



The SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

January 2018



Village News

Harvest Supper 2017

The tables for our Supper boasted amazing contributions of food from every one of the 40 or so, guests who attended- delicious salads, quiches and meat, to puddings which would have done the Great British Bake Off proud. Indeed it makes me wonder if we should be suggesting to Channel 4 if they would like to do a "Harvest Supper" special.

For all those who attended thank you so much for your efforts and generosity. We raised an amazing sum of £458. Thank you!



A LONGSTOWE PUB

For those unaware, Longstowe now has an up and running pub! The Red house, first built in 1799, on Old North Road, is now open once again for business. Under new management it has been given a new lease on life and is currently thriving with a more open and airy bar and restaurant area, while still maintaining a classic country look. The locally sourced food gets the thumbs up too and booking seems essential as word gets out. Currently dogs are not allowed inside the pub, however there is a large and attractive outside space

which could be more accepting of a post dog walk stop off once the weather warms up. The new pub has a website now or you can call: phone number **01954 264777**

Longstowe Parish Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7.15pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. Up and coming meetings:

18th January

15th February

15th March

19th April Open Parish meeting followed by Parish Council meeting

17th May Annual General meeting

The Agenda and Minutes for each meeting are on the website at

<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/longstowe>.

Rubbish

From 11 December, residents will no longer need to use paper caddies as part of their recycling routines. Instead, used paper should be placed directly into blue wheelie bins. It will still be recycled. Residents can keep their caddy following the change, and use it however they wish. Alternatively, the caddies can

be recycled if taken to a household waste-recycling centre. They should not be placed in wheelie bins.

Christmas Eve

By Christina Rossetti

Christmas has a darkness
Brighter than the blazing
noon,
Christmas has a chillness
Warmer than the heat of
June,
Christmas has a beauty
Lovelier than the world can
show:
For Christmas bringeth
Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that
ring;
Heaven has answering music
For all angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth
Jesus,
Brought for us so low

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Christingle service

37 proud parents, aunts, uncles, and friends came to our lovely Christingle Service on the 3rd December, joining 15 children, of whom 4 did the Readings of Welcome to, and Celebration of Advent. The church looked magical with all the lighted candles and our new red aisle carpet (a gift from a local family) warming the space on what could have been a very cold winter's afternoon. Both children and adults enjoyed luxurious christingles, made by the local team under the guidance of Daphne (Ford), and gingerbread and mince pies, kindly made by Robin Hemmins. So, not only did everyone have an amazing afternoon, but the collection raised nearly £200 for the Children's Society charity : - ***"Fight child poverty and neglect, and help all children have a better chance in life."***



JOTTINGS FROM THE LONGSTOWE CHURCH PCC (PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL):

This year our Church has seen many happenings, including a Bishop wearing a "funny hat", some serious research into the history of the Community and Church in Longstowe, and the return, for a few days only, of our lovely Church Plate (dating from 1700's) from The Fitzwilliam Museum. If you missed some of the 800 plus Years happenings, whilst we cannot achieve another visitation from the Bishop for you; why not pop in over Christmas. We do now have a very comprehensive Visitor Sheet detailing key historical information about the church, together with copy plan, as compiled by Stephen Owen, and some new photographs of the Plate.

Huge thanks must go to Stephen for his amazing research on our Church and to Peter White for his continuing watching brief and garnered knowledge in respect of our carillon of Bells. If you have any questions I am sure both would be more than happy to field them for you. A reminder also that Viv Storey & the History Society have

compiled a large amount of history about the people of the village from the late 19th/early 20th Century.

**Longstowe Parish
Neighbourhood
Development Plan 2017-
2027**

Here is your chance to have your say about Longstowe Parish. We have the chance to make decisions for Longstowe's future rather than leaving it to others. Let's make sure we make the most of this opportunity.

During December the Parish Council will send out a survey as an important part of the consultation process. The survey will help the Parish Council understand the views of the community as a whole. The opinions, comments and ideas gathered will be used solely for the development of the draft housing plan, to be written as a reflection of the consensus view of Longstowe Parish residents. There will be further opportunities to comment later in 2018. Every member of your household can complete a questionnaire, or you may complete one as a family/household. Each household will have one paper copy; if you require

more paper copies or would like help completing your questionnaire, please contact Barbara Cooper on 07803 903047 or email

bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk.

Questionnaires must be completed by the 15th January 2018. Alternatively questionnaires are being collected from households or you can drop them off at The Dene, Old North Road, Bourn, Cambridge CB23 2TZ. If you prefer, you can complete this survey online

<http://survey.caw.ac.uk/index.php?sid=35989&lang=en>

Deer warning

The road between Hatley and Gamlingay has now had Deer warning signs placed on it to remind drivers that there is a huge local herd of deer (including many white ones) which travels across the road apparently all the time – please be aware, especially with the earlier evenings.

DRIVING IN THE SNOW

While the latest snow-megeddon may have passed, there could be still more snow, or at least ice on the horizon. So a few tips for driving in these conditions;

- ❖ Only venture out if really necessary

- ❖ Ensure your car is stocked with cold weather supplies, a torch, ice scraper, a blanket/ warm clothing, and some sand/ grit/ cat litter to get you out of an icy hole.
- ❖ Don't use hot water to deice your car windows!
- ❖ Free your wiper blades from the window while not in use, this stops them getting stuck!
- ❖ Keep your distance from the car in front!
- ❖ Lift the clutch gently when pulling off, keeping your revs low will reduce your risk of wheel spinning.
- ❖ Using a lower gear will also reduce wheel spinning.
- ❖ If you hit ice, avoid braking, as this will increase your skid, instead let your speed drop by taking your foot off the accelerator.
- ❖ If you start to spin on a skid, turn the wheel into the direction of the spin, until the car straightens up

**From MP Heidi Allen's
October newsletter:**

The biggest news this month is that her Majesty the Queen has awarded a royal title to Papworth Hospital. I am bursting with pride that the Royal Papworth Hospital will become

the first royal hospital in the East of England! Offering first class care whilst also undertaking pioneering and ground-breaking work, it is fitting this honour should come during the hospital's centenary year and as they make the move to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

I was honoured and deeply touched to receive personal recognition from the disability charity Sense recently, as I was awarded "Parliamentarian of the Year" at their 2017 awards ceremony. Sense is a truly amazing organisation, working tirelessly to improve the opportunities for people with incredibly complex needs and I am glad I was able to meet some of the staff, carers and volunteers who donate so much time, passion and energy to help the most vulnerable of people.

Re-elected recently to the Work and Pensions select committee, I now also chair the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Young Disabled People. We want to provide a great response to the Minister, Paul Maynard's recently announced Accessibility Action Plan Consultation. What more needs to be done to improve transport accessibility for disabled? If you have any experience of this, especially if it is on a point that might not have been identified in the consultation, please can I

encourage you to contribute?
The consultation closes on 15th November and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-transport-accessibility-action-plan> If you are unable to access the internet or require the consultation document in a different format, please write to: Accessibility Action Plan Consultation, Department for Transport, Zone 2/14, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR.

Details of all the upcoming surgeries can be found on my website at www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/residents-drop-surgeries. You'll also find further information about my work and news stories there.

To contact me, please email heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk. You can also phone my Westminster Office on 020 7219 5091 about national issues or my constituency office on 01223 830 037 to raise local concerns.

The following information is from Cllr Sebastian Kindersley's November newsletter:

Children's Centres

The County Council has now met and agreed the 'redesignation' (ie closure) of a large number of Children's Centres, saving the County £1m. Some very impressive speakers - notably the director of Romsey Mill

children's centre; a retired County Council social services officer with decades' experience of children's centres; chair of governors at Homerton Early Years Centre; and the headteacher of Caldecote Primary School - made compelling arguments about the dangers of the proposals. Expert opinion really does make you sit up and listen. In addition to these a petition with over 4,000 signatures was presented.

The argument was made that outreach work will step in and fill the gap. This is what we were told when Gamlingay lost out to Bassingbourn when Children's centres were first being planned. With a very few noble exceptions Gamlingay has not benefitted from anywhere near the same level of service.

County Highways has nowhere near enough funding to do what might be reasonably expected of it, aside from the 'Local Highways Initiative' scheme, whereby parishes and other 'third parties' compete for partial funding of small schemes like parking restrictions and traffic calming, any other new scheme not on the County Highways work list requires 100% third-party funding. All projects require Highways approval, because the highway network is public property.

To begin a conversation on third-party funding, a deposit is now required, with two possible categories: a project requiring design and consultation (£500 deposit) or a project that needs no design or consultation (£250). These are non-refundable deposits, but are credited against schemes that go ahead. Please make use of your county councillor to help obtain initial guidance.

Planning at South Cambs

Planning continues to be a real issue for many residents. Most recently an

Appeal for a live/work unit at the old GPO building in Arrington was granted – an appeal made because the District Council had failed to determine the application within the time permitted. This is happening more and more. In the financial year 16/17 South Cambs spent £250,000 on appeals. This year we are heading to double that figure and there are several very long appeals yet to come. At the same time all the speculative applications – nearly all outline – will start lodging the very detailed reserved matters applications and the Planning Department will simply collapse. It needs substantial investment right now.

A14H2C: The UK's biggest road construction project is marking its first full year of work.

21 miles of the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon are being upgraded to three lanes in each direction including a brand new 17-mile bypass south of Huntingdon, with four lanes in each direction between Bar Hill and Girton. The project will add additional capacity, boost the local and national economy and cut up to 20 minutes off journeys.

The 2,200 strong construction team is keeping to the project's challenging timetable, with the improvements on track to open to traffic by the end of 2020.

More than a quarter of the project's main construction work has been successfully completed: a total of 3 million hours have been worked, and 2.5 million cubic metres of soil (equivalent to 1,000 Olympic swimming pools) have been moved into position to create foundations for the road and junctions.

34 bridges and structures are being

built as part of the scheme including the new 750-metre long River Great Ouse viaduct. One is already open to traffic, and on the others nearly 750 major components have been built. David Bray, A14 project director at Highways England, says:

"This is a huge amount of progress, and we are well on the way to transforming journeys on this vital link between East Anglia and the Midlands, connecting businesses, communities and families.

"The improvements we are delivering between Cambridge and Huntingdon are vital for the local area and for the country's economy. We set out to deliver world leading infrastructure improvements a year ago and this is exactly what we have been doing so far.

"We've been using innovative ways of working to speed up construction such as making our own concrete building parts on-site and using temporary bridges to move construction materials across site without having to use the main roads.

"And we've done all this while looking after the environment alongside the project – we plan to have a positive impact by the time we finish – and giving local people opportunities to find out more, get involved or get funding for relevant projects."

The project's ecology team has already created three of the 18 wildlife habitats which will be built as part of the scheme, covering a total of 271 hectares of new habitat by the time the scheme is completed.

The A14 Community Fund has allocated more than £110,000 to 16 local projects over the past year. Examples include a project to help people who have been out of work for a while to gain skills to get them

closer to employment by growing plant plugs and looking after the natural environment locally. Another project seeks to encourage people to create poems and other pieces of creative writing about the A14 as a road within the local community. More than 2,000 people are estimated to benefit from the community fund projects so far.

Some 22 apprentices and 44 graduates have been recruited into the project team and 19 students have done work experience with the team too. The project's skills team has also attended 80 local career events and visited 30 schools to promote science, technology, engineering and maths and talked to young people about careers in civil engineering.

The archaeology team is also making good progress, with 200 archaeologists working across the scheme currently. More than 25 settlements have been uncovered so far, including Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval villages. All excavation work will be completed by summer 2018 and people will be able to find out more over the coming months.

And the mobile visitor centre has visited 32 towns or events and welcomed over 2,400 visitors to keep people updated about the scheme and opportunities.

David continues:

"It's exciting to see the pace of progress on such a big project"

Please send items for the next edition
By the 15th March

Clare.rebbeck@cruk.cam.ac.uk

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **14th January**- Holy Communion 8.30am
 - **28th January** -Morning Prayer 10.30am
 - **Quiz Nite with Food Saturday 10th March**- further details early next year
 - **Concert 21st April in the Church** with reception in the Village Hall.
 - **Harvest Supper- date booked 13th October!**
 - **Christmas Day**- Holy Communion 9.15am
- Reverend Stephen Day has put together a wonderful photographic poster presentation, based on the stained glass windows in our Papworth Team Churches, which is now travelling round the Team churches, stopping in each one for a couple of weeks. Longstowe's **March 2018 (2nd to 16th)** we will put a board up at the time advertising so do watch out.