 am FS	3.00 pm HC(2)		10.30 am W/A		10.30 am HC	8.30 am HC(2)
February	3	Epiphany 3	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am MP	10.30 am AAC	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am FS	
	4	Epiphany 4		10.30 am HC(1)	3.00 pm EP		10.30 am MW	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am HC
	1	Second Sunday before Lent		08.30 am HC (2)	10.30 am FS	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC(1)	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC (2)	
	2	Sunday before Lent		10.30 am FS	3.00 pm HC (2)		10.30 am W/A		10.30 am MP	8.30 am HC(2)

13/02/2013	Ash Wednesday		7.30 pm Holy Communion @ tbc							
3	Lent 1	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am MP	10.30 am AAC	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am FS		
17/02/2013			10.30 am HC (1)	3.00 pm EP		10.30 am MWorship	6.00 pm EP			10.30 am MP
4	Lent 2									
24/02/2013										

Home Communion

If you are a regular worshipper and become housebound we still want to share in the life of your Christian community. If you are having difficulty getting to church, but a lift would make that possible please contact the team office on 01954 719718 and we will be able to help. If you cannot get out and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please let the office know and we will arrange for the sacrament to be brought to you on a regular basis. This also applies to those who are seriously ill and bed bound.

Please let Sally have any items for the April
 Skylark by Tuesday 19 March.
 Tel: 719464
 Email: theskylark@rocketmail.com