

# LONGDON LIFE

Volume 3 Issue 51

[www.longdon-staffs.info/council](http://www.longdon-staffs.info/council)

December 2014

From Richard Clarke  
Chairman Longdon Parish Council

*Welcome.* Welcome all readers: welcome is the theme for this issue's report.



The Parish Council welcomes with enthusiasm and encouragement our two new head teachers: at St. James Primary School Mrs Claire Shaw, who started only this term, has quickly impressed and become part of the community, and at Gentleshaw Primary School Mrs Chris Willoughby, who starts in January, has already spent several days at the school getting to know the staff and culture. We wish them and the pupils all success.

Welcomes also and congratulations to the new managements in the pubs: at the Red Lion Chloe has brought a fresh approach and exciting offerings, and at the Chetwynd Arms Gary and Nicola's team has reopened The Chet Restaurant. They both complement the Swan with Two Necks, a central 'village pub' run by Mary, and the Old Windmill's stability under Elaine's guidance. Best wishes to all of them.

A massive welcome is due to the new initiative of Longdon Community Group whose ardent band of contributors, chaired by Joan Fox, are arranging community events to help integrate our scattered villages and hamlets. One such is the 'Sing – Along' on 17<sup>th</sup> December in St. James School.

Very much welcomed and encouraged is parishioner's involvement in the Parish Council's affairs and actions – seek out your councillor, come to the meetings, ask questions, make suggestions, call for action. The Council wants greater transparency.

In the spring the draft of the Longdon Neighbourhood Plan will be issued: it is the plan to direct the future of our parish; that's for all of us to enjoy continuity, accommodate change.

*On behalf of the Parish Council I wish all readers a very happy Christmas and thereupon welcome 2015 and its opportunities.*



## Royal British Legion- Longdon Branch

The Annual Poppy Appeal in Longdon has Raised the wonderful sum of £1,672.61 The Committee and Members of the Branch extend their grateful to all the collectors and everyone for their support and generosity.

In addition to the above the late Bev Billings organised a Family Fun day in September Held at the Village Hall and the W.I. Hall raised an additional £724.70 This brings the grand total for this years Poppy Appeal to £2,397.31 Thank you to you all. See further item inside L.L.

## FESTIVE WALK WITH A QUIZ

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>. December Starting 11.30 am

At The Swan With Two Necks

The walk will be across fields and tracks so please wear suitable Footwear and Clothing

Please come and bring your friends, Dogs and Children are welcome accompanied by an adult.

Donations on the day to support the work of the Midlands Air Ambulance

Further Details Lynn Marshall on 01543 490381

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 \*\*

### \* Lanes upkeep

As well as the ongoing verge grass cutting, litter picking, and sign refurbishing, in recent weeks the potholes in Thorleys Hill, Dollymakers Hill and Malthouse Road have been filled, and overhanging hedges and trees in Lower Way cut back. Also landowners are being chased to maintain their hedges and not obstruct footpaths.

### \* "WANTED - Handyman"

For a variety tasks around the parish, as and when required, a paid handyman is required. Interested? **apply now** to the Clerk, and for details, on email [clerk.longdonpc@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.longdonpc@outlook.com), or 'phone 01785 711150.

### \* Grange Hill – Close Notice

A Temporary Road Traffic Order has been issued by SCC to close Grange Hill from 24<sup>th</sup> November for up to 18months for work being done.

### \* HS2 Reminder

The original Bill material and amendments are available for public inspection by parishioners in the Lichfield public library.

### \* Donation

A donation has been given to the Beaudesert Toddle & Tumble Group

### \* Grant received

To assist with preparations for the Longdon Neighbourhood Plan a welcomed grant has been received from DCLG via its agency Locality.

### \* Diary

Councillors attended meetings since the August:  
Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Hall Management  
St. James Primary School Governors  
Gentleshaw Primary School Governors

Longdon Village Community Group  
Cannock Wood AONB  
SCC Infrastructure Briefing  
Staffs. Playing Fields Association

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**or**  
**Mobile: 07962 979 243**



### **Welcome**

A warm welcome is extended to all members, past, present and future. There is always an open invitation to anyone to come along to a Club meeting and sample an evening with us. It costs £2 for an occasional visit, or annual membership is £12 per person. Club members benefit from a discount at three garden centres on production of a valid membership card. We meet on the second Tuesday in the month in the Village Hall, Buds Road, Cannock Wood. Meetings start at 7.30pm and tea or coffee with biscuits is served at the end of meetings, after our speakers have finished their talks.

### **Christmas Social Evening**

The Gardening Club is holding their annual Christmas Social Evening on Tuesday 9th December. A delicious buffet, including desserts, will again be provided by the Committee, and the entertainment for the evening will be from 'Kate's Party'. Tickets are £6.00 for members and £10 for non-members. We look forward to another super social evening starting at 7.30pm and ending all too soon!

### **Garden and Home Produce Show**

Our annual Garden and Home Produce Show in the Village Hall, Buds Road, Cannock Wood was held on Saturday 30th August. The Show, open to all amateur gardeners, bakers, flower arrangers etc was well supported with an increase in exhibitors this year. The Show, which is not restricted to just Club members and local villagers - was open for anyone to exhibit in any of the 60 show classes, which including some classes specifically for children in various age groups. There was no charge to exhibit, but only one exhibit was allowed in any one class. The date for next year's Show is Saturday 22 August.

### **Village Open Gardens 2015**

Following on from the success of the Village Open Gardens event this year, the Open Gardens weekend next year is Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th June.

### **Speakers and Topics**

In November we had a Ranger from Cannock Chase as our speaker on the subject of 'Deer on the Chase'. It was a fascinating talk with slides and information, although damage caused by deer in some gardens may not make them quite as welcome.

We endeavour to book speakers on a wide range of garden related subjects in order to give items of interest to as many of our members as possible.

For further details of any of the above please contact the Secretary on 01543 682525



### The Neighbourhood Plan for OUR Parish

Longdon, Longdon Green, Upper longdon, Gentleshaw

Hard to believe, but work on the Neighbourhood Plan has been going on for nearly two years. In the last year alone the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has organised across the Parish six public meetings, four leaflet distributions, held numerous meetings with special interest groups participated in village events like the annual cricket match and the village fete and prepared and distributed a comprehensive questionnaire to every household in the Parish.

Through this extensive process of consultation we have been listening to people's views and gathering evidence so that we can produce a plan that really reflects the views of the people who live and work in our Parish. The Working Group now feels, armed with this feedback, that we are ready to begin to write a first draft of the Plan which we are intending to produce by Spring of 2015.

There will be a six week period where we hope everyone will feel able to make their contribution and ensure that their views are heard. It is important to stress that this will be the first version of the Plan and it will be designed to encourage as many people as possible to give us their comments and opinions as this will help us create a final Plan which will properly reflect the views of all the people, in all the villages within the Parish.



Gina Duckett Chair of NPWG

#### Horse Riders of the Parish.

There are many horse owners and horse riders in the parish of Longdon and recently, a few of us had a 'get together' to talk about all things 'horsey'. We thought it might be an idea if we had another social evening perhaps meeting in one of the longdon pubs. I will pass the word around by word of mouth, but ring me if you are interested in coming along. no date has been set yet, but probably sometime in December. My number is 01543 491068, thanks, Sue Boston (Mum to two coloured cobs and a retired thoroughbred !!)

#### Is it time for another village Pantomime?

Vivid memories still remain in my mind of the three pantos - Cinderella, Peter Pan and Robin Hood. Were they brilliant - Oh yes they were ! We have one villager who is keen to write and perform, and another who has indicated a willingness to produce/direct. There are costume that we can use from the past productions, and we have so many talented people who can sing, dance and make us laugh. We had the other pantos at easter time, so if we start after Christmas there will be a chance of a show in 2015. what do you think all of you Longdon thespians? leave a message if you are interested on 01543 491 068, thanks, Sue Boston

### Longdon Mill and Farm

In view of public interest and recent planning approvals, members of the Parish Council were kindly invited by Mr. Tony Wright to inspect the site, particularly the farm buildings, machinery hard standing areas and of course the mill.

We are all aware of the huge amount of work carried out at the mill by Mr. Wright over many months. Things are now beginning to come to fruition. The farm buildings are now in place for the first of the pedigree "Aberdeen Angus" cattle, the breeding of which will be the main focus of the farm. The house alongside the mill tower is constructed and has reached the fitting out stage. A great amount of ground works has been completed to form the banks and bunds surrounding the house and the farm buildings.

The tree planting programme is still in progress, to date some 350 trees have been planted on the site and should mature quickly.

The mill tower has been repaired and is now ready to receive the internal mill "works." The top cap which will be able to be rotated to provide the best conditions for the sails whatever the wind direction, is currently being manufactured and assembled at the Holdsworth works in Henly on Thames. It will then be stripped down and shipped to Longdon in early January. After reassembly on site it will be lifted by crane to the top of the tower, it is expected to be in place by early in February.

The four mill sails which are some 33ft. long, have been manufactured at a mill in Lincoln and should be on site and be fitted by early March.

What a difference we shall all see by the 1<sup>st</sup>. April, when for the first time in some 125 years we shall see a working mill on the skyline !!! The mill is not a toy as it will generate electricity to power the house and the farm.

This is something that we all look forward to, but especially the Wright family as they settle into Longdon.  
A.J.Juxon

### Longdon Cricket Club

Following a successful start to the season, the latter part of 2014 continued to be successful with only 9 losses out of 23 matches played and 5 wins out of 8- 20 over mid- week matches.

President's Day On September 14<sup>th</sup> began with an excellent breakfast at The Swan with Two Necks, before the match between the under 30s and over 30s. Much to their delight this was won by the seniors, experience outdoing enthusiasm so they claimed !!!

The tour which this year went to the Torquay area of Devon where they played Sprayton and Stoke in Teinhead, winning one of the matches but having a great and somewhat alcoholic time..

Presentation day followed on October 31st with a warm up at the Duke of York prior to dinner at Little India in Lombard Street. The attendance was so good that we needed to be moved into a larger room. Key awards went to :- Adrian Yates for batting, Tom Bonser for bowling and Jamie Whetmore for the most improved player. Awards for the work done for the Club went to Robin Stodard and Matt Tayler. A great evening finishing well after Midnight.

To come is the Committee dinner early in December. We shall then start thinking of preparing the ground for the 2015 season, with the fixture secretary's work almost completed.

As always anyone wishing to join the Club should ring me on 01543 491155 or  
Richard Davies the Club Chairman on 01543 263538.

In closing may we wish all members and supporters of the Club,  
**A Very Happy Christmas and a Great Cricketing New Year**  
David La Trobe President







*Longdon Walking Group**Inaugural Walk**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**Meet in the car park at the  
Swan With Two Necks  
At 11 a.m.**Approximately 4 miles (1 ½ hours)  
Everyone welcome**For more details please telephone  
Irene Kemp 490135  
Or Lynn Haris 490847*

At our first Messy Church in November over 50 people turned up. The theme was Thanksgiving and we were reminded of the story of the ten lepers.

Messy church for All is on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in month 4pm -5.45pm at St James Church. To help with catering Text Sarah on 07709 343326 if you hope to come.

The next one will be Christmas Messy Church Sat Dec 20<sup>th</sup>

The theme will be 'No room at the inn' Children are invited to bring along a Nativity scene that they have drawn or painted, no bigger than A4 to be displayed in church over Christmas.

This will be part of the display of Nativity tableaux. If adults have any interesting tableaux that they have collected from home or abroad that they would like to share with others please bring along or contact Val Passey 490681.

2015 Messy Church ....

17<sup>th</sup> Jan

21<sup>st</sup> February

21<sup>st</sup> March

Longdon Over 60's Club

The 2014 programme for the club has been both varied and interesting for our members.

We have had a boat trip in Worcester and a shopping trip to Oxford.

Through the summer we've enjoyed two tea parties in very good weather. Our speakers have provided lots of interest with visits from an osteopath, a helicopter pilot and a taste of local history with a talk on William Palmer the 19<sup>th</sup> century Rugeley poisoner.

We end the year with the Christmas party in the school hall on December 13<sup>th</sup>, which is open to all over 60's living in Longdon. If you would like to join us for a jolly afternoon please contact Sue or Sandra before 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Our new year will begin on January 13<sup>th</sup> with a beetle drive in the W.I. hall at 2.30pm.

New members are always welcome and the subscription is only £10 for a full year, plus a small charge for outings.

Sue Carter, Chairman. Tel: 07779 789590

Sandra Baker, Secretary. Tel: 01543 490787

Longdon Produce Show

The show held Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014 was the best we have had for a very long time.

All classes were up in numbers and there were over 500 entries.

It was worth all the time and effort the committee put in as this brings the School, Brownies and Village together.

We were lucky the weather was also fine and warm. Please support us and start planning next years show. Seeds can be ordered and sown now and in the spring.

Next years show will be on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Val Heseltine Secretary tel. 01543 490419

See pictures on opposite Page.

## Village Events



A Service of Remembrance was held with St James' Primary School on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Following which all present were kindly invited into the school for refreshments and to talk to the children.

Pictured are Allen Juxon of the British Legion receiving donations for the Poppy appeal from Mrs. Joan Fox and Steve Bedlow of the Village Community group and from Mrs. Claire Shaw Headmistress of the school

Mrs. Joan Fox of the "Village Community Group" presented cheques to the Church Jam Club and the Pre-school group.



Planting of the Ash Tree at Brook End by the Produce Show Committee  
In memory of the late Mrs. Maureen Piper.  
Wielding the spade is Martin Sandground Chairman



**LONGDON VILLAGES COMMUNITY GROUP**

Mrs Joan Fox

The Longdon Villages Community Group would like to invite you to our second Christmas Sing-a-long to be held on **17th of December 6-8.00pm** at St James School CoE and The Swan with Two Necks.

In December 2014, the Community Group commenced their activities with a Christmas Sing-a-long at St James C of E Primary School. This was a tremendous success, tickets sold like hot cakes and unfortunately many people had to be turned away as the event was a complete sell out. Tickets will be going on sale in early December, so please get your tickets early to join in the fun – available from the School, Overton's Post Office and The Swan with Two Necks. Singing on the night will be the school and church choir followed by drinks and carols around the Christmas tree at the Swan with Two Necks (weather permitting)

The aim of our group is to bring about more community cohesion by supporting local organisations and its residents. The group has been in existence for approximately 12 months and members include local people, some attached to local organisations and others who just want to get involved in Village life.

There is no restriction on the number of members who can join and people are welcome to opt in or out depending on their individual preferences and the projects being developed.

In July they joined forces with the schools PTFA to organise the Longdon Villages Summer Fayre - this also proved to be a great success, helped by the warm and sunny weather and the wonderful support that was given by the staff of St James and the village organisations.

From money raised at the events and some kind donations, the group have been able to donate money to Longdon Pre-school, St James JAM club, Longdon Guides and Brownies and the Longdon Poppy appeal.

The group have a number of events they intend to arrange in 2015 so please lookout for their announcements.

We would love to hear from you....if you would like to be involved in the group by arranging events, raising funds and making small donations to groups throughout the Villages, please join us at our next meeting:

***Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 6.00pm The Red Lion Public House***



St. James C of E Primary School  
November 2014

What a wonderful, warm welcome I received as I started my role as your new headteacher in September. I now feel very much at home here at St James C of E Primary School and look forward to getting to know everyone in the community. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Remembrance Service and have the opportunity to meet you at our coffee morning afterwards. The children have been learning about World War 1 as our theme week and I would like to thank you for the support that the community have given us in order for us to make the learning for our children so memorable and meaningful.

There has been lots of exciting learning happening across the school. We have had lots of sporting events taking place including cross country, netball and football. We had a Planetarium in school and each class were able to explore different scientific aspects. Class 1 learnt about stories in the stars. Class 2 explored light and dark. Class 3 explored shadows and reflection and Class 4 learnt about the Solar System and Greek Mythology of the stars.

Last term we visited our church to celebrate Harvest. Class 1 performed a wonderful story called 'The Elephant and the Bad Baby.' Key stage 1 and 2 children performed Harvest songs, stories and prayers.

We are eager to engage with our community and are seeking volunteers who can spare a little time to come in to school to help with reading and other classroom activities. If you have some spare time and would like to come and work with us then please contact the school on 490378, or pop in to the office for a chat.

We have lots of exciting events happening this term as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. We look forward to sharing our nativity and our Christmas sing-a-long with you in December. Please remember my door is always open and I am always keen to find out about opportunities for collaboration with all our community groups.

Claire Shaw

Headteacher

Jenny's Art Exhibition  
at the Village Hall

Jenny Gillies is pictured here with her Mother Sue Boston, looking one of her recent works.

See adjacent page 11 for Jenny's story.





**Picture This ..... A short story based on a real life event .....**

The birds have just stopped singing and the sun has gone. Mid-November. Outside there is a wetness in the air which clings to the face and hair. It's quiet - nothing stirring - to call it 'gloom' would be accurate. The village waits. Words have floated in the air - Obama, Spock, a super model, pictures ....

The silence is broken by footsteps. One or two bodies emerge, then two more and then more. From across the village the forms move towards the hall, some clutch cards in their hands. They seem to be hesitant, as they move towards their destination - do they really know what to expect?

A light is on and the large oak doors are very slightly ajar. The people seem to relax as they approach and smell the scent of hot mince pies and mulled wine. Yes, this was written on the card - hot mulled wine and pies - definitely a Christmas theme. But the invitation cards says an exhibition too.

They step inside, hear the music and begin to make sense of the scene. A large mannequin is there (the super model), she is holding a board with instructions to view the pictures. Around the room are boards, upon which is a story - a 'story board' - of the life and talents of a very remarkable young 'Longdon Lass'.

The Longdon Lass is Jenny; Jenny Gillies, raised in the village, known by many and unknown by many too. A young woman who has a talent to draw, and whose story is unusual.

Her story is of resilient and courage. 18 years old now, born deaf and visually impaired Jenny has had many difficulties to overcome. The 'story boards' show a natural artistic talent. Angels drawn at St James Primary school, 'lowry' like stick drawings of people and places. Recent sketches depict the ultra modern hospital at Selly Oak Birmingham. Jenny drew these pictures when she was recuperating from a kidney transplant - just another small hurdle to deal with in February this year.

So the villagers of Longdon came in from the gloom to read about Jenny, and to see her wonderful pictures. Pictures of Christmas baubles, happy Santas, Sleighs and Christmas trees. A poignant and timely poppy picture of the Tower of London. 90 came and soon the hall was full of villagers and friends - chatting, eating and drinking. Many of the conversations were reflections and memories of the young Jenny growing up. The artist was there too, somewhat overwhelmed by the noise and commotion but colouring in foam trees and snowmen for visitors to take away

So what about Spock and Obama? Well, Jenny loves Obama and a 'cut out cardboard President' came along to her 18th birthday celebration in the 'Swan' in March, and he was there in the village hall too. Spock? Well Jenny loves Star Trek and has a similar 'cut out' Spock too.

As the evening went on the stars came out in the night sky over Longdon. The music stopped, coats were put on and 'good nights' said. A large box was seen to be taken away from the hall with a note on saying 'donations', it contained £375. The money destined for charities - DELTA, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Rare Diseases Appeal, the QE Kidney Patients Support Group and SENSE the charity which supports deaf/blind people.

Many, many thanks from me Jenny's Mum (Sue Boston) to all those who helped hang pictures and bring mince pies. It could not have happened without you. I hope we can have another exhibition in the future with new pictures and stories from Jenny.

ps. Guess the picture competition was won by Lynn Marshall. It was Boris and the Queen !

## Using the internet to save you money

The comparison website company named Comparethemarket, has found that the proportion of people comparing deals online, dipped to less than three per cent by the time they hit the age of 71.

Simon McCulloch, director of insurance at Comparethemarket states the following:

- ‘Despite the rise of so-called “Internet Aged Pensioners” it would appear that this has not encouraged more online shopping for products that would save the older generation significant amounts of money.’
- ‘As the Government looks to introduce measures to increase the online competency of older generations, 71 is a surprisingly young age to be hanging up the mouse’
- ‘It should only take five minutes to help those who are less proficient, and it might help them to make significant savings.’

McCulloch says that families and friends should encourage the older generation to keep surfing.  
The penalty/cost for ‘logging off’ can be as high as £660/year.

The site also found that one in five elderly people do not heat their homes even when they are cold due to worries about bills.  
Nearly two-thirds of the over-65s have not changed energy supplier in the past three years, while one in five has never changed supplier.

### Useful Phone Numbers

Police (non-emergency): 101  
Lichfield Dist. Council: 01543 308000  
Staffordshire County Council:  
0300 111 8000  
Trains Hotline: 08457 48 49 50  
Centro Rail Enquiries: 0121 200 2700  
Network Rail helpline: 08457 114141  
Arriva Bus services: 0871 200 2233  
Citizens Advice: 03444 111 444  
Lichfield Library: 01543 510700  
BT Faultline: 0800 800 151  
Electricity Power Loss:  
0800 328 1111  
Gas emergency: 0800 111 999  
South Staffs Water: 0800 389 1011  
NHS Direct: 0845 46 47  
Queen’s Hospital, Burton:  
01283 566 333  
Samuel Johnson Hospital, Lichfield:  
01543 412 900  
Stafford Hospital: 01785 257731  
Cannock Hospital: 01543 576900

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HOUSEHOLD GOODS	FREE CASH WITHDRAWALS FROM ALL BANKS	LOCAL MEATS & CHEESES
GREETINGS CARDS AND XMAS CARDS	PAY ALL YOUR UTILITY BILLS	LOCALLY MADE PIES, PASTIES & SAUSAGE ROLLS
STATIONERY	PAY YOUR COUNCIL TAX	HOT AND COLD DRINKS
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES	HOUSING ASS. RENT	FRESHLY MADE SANDWICHES



Gentleshaw W.I Gaynor Dixon President

In August we held a very successful Murder Mystery Evening when Whittington HATS drama group entertained us.

We enjoyed a delicious meal cooked by our members and raised a very creditable £796, most of which was donated to Village Hall funds. Our speaker for our meeting was Ian Bott who was back by request. He entertained us with accounts of Black Country Murders.

Our September speaker Mac Joseph gave a very informative talk on the Birmingham Back to Backs. A most enjoyable and occasionally nostalgic evening as quite a lot of members have 'family history' connections. We had a 'Ladies Who Lunch' outing to the Drill in Burntwood and had a pleasant time together.

October was a busy month. We attended Federation Council at Stafford and some intrepid souls went on a Ghost Walk around Lichfield. We attended a very enjoyable Rose and Shamrock Meeting in Colton Village Hall where we listened to the Bell Ringers from Stone and heard of future plans from our new County President. We entered a team (The Beaudesert Babes!) for the Quiz Evening organised by Longdon WI. It was a most enjoyable evening and we thoroughly enjoyed the generous first prize of four bottles of wine. Thank you Longdon WI. Our speaker for the month was Keith Chirk who demonstrated Head Massage and we auctioned harvest produce in aid of Associated Country Women of the World

November is our birthday month and we celebrated with a super evening at Beaudesert Golf Club and we are about to visit Chatsworth to view the Christmas decorations and Country Fair.

LONGDON FRIENDS OF ST GILES HOSPICE

On 20 July 2014 Sarah and Andrew Hollinshead held a relaxing family afternoon at Lodge Farm and donated all proceeds to St Giles Hospice, an amazing £3,003.50 was raised. On 7 October 2014 Must Restaurant held an Indian Banquet, this was a very enjoyable evening and very well supported and raised £1,000. We the committee and Friends of St Giles, would like to thank Sarah and Andrew Hollinshead and The Management of Must Restaurant for hosting these events and helping to raise funds for St Giles Hospice. The Bucket Collection held at Morrisons Burntwood in August 2014 raised £1,101.45.

On 22 November 2014 10.00 – 12.00 there will be a Coffee morning in the W.I. Hall - Lo1 *This event raised £700*  
*Stop Press... Thank you all*

Grateful thanks to everyone who has supported Longdon Friends of St Giles Hospice throughout the years.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Mrs Gladys Crowe and all the Committee Members  
 01543 491760



## The Chetwynd Arms Upper Longdon

Under New Management

Gary & Nicola welcome you all

This is a dog friendly pub.

We are open daily for food from 12.00 noon  
All our food is locally sourced with home cooking

### Sunday Lunch

Available booking is advisable

Bookings now being taken for our Christmas Fayre 1<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Boxing day Food served 12-3pm three course set menu.

New Year's Eve masquerade party tickets available.

New Year's Day Open for food 11.00 – 2.00pm “ the big hangover cure”

Big breakfast

Quiz nights every Tuesday at 8.30 pm. Keep updated on our Facebook page

Tel. 01543 490266

### **PRENATAL YOGA**

At Longdon Village hall

**Thursdays 7.30-8.30pm**

Enquiries: [valpassey@yahoo.com](mailto:valpassey@yahoo.com)

07737272085 Join any time

*What do mums say...*

*The breathing helps with the early stages of labour.  
It also helped me take the gas and air efficiently.*

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

*The relaxation breathing was the only thing I used  
as pain relief.*



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

**Bella Rose,**

**Noah,**

**Benjamin Edward,**

**James Andrew,**

**Iona Catherine Florence,**

**Benedict Edward**



## Classes Starting

## Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January

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

except 1<sup>st</sup> Mon in the month

Enquiries and to book your place

07737272085

Or email [valpassey@yahoo.com](mailto:valpassey@yahoo.com)







# Longdon W.I.



The last few months have seen several new members join Longdon W.I. and we have enjoyed a very varied programme of speakers, events and outings.

In the summer several of us attended a Gardeners Question and Answer at Wm Wheat & Sons Garden Centre where experts were on hand to answer all our questions, a group went to see Cats at the local theatre which everyone enjoyed and we have been to a variety of local hostelrys for lunch.

In October we held our annual Quiz at Longdon Village Hall, it was a very enjoyable evening, several local W.I.'s were represented as well as local clubs, friends and families from Longdon, Longdon Green, Upper Longdon and the surrounding area's. We had a packed hall, the 18 tables puzzled over a variety of questions on all sorts of subjects and a great time was had by all. There were refreshments and a raffle half way through the evening to give everyone's little grey cells a rest.

Our meetings over the last few months have included a social evening; we were treated to a wonderfully cooked meal of fresh Faggots and Pea's with Jacket potato for those who wanted them. The food was excellent and we all sat at a long table with food being served to us at the table. It was a chance to sit and chat amongst ourselves and catch up on events and friends.

Another time we had a fascinating talk by Jane Rock, from the Staffordshire Bat Group, on British Bats. Bats are the only mammals that can fly and we have 10 different species in Staffordshire alone. On a warm summer evening and we had a packed hall to hear our speaker David Bell whose talk was entitled "Down the Garden Path" now some people may have thought that this would have a gardening theme but we couldn't have been more wrong. The actual subject was in fact "The Privy" or loo at the bottom of the garden.

The coming year there is going to be a lot going on and we are looking forward to our birthday celebrations as well as the centenary of the WI where W.I.'s around the country will be celebrating.

***Why not come and join us?  
You don't know what you're missing!***

***We are based in the centre of Longdon Village in Ford Lane, and meet  
the first Wednesday in every month.***

***For further information contact: 01543 493623 - Wendy***

## Broadband update for Longdon Life

You may have noticed that some of the green telecom cabinets around the Parish, have notices on them referring to Superfast Fibre. You will also have seen lots of advertising in the media offering faster and faster broadband speeds, in fact.... Superfast broadband.

This is due to a national telecoms infrastructure programme, which is being supported at Government level, combined with funding and delivery by Councils and various suppliers.

Please see below an introduction from the Staffordshire County Council Superfast programme.

Superfast Staffordshire is building on the commercial rollout to bring fibre based broadband to 97% of premises by spring 2016.

We are confident that superfast broadband will have the power to transform lives for everyone living and working in Staffordshire. It will boost our economy and ensure residents can access a range of goods and services, whether it be for work, leisure or health. This is why we are investing over £27million (£7.44 million from Staffordshire County Council, £7.44 million from the Government's Broadband Delivery UK – BDUK and £12.47 million from BT).

For those premises not included in the fibre footprint we are aiming to improve broadband speeds using alternative technologies.

Once complete, our county will have one of the best broadband infrastructures in the world.

For those who require further information please see the website for 'Superfast Staffordshire' <http://www.superfaststaffordshire.co.uk>

It is a welcome development that Fibre is in the Parish, however please note you will not automatically receive a Superfast service because:-

- you must upgrade your account by applying to a supplier e.g. BT or Sky
- your nearest cabinet may not have been upgraded

The Superfast Staffordshire website states the following:

How do I get Superfast Broadband?

Firstly, if you have not already done so, check your line to confirm whether or not high speed broadband is available in your area. (see Superfast Staffordshire website).

In Staffordshire you can get high speed broadband through a number of different internet service providers so you can shop around and choose the best deal for you. By clicking the following links to ofcom accredited price comparison websites, you will be able to see who is providing fast speed broadband in your area and compare prices.

Lastly, should you choose to upgrade your contract to a Superfast service, please check the speeds which you are getting (upload and download). To do this there are a number of speed checkers available, and one of the better ones is [www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net) which is the preferred checker used by Sky.

If the test results do not meet the expected product speeds, immediately inform the service provider who will perform further checks, and if necessary arrange a technical visit. The technical visit will endeavour to determine where the problem(s) exist and determine a plan to hopefully resolve them.

Unfortunately, there may be some premises that may not get fibre-based superfast. For those premises, alternative approaches, other than fibre, may be required.



### Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Whist Club

Whist Club members meet at the Village Hall, which is situated in Buds Road Cannock Wood – post code WS15 4NB, - on the first Monday and the third Tuesday of each month, arriving at 7.15 pm for a 7.30pm start. £3 covers all costs, tea or coffee and cake at half time, a raffle, and cash prizes for the lucky winners. There is plenty of space for parking.

As we approach the Festive Season there will only be one meeting in December, which is Monday 1st December our Annual Party Night.

This year a Rainbow Night is under consideration. Rainbow Whist being an interesting variation of the semi-partner whist we normally play, but whatever the choice of game we are all looking forward to a fun evening.

Because of the busy time with families as Christmas approaches there will be no meeting on the third Tuesday, December 16th. Coming in to the New Year Monday January 5th will be our first get-together in 2015, followed by Tuesday January 20th.

New Friends are always welcome. No need to book, just come along on the night, and its surprising how soon we all get to know one another as we move from table to table. Any enquiries to Pat on 01543 683670.

Many Thanks.

Best Wishes Pat Croxall.



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### The Royal British Legion Longdon Branch

It is with great regret that we report the recent death of two of our committee members. The Rev'd Robert Bellamy, who was for many years Chairman and latterly President of the branch, Robert was particularly supportive of the outdoor Remembrance Service with St. James' school, officiating in all weathers over the past few years.

Mrs. Bev Billings who joined the branch three years ago, Volunteering to be the Poppy Appeal organiser, which she did most successfully.. She instituted a Family Fun day during September, she totally organised all the events

and press- ganged all her friends to assist and raised some £700 each time. Her enthusiasm and drive will be much missed by the Legion and all the other charities that she supported.

Longdon Branch will shortly be celebrating it's 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary. But we desperately need new members if we are to keep the branch alive to continue with our support for all Servicemen past and present and their family members.

Please get in touch with Margaret Woollard on 01543 490389 for more details.

Remember your Village Branch of the Legion needs you!!!

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# LONGDON VILLAGE PLANNER 2014-15

## Planning an event in the village?

Let us know the date of any event you are planning even if it's in the early stages and we can put it in the planner. Contact us if you need information for your date planning.

**valpassey@yahoo.com**  
**Tel 490681**  
**or Allen Juxon 490418**



*Loads of Friday evenings and Saturday availability at our halls for hire →*

### Regular Village Activities

**Jam Club at Church,**  
**Mondays 2-3.30pm in term time. For**  
**Mums, Carers, Babies and Toddlers**

		Village Hall to book contact Karen Dawson 492303	Longdon Club To book contact 490521 After 8pm	W.I. Hall To book contact Margaret Woodard 490389
Mon		Stretch and Relax class 10.30am Yoga 7.15-8.30pm	EVE Snooker and Pool 8pm	
Tue	AM	Pre-school		Over 60s 2nd Tues
	EVE	Brownies ... Gentleshaw Music Society	EVE BINGO 8pm	
Wed	AM	Pre-school		1st Wed - Women's Institute 7.30
	EVE	CAMERA CLUB	EVE Pool 8pm	3rd Wed - Flower Club... 490888
Thur	AM	Pre-school	Snooker and Pool 8pm	
	EVE	Prenatal Yoga 7.00-8.30 - 490681		
Fri	AM	Pre-school	Snooker and Pool 8pm	
	EVE		Snooker and Pool 8pm	
Sat				
Sun	AM			
	EVE	Table Tennis 8.30pm	Snooker and Pool 8pm	

		Event	Venue/Time	Contact
Fri	28-Nov	Christmas Fayre 5-7pm	St James School	
Sat	29-Nov			
Wed	3-Dec	W.I Christmas Crafts	W.I. Hall...Janet	01889584119
Sat	6-Dec			
Tue	9-Dec	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	W.I. Hall	
Thur	11-Dec	Christingle with the school 9.30am All welcome	St James Church	
Sat	13-Dec	Over 60s Christmas Party 2.30pm	School Hall	Sandra 490787
Wed	17-Dec	Christmas Village Sing-along	St James School	
Fri	19-Dec	St James school Christmas service 9.30 am	St James Church	
Sat	20-Dec	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	07709 343326
Sun	21-Dec	Community Carol Service Mince pies and mulled wine	St James Church	6pm
Wed	24-Dec	Christmas Eve Children's service	St James Church	4pm
Wed	24-Dec	Christmas Eve Midnight Service PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME 11.00pm	St James Church	11.00pm
Thur	25-Dec	Christmas Day Celebrations	St James Church	8am & 11.0 am
Sat	27-Dec			
		2015		
Sat	3-Jan			
Wed	7-Jan	W.I. Birthday party Meal out	Red Lion Janet	01889584119
Sat	10-Jan			
Mon	12-Jan	Stretch and Relax and Yoga classes re-start	Village Hall	07737272085
Tue	13-Jan	Over 60s Beetle Drive. 2.30pm	W.I. Hall...	Sandra 490787
Sat	17-Jan	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	07709 343326
Sat	24-Jan			
Sat	31-Jan			
Wed	4-Feb	W.I. Members Choice	W. I Hall Janet	01889584119
Sat	7-Feb			
Tue	10-Feb	Over 60s Quiz 2.30	W.I. Hall...	Sandra 490787
Sat	14-Feb			
Sat	21-Feb	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	07709 343326
Sat	28-Feb			
Wed	4-Feb	W.I. Annual Meeting	W. I Hall Janet	01889584119
Sat	7-March			
Tue	10-March	Over 60s Birds of Prey 2.30	VILLAGE HALL	Sandra 490787
Sat	14-March			
Mon	16-March	W.I. Group meeting	VILLAGE HALL	01889584119
Sat	21-March	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	07709 343326
Sat	28-March			
Sat	4-April			
Sat	11-April	Ground Force in Churchyard	St James Church	490681
Tue	14-April	Over 60s Birthday Party 2.30	Horse and Jockey	Sandra 490787
Sat	18-April	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	07709 343326
Sat	25-April			
		Advanced dates		
Sat	27-June	Village Fayre at the school		