

The SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish News

April 2017



Village News

*The Longstowe Village Hall committee is delighted to announce that we have just received a grant of **£33,000** from the Amey Cespa Community Fund. Thanks to this, work can begin on the foundations, cladding, insulation, roof and floor as soon as this month. This means therefore, that the hall will be out of use for several months. Those having booked events in the hall during this time will be notified of alternative arrangements.*

One thing missing from the planned renovations however are new windows. Some have been replaced recently with double glazed windows, but others could benefit from a change. A generous offer has already been made to sponsor a window, but if you too would like a window to call your own the committee would happily welcome your call. Please email Maddy Crowther: madeleinejones@btconnect.com if you have always had dreams of sponsoring a window.

The Longstowe Village Hall Committee

Keep Calm and bat on!

Its time to get into the village spirit, as the new cricket season is set to start in April! We operate two teams in the Cambs. Junior League and we are always looking for new players; so if a tiny spark of interest is in you, please do get in touch!

Call on the following numbers and we would be happy to answer your questions 719628 or 719 611

*Longstowe Parish Council would like to thank **Sally Mccall** for all her hard work editing the Skylark since the July issue in 2011. That's almost six years and 22 issues and, at up to 10 hours per issue, it adds up to a wonderful gift to the Village. Thank you, Sally. We send you our best wishes.*

Village parking problems:

Residents are now able to report parking enforcement issues using the link: <http://tinyurl.com/SouthCambs-Parking>

NEWS from Longstowe History Society.

Longstowe History Society held its first AGM at the end of January, we were delighted to announce Dick Murden as our President. Dick as we all know, has so much knowledge of the village, which he has shared with all of us over the years at previous history days held in the village hall. The new History Society has attracted a membership of 33, and each of the meetings has been well supported by a number of members and visitors from both Longstowe and other nearby villages.

The talks we have heard have been on a variety of topics covering the History of the Local Railway, Mapping the Countryside, Long Cased Clocks, and Stained Glass Windows. In October we had an evening visit to Royston Caves, you can see pictures of this event on our village archive website. This March saw the start of a new project, the Botanical Surveying of Longstowe, led by Sharon Brown. More about this project in the next edition of Skylark. The final event of our first programme is on Tuesday 25th April, at the Longstowe Church at 8pm, where we will be hear about the "Characteristics of Rural Speech in Cambridgeshire", which can vary depending on which part of the county you are from. In South Cambridgeshire you may have heard the word dockey – or dockee-being used. How about an 'Abington Man'. Any idea what these local words refers to?

Annual Membership to the Society costs £10, Visitors are charged £3 per meeting. For more information, contact a Committee Member :-

Chairman - Stephen Owen tel 719578
stephen.owen99@btinternet.com,
Secretary - Jane Bowden tel 719737
jane@glebehouse.eu
Treasurer - Viv Storey tel 710019
longstowe-archive@hotmail.co.uk

Locally Wanted / Available / Recommended

(If you would like to add to this feature please email The Editor)

Wanted: A good window cleaner! Does anyone have any recommendations?
Greg. 269 041

Recommended: We have a good house cleaner if anyone is looking for one!
Clare. 269 041



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Life during power cuts.

We are fortunate that no longer do we seem to suffer regular power cuts in the village. A few years ago it was not unusual to find oneself without electricity a couple of times a year. This is no longer such a problem though it can still happen! One of the worst domestic upsets that can beset a household must surely be to make the decision to run the vacuum cleaner around, only to find a power cut is in progress. Just imagine how you would feel if such a situation occurred.

There is an answer. Just about to come onto the market is a domestic vacuum cleaner in familiar orange and grey livery. It is made by a German manufacturer famous above all for its chainsaws. This handy little device, no heavier than a normal vacuum cleaner, is powered by a small two stroke petrol engine. This unit looks very similar to a small conventional vacuum cleaner, the main difference being that it does not have a mains lead. It has an imitation lead that hangs out of the back and is pulled smartly to start the device. This new tiny engine features fuel injection, electronic ignition and a catalytic converter which eliminates anything unpleasant from the exhaust.

I have had the opportunity to try out one of the early samples and found the use of it to be a total pleasure. Gone is the awful droning sound, replaced by a much more sporty note.

I am told that should this product prove to be popular with customers, the newly developed diminutive two stroke engine could find its way into other domestic

appliances that one may wish to be able to use during a power cut, for instance a food processor or sewing machine.

Reviews of this product are scheduled to appear on You Tube at the beginning of the month, do have a look for them. The model is to be known as 01-04-17.

*A. F. Day
Dept. of Progress,
South Cambs
01954 010417*

On the subject of power cuts....

Thanks to the recent storms here in Cambridge, a pole on our property, holding up the electrical lines for the village, has taken a hit and is now leaning at a precarious angle. The electricity board has been notified and they have informed us that the pole (which is now being held up by another pole) will be removed, requiring the power to the village being turned off for a day. Houses affected will be notified of the date, however, if the prospect of not having a cup of tea for the day fills you with terror (as it would me!), please be aware that there are people in the village with an alternative means to heat water/food, ie, an Aga, and may be happy to offer assistance. If you are one of those that wish to offer assistance, or if you would like to be connected when the need for tea arises, please email The Editor.

Bourn Scout Group

Enquiries: membership@bournscout.org.uk

It has been a busy year, as always for the Scout group, but at the end of 2016 we had to sadly say goodbye to 'Akela' John Dickerson who stepped down after 14 years of dedication to the group. We would like to thank John and let him know that his enthusiasm will be missed by all.

Paul Naylor, Chairman



Beavers are well known for their enthusiasm for all things and this year has been no different! Hikes, making fires, inventing monsters, working with light and dark, sleepovers and a visit to the University Astronomy department has made it an incredibly varied and exciting year for all.



The Cubs this year were celebrating their 100 years anniversary. There were many special events organised including a County adventure weekend camp and culminating with a 100 year party where all the cubs renewed their promise at the same time all over the country. Closer to home the Cubs have been helping to clear the invasive species' in Bourn Brook

Help wanted: Is anyone living in the centre of Longstowe willing to house a defibrillator in a locked cabinet on the outside of their house which would be immediately available for use? Please contact the Clerk.

Scouts were showing off their hard won skills in cooking at Easter camp this year where they had to be totally self-sufficient, in a surprise to all the parents, no-one came home hungry! As I write this the Scouts are currently camping at the headquarters of Scouts, in Gilwell Park, Essex so hopefully it is a less muddy affair than this time last year! The scouts continue to enjoy a packed and varied programme of events and this is testament to the scouts themselves as they plan the programme at the start of each term.

Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmins 719638
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 101.

Website: www.cambs.police.uk

The Cambridgeshire Dialect

a talk given
by
Michael McCarthy

... illustrated with old and new sound recordings, a talk that reveals some of the fascinating characteristics of rural speech and dialect in Cambridgeshire...

Tuesday 25th April 2017, 7.30 for 8pm

LONGSTOWE CHURCH

Admission: **£3** (Members free)
Refreshments included

EVERYONE WELCOME

From Heidi Allen, MP:

I have recently launched a joint campaign with local Head Teachers for our pupils to be given a fairer deal in the Government's National Funding Formula. In conversation with Justine Greening, she has made it clear to me that in order to stand the best chance of changing the DfE's proposed funding formula, significant consultation responses will be key.

As such, I would be most grateful if you could encourage as many people as possible: aunts, uncles, grandparents, friends and the wider school community to stand up for fairer funding for South Cambridgeshire pupils. This is a complex and technical consultation, ... a summary of pre-drafted responses which we believe capture the core of our concerns [is

LONGSTOWE
VILLAGE
HALL

A.G.M.

**Wednesday, 5th APRIL 2017
at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall**

OPEN to ALL RESIDENTS
Please support your Village Hall

available from the Clerk]. We hope this will give people the confidence to tackle an otherwise complex task. For those who are not comfortable with doing this, there is also the option to write directly to Justine Greening or sign a petition at your local school. ...

Thank you in advance of your support; it is vital we provide a deluge of responses to the DfE!

Words from the Church

- Nigel di Castiglione

My garden is starting already to show signs of new growth. The problem for me is I still have not finished clearing up from last year! It's happening in many areas of

life. For example in Papworth Everard we are still trying to make headway finding the resources required (probably in excess of £50,000) to undertake essential repairs to St Peter's Church.

By the time you read this article Christians will be starting to think about Lent – that period of 6 weeks when some will give things up, others will try new disciplines and many will still be catching their breath only to discover Easter has come and gone!

Busy-ness is one of the scourges of life in the 21st century for some; whilst for others it may be the challenge is overcoming loneliness, how to handle very demanding challenges, the need to find a new job, living with a worrying health diagnosis and so on. Whether we thrive or feel we are barely surviving often boils down to the choices we make, if we can resist pressures we feel from others around us, or coping with the unknown.

One of the appealing features of Jesus' life is the way he was ready to stop for the one person who was right in front of him, or deal with the crisis of the moment. He was a master at reacting and not being driven always by plans and strategies others had in mind for him. For Jesus this was an outworking of consciously living with an awareness of God in heaven's priorities and aligning himself to what these were. The fact that he remains the most fascinating person in human history almost 2,000 years later should provoke us to look more closely at how he lived.

My suggestion for Lent 2017 – whether or not you consider yourself a Christian – is to make time to find out more about Jesus. A good place to start is to get hold of a

Bible, preferably in a modern translation, and read one of the gospel narratives > Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. You will find he had plenty to say about finding the right balance in life, facing sickness, dealing with financial needs, even overcoming untimely death.

If anyone has any difficulty getting hold of a copy of a Bible or an individual gospel, please feel free to contact us in the Papworth Team Ministry Office – email: papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com, tel: 01480-839933.

- Revd Steve Day

I admit, I was skeptical. I'd heard about how good they were and how much they helped, but I thought they were just a fad – something which people who weren't that serious used as a bit of a 'pose'.

But then I tried them – and I discovered that walking poles really are great!

Early in December, my son and I spent a few days tackling the next section in our project of walking the South West Coast Path. We had a notoriously difficult section to do – Clovelly to Bude – and I thought anything which might help would be worth a try, so we took walking poles.

We did three tough days walking, with lots of very steep ups and downs, but at the price of slightly aching shoulders and arms, which weren't so used to the exercise, I avoided crocked knees and back pains. Result! I now wholeheartedly recommend a pair of walking poles to anyone on a serious walking journey.

It got me thinking what other tips I could offer to those on journeys, especially spiritual journeys.

Most people try to live good lives: caring for their families, contributing to their communities, looking out for their neighbours. These are all good things – part of living as a Christian – but they are hard to sustain without help. When the going gets steep, we feel the strain.

On the coast path, each steep climb or descent was made more bearable by knowing it was taking us nearer to our goal, and we need that on our life journey too. What are your spiritual goals for this coming year?

Then the ‘walking poles’: the two things which help me with the journey of being a Christian, are regular prayer and Bible reading. I was skeptical about those, too! It took many years for me to appreciate the patterns of daily prayer which the Church of England offers, and even more years to gather the discipline to put them into practice, but now I find the regular times of Bible reading and prayer in the local churches to be a big help, especially in the spiritually ‘steep’ times.

Why don't you give it a try? Drop me a line to find out more.

**- Nigel di Castiglione
Team Rector**

CHRISTENING MATTERS!

One of the particular delights for me as your local Vicar, is when we welcome families to a church service for the

christening of a young child; not least because the parents have made a very conscious choice to celebrate the recent birth by giving thanks to God and asking for His blessing on their baby as part of a wider celebration and gathering. Your local church is good at doing this bit with you!

In my experience, it is not unusual for a range of thoughts to be in the minds of parents at such a time. For some it is about establishing or espousing a Christian framework for the values and patterns they intend their child to grow up knowing. For others to have a child christened is a reflection of their own faith so that when the time comes the child – maybe as a teenager – has a backcloth against which to make their own choice to continue in that way or leave the way of faith behind. Equally it is not unusual that parents just know it's what they want to do and may be very unsure about what they really believe themselves.

I like to encourage parents who are considering having a child christened to see this as one small step towards what – at its best – can become a lifelong pattern of knowing and enjoying God; but whether or not people are thinking like you will find it is an opportunity for the Christian church to extend a welcome and reflect back to you the unwavering love of God for you.

Yes, God actually likes us, loves us and wants us to know Him better; so christening is an important way of saying, in effect, ‘That sounds and feels good to us; let's see where this leads us!’

I hope parents, grandparents, wider family members and friends will read this and say to one another something along these lines: 'Wouldn't it be nice to explore having {{{..}} christened at the local church?!

I remember feeling awe-struck minutes after the birth of our first child; that this little bundle was God's gift to my wife and I – what a delight and privilege! I know I was not unusual, and part of the contribution the church in this village can make at this time is to share this with you by showing something of God's delight also!

If you want to find out more about having a child christened, or as an adult taking such a step for yourself for the first time, please feel free to get in touch:

Email > nigel.dicastiglione@gmail.com or papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com

Telephone > 01954-267241 (home), 07770697240 (mobile). 01480-839933 (Team Office).

I look forward to hearing from some of you and meeting many more at a christening very soon.

I have a number of friends who are professional singers, and they sometimes refer to something they call "the money note". It's that one note in a piece – often a particularly high one – that a singer must hit if they are to earn their money ... and an invitation to sing again!

It can feel like that in all our roles: perhaps it's the month's sales figures, the vital client presentation, the season's crop yield, or the Easter Day sermon. I'm sure you

will have something, in whatever job you do, where the outside world will judge you – and hopefully reward you – for that one moment of peak performance.

And then you have to do it again. And again. Until it can become a burden, because doing it well this time sets the expectation that you will do it even better next time. None of us is perfect, and none of us can be absolutely at our peak all the time, let alone keep getting better for ever.

The church season of Lent, with its emphasis on testing and trying to achieve something we wouldn't normally, shows this up especially. Those who try to 'give up' something, or take on something extra, soon find out how hard it is to hit the money note over and over.

Fortunately for us, the Easter story is the story of God hitting that money note for us. Jesus, God the Son, lived the perfect life then died as if he hadn't, sacrificing himself for us. Then, hitting the biggest money note of all, God raised Jesus from the dead!

Because of what Jesus did, we can be assured that God offers us acceptance and forgiveness, regardless of how we perform in our jobs, regardless of how we cope, or don't cope, in our personal lives, and however often we hit or miss the money note.

If you're at the top of your game right now, great – God rejoices with you! Even if you aren't, God's care, love and forgiveness are there for you, closer than a prayer. This Easter season give God a call, and see what notes you can hit together.



Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday (9 April)

8.30am ~ Holy Communion at Boxworth
 10.30am ~ Services at Bourn, Croxton, Papworth Everard & Yelling
 11.00am ~ Holy Communion at Elsworth

Maundy Thursday (13 April)

7.30pm ~ Holy Communion at Kingston
 7.30pm ~ Holy Communion at Papworth

Good Friday (14 April)

9.30am ~ Family Service at Bourn
 12.00pm - 1.00pm ~ stations of the Cross at Caxton
 12.00pm - 1.00pm ~ Quiet Reflection at Papworth
 2pm ~ 'Last hour' at Boxworth

Holy Saturday (15 April)

9pm ~ Service of Light at Conington

Easter Sunday (16 April)

8.30am ~ Holy Communion at Croxton and Knapwell
 9.00am ~ Holy Communion at Yelling
 9.30am ~ Holy Communion at Conington and Longstowe
 10.30am ~ Holy Communion at Bourn, Boxworth, Etlisley, Graveley, Kingston and Papworth Everard
 11.00am Holy Communion at Caxton and Elsworth
 6.00pm Songs of Praise at Toseland



Hosanna in the highest



Remember me



Father forgive them



Christ is Risen!



The Papworth Team Ministry now has a new Team office:

Lower Pendrill Court
 Ermine Street North
 Papworth Everard
 CB23 3UY
 Tel: 01480 83 99 33

Email: papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com

Web: www.papworthteamchurches.org

Our Team Administrator, Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings; serving the parishes of Bourn, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Etlisley, Graveley with Papworth St Agnes, Kingston, Knapwell, Longstowe, Papworth Everard, Toseland and Yelling.

For enquires about weddings, baptisms, funerals and general parish matters, please contact Chris (as above), visit the website or speak to one of our clergy...

> The Revd Nigel di Castiglione, Team Rector – 07770 697240 - 01954 267241

> The Revd Stephen Day, Team Vicar - 01954 264226

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

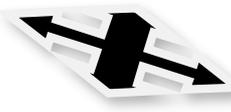
A short note this issue not only as running late for the Press (as usual); lots of things will start to happen this summer in the Village including a celebration of Life and the Church in Longstowe for the last 800 years or so. Amazing we didn't think anybody looked that old - ha, ha!

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered again not only with the rubber gloves for the inside cleaning but also the saws and pruners for outside. Everything looks very smart for the start of the church year. Thank you.

Next month the **Annual PCC Meeting**, open to everyone in the Village, so please do come along. We are in the process of reviewing the **Electoral Roll for the Parish of Longstowe** and if you would like to be included please do get in contact with Maddy Crowther (01954 718303 or madeleinejones@btconnect.com)



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:



APRIL 1ST ANNUAL MEETING LONGSTOWE CHURCH PCC (PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL). THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH FROM 10.30AM

SPECIAL SERVICE:

- **16th April Holy Communion Easter Sunday 9.30am**

A reminder of the bus service for Longstowe (use it or lose it):

Demand Responsive Transport (DRT), Service 28, run by Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport (HACT).

The service will be available to pick you up between 08:45 and 15:15 on Mondays to Saturdays except for a reduced service on Thursdays. Travel to local villages or to St Neots or Cambourne. Or you could go

even further afield by catching a connecting service.

Booking is on a first come first served basis. Telephone HACT on 01480 411114 between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday but book before 1pm the day before you want to travel. You can make multiple bookings when you ring but usually these are limited to up to a month in advance.

Journeys will be charged like a bus fare. You will be advised of the fare when you book your journey and a ticket will be

issued when you board. If you wish to use the service to connect onto a Stagecoach service for onward journeys please make sure you ask for a Dayrider Plus ticket so that you do not need to pay twice.

Concessionary bus passes will be valid on all journeys, in accordance with the standard terms of validity.

Are there any **volunteers for litter-picking** in Longstowe? We are aware that many householders litter-pick outside their own accommodation but there are other areas of the village where litter is becoming unsightly. We will seek health and safety information from SCDC and CCC. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the Clerk.

Ricochet TV (www.ricochet.co.uk)

Nestled deep in the British countryside is The Repair Shop, a place where broken and battered beloved artefacts, antiques, and curios come back to life. In a new Ricochet TV series for BBC TWO a team of Britain's most passionate and skilled crafts people will rescue broken objects and restore them to their former glory. If you have a damaged heirloom, a prized antique, a loved one's treasured possession, or anything else that needs restoring get in touch now on: 01273 224800 or email repair@ricochet.co.uk. We understand that this will be offered free-of-charge.

Waste collection day will now be on a Wednesday. For which bin and other information on waste, see the SCDC newsletter or on the web at: www.scams.gov.uk/bins.

For Voluntary, Community or Charitable organisations:

Hunts Forum and Cambridge CVS (part of Support Cambridgeshire), are here to assist any voluntary, community or Charitable organisation operating in Cambridgeshire. This help can be assistance with:

- finding funding;
- acting as a critical friend – looking through funding applications;
- advice and information on DBS checks for example;
- setting up your group;
- networking events where you can meet other like-minded organisations;
- training on subjects such as Safeguarding or First Aid;
- the creation of your Policies and Procedures such as a Constitution.

If you would like some support please contact us where we will be happy to assist.

Angela Haylock, Development Officer

Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations
The Maple Centre, 6 Oak Drive,
Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 7HN

Direct tel: 01480 420604

Mobile: 07809 214895

“Information, guidance and support to help voluntary and community organisations set up, develop and grow”

w: www.huntsforum.org.uk

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---|---------|----------|
| Sunday | Title | Bourn | Kingston | Caxton | Longstowe | Eltisley | Croxton | Toseland |
| 1 | Lent 5 | 10.30 am FHC | 8.30 am HC | 10.30 am W4A | | 10.30 am HC | | |
| 2 | Palm Sunday | | 10.30 am CHC @ Bourn | | | 10.30 am Palm Sunday Service @ Croxton | | |
| 09/04/2017 | | | | | | | | |

Please send items for the next edition by the 14th of June
 Clare.rebeck@cruk.cam.ac.uk

Dates for your diary: (meetings are usually held in Longstowe Village Hall at 7.15pm)

Thursday 20th April 2017 – Longstowe Parish Annual Open Meeting (followed by the Parish Council meeting). Please note: coffee & tea served from 7pm if the Village Hall is available.

Thursday 18th May – Longstowe Parish Council Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 15th June – Parish Council meeting.

Thursday 20th July – Parish Council meeting.

Clerk's details: Bobbie Coe, LongstowePC.Clerk@hotmail.com, 01954 719320