

THE SKYLARK

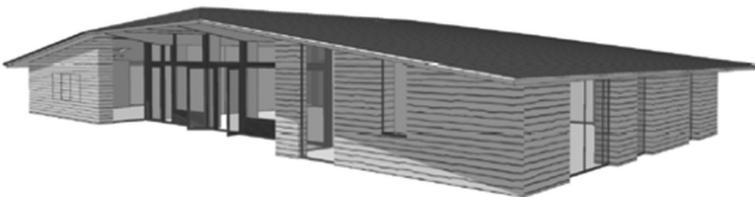
Longstowe Parish Newsletter

October 2014

Village News

Longstowe Village Hall Rebuild

To give you a very rough idea of the proposed new building, below is the architect's impression of the general 'look' for the new hall. Note that the glass wall to the front of the main hall is echoed on the field side giving clear visibility through the building. The building will consist of a main hall, meetings room, kitchen, bar, toilet and storage facilities and a separate self-contained changing rooms area.



During the past few months, John Crowther of Wrights Farmhouse has been appointed to oversee the new project and a team has been formed with skills in specific areas. These are Lorraine Allan, Will Bevan, Jane Bowden, Tone Clay, Maddy Crowther, Deborah Hoy and Viv Storey. Others will come and go as necessary.

One of the first tasks for the Team is to put together a prospectus or 'CV' for the new hall to inform prospective fund providers. It is important that the village is seen to be actively committed to the rebuild project, and can demonstrate that it is engaged in the process of realistic fundraising, even though the funds that a small village like ours can raise will be modest.

To this end the Rebuild Team invite you to **complete the separate form on pages 5-6** you'll find in the magazine, and indicate the kind of activities you enjoy or would like to see taking place now and/or in the new hall. Please indicate the age range you fall into and any other suggestions or comments you may have.

This is an great opportunity to revitalize our community activities and a number of

events are already being planned with both community and fundraising in mind. The first of these, 'Blues in the Park' with hog roast, will already have happened by the time Skylark reaches you and we hope you enjoyed it. Other events and groups suggested have been a barn dance, curry evening, reading group, charity dog walk with tea in the hall, a 'Pampered Chef' evening; tell us if you'd be interested in coming to any of these, and anything else you would like to take part in.

We do hope you will join us going forward in this exciting venture, and very much look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

*Jane Bowden
Longstowe Village Hall
Rebuild Committee*

The Village Fete

The Village Hall Committee would like to extend their sincere thanks to all who came, contributed to and/or helped at the Village Fete and Show, which took place on Saturday 13 September.

To families, friends, neighbours and visitors who came to lend a hand and put up gazebos, set up the show, judge exhibits, man stalls, supply and cook burgers, bake cakes, distribute teas, man the bar, paint faces, feed teddies, wash up ... and cook supper for their families afterwards.

Thank you too to Gamlingay Fire and Rescue who brought their engine along and showed watchers the workings of the various compartments, and to the scouts for the rifle range.

A special thank you goes to our cider girls who donated a cask of their magnificent brew (which, for those of you who didn't catch it, was named 'Ermine's Treat!').

And to Charlie Rolls who gave us an awesome stunt cycling demonstration. (If you haven't seen Charlie in action, you must – find him on YouTube.)

It was another great day in the true tradition of rural community life.

One thing however – we must apologize to all who were looking forward to an afternoon of 'zorbng'; one of the organizers of the Giant Hamster Balls had sadly been taken ill with food poisoning and they were unable to come.

Longstowe Show

This year's Longstowe Show, the twenty third to be held in memory of Ernest Hollis, former resident of this village, was run as part of Longstowe Fete. There were fewer entries than last year. Despite this lower level of entries, there were some very fine examples of handiwork of our residents and their children on display. The most supported class was photographs, both adults' and children's.

Overall winner was judged to be Lynne Gordon who had entered a large number of good quality items. In joint second place were Zoe Burton and Chima Allan.

The children's class was won by Lily Burton. Lily had produced and entered a large number of exhibits, which showed off her skills very well indeed. Runner up in that category was Sam Holland.

Many thanks to Tesney, who looked after the scoring, to our two judges who wish to remain anonymous, and of course to Mrs Margaret Muller who kindly offered to present the awards.

We do need to make changes to The Show in an attempt to keep it viable, to that end we will continue to make changes to the format, so that it may attract sufficient entries to keep it running. Without support from village residents, the Longstowe Show will not be able to continue.

Peter White
Show Organiser

New venture – Longstowe Village Art Group

Many villages in South Cambridgeshire have their own Art Group, why not Longstowe? Lorraine Allan and Viv Storey, both keen amateur artists, decided it would be a nice idea to start an Art Group in the village. The response from a local flyer quickly established that the village and surrounding area has a number of talented artists keen to join in.

The Group will be meeting on Friday mornings at the Village Hall, starting on 26th September.

You don't need to be an expert but, as this is a self-help group, some experience of drawing or painting would be desirable.

Anyone wishing to join can contact Lorraine on 715440 or Viv on 710019 for more information. Expect to see future Art Exhibitions at the Village Hall!

Gladys Hemmins



One of the oldest residents of Longstowe. On the 20th April this year Gladys celebrated her 100th birthday at Home Meadow, Toft, where she has lived for the past 8 years.

She enjoyed a lovely day with family and friends with a tea party. Thank you to Home Meadow for providing the tea and birthday cake.

Also many thanks to Everyone who sent Cards, Flowers and Good Wishes.

Brenda Murden

Just a reminder about the forthcoming History Day and our aim to have a stand to honour our WW1 heroes who served either from the parish of Longstowe or who had connections with present residents from wherever they came.

We would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has a story to tell or information to share, or who has memorabilia from the 1914–18 war. If you would like help with the storytelling, please let me know.

Jane Bowden

LONGSTOWE HISTORY DAY

Sunday 5th October 2014

**11am till 5pm
at the Village Hall**

WW1

**Photographs • School records
Sporting history • Other Histories**

Research aids

Maps, Parish registers, Census

Refreshments will be served

Entrance: £1

Please, tell family and friends with Longstowe connections, and anyone else who may be interested, to come along

**Contact Jane Bowden for further
details: jane@glebehouse.eu,
tel 01954 719737**

Church News

Farewell Letter

This is my last letter in this magazine before I move to Sussex for a new job. I will be the Archdeacon of Horsham in the Chichester Diocese, which will be a new challenge and an opportunity to make a difference in a new place and role. I've been here in the Papworth Team for 10 years and it seems to have gone past in the blink of an eye. I've really enjoyed being here and getting to know the people of these villages, and I will be sorry to leave you all. There is so much that is good in the Papworth Team. It's a place where people are open to working together and learning from each other and trying to be one while celebrating each other's individuality.

What I have enjoyed most is being with you all. It's been an honour and a privilege to be invited to be part of so many people's lives, being with them in all their joys and sorrows and walking with them in both public and private moments. There's been a lot of laughter and a lot of work – I've never been bored! What I'll miss most is you – I've built up so many relationships here and, although it feels like the right time for me to go, I will be sad to leave you. It's always been important to me that we accompany one another through life and, although I won't be here physically I

will be thinking of you. I have also developed a passion for rural ministry, where you can be surrounded by beauty and see the changing seasons and be part of people's lives. I will take that passion with me to the Diocese of Chichester.

I wish you every blessing for the future. Whatever it brings, remember that God holds everything in his hands. We can trust him to work for good in whatever happens and know that his plans for us are good: 'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans for your welfare, not for harm. To give you a future with hope' (Jeremiah 29.11). This, of course, doesn't mean that we're guaranteed immunity from life's troubles or that everything will work out just as we want. But we are guaranteed that ultimately God holds our future in his hands and nothing can separate us from his love and blessing. We do not know every detail of the future, either in this life or the life to come, but we do know that God is with us every step of the way and his promises will not fail. So, in that assurance, let us welcome this new chapter in the Papworth Team's story with confidence, trust and thanksgiving.

I've had an amazing time here and wouldn't have missed a moment of it! I'm so grateful for all that I've received from each of you in so many ways.

With every blessing

Fiona

A letter from the fields

For many farmers 2014 will be a most memorable year.

The drilling (or sowing season) was a bit prolonged and for many very wet with autumn flooding across so much of the country. Some of the seed didn't go into the best of seed beds, with the slugs taking their fair share of oil seed rape plants and some of the last wheat had difficulty surfacing in the sodden ground.

However, the winter was very mild, enabling surviving late plants to catch up, and bringing the growth of all crops forward – but also providing fertile opportunity for key crop diseases to proliferate.

For some farmers the spring crops went in late, into good but dry seed beds; then, just in time, enough spring rain came to set most of them going. Then June, a critical month for growth, was the perfect combination of cool temperatures, rain and sunshine to fill the grain and produce the basics of bold and good quality wheat and barley.

When harvest arrived, the wheats were early, and for us, the same harvest team came together again – 10 part time and full time – and the combines rolled and we had perfect hot and dry weather for both the oil seed rape and the early milling wheats. Bumper crops in sight(!) and potential good news for the consumer: as soon as world production looked as though it would exceed demand, the prices crashed by around 40% – not quite so good for the farmer, but then for most farmers the yield and quality will provide some compensation.

Only one minor 'event' on our farm so far: someone leaves the trailer tipping lever 'in gear' and our student is showered with 3 tonnes of wheat; no problem getting out of the way, but he's left with 2-3 hours shovelling to do.

But then a shocking and huge sadness: a 19 year old with a heavy load had a fatal accident on a local A1 roundabout – a reminder to us all that farming is one of the two most dangerous industries.

It is still lovely that so many people take an interest in the harvest, so we have quite a few visitors, with several people riding in the combine, children coming round to see where bread comes from and climbing the wheat heaps in the barn.

Then the rain comes and all grinds to halt, but perfect timing for me as I slip out to take the Christian part of a two day Christian and Hindu wedding.

But we have to be aware that the farming skills lie in a team with no one under the age of 63, except for Tom, the student.

Our self employed and totally key 45 year old agricultural engineer comes into the yard and says he's retraining. I say you can't and ask "what on earth for?" He replies "to be a nurse to look after you when you draw your pensions – which looks as though it will be quite soon". So for us, after 25 years, a son will be slipping quietly into the saddle in a year's time and will pick up the reins.

But as we reflect on another year's farming, perhaps the most striking aspect of harvest is the community that comes together to bring the harvest home: in addition to our own harvest team, the seed suppliers, corn merchants, agricultural engineers, fuel suppliers, the agronomists, the fertilizer suppliers, the chemical suppliers, the road hauliers and the store providers all play their part in producing the food that arrives on our plates.

And not to be forgotten has been a particularly lovely sight this year: the variety of wildlife that can be seen from the combine cab: the brood sizes of the partridges and pheasants have been as large as we have seen for years in spite of the numbers of predators, and those species giving us the concern of diminishing numbers – corn buntings, turtle doves, grey partridge, kestrels, skylarks and barn owls are all in evidence.

We sow perhaps 35 tonnes of seed and harvest 3500 tonnes of produce – a multiple of 100: what productivity! Throughout the harvest, I pray, of which the definition is simply conversations with God – nothing complicated or 'formal' – for a safe and timely completion.

In four more full days of harvesting, we will finish, and I will make my own pilgrimage to the church in the village which is now open Spring Summer and Autumn, and thank the quiet mystery behind all life who made it all possible.

The Rev NHA Pearson

Date for diaries: Christmas bazaar at Caxton Church on 6th December

Rendezvous: 4 days of activities and entertainment for over 65s in the Papworth team of churches was held again this year.

Following this years' really successful week in August a letter was received from Liz Jones of Papworth which I think speaks for everybody who attended.

'As we sat side by side with other novices, we were becoming new friends, although we all laughed at ourselves, we realised just how capable we actually were! I would like to offer a huge "thank you" to the organisers, they did an absolutely wonderful job. It was a truly wonderful week. Looking forward to next year!

Keeping You Safe+Well

Do you need some help to get out and about? Are you finding it difficult to get in the bath or stand in the shower? Do you have an illness or disability, or perhaps are just getting older and finding some everyday tasks challenging?

A new service can help you find out what daily living aids can support you and help make sure you (or a relative) remain independent. The new Safe+Well Service is run by a company called NRS Healthcare with support from Cambs County Council. Safe+Well offers local residents a wealth of advice and information about what equipment is available, how it can help at home, and where you can try and buy it both online and in local shops.

To find out more, visit the website www.safeandwell.co.uk/cambridgeshire. Don't use the internet? No problem! You can call or email for more information or to request a product catalogue.

Tel: 01480 415719

Email: enquiries@safeandwell.co.uk

Longstowe Sports Club

Longstowe Cricket Club

With the start of September and just a single friendly match remaining another cricket season is all but over. Where does the time go?

At Longstowe Cricket Club we can look back on a good summer with plenty of positives. However the final fortnight of the season did highlight that we still need more players to really compete with two teams and the task of rebuilding the club is still not finished.

After a mixed start to the season the 1st team began to find their feet as they entered June. Five victories in 6 matches took them from low in the table to the brink of the promotion places with the only setback coming against Fen Ditton. When they started August after victory over Wilburton they lay in 3rd place with three matches to go. Unfortunately a sloppy defeat against struggling Waterbeach put them out of contention and after that the season rather fizzled out. Forced to concede an away match in Wisbech the team lost their final match to champions Littleport. They finished in a safe mid-table position with a record of 7 wins, 6 defeats and 3 lost to the weather. This did however hide some fine performances by individuals along the way including consecutive scores of 90 and 127 by skipper Ali Fox.

The 2nd XI also had good victories spanning the end of June and the beginning of July when they defeated Wimblington and Coton. There then followed 2 defeats to eventual division winners Madingley and away to Bottisham-Lode where player shortage meant fielding a team of 10 with half over the age of 50. (And they still only lost by a handful of runs). A recovery saw good team performances and victories over Wimblington, Bar Hill & Milton while Histon conceded their match without a ball being bowled. By this stage the team had risen to 2nd in the table and promotion seemed a real possibility but sadly the end of season again saw shortages of players. This shortage meant that the match against Wisbech had to be conceded and a team of just 9 left to face Coton in the final match. This was particularly frustrating because the 9 men restricted Coton to a nervy win by just 18 runs. That final match saw Coton promoted and the 2nds slip to 4th with a glimpse of what might have been. In the final table they finished 4th with a record of 8 wins, 5 defeats and 3 cancellations.

On August 29th the Sports Club hosted a Quiz Night to raise funds for the Club. A successful evening was enjoyed and on behalf of the club I would like to thank all those who supported the event.

John Gooch (Secretary)
Longstowe Cricket Club
jgooch@supanet.com



PLEASE RETURN FORMS by 30th OCTOBER to Maddy Crowther, Wrights Farm; or Jane Bowden, Glebe House, Park Lane.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Age range: 0-5, 5-10, 10-20, 20-40, 40-60, over 60

Your general interests/hobbies:

What recent activities have you enjoyed in the village hall?

P.T.O.

Longstowe Parish Council News

www.scambs.gov.uk/LongstowePC

Gamlingay Division Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – September 2014

The Gamlingay Division comprises the Parishes of Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Great Eversden, Lt Eversden, Gamlingay, Lt Gransden, Haslingfield, Harlton, Hatley, Longstowe, Orwell & Wimpole.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these – or indeed any other – matters, please do not hesitate to contact County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or skindersley@hotmail.com or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA.

District Councillor Bridget Smith is on 01767 650510 or bridget@glockling.com and District Councillor Aidan van de Weyer can be called on 01223 870 869 or email him aidan@mishmush.com

Cambridgeshire County Council Budget

We are currently reviewing our annual business plan which includes looking at the authority's priorities and setting our budget for the year 2015/16. We want your views!! We'd be very grateful if you could take the time to view the proposals and complete the questionnaire

– which you can access here: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation>

If you have any questions, please do get in touch. It would be greatly appreciated if you could promote this consultation to members of your household, your friends and your colleagues to complete this survey as well. It's going to be hard. Due to increased demand and inflation coupled with cuts in funding from Central Government, our current business plan sets out the need to save £149.1 million over the next five years, with **£30.7 million** to save next year. This inevitably means the Council (along with all local authorities) will need to make more service cuts. This year the budget has to be balanced with 7.1% less money from Government and increased pressures on services from inflation and rising population.

So help us to decide where to make the cuts...

Bins & Recycling

South Cambridgeshire District Council will be implementing new bin collection rounds from September that will improve efficiency, reduce costs and contribute to savings of around £400,000 a year to meet reductions in government funding and rising inflation – all good stuff, obviously. How did they achieve this? By producing more efficient collection routes, which have been generated using new route mapping technology – so less

What kinds of activity would you be interested to attend either in the old or in a new Village Hall (e.g. clubs, socials, events, sport, exercise classes, educational classes, groups for children)?

Please specify both in general and in particular?:

Do you prefer activities to take place in the evening or in the daytime, or at weekends?:

Ideas you may have for large or small scale fundraising:

Would you be willing to help out at or organize a fundraising event?:

Any other comments:

travel, less fuel, less time travelling ... The scale of bin rounds in South Cambs is huge – 180 collection routes, performing 180,000 collections a fortnight to 60,000 properties – only nine of which will see a change in their collection days. Be warned though – collection times may vary and you need to put your bin out the night before, or **by 6am** on the day of collection. Some rounds will continue to 5pm so Don't Panic (until the next day...!)

Solar Farms in South Cambs

Many people have been in touch over the past few months to ask about the proliferation of solar farms in South Cambs – at the moment heading to 24. Most recently an application has been submitted for a 28-megawatt installation 121 acres in Sawston. Several other sites are yet to be made subject to a planning application but have had environmental impact assessment requests submitted to the council. These include the 165-hectare (407 acre) site at Childerley Farm, west of Dry Drayton, which could be one of the largest in the UK. South Cambs is Britain's solar panel capital, boasting more installations – including arrays on homes and businesses – than anywhere else in the UK. But...are they something we should be concerned about? Are you? Please let us know your thoughts...

School Funding

We wrote previously about the good news for underfunded Cambridgeshire schools – now even more – with an extra £23.2 million from the Government next year – more than expected. The cash is equivalent to another £311 per pupil. The settlement means Cambridgeshire is no longer the poorest-funded authority in the UK per pupil, rising to 14th from bottom – Hurrah! The Government had previously announced Cambridgeshire would get an estimated £20.5 million but, following a consultation, increased the offer. Many individual schools can expect to get an increase of more than £100,000 in their budgets. Obviously we welcome this but concerns remain that there was no reference to whether the funding was permanent or would apply to 2015/16 only.

A428

Gamlingay residents as well as those Parishes on the A1198 have been only too well aware of the increase in traffic (rat-running) through the villages as a result of the growth of Cambourne – and no surprise to learn that the A428 is experiencing some of the highest traffic growth in the county.

Concern is growing as to whether the route

will cope with growth planned from the Bedfordshire end to St Neots through to Cambridge – 20,000 homes are planned to 2031 in this Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire corridor, with significant growth planned for Cambourne and Bourn (although we are fighting this). Additional capacity is needed to facilitate this growth especially for the stretch between Caxton and the Black Cat. So the County Council has written a letter to a Minister pointing this out. Sigh.

Mobile Phone Reception

...might improve if you're an O2 or Vodafone customer as the Fuller's Hill Lt Gransden phone mast is to be upgraded to enhance current 3G coverage in the area and provide new 4G coverage.

Roads

We are pushing South Cambs to resolve some issues in Church End Arrington where works have taken place – rather badly – and hopefully this will be resolved shortly. Also very happy to report a good piece of road and pavement replacement in East Hatley following a resident's concerns about the state of the patch – and of course good news that the A1198 through Arrington has been beautifully resurfaced including the dreaded junction with Church Lane that has had potholes in it since 1858. Some good things do happen! Speeding on Larkin's Road continues to be a worry despite the development of natural speedhumps – please do consider the residents here as you zip by.

Got a problem? Issue? Something you'd like to discuss?

Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can!

Disability Open Day 2014

South Cambridgeshire Disability Forum is working in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council to organise the above open day.

An event that highlights services available for those living with and caring for those with disabilities, highlighting charities, advice, equipment and practical help; as well as providing a meeting place to share ideas, make new contacts and forge new friendships.

There will be information from organisations such as, Age UK, Help for Heroes, Lifelines and lifelines plus, Cambridge carers support and much more.

The open day will take place at South Cambridgeshire District Council Offices Cambourne, in the Council Chamber, on Friday 31st October 2014 from 10am–4pm. The event will be open to all 150,000 residents who live and work in South Cambridgeshire.

TEAM EAST

Month	Sunday	Title	T.E.W	Boxworth	Eisworth	Knapwell	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
October	1	Trinity 16		8.30 am	10.30 am	6.00 pm Harvest	10.30 am	8.30 am	8.30 am	
	05/10/2014	Trinity 16		HC (2)	HARVEST	Evensong	HARVEST	HC (2)	HC (2)	
	2	Trinity 17			6.00 pm		10.30 am		10.30 am	10.30 am
	12/10/2014	Trinity 17			HC (2)		WFA		HC	Harvest

	3	Trinity 18	6.00 pm Caxton H McCurdy	10.30 am MP ME	10.30 am AAC PG	3.00 pm HC(2) PG	8.30 am HC (1) AC	10.30 am FS AC	10.30 am HARVEST NP	
	4	Last Sunday after Trinity		10.30 am HC (1)	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am MP or SoW	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am HC(2)
	1	4 th Sunday before Advent		08.30 am	10.30 am	3.00 pm	10.30 am	8.30 am	8.30 am	
	02/11/2014	Advent		HC (2)	FS	EP	HC(1)	HC (2)	HC (2)	
November	07/11/2014			6.00 pm All Souls Service @ Bourn						
	2	Remembrance Sunday		Confirmation Service at Lordsbridge						
	09/11/2014	Remembrance Sunday		10.30 am	3.00 pm		10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
	3	3 rd Sunday before Advent	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am	10.30 am		8.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	Remembrance
	16/11/2014	Advent		MP	AAC		HC(1)	FS	FS	
	4	Christ the King		10.30 am Deanery Service at CVC						
	23/11/2014	King		6.00 pm Bread of Life at Eltislsey (with HC)						
	5	Advent 1		8.30 am @ Kingston		10.30 am Team Advent Service at Papworth		3.00 pm Christingle @ Longstowe		
	30/11/2014	Advent 1								

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.

Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmings 719638
 Bill Slater 719551
 Peter Hemmings 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

Please let Sally have any items for the January Skylark by Thursday 11 December.
 Tel: 719464
 Email: theskylark@rocketmail.com