



LONGDON LIFE

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www.longdon-staffs.info/council

August 2014

From Richard Clarke
Chairman Longdon Parish Council

Continuity with change. That is the riddle, the challenge, which has been set by the Longdon and Gentleshaw residents in their responses to the recent parish-wide questionnaire.

Reflecting the views of over a third of all the parishioners, 90% of respondents clearly said we enjoy the rural setting, the cherished identity, access to areas of great beauty and the tranquillity. Residents want it to stay that way and are nervous of any development. But at the same time the villages and hamlets must not be fossilised; they need to be alive and active, and include the vigour of the young.

The Red Lion is one example; re-opening 5 pm on 15th August, it is essentially the same but providing for the changing demands of today. Similarly both primary schools in the parish have a change of head teacher next term but expect to continue their high standards. I send my best wishes to them in their endeavours.

Our plans for the future must listen to what is voiced and need: to provide for the young (housing and recreation); to defeat loneliness; to encourage community activity; to maintain family groups; to enable environmental appreciation; to promote diversity.

The task: enjoy continuity, accommodate change.

Both the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) are hungry for your inputs – ideas, suggestions, criticisms. Further, NPWG seeks enthusiastic helpers for hands-on consulting, writing, distributing, and more. To volunteer, come to a meeting or contact a Councillor.

Notwithstanding plans, the Council continues to be concerned with the state of the lanes – pot holes, hedging, speeding, rat running – and urges S.C.C. for action before winter.

On behalf of the Parish Council I wish all readers "Happy Holidays" during this summer season.

CHIROPODY SERVICES

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September 14th
Longdon Annual
Produce & Flower Show

The articles and comments published in Longdon Life do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council.
Editor Allen Juxon published by Longdon Parish

** ACTION BRIEFS **

*Will Rose steps down

After fifteen years of fantastically diligent service as a co-opted and highly valued member of the Council's Highways & Open Spaces Committee, Will Rose has put away his walking boots. He continuously stepped along the 25 miles of R of W and footpaths in the parish to maintain a database survey of each with the gates, stiles, overgrowth & finger posts. He also actioned any necessary repairs thro' S.C.C. . Thanks Will, good luck on new ventures.

* HS2 more

HS2 Ltd. Has advised that it is seeking powers over additional land in the area through an "Additional Provision(AP)" submission to parliament including a petition period. Documents will be deposited in Lichfield Library HS2 Consultation Area on 10,11 or 12th Sept '14.

* Council News bite

A summary newsletter helping to keep everyone informed on current Parish Council business is to be posted on notice boards and delivered to pubs and halls after each Council meeting. It will be abridged and ahead of the official minutes which remain the definitive record. *A move to more transparency.*

* Donations

Donations have been given recently to: St. James Church; Beaudesert Sports Field; Longdon Produce Show.

* Diary

Councillors attended meetings since the Easter issue at
 Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Mgt.
 LDC Parish Forum Contractors for Red Lion
 Longdon Village Hall Mgt.
 Gentleshaw School Governors
 St. James School Governors
 Longdon Summer Fayre Organisers
 Beaudesert Field Committee
 Cotton Alms Houses Trustees

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**Classes Starting
 Monday 15th September**

In LONGDON VILLAGE HALL

STRETCH AND RELAX CLASS

Mondays

10.30-11.30am

An hour of stretching, movement, breathing
 and relaxation techniques

YOGA

Mondays

7.15 -8.30pm

Enquiries and to book your place..

07737272085

Or email valpassey@yahoo.com

Longdon Cricket Club

Following the loss of a few early matches in the season as a result of bad weather, up to the present time of writing, the season has been even better than last year with some 11 matches won out of a total of 15 so far played. These victories include recently both Lichfield and Wall, with some excellent innings, including our Captain Ade Yates who scored 99 against Lichfield and Joe Chambers who scored 146 against Wall, which is amongst the Clubs record scores. We can only hope that the rest of the season will prove to be as good.

The Village match played on the 28th June was as light hearted and enjoyable as usual with the Swan with Two Necks representing Longdon Village, the Chetwynd Arms Upper Longdon and a side put together for the Red Lion Longdon Green. Each match was a 22 overs game, with each side bowling 11 overs, one over to be bowled by each player including the wicket keeper.

The Red Lion lost to both the Swan and the Chet, so the final was between the Swan and the Chet.

The Chet won for the first time in many years !!!

During the day the bar and the barbeque were open to give the players a break between games, it should be noted the Chet when fielding generally had a can behind each player to keep up their strength.

There was a raffle which as always with the takings from the bar and the barbeque added to the Club Funds.

Our thanks to all players and visitors for helping to make such a happy day.

The Club continues with a full programme of fixtures up to the end of September, finishing with the Presidents Day match on September the 21st. Before that the Club also hopes to go on tour again, this year to Torquay with a match in particular against Coughton one of the most attractive grounds in the area. I also note that the Captain of the Chet, Stuart Dawson Derry is also a member of Longdon deserting for the weekend.

David La Trobe President

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LONGDON VILLAGES SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 5th of July dawned warm and sunny for the Longdon Villages' Summer Fayre allowing the many visitors and participants who visited it during the afternoon to enjoy the fun and games as well as the food and drink without having to run for cover from our usual summer downpours.

This year the community joined together with the PTFA of St James's C of E Primary School to stage the event in the school grounds.

Vast arrays of stalls were provided by organisations from the village such as St James's Church, the WI, British Legion, and over 60s club as well as visitors selling craft items and jewellery. There were displays of Model Planes, Birds of Prey and Skate Boarding for those who preferred just to "stand and stare".

The children were kept entertained by the many activities designed especially for them, these included a Bouncy Castle, Children's Tombola, (this was so popular that they ran out of prizes half way through the afternoon), badge making and a Tin can alley +Cards stall, I am still trying to work out what this one was.

Refreshments such as beef burgers, Strawberry teas, Pimms and soft drinks were provided by St James Pre-school, the PTFA and the Swan with two necks and made a roaring trade throughout the afternoon.

Mr and Mrs Larking did a sterling job of selling raffle tickets and the ladies from the school office worked hard controlling the rush at the School gate.

All in all it was a very successful afternoon, this was proved by the number of visitors who didn't want to leave the field and chairs and tables were cleared away around them, and raised a net profit of £1383.03.

The proceeds from the event will be divided between the PTFA and the other organisations within the Villages that provide services for children.

The community group and PTFA are already arranging their next events which include a repeat of last year's very successful Christmas sing-along and the schools Christmas Fayre. If you would like to participate in either of these events please come along and join us. Our next meeting will be held at 18.00hrs on the 9th of September in the Swan with two necks and all are welcome.

Mrs. Joan Fox

Event photographs on adjacent page 5



St. James' Churchyard

As a relative newcomer to the village, a member of St James Church and a keen gardener I have been helping the "groundforce team" in the upkeep of the churchyard the second Saturday of each month (10- 12 noon all help welcome, tea and biscuits provided!) I have been interested in the different styles of graves we have and how the fashions have changed over the years, from the Victorian tombs to the neat headstones we have today, colours in the stone have changed and so has the wording.

Recently taking on the role of churchwarden I have learnt that each new Chancellor of the Diocese is responsible for setting and administering the rules relating to churchyards and it is our duty to carry out these rules, which are not the same as cemeteries, run by the County Council.

These rules include the size, shape and wording and the type of material used in creating the headstone as well rules which help with the aesthetic look of the churchyard to help assist with the upkeep, (a cost which the congregation of St James church has to pay, fortunately with some help from the Parish Council).

Only fresh flowers, apart from Christmas and Remembrance Sunday, may be placed only on the nine inches of stone in front of the headstone. The rest of the grave or memorial, must be free from pots, rocks, planting etc to allow mowing to take place.

St James has a leaflet about the upkeep of the churchyard and the current regulation that apply, this is available in church and on our website

www.stjames-longdon.org.uk

Pam Cherry Church Warden

Longdon Over 60's Club

To date we have had a wonderful year with some interesting speakers including an osteopath, a helicopter pilot, and a boat trip in Worcester. In July we were blessed with good weather, when we enjoyed a garden party at the home of Margaret and Peter Howells in Upper Longdon.

Our next meeting on August 12th will be a cream tea at Sarah Hollinsheads, The Stables . We have many more interesting meetings yet to take place including an outing to Oxford on September 9th.

Although a few months away we are now planning our usual Christmas party on December 13th and would like to hear from anyone over 60 who would like to join us. If we know numbers in advance it does help with the catering.

At our AGM in April Mrs Sue Carter kindly agreed to continue as Chairman.

We are a very friendly group and new members will always receive a warm welcome so please come along for tea and company. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30 in the W.I. Hall or the Village Hall. For further information: please contact our Chairman Mrs Sue Carter on 077797 89590 or Sandra Baker, Secretary, on 01543 490787

SB.

LONGDON FRIENDS OF ST GILES HOSPICE

I begin by expressing my deepest sympathy to Mr Robert Foster on the death of his dear wife Lu and thank them most sincerely for all their dedication and hard work for Longdon Friends of St Giles Hospice.

On Sunday July 20th Sarah and Andrew Hollinshead hosted an amazing fundraising event for St Giles Hospice raising a total sum of £3,003.50. Grateful thanks to Sarah and Andrew and all the helpers who worked so hard in tropical conditions to make this event such a success. The horse parade was show stopping and every enjoyable. Thanks also to everyone who came, supported and helped in so many ways.



Next dates for your diary:

August 14th & 15th – Bucket collections at Morrison, Burntwood, any volunteers are very welcome and most helpful.

October 7th - Indian Banquet at Must Restaurant- Brereton Hill. Once again Must Restaurant is donating a portion of the cost of the meal to St Giles Hospice. Thank you to Must Restaurant management for their generosity. More details later.

November 22nd - Christmas coffee Morning in the W.I. Hall – Longdon.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Longdon Friends of St Giles Hospice throughout the years.

Gladys Crowe – Chairman and all of the committee 01543 491760

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Longdon Open Gardens Event 7th & 8th June

Held in aid of St. James' Church and it's charities.

Twelve gardens were opened to the public together with an Arts, Crafts and Hobbies exhibition staged in the Church.

Refreshments were served in the Village Hall throughout the afternoons.

All the gardens were at their very best with the unseasonable early flowering of so many plants and shrubs all at the same time. Unfortunately the weather was rather mixed with persistent rain on Saturday morning, so numbers of visitors were down, although Sunday was much better with a considerable number of visitors to the village.

The organising committee would like to express their gratitude to all the garden owners who opened their gardens and helped to make the whole event so enjoyable.

The exhibition in the Church created a lot of interest, what a lot of talented people we have in the Longdons. Once again thank you to all those who took the trouble to exhibit their work.

The catering at the Village Hall was much praised by visitors, thank you to all those who generously provided cakes and all those who worked so hard in the kitchen.

It was good to see the whole Village come alive for the two days of the event. Many visitors came from quite far away having found us via the internet.

See a photographic record of the event on the adjacent page, kindly produced by Rob Heywood.

The event overall raised just over £2,000.

PRENATAL YOGA

At Longdon Village hall

Thursdays 7.30-8.30pm

Enquiries: valpassey@yahoo.com

07737272085 Join any time



Since the last issue of Longdon Life we welcome new babies...

***Reece James, Aoife, Frank, Thomas
Timothy, Freddie, Sophie, Adam Hayes
and Rhys Jacob***

The mums said...

'I loved the classes as they gave me the opportunity to relax and taught me breathing techniques'

'During my pregnancy yoga helped me tune in to my body.. I can't recommend it enough!'

'The main thing that helped me during my labour was the breathing techniques I had learnt. Also the sound therapy.'

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Longdon Open Gardens & Hobbies/Craft exhibition
7th - 8th June 2014





Longdon W.I.



*Widen your horizons and find new opportunities.
Meet new people and make friends.
Enjoy good times and a variety of events and outings.
Join your local Women's Institute.*

Longdon W I meets on the first Wednesday of every month at
7.30 pm in the W.I. Hall, Ford Lane, Longdon.

We have a variety of speakers and activities including

Lunch at the Ray Country Inn 14th August

Wednesday 6th August
"Down the garden path"

Wednesday 3rd September
"Bats"

A talk with a twist !!!!



Wednesday 1st October
"Social Evening- Faggots & Peas"

Wednesday 5th November
"Spinning"



We support village life and local events - *You don't know what you're missing! Why not come and join us?*

For more information Contact Wendy – 07795 420832

Cotton Almshouses Borough Lane

This year marks the 50th. Anniversary of the building of the three new Almshouses in 1964. These replaced the old Alms buildings and school room which were built in 1815 and considered no longer fit for habitation. There was considerable controversy over planning permission for the new properties particularly from the then Staffordshire County Council, the Trustees finally winning an appeal to the National Planning Commissioners

The Trustees held a small celebration marking the anniversary at the home of the Chairman Mrs. Ann Juxon.

A celebration cake was provided by Mrs. Cynthia Tipper Trustee, this was cut by the guest of honour Mr. Robert Udall who was the Clerk to the Trust for some 30 years prior to the current clerk Mrs. Janet Allen taking over the role in 1988.

Janet kindly provided a display of old documents and minute books dating from the 1880's

The Cotton Almshouse Trust will celebrate it's 200 year foundation anniversary next year.

Pictured below are some of the Trustees with the Clerk on the far left, and Mr.. Robert Udall cutting the cake.



GENTLESHAW W.I.

Report for Longdon Life

We held our A.G.M. back in May when Mrs Dorothy Poynton stood down as President after 3 years, Mrs Shelia Harrison as Treasurer and Mrs Joy Higgs as Speakers' Secretary. Mrs Gaynor Dixon has taken on the position of Chairman, Mrs Angela Walton Treasurer and Mrs Marion Tait as Speakers Secretary.

Some of our members opened their gardens on 26th May – due to inclement weather lunch was held in the Village Hall – this was a well attended fund raiser

Two of our members attended the National Federation of W.I's A.G.M. in Leeds

The W.I. celebrates its centenary in 2015 and as a lead up to the big day on 4th June 2015 a baton has been passed around all the W.I. Federations throughout the Country. It was the turn of the Rose and Shamrock group to receive the baton on 26th June – about 30 members met on Castle Ring Car Park some dressed as Iron Age warriors and walked with the baton around the top of the ring they then made their way back to the Village Hall for coffee and cake – followed by a pub lunch.

Since our last report we have had a very successful and interesting visits to Moorcroft Pottery and to The Staircase Museum in Stockport

We have been entertained by
Barbara Marshall - speaking about the Chads Moor Tapestries
Alan Hopkins - Life with Music
Joan Lockley – from Hedgehog Rescue

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Jam Club
August 18th 2pm-4pm
Under 5's summer get together at Val's
The Cottage, Ford Lane Longdon

Welcome to all Jam club toddlers and babies
past and present, and their Mums, Dads and
Carers.

Fun in the garden.. Fairy Path, Obstacle course,
and outdoor games. Refreshments

Small donation for Jam club funds £3 per family

Nearly New sale of children's and baby clothes
and toys. Bring your items to sell. 10% to funds



Weather permitting. If wet we will meet in
church

Jam Club in church restarts 8th Sept