



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

January 2015

Village News

Village Hall Matters

A Very Happy Christmas To You All!

... from the Village Hall Committee, and sincere thanks to all who have given support to your village hall over the past year; to all those who have maintained the hall from behind the scenes, helped out in any way at fundraising events, or just come along to enjoy the company of family, friends and neighbours on many occasions throughout the year. Simply using the hall sustains its presence and maintains the valuable part it plays in the community.

Here is a quick update on the **Rebuild Project** – and most importantly, fundraising is up and running...

A big thank you again for your interest in the 'New Village Hall' project. A small number of forms were received regarding your general interests, ideas for fundraising and uses for the hall and these will be incorporated into future planning.

In September, we kicked off with 'Mojo Triangle' which put Longstowe on the map with "Blues in the Park"; a terrific occasion on a beautiful evening in late summer greatly enjoyed by everyone who came; my guests said it was the best hog roast they'd ever eaten. Over one hundred and fifty people came and it made a profit just short of £1000.

For March, a 'Pampered Chef' evening is planned, offering quality kitchen stuff for sale at a fun evening of demonstrations, wine and nibbles. Watch out for details.

And in addition, the committee is investigating the possibility of running a '200 CLUB', the details of which are presently being thought through. If this is found to be feasible, once again details will follow.

So in 2015, there'll be plenty going on, and we're looking forward to, and wish you all ...

a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Celia Eardley

The family of the late Celia Eardley would like to thank all her neighbours and friends in the village, who sent messages of condolence and who supported us by attending her funeral. We are grateful for the many different ways everyone helped us and are really appreciative of the kind donations made in memory of Celia's life to the Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. The Wildlife Trust has included the poem read at Celia's funeral in their book of remembrance and this can be viewed at their Cambourne office. The Woodland Trust have dedicated a quarter acre of woodland to Celia in acknowledgement of the donations received to help them continue their work to preserve our wonderful woodlands.

Nikki Burton (Eardley) & Family

Derek Pettit

Derek sadly passed away 11th October, aged 84, his sister Joy would like to thank those who attended his funeral and kindly made donations to Prostate Cancer UK, a total of £330 was raised. Derek had been ill for some time and Joy would like to extend her thanks to all those who helped and visited him during this difficult time.

Miep Benton

We were all very saddened to hear of the death of Mrs 'Miep' Benton. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her for her forthright kindness and generosity towards the village and all her friends, a remarkable woman. The following was written in Miep's memory by her daughter Caroline, mother of Ben and Paul Hansford who also lived and grew up in Longstowe.

Wilhelmina Henriette Benton-Krijger van Prehn

Quite a mouthful, but Mrs Benton was known more easily as Miep, or Mientje or Wilma to Longstowe villagers. She was born in Salatiga, Indonesia, on 23 October 1924, and after a childhood filled with love, luxury and variety, saw all that disappear when the Japanese invaded and interned her whole extended family in PoW camps. As Rob Krijger noted: *I will always remember her as my older, wiser and adventurous cousin, who survived the*

horrors of the Japanese concentration camps in Indonesia and at the age of 21 sadly lost her father there. Then married a handsome and daring RAF-officer and was blessed with three lovely children. The family spent an industrious time in the secluded countryside of Guyana and Africa, where in the absence of schools Mientje herself bravely educated the children. Indeed a woman to be proud of.

Miep travelled with George to (what was then) British Guiana (BG) in 1956. Their liner was caught up in a hurricane, but I remember that my mother was one of the few people not to be affected by the seasickness that laid so many low, so our cabin was always full of children whose parents couldn't care for them, entertain them in those difficult days. Life in BG was comparatively easy, after that, if you exclude the alligator, piranha, boa constrictor-filled creeks and lakes where we would spend our weekends!

The weeks would see my mother educating my sister and I for a minimum of 3 hours daily. She did an amazing job for the next 6 years, providing me with an educational background that has stood me in good stead, as well as, with my father, passing on skills that I still put to good use now. She had to be adaptable, resourceful, with tasks that ranged from hosting the BG Prime Minister and his wife, to rounding up the crabs that escaped from their purging barrel in the kitchen and were intent on reaching our bedrooms in the disused prison in which we lived.

1959–1963 were the years in Uganda, where she gave George the son, Nick, that he'd always wanted. She continued to teach us, but also took on translation work, using the various languages in which she was competent, plus doing typing work for the local courts. She would 'hold the fort' while George was off in the bush, building roads in remote parts.

Our journey by car (and trailer) from Uganda to South Africa was hazardous and tested Miep's endurance, resourcefulness to its limits. One of my lasting memories took place in a camp site in Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. My father and sister had been laid low with a stomach bug when we retired for the night into our tent... and the local baboons decided to raid our food. Miep took offence at this and chased them across the empty site: the moonlit image of her in a black nylon nightie, dashing after the baboons will stay in my memory forever.. but they went into the *men's* toilets, so my mother felt the chase must be given up at that point!

When my parents bought 'Karamoja', 49 High Street. Longstowe, Miep felt she'd found her home for life, and strongly resisted my father's attempts to move anywhere else. Longstowe and its villagers gave her the community she'd always wanted and in which she became very involved, fundraising for the church, the village

hall and other organisations. She threw herself into fetes, committees, clubs, baking, growing plants... She loved walking their Labradors around the fields. When all of us left home, they extended the house to accommodate their interests, Miep involving herself in my father's shooting and fishing and beekeeping and game keeping activities. The house was always full of honey, game bird egg incubators, sewing tasks, leatherworking...

After George's death in 1999, Miep continued to involve herself with village matters, even when she could no longer stand behind the fete stalls or walk the footpaths. She loved hearing about what was going on and contributed generously to the raffles, the carol singers, Halloween visitors...

In later years, her chair at the window allowed her to see what was going on, as well as watch her beloved wild birds on all her feeders. She wasn't quite so enthusiastic about the grey squirrels, magpies and pigeons, regularly whacking the windows with her walking stick to deter them!

Miep always made it quite clear that she would end her days in the house, the village that she loved and on Tuesday 18 November, aged 90 years, she did. She'll be sadly missed by all who knew her... an amazing woman!

Longstowe Art Group recommence sessions at Longstowe Village Hall on Friday 16th of January at 10am. If you would like to join this group please contact Viv on 710019 or Lorraine on 715440 for more information.

Longstowe Parish Council News

Longstowe Pound

The Parish Council would like to thank Peter Hemmins for his past voluntary work of cutting the grass of the Pound. A volunteer with mower is needed to replace Peter. Or perhaps someone in Longstowe has an animal (sheep?) that needs a small space. Any suggestions or offers welcome. Please contact Bobbie Coe at longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com or 01954 719320.

Thanks also to Ben Holland and Graham Northrop for giving their time so generously to erect the new fence for the Pound.

Christmas and New Year Bin Collections:

Saturday 27 December	blue bin
Thursday 8 January	black bin

Church News

Revd Alexandra writes:

Dear Friends

Many thanks indeed to those of you who kindly filled a shoebox with children's gifts last month. The boxes were safely sent off from Bourn and are on their way across the globe. 'Operation Christmas Child 2014', an appeal run by the charity Samaritan's Purse, sends shoeboxes full of Christmas gifts to children living in some of the most desperate situations in the world. Their mission is 'to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world.' You can visit www.samaritans-purse.org.uk to find out more about how these gifts are distributed and the many other ways in which the charity works with people who are in dire need and poverty to rebuild their lives, through providing the basics for work, such as setting up small sewing projects in refugee camps.

We all know that the number of refugees around the globe is growing at an alarming rate, and this puts immense pressure on host countries; there are now more refugees living in Jordan than native Jordanians. Many refugees are children – nearly half of the Syrian refugees are under the age of 18 and most refugees are women fleeing with children, leaving fathers and older brothers behind, meaning that families are divided.

We tend to think of Christmas being a season of peace and goodwill when we are encouraged to help those less fortunate than ourselves. The Christmas story hits a little closer to the bone, though, when we think of refugees struggling for survival in a foreign land. St Matthew's Gospel tells us that after Mary had given birth to Jesus, far from her own family and in the squalor of an animal shelter, she and Joseph had to flee with Jesus, in the dead of night, because their lives were in danger. They ended up in Egypt where they sheltered from a terrible killing spree which King Herod was inflicting on his people. It's perhaps a story any one of the 2.5 million Syrian refugees could relate to, with a heart-rending version of their own. Jesus began his life on earth in truly desperate circumstances. Celebrating his birthday can be a truly meaningful event when we share some of the good things of our life with those who share some of the traumas of his.

Wishing you every blessing

Alexandra

Jottings from The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council)

Longstowe Church has been at the centre of much activity this year. It shows, why the PCC continues to work to keep 'the doors open, and the roof on', thereby helping the Church in its endeavours to welcome and support those who have need in the community.

During this year we have said goodbye to rather too many good friends of longstanding. Thankfully on a happier note, we have been able to welcome others by way of several baptisms and some lovely and joyful weddings.

Also, we have greeted upwards of 120 other worshippers. Firstly, with the presentation of the Banner for Grenadier Guards Association-Cambridge Branch in June, the Pet Service in September and our joint Service of Remembrance and Commemoration with Bourn Church, and again at the recent Christingle Service.

Indeed, you may like to know that the collections from these two latter occasions raised incredible sums of money for specific charities, rather than as a collection for the Church. Namely:

Royal British Legion £290.15
Children's Society £160

We believe that Christingle was originally introduced by Shelia Hemmins with the support of Mary Bevan in the early 90s when they were both members of the PCC. Now it is very ably organised by Daphne Ford who has been cajoling some of the village to make Christingles for the last 10 years or so. The three children, who read for the Service, did so most beautifully, and everyone enjoyed the part of the afternoon when the Christingles had been handed out, lighted and the lights turned off accompanied by the carol 'Away in a Manger' - sung by the congregation to the guitar playing of Tim Rogers.



Finally a little story about our wonderful Bells which made Peter White and Lorraine Allen very happy, and would definitely make Vic and Doris Jarvis smile:-

"During the Christingle Service the congregation were joined by late comers – a young couple who had heard the bells ringing whilst out on a walk from Wysing Arts Centre and decided to follow the sound, thinking it would be wonderful to join in. They were complete strangers to the area possibly American and had no idea about the Church at the end of a bridleway! They were absolutely delighted with their find and spent some little while after the service looking at the various memorials."

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Future Dates for your diary:

- Carol Service 21st December 10.30am
- Christmas Day – Holy Communion 9.30am
- 1st service in 2015 – 11th January, Holy Communion 8.30am
- 25th January joint Songs of Praise @ Bourn

"Our Commemoration Service this year, was very well supported by the villages of Longstowe and Bourn, the Scouts and also several members of the Cambridgeshire Grenadier Guards Association who had made a special visit to the Church now that their Banner is displayed. One of the Readings was the poem by the soldier John McCrae "In Flanders Fields" which says so much, and the congregation also heard about Woodbine Willie the soldier priest who comforted so many in the trenches. Afterwards refreshments were served in the Village Hall where around 50 people had the opportunity of reading/looking at artefacts from WW1 including Trench Maps and research on the Longstowe Roll of Honour by Viv Storey and Lorraine Allen

Thank you for your kind gift from Royal British Legion 10th November 2014

Thank you very much for your kind donation of £290.15 to The Royal British Legion which I understand was the result of your collection at Longstowe Church on Remembrance Sunday. We really value your support.

Over 9 million people are eligible for our support and 1000 people call on us for help every day. Your gift will help us continue to provide serving and ex-Service men and women in need of practical, financial and emotional support; as well as campaign for their best interests.

Yours sincerely

Charles Byrne,
Director of Fundraising
The Royal British Legion

John McCrae is remembered for what is probably the best known and most popular of all World

War 1 poetry excluding our own Rupert Brooke "and is there honey for tea"!

Sadly he did not survive WW1; he died from pneumonia whilst on active duty in 1918. It is believed he was so moved by the death of his friend, who had been killed by a shell burst, and inspired by the profusion of wild poppies he could see in the nearby cemetery, that he wrote in Flanders Fields.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Field the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are The Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

*Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae,
MD Canadian Army (1872–1918)*

from Peter White...

This year our annual harvest supper was held at the village hall on Saturday 18th October. There were a total of 40 diners. Some of 'the usual faces' were absent, due to conflicts of dates.

However a good time was enjoyed by all. We consumed beautifully prepared food that had been donated and were entertained by a raffle and an intriguing quiz, prepared and presented by Dan Gordon. This isn't the first time Dan has been involved with a quiz in Longstowe, he is rather good at it! Revd. Nigel Pearson came to say grace for us.

At the close of the evening, we had raised a grand total of £338 which all goes toward the running costs of our church in Longstowe.

Thanks are due to the organisers and to those who donated food and time on the evening. We need events like this in our village, they are part of what makes Longstowe the community it is. Thank you for your support.

The morning of Sunday 21st September gave us truly lovely warm and bright weather. It was decided to hold the Pet Service outside the church. This meant we could all enjoy some of the last of the sunshine of the season whilst perhaps avoiding any 'mishaps' that may have occurred inside the church! The service was led by Revd. Alexandra Clarke. She was assisted by members of the Bourn Choir and their organist, Ian.



Harvest Supper

The service was supported by a fair size congregation, many of whom had brought their pets. A large number of dogs enjoyed the service, as did a donkey. He had walked from Bourn, which took him and his owner about a hour.

Refreshments were served in the village hall after the service, which gave plenty of time for

those in the congregation, to compare notes on their various pets after the service.

Thank you to all those who supported the service and of course, to those unseen heroes who spend much time and effort keeping the church and grounds in such lovely condition.



Christingle Service

Our Christingle service was held on Sunday 30th November. The church looked very welcoming due to its bright and cheery decoration. The bells were skilfully rung at the start of the service, by Lorraine Adams. Our service was led by Revd Alexandra Clarke who was assisted by three younger members of our community, including Sam Holland and Lily Burton, who each gave a reading.



Christingles were given to the twenty six children who attended the service. The children stood, spellbound in the aisle, each watching their lighted candles and presumably looking forward to consuming the other goodies attached to the oranges which were at the centre of each Christingle.

The event raised a total of £196, which will be donated to The Children's Society.

Many thanks to all who helped prepare and decorate the church, to

Daphne Ford and her team of helpers who, once again, made the Christingles and to Morrisons Supermarket, who generously donated the fruit. Another very valuable Longstowe tradition.

Longstowe Church bells

We have now had a set of eight Harringtons tubular bells in our church, in full working order, for a couple of years. Unlike conventional tower bells, they are comparatively easy to learn to ring. We have a vacancy coming up for one more ringer in our small team. If you would like to have a go, or even go up the tower to have a look, please don't hesitate to contact me. Many assume that it is necessary or expected, that bell ringers attend the church service following ringing. This is by no means the case ringers are of course very welcome to stay for the service, but many leave after ringing. In Longstowe we tend to ring for only ten minutes before the service begins.

Please contact me if you would like to know more.

Peter White 01954 719669
mrpeterwhite@btinternet.com

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Are you a good neighbour? Do you want to protect vulnerable residents from rogue traders?

Signs an unwanted doorstep caller is visiting a neighbour:

- Traders have been cold calling in the area
- A builder's van is parked nearby, particularly one that doesn't include a company name or contact details
- Building or maintenance work on your neighbour's garden or house starts unexpectedly
- Poor quality work is visible on the roof, driveway, or property
- Your neighbour appears anxious or distressed
- Your neighbour visits the bank, building society, or post office more frequently, particularly if they are accompanied by a trader

What can I do?

- ✓ Ask your neighbour in private - in person or on the phone - if things are OK
- ✓ If they are displeased, suggest calling a relative or carer on their behalf
- ✓ Note any vehicle registration numbers
- ✓ Keep hold of any flyers you have received through your door
- ✓ Ask if the trader has left any paperwork and put it in a clean food bag
- ✓ If you suspect a crime, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06 or your local trading standards office
- ✓ If the situation with the trader becomes volatile, call the police

For more information, contact your local trading standards service or Citizens Advice Bureau or visit www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/ncwinfo

#stoproguetraders



Taken from Cambridgeshire Acre web pages
<http://www.cambsacre.org.uk>:

Community Oil Buying Scheme

Our bulk-buying scheme for domestic heating oil aims to bring communities together to make the most of joint buying power so that greater savings can be made and passed on to customers.

Anyone can join the Scheme; domestic users, community groups such as village halls or even businesses. All members pay a small annual membership fee but this is more than offset by the savings made on oil orders.

Full details of how the scheme works are set out in the Membership Leaflet which can be downloaded from the Resources and Downloads area. You will also find an Oil Prices listing showing the prices members have paid for their oil over the last 12 months.

Joining the scheme

If you wish to join the scheme, either print out, complete and send us your membership form by post or fill in the online application form and submit it to us electronically.

Ordering oil

Once you are a member of the scheme, your oil order can be placed online. Members are sent a monthly reminder of the deadline for orders. Any member wishing to buy oil, can access the online order form and use his/her membership number to place an order.

For further enquiries, please contact Julie Weekes on 01353 865032 or email: oil@cambsacre.org.uk.

Get involved with your local Healthwatch

Our job is to make sure that you have a say when decisions are made about local health and social care services. We are local, independent and here for you.

We can link you up with the organisations that provide health and social care locally, and try make sure your opinions are listened to.

We can help you find out about local health or care services that might be able to support you. If you have a concern or complaint about any local health or care service, we can tell you where you need to go to sort this out and who could help you do this.

We need to know what it is like for you to use any health or care service in Cambridgeshire. Please talk to us about your experiences. We share this information with the people who make decisions about local health and care services, to help improve care. We make sure you cannot be identified, when we share this information. Right now, we are very interested in your experience with:

- Your GP Surgery
- Urgent Care (including 111, the ambulance, and out-of-hours care)
- Mental health services
- Sexual health services

If you have used any of these services in the last three months, then please do get in touch to tell us about your experience.

Volunteer with us

We need volunteers to help us talk to people across the county about their health and care experiences. We have launched some fantastic new volunteering opportunities this autumn.

Our Street Reporters will help us investigate local health & care issues that are important to people in Cambridgeshire and report back on them.

Our Research Volunteers will help us research local health & care services.

We still need more Outreach Volunteers, to help us promote Healthwatch and talk to local people about their experiences.

Help us develop more volunteer roles by telling us what you would be interested in doing as a volunteer. We provide training, support and pay out of pocket expenses to all our volunteers.

To find out more information call us on 01480 420628 or visit our website at: <http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/volunteering>

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

The second edition of the Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act Newsletter has recently been published. It includes useful information and up-dates for people who use services, their families and carers, the general public and professionals who work with vulnerable adults. The newsletter can be downloaded from the County Council's website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social. Any comments about the newsletter or suggestions for information to include in future issues can be sent to James.Codling@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

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TEAM EAST

Month	Sunday	Title	T.E.W	Elsworth	Boxworth	Knapwell	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
January	1	Epiphany		10.30 am FS	08.30 am HC (2)	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC(1)	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC (2)	
	2	Baptism of Christ		3.00 pm HC(2)	10.30 am FS		10.30 am WfA		10.30 am HC	8.30 am HC(2)
	11/01/2015						6.00 pm EP			

February	3	18/01/2015	Epiphany 2	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am AAC	10.30 am MP	8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am FS	
	4	25/01/2015	Epiphany 3		3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC(1) + Baptism	10.30 am	6.00 pm EP		
	1	01/02/2015	Candlemas		10.30 am FS	08.30 am HC (2)	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC(1)	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC (2)
	2	08/02/2015	Second Sunday before Lent		3.00 pm HC (2)	10.30 am FS		10.30 am WfA		10.30 am MP

Neighbourhood Watch	3	15/02/2015	Sunday before Lent	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am AAC	10.30 am MP	8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am FS	
	18/02/2015	Ash Wednesday								
	4	22/02/2015	Lent 1		3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC (1)	10.30 am MW	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am MP
	7.30 pm Holy Communion @ tbc									

Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are: Deborah Hemmins 7199638

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

Please let Sally have any items for the April Skylark by Tuesday 17 March.
Tel: 719464
Email: theskylark@rocketmail.com

Parish Council website: www.scambs.gov.uk/LongstowePC

Printed by Victoire Press, 1 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB23 8SQ
T: 01954 781919 F: 01954 780977 info@victoirepress.com www.victoirepress.com