



# THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

April 2015

## Longstowe Village Hall Fundraiser

Saturday 25 April 2015 at 7.30pm

### A Choral Concert with The Ensemble of Friends

(a cappella Chamber Choir)

Directed by Douglas Coombes MBE

and

### Double Take

(Barbershop Quartet)

at

St Mary the Virgin Church,  
Longstowe

Followed by Cheese & Wine  
refreshments in the Village Hall

Tickets: £10 per head including  
refreshments (£7 under 16s)

For bookings and enquiries please email  
Lynne Gordon at [gordon.lynne@yahoo.com](mailto:gordon.lynne@yahoo.com)

### Longstowe Parish Council News

Thursday 16th April 2015 Longstowe Parish Council Open Meeting, Village Hall 6.45pm

Thursday 21st May 2015  
Longstowe Parish Council Annual General Meeting, Village Hall 7.15pm

Thursday 18th June 2015 Longstowe Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 7.15pm

### Village News

#### *Gladys Naomi Hemmins*

Passed peacefully to rest on Monday January 12th 2015 aged 100

Born Gladys Naomi Allgood on April 20th 1914 in Elsworth, Cambridgeshire, she was the youngest of eight children four brothers and three sisters.

Gladys walked across the fields to school at Knapwell and collected milk and bread on her way home. One day she ate the middle out of the loaf, when arriving home her father gave her the strap.

At some point they moved to the Broadway, Bourn this is where she probably met Jack who

## LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL

### A.G.M.

Wednesday, 8th APRIL 2015

at 7.30pm

in the Village Hall

**OPEN to ALL RESIDENTS**

**Please support your Village Hall**

also lived in Bourn. During the Second World War Gladys worked for the MOD at Caxton. When Jack was demobbed from the army they married on 20th April 1946 (Gladys's Birthday), they started their married life in a small cottage at Caxton End near the ford.

When Jack got a job as a signaller at Old North Road Station in 1952 they moved to Rectory Cottage Longstowe with their two children Brenda and David.

One of Gladys's stories was when Brenda got David out of his pram and pulled him round the yard by his legs cutting his lip.

She took on a cleaning job at Longstowe School after the children went home. She also had a job on Friday mornings at Bourn (she always called her old Mrs Hagger).

She biked to Bourn every Wednesday to see her sister Liz and if she couldn't go she would ask the milkman the next day if Liz was OK, he would spin her a tale before telling her the truth.

In 1967 Jack changed his job due to the railway closing. He took a chauffeurs job at Longstowe Hall. Gladys also worked at the Hall for Mr and Mrs Bevan for many years. She enjoyed working with the other cleaners, especially Millie, they were two of a kind always laughing and joking together. Gladys was always happy when she was working, singing almost all the time.

They moved in to the Woodlands and stayed there until 1976, when they moved over the road to the Lodge. They stayed there until Gladys had her hip operation and found it difficult to get up stairs, when they then moved into the bungalow in the village.

Gladys was always up early and had finished the housework and prepared the vegetables for dinner by nine o'clock. Then she would sit by the window watching people go by and Jack would be in his shed or in garden having a crafty smoke.

Gladys also loved playing bingo and cards with the family after Sunday tea.

Whilst living at the bungalow a stray ginger cat turned up which Jack and Gladys adopted and named Tom, who enjoyed a good life with them.

After Jack passed away in 2006, Gladys started showing the first signs of dementia and she didn't like being on her own especially at night. After it became apparent that Gladys couldn't cope on her own any longer, the very tough decision was made that Gladys should move into Home Meadow in Toft, where she was very well looked after by all the staff for almost 9 years.

After such a long life, there are so many stories we could tell but it would just take too long.

We are sure all who new Gladys will remember her as a happy and friendly person.

### ***Christine Bunning***

For villagers who can remember Christine, It is with great sadness that I report that Christine passed away in February.

Bill and Christine and their two daughters Claire and Emma lived in Longstowe for 22 years. Bill worked for Longstowe Hall Estates and Christine worked as a cook at Bourn Hall.

Bill and Christine moved to North Cowton in North Yorkshire 8 years ago, where they were close to Claire and Emma and their families.

Christine was a popular member of the village community, serving on the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, Church Committee and also the W.I..

Brenda and I attended the funeral service that was held up in North Yorkshire. We have always remained good friends with Bill and Christine and enjoyed some good holidays with them. Christine will be missed by us all.

*John Murden.*

### ***Our caring community***

At last Longstowe is beginning to pull itself out of the cold and dark of winter. We can start to enjoy the warmer weather and lighter evenings. Perhaps this is a time to just feel thankful for some of the good things that we are able to enjoy in this caring little community. So many activities go on in the background, tasks performed in the main by volunteers.

Hedges are trimmed, footpaths kept clear, the churchyard is kept neat and tidy, the village pound is tended, the sports field mowed, our village hall cleaned and maintained, litter picked up, the playground maintained, the church, oldest building in our village is kept clean and decorated with flowers, it is heated, bells are rung for most services. We have volunteers who make up The Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee and Parochial Church Committee all of which need meetings frequently on cold dark evenings. Estate footpaths are available for us to use. We have a variety of events to enjoy throughout the year, quizzes, a fête, a show, a harvest supper, displays of local history items and other events to entertain us. We have a church which holds such innovative events as a pet service and an Easter egg hunt, both needing considerable input from volunteers. We have the lively and local Skylark, produced and delivered again by volunteers. This is indeed a friendly village, where help and support are rarely far away.

We are fortunate indeed to live in such a community, I am proud to be part of Longstowe.

*Name and address withheld.*

There used to be a pumping station, which took water from a deep well a hundred yards north of Old North Road Station. I am trying to find a photograph of this building, which was demolished in the 1950s.

I am composing an article on this well and pumping station, of which virtually no trace remains visible today. If you have any photographs that show anything of this now disappeared building, or the equipment associated with it, I would be very pleased if you contacted me with a view to letting me copy it.

Thank you.

*Peter White*

mrpeterwhite@btinternet.com or 719669

### **Longstowe Art Group**

Spring Term commences at 10am on Friday 17th April at Longstowe Village Hall. New members are very welcome: your first session will be free. We are a friendly self-help group so, if you are interested in joining, please contact Viv on 710019 or Lorraine on 715440.

**Open Studio:** We will be holding our first Open Studio in the summer. You are invited to come along and have a chat, see what we have been working on and have a cuppa.

### **Longstowe Beauties**

There is a suggestion that a once popular feature is to be reintroduced to Longstowe Show, to be held later this year.

Entry levels of exhibits has tended to be on the decline as we appear to grow less produce year by year and the number of home wine and beer makers continues to decline. In order to keep the show alive and vibrant, it is likely that the Longstowe Beauty Queen competition will be revived and incorporated within The Show.

It is expected to have a class for 18 to 40 year olds, another class which will be targeting bus pass holders.

The entrants will be encouraged to wear swimwear, take part in a catwalk routine and be available to be photographed sitting on a vintage tractor, maybe holding a pint of locally made cider or perhaps an item of agricultural interest. They will be invited to talk for a minute or so on the subject of their hobbies, pets, favourite recipes etc.

The organisers of The Show have in previous years auctioned off any donated produce at the close of the event. There will be no provision for auctioning off the entrants to the Beauty Show unless there is a change in the law.

If you would like to consider entering this event, just keep your eyes open for the entry form which will be in Skylark later in the year.

*Longstowe Show supporter*

### **Gold has been found in Longstowe.**

There are reports that a group of prospectors have been finding small amounts of gold within the village. It has been revealed that the source of this valuable metal is the bed of Dene Brook. The method of recovering the tea leaf size flakes, immediately recognisable by their characteristic colour, is by panning. This centuries old method requires very little investment in equipment though much time and patience is required to collect sufficient to make perhaps a ring or small brooch.

It was revealed that the best method of finding these flakes is to stand on the gravel bed of the brook, take up a cupful size amount of the finer gravel and swirl it around carefully whilst just letting the flow of the water pass through the panning vessel to rinse out the unwanted grit leaving the heavier metal flakes in the bottom of the panning dish. These dishes are available through a number of suppliers easily accessed via the Internet.

It is considered that the Roman golden mask, attributed to their god Aprilicus Primus, found locally in a pit opened up by a WW2 bomb may well have been made from gold collected from Dene Brook.

Gold does not occur naturally in Cambridgeshire so it is assumed that these tiny flakes have arrived here carried by melt water from the ice age glaciers which travelled as far south as Bedford. They would have picked up deposits of metals and non soluble metals as they slowly moved south to our latitude where they eventually melted, the mineral rich water eventually finding its way to the sea.

We may have to become used to seeing mineralogists in groups along the banks of Dene Brook this summer. I'm certainly going to have a go.

*Hopeful Longstowe resident.*

## Church News

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

We have some fantastic volunteers and we would just like to thank them all for their generosity of time and willingness to turn up to meetings of the PCC, put on the rubber gloves, ring the bells or start up the grass mowers etc. Without them we really would be unable to open the church on a regular basis.

However, we really would welcome additions to the 'team' – always fun and a good opportunity to have a natter. If you fancy improving your public speaking – why not come and read a lesson. For the last Christmas Carols service, we had 6 different readers – so do please think about it.

We have received an enquiry as to whether people are able to renew wedding vows? If you are interested could you please give Maddy Crowther a call on 01954 718303. It is possible that something could be arranged on a group basis – with a glass of bubbly and slice of cake afterwards in the Village Hall to celebrate. We are thinking about a date in June – a fabulous opportunity to dress up and have a good party.

Finally, to let you know that it is time to renew the Church Electoral Roll for the Parish of Longstowe . Initially, we are asking people who are currently on the role if they would like to continue but if you would like to 'sign up' if you have not previously done so, please just give Maddy a call on 01954 718303 or email to [madeleinejones@btconnect.com](mailto:madeleinejones@btconnect.com) and it can easily be arranged. By the way there is an advantage to being on the Electoral Roll – a free pass to Ely Cathedral. It is the most wonderful of buildings and so worth a visit & there is plenty of free parking and excellent refreshments.

### **Future Dates for Your Diary:**



#### **Events**



- Harvest Supper Saturday 24th October – further details in due course
- A Sausage & Mash Quiz Night @ Village Hall Saturday 14th November. Further details in due course

### **Other Dates**

- April 1st Annual Meeting Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council). This is an open meeting and will be held in the Church from 7.00pm

### **Special Service:**

- 5th April, Holy Communion Easter Sunday 9.30am



**Advance  
date for  
your  
diary:**

**'Rendezvous Holiday Week 2015' will take place from Tuesday 18th - Friday 21st August in Papworth. (4 days of activities for the over 65s). If you'd like to book your place now or would like more information, please call Anne on 01480 880672. Everyone Welcome!**

There is a daily programme of activities including flower arranging, talks, games, dancing, quizzes, handicrafts. Transport can be arranged and lunch is included.

Folk can attend for one/two/three or all four days

If anyone is interested please contact Alma Walker on 01954 718737 for more details.

### ***Revd Alexandra writes:***

Dear Friends

Last year Travelodge ran a survey to find out if children knew the real meaning of Easter. It found that 53% of the children surveyed didn't know the meaning of Easter and one-quarter thought that it is about celebrating the Easter bunny's birthday. The one fact that does seem to be widely understood is that it is a time for eating chocolate, specifically chocolate eggs.

Eggs have been used for millennia as symbols of new life and have had an important part in the ceremonies of many different religions. A hard-boiled egg is included in the Jewish Passover meal, which Jesus would have celebrated the night before he died. Pagan Saxon worship associated eggs with fertility rights around the Spring goddess Eostre (from whom we derive the word Easter). Eggs have featured across the centuries and across cultures as symbols of life, especially renewed life. Originally birds'

eggs would have been used; these became elaborately painted, often in red to symbolise the blood of Jesus, but as chocolate became a more widely available luxury food, they became chocolate eggs. The most elaborate tradition came from 19th century Russia where the aristocracy commissioned the French jeweller Faberge to produce fabulous enamel jewel-encrusted eggs which are worth a fortune.

For Christians, the egg is an iconic symbol of new life which connects with the very heart of the Christian story, which is all about the possibilities of life, new life, eternal life, breaking into the world, through Jesus and his own death and resurrection. The shape of an egg is also a reminder for some of the stone that was rolled in front of the tomb on that first Good Friday to seal in Jesus' tortured and defeated body, but which was rolled away to symbolise the release of his new and vibrant body on Easter morning. We regularly distribute chocolate Easter eggs at the end of our Easter morning church services as we enjoy this tradition. Anyone is welcome to join us at any of our Holy Week or Easter services and events as we explore the on-going meaning of Jesus' death and life in our world today.

Wishing you all the joy of abundant life this Easter.

Alexandra

## Longstowe Sports Club

### Longstowe Cricket Club

As the days lengthen and Spring approaches the Sports Club is once again turning its attention towards a Summer of cricket.

We begin our year with a series of Indoor Nets in April (Thursday evenings at Fenners Indoor Cricket School) before moving outside for a couple of friendly matches (weather permitting of course).

Our League campaign begins on the first weekend of May and the Club will once again be entering 2 sides in the Cambs Cricket Association League. Our 1st XI will compete in Division 2 of the Southern Section while the 2nd XI will play in Division 6 South. There will also be a few friendly matches mostly played on Sundays. With 16 home matches to fit in for our two teams it means that one or other of our sides will be playing every Saturday from the beginning of May to late August. If it is a nice afternoon then why not pop along and have a look. We also are always looking for new players so if you are interested – or know someone who might be – then please contact me for further details.

We are also looking for volunteers to help provide teas for our home matches so if you

The Skylark

have time to prepare a few sandwiches and cakes then why not give it a go. We offer a small payment (£50) so the volunteer can make a small return on their time and the commitment can be for as little as a single match. Guidance and further information is available to anyone who is interested.

Here's hoping for a good summer and enjoyable cricket.

John Gooch  
Secretary to Longstowe CC  
jgooch@supanet.com

## Cambridge Gliding Centre Open Day

**Sunday 12th April, 10am–4pm.**

Come and visit Gransden Lodge Airfield to find out about the sport of gliding. All welcome. Trial flights with our qualified instructors available on a first-come, first-fly basis. Free admission. Refreshments.

The airfield entrance is on the B1046 between Little Gransden & Longstowe, opposite Gransden Lodge Farm (enter SG19 3EB into your SatNav). More information online: <http://www.camgliding.uk/>



# National Plant Monitoring Scheme

## Monitoring our wild flowers

One of the squares is right in the middle of Longstowe!

**What is it?**  
The National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS) is organised and funded by BSBI, CEH, JNCC and Plantlife. The aim is to collect data to provide an annual indication of changes in plant abundance and diversity.

**Why is it needed?**  
Thanks to volunteers, we have a very good understanding of changes in the populations of birds, butterflies and bats. Plants are the foundations of ecosystems, but currently we do not have a good measure of changes in plant populations.

**How will it work?**  
This is a scientific survey, so you will be randomly allocated a convenient 1km square to visit. The visit involves recording plant 'indicator species' in plots. Within your 1km square you will record around 5 plots.

**Who can take part?**  
Anyone interested in nature who can identify plants, or who is keen to learn. Different levels of participation ensure that all who are keen can participate: you do not have to be an experienced botanist. There will be training materials provided and the opportunity to attend workshops throughout the year.

For more information visit: [www.npms.org.uk](http://www.npms.org.uk)



## **Snippets from e-Cops**

A selection of messages from our local police. For more information on these items, please contact Bobbie Coe, Longstowe Parish Clerk.

1 Fault reporting link for Highway issues: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>. If you click the link to report a highways fault, this will go through directly to the local officer for the area, and will also be logged onto their system for future reference.

2 HMRC have advised that from April 2015, people over the age of 55 will be given the flexibility of taking a number of smaller lump sum pension pots. 25% of the sum will be tax-free, with the remaining pension fund charged at marginal rate of income tax. We are concerned that fraudsters will take advantage of these rule changes by offering to invest pensions on the victim's behalf. Be very wary of such offers.

3 Please note there have been several house burglaries in other villages where vehicle keys have been the target. Do take precautions to make sure any vehicle keys are not within easy reach of doors or windows especially on the ground floor; keep them somewhere secure, or take them upstairs with you at night.

4 Alert: watch out for new 'number spoofing' scam. Fraudsters are using a new scam to make the people they are phoning believe they are speaking to a trusted organisation by fooling their phones into displaying any number they choose. The scam, known as 'number spoofing', works by fraudsters cloning the telephone number of the organisation they want to impersonate and then make it appear on the victim's caller ID display when they telephone them on a landline.

5 Posting information on social media sites: Many of you will already be aware that criminals use the internet and social media sites to find out information about you. Such as where you live, what you like to do, etc. As a number of people are booking holidays at this time of year, it is a concern that people are advertising on social media sites/Facebook/village media/twitter etc. with the dates when they will be away and also some address details when looking for lift-sharing to major airports/ ports. Please take care not to pass on personal details about yourself and advertise the fact your property will be empty. It is also recommended to have luggage labels showing your destination only when you leave; add or reveal the return address when you are travelling back.

6 Get Safe Online, Safer Jobs and Action Fraud are warning people to take precautions whilst looking for jobs online, to avoid falling victim to scammers. There are a number of different ways in which job-seekers could be defrauded. These range from direct financial scams to misleading job descriptions.

7 Passwords: Fraudsters regularly hack into personal online accounts to obtain details which will allow them to defraud you. To prevent fraudsters, it's very important to use strong passwords when setting up and accessing online accounts and online banking. Passwords should be memorable enough not to have to write them down and long enough to be unique and hard to guess, which will ensure they are less vulnerable to being stolen.

8 Scam postcards are being delivered to UK residents' homes claiming that a parcel containing 'jewellery' is waiting for the homeowner.

9 Police are warning motorists to beware of a potential scam involving men claiming to have broken down, who say they need money for fuel or offer jewellery or watches in exchange for cash.

10 Action Fraud has seen an increase in the amount of victims signing up for free trials for unapproved or misleading pharmaceuticals or supplements such as teeth whitening products, food supplements and slimming tablets. The scam usually involves a 'pop up' on your computer or a text message advertising a free 14-day trial. In signing up to this trial you are asked for your credit or debit card details and after the 14 days have elapsed, recurring payments are taken which are difficult to stop.

11 Fraudsters are targeting people by 'cold calling' them on the telephone. The scam starts with the following simple activity: They will state that they are from the Bank Fraud department, the Police or other Law Enforcement. The bank or the police will never ask for your personal bank account details, or pin numbers over the phone. Never discuss your banking details with strangers who call you!

12 There have been a number of theft of tools from Ford Transit vans in Cambridgeshire. On most of the thefts there was no indication as to how they have accessed the vehicle, no sign of forced entry, leading the Police to believe that they may have some kind of master key to gain entry.

## **Free to a good home**

A wooden hen house, 5'6" wide, 3' deep, around 2'6" high, made of quite a hardwood. It **does** need a new roof. Would home maybe 6 birds. Free, but would need to be collected.

I also have a number of panes of greenhouse glass, 18" x 24", that I no longer need. If you could use them please give me a call.

Contact Peter White 01954 719669

Papworth Team Ministry



## Team Evening Service

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 6.00 pm at Caxton  
*Praise, Prayer, Teaching*



## Wave Café Church



On the first Wednesday of every month at the 'Abantu' coffee shop in Bourn, 7.45 for 8pm until 9pm

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

For those who are interested in exploring Christianity in a relaxed and informal way. Please come and bring a friend.

For more information please contact Ruth Terrell on 01954 718575.

## A short, prayerful service of Holy Communion

is celebrated  
**Wednesday**  
at **midday**  
in **Bourn Church**



Anyone from around the Team or beyond is welcome to attend.

The Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme is a local charity which provides a service to older or vulnerable people by improving home security to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

- If you've been a victim of burglary and you're **60** or over, you will receive a **free visit**
- If you are **65** and over or disabled and would like a visit from the Bobby Scheme advisors to reduce your chance of becoming a victim, we ask for a minimum donation of **£25** towards our costs
- Key safes supplied and fitted at a cost of **£50 or £80**

If you would like a visit call us on  
**07866 602100**  
or  
**01480 413311**

## Fen Feeds Ltd

Telephone: 01223 260082



Pet & Livestock Feeds, Bedding,  
Hay & Straw, Wild Bird Food

**COMPETITIVE PRICES & FREE LOCAL DELIVERY**

Please 'phone or email for  
up-to-date prices



Email: [judy@fenfeeds.co.uk](mailto:judy@fenfeeds.co.uk)  
[www.fenfeeds.co.uk](http://www.fenfeeds.co.uk)

## Neighbourhood Watch

### Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmins 719638  
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](http://www.cambs.police.uk)**

