

LONGDON LIFE Spring 2016

Letter from the Chairman

Hello all, I hope you are enjoying the signs of Spring and the lighter mornings and evenings.

THANK YOU



To begin, I would like to take the opportunity, to thank on behalf of the Parish, three Councillors who have resigned over the last few months; **Richard Clarke, Chris Cherry, Jane Cleaver**. You have all invested long hours, and hard work over the years, and it is very much appreciated. Thankyou.

I would also like to welcome our new Councillor **Ann Fullwood**, who brings highly relevant experience, and a desire to help us improve. I am confident that you will get to know Ann, because she walks huge distances around the Parish. This does still leave us with vacancies, please would you consider joining our team and play a part in improving the community in which you live.

In previous editions of Longdon Life, I have used the strap-line for the Parish Council...

‘Our role is to listen to you, our Parishioners, to establish what is required, and take action accordingly.’

So what have we been doing? Here are some examples of current work, which indicate that we are responding directly to Parishioners concerns:

- pushing Staffordshire County Council (SCC): to complete a safety review of all the roads and lanes in the Parish; requesting they complete the traffic calming proposal for Upper Way; reporting current footpath and bridleway blockages
- working with Lichfield District Council (LDC): challenging current inappropriate planning applications in the Parish; receiving their comments regarding the Neighbourhood Plan;
- starting to explore with the Parish, the possibility of a ‘parish organised’ transport scheme
- improving our image by agreeing a refurbishment plan for all the Parish Council owned wooden assets, e.g. notice boards, benches, bus stops, etc.
- maintaining our green/open spaces in good condition
- establishing clarity of ownership for important areas, and contentious areas in the Parish
- keeping our finances and administration in excellent working order, which has resulted in successfully passing both internal and external audits

It was pleasing to have Parishioners join us at recent Parish Council meetings. The meetings are open to all, and Parishioners are allowed to raise subjects of concern.

Both Councillor Martyn Tittle (SCC), and Councillor Ian Pritchard (LDC) are also regular attendees, which presents another opportunity for your, and our voices to get directly to them.

Lastly, in the previous two editions of Longdon Life I have been publicising the **‘2016 Parish Annual Assembly’, this will be held on Wed 27th April; 7.30pm; Longdon Village Hall.**

There will be two external speakers, updates from local clubs and organisations, and opportunity for discussion, questions and answers and refreshments by Longdon WI

We look forward to meeting you there.

Regards, Kevin

MAY 2016

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

COMPETITION

CAN WE WIN IT?

YES WE CAN! With a little help from everyone

The competition, organised by the Community Council, has a long tradition in Staffordshire, having run continuously for 60 years.

Each year between 50 and 60 villages participate and some 70 volunteers are involved in judging the villages. The competition is divided into 5 areas with the winning village in each area receiving a trophy and a cheque for £200. Also, two overall county winners receive an engraved shield.

GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS, WE ALL HAVE AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY.....

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WALKING LITTER PICK – ASK FOR THE LITTER PICKING TOOLS FROM THE COUNCIL

NEATEN AND TIDY UP COMMUNITY SPACES, BY THE HALLS, SCHOOLS, STREET BENCHES AND GRASSED AREAS

ADOPT A TUB – TELL THE COUNCIL IF A TUB NEEDS TLC OR REPLACING

AND PLEASE, PLEASE SCOOP THE POOP

IF YOUR DOG GETS CAUGHT SHORT, DO NOT LEAVE IT FOR SOMEONE TO WALK IN OR PUSH THE PRAM THROUGH.

**MANY HANDS
MAKE LIGHT
WORK**

**CAN YOUR
STREET
ORGANISE A
SMARTEN UP
THE KERBS
WEEKEND?**

**Clean up the gutters, pull
out the weeds, clean the
drain cover**

**LET YOUR COUNCILLOR
KNOW IF YOU HAVE
IDEAS TO HELP MAKE
OUR PARISH THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL IN THE
LAND**

JUDGING USUALLY begins
1ST May and continues to
the end of July with up-
grading scores for ongoing
improvements so every bit
of help and every
contribution makes a
difference

YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Parish Council welcomes Mrs Ann Fullwood to the Council.



Ann retired from the West Midlands Police force after 30 years' service and wishes to use her skills and local knowledge, together with her enthusiasm, to work as part of a team concerned with local community matters. She has an interest in keeping footpaths clear, keeping litter under control, traffic calming issues and keeping the elderly and vulnerable in the community safe.

THREE VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL DUE TO RETIREMENT

We have two vacancies in the Longdon Ward and one for Gentleshaw as Councillors Chris Cherry, Richard Clarke and Jane Cleaver have retired from the Council.

Chris, Richard and Jane have worked tremendously hard on behalf of everyone within the Parish, representing the views of residents and contributing to the important work of the different committees within the Council and their presence at Council meetings will be missed.

Can you help play a part in keeping the Parish a place that people want to live, work and play and build community relationships?

No formal qualifications are needed and vacancies are open to all adults over 18 years of age.

To find out more or to express your interest in one of the vacancies, contact The Clerk, Hilary Goodreid by email at longdonpc@outlook.com

Or write to us at Longdon Parish Council, PO Box 17056, Sutton Coldfield. B73 9YL

Or have an informal chat with any of the Councillors,
Contact details on the web site www.longdon-staffs.info/council



Letter from the editor

I saw one of those little hanging plaques somewhere recently with the words

'A village community is a wonderful thing, if you are part of it'.

It made me smile, but I couldn't figure out if it was written by someone who was involved in their village events and organisations or someone who felt very left out of things.

It can be quite a daunting proposition for people to join a club, most people will go pale at the thought of being press-ganged onto a committee and will stay well clear! But you don't have to 'join' a club to enjoy the community spirit. The Clubs and organisations, the public houses and the Churches within Longdon and Gentleshaw Parish all have open invitation events that anyone can go along to and join in, without 'joining up' and still feel 'part of it'.



There is no longer a bus service from Longdon as it was deemed economically unviable.

But do we need a bus service? What impact has the withdrawal of the bus service had on you? Do you want to have a bus service?

Please spend a little time on this survey and please involve the whole family, the needs of the teenagers are not going to be the same as parents and grandparents, so the opinion of everyone in your household is really important.

COMPLETE ON-LINE BY GOING TO OUR WEB SITE <http://www.longdon-staffs.info/welcome> or send this to the address at the bottom of the page. You may copy this survey for each member of your family.

All replies will be confidential and your details will not be shared outside of the council.

Your Name (optional) _____ Contact (optional) _____

Location: Longdon: Upper Longdon: Longdon Green: Bradley Lakes: Other _____

Age Group 13-17 18-20 20-50 over 50

What would be your preferred destination when using the bus?
LICHFIELD, RUGELEY, STAFFORD, OTHER please state _____

What would be the main purpose of using the bus? _____

Which days of the week would you use the bus? _____

What times of the day would be most useful for using the bus? Outward/Return

How much do you think the fare should be for a Single child/adult _____
or return journey? Child/adult _____

If you had the choice of using the car or catching the bus, which would you choose? _____

If your first choice would be to use the car, would you be prepared to use the bus sometimes to help maintain the service for others? _____

Please add your own thoughts or suggestions

Post to The Clerk, Longdon Parish Council, PO Box 17056, Sutton Coldfield. B73 9YL

TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN UPPER LONGDON AND RURAL POLICING

Will be the two main issues discussed at

THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of THE PARISH COUNCIL

On

27th April at 7.30pm at Longdon Village Hall

Martyn Tittley who is our SCC representative will talk about the traffic calming measures that will take place along Upper Way, Upper Longdon.

One of our Police Officers will present a short talk about policing in a rural community, the difficulties and uniqueness of the work and offering advice on how to keep ourselves and our homes safe.

Both speakers will speak for approximately 15mins and will take questions from the floor following their talk.

This is your opportunity to voice your opinions, ask questions, and have an in-put on two highly emotive parish concerns.

Any other questions you may have for your Parish Council can also be taken.

Refreshments will be kindly served by Longdon W.I.



The Royal British Legion, Longdon Branch

An official ceremony to lay up the Branch Standard will be held on Sunday 10th July, 2016 commencing at 11am at St James Church, Longdon

You are cordially invited to join the present Branch members at this very special service which will mark the historic moment of the official closing of the Longdon Branch, The Royal British Legion.

Although the Longdon Branch will be officially closed, the work of The Royal British Legion will continue to provide lifelong support for the Armed Forces community, serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

There will be an annual Service of Remembrance in November held in Church

The articles and comments published in Longdon Life do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council. Published by Longdon Parish Council email longdonpc@outlook.com

Editor Glenys Beveridge email longdonlife.editor@gmail.com

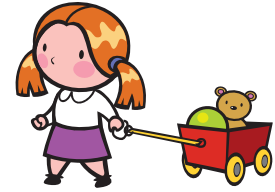
The Parish Council do not endorse any advertisement but encourage parishioners to support local businesses.

Articles for the next edition should be submitted by 1st June, 2016

**Babies and tots, bring your mum, dad, carer to
Jam Club at St James Church**



And we get to play with different toys and make new friends
Tea and songs and rhymes and craft.
A warm welcome to new and expectant mums.



Come along for mutual support
2pm – 3.30pm every Monday in term time
For further detail contact Pam Cherry, 01543 49019

COFFEE MORNINGS

Supporting Longdon Church



St James Church is very grateful for the generosity shown by people in the parish who open their homes to host a coffee morning. They raise a considerable amount to support the upkeep of our church building and surrounds. Most of all they are very social events and if you are fairly new to the village are a great way of meeting people. Please try and pop in to any of the up-coming Coffee mornings.

Start at 10.30am Entrance £2

Wed 16th March Val and Graham Passey
The Cottage, Ford Lane

Wed 6th April Mr and Mrs P Howells
'Levanto 'Upper Way

Thurs 5th May Barry and Judy Johnson
'The Bothy', Borough Lane

Sat 16th July 'An Antiques morning'
In Church with Charles Hanson, Valuer

Wed 17th August John and Val Shand
1 Old Barn Mews, Hill Top, Longdon Green

Calling All Pet Owners,
The Longdon Pet Show
is planned to be held
in late September and
will include categories
for children and adults to enter their pets.



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LONGDON WALKING CLUB

Why not come and join our friendly walking group for walks every second Tuesday at 10.30am



Meet at The Swan With Two Necks car park (by kind permission of the Landlady).

Walks are fairly easy and usually last around 90 to 120 mins and are either local or car share to surrounding local areas.

Our March walks will be held on Tuesday 1st and 15th March

For more information please contact Irene 490135 or Lynn 490847



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SUN COME SHINING
THROUGH

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Wed 9-1 & Sat 9-12.30

THE INTERVIEW



From St James Primary School, Longdon to CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider on the French/Swiss Border.

At CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe. They use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter – the fundamental particles. The particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light. The process gives the physicists clues about how the particles interact, and provides insights into the fundamental laws of nature.

HARRY MOSS, 24, former pupil of St James School, Longdon is studying for a PhD in Particle Physics at the University of Sheffield and is currently working at CERN.

Parents Hilary and Nigel Moss live in Brook End, Longdon and his first teacher at St. James was Mrs. Sue Evans. Hilary remembers his first school report saying 'Harry will probably do something in 'maths' when he grows up'.

How easy was it at secondary school once you knew you wanted to study physics at University?

I didn't realise I wanted to study Physics at university until some way through the first year of sixth form, originally I'd chosen my A-levels with a view to studying Law! I'd chosen English, Business Studies, Maths and Physics, with the last two mainly there for a bit of a variety and because they go together well. They ended up being my two favourite subjects and I supposed Physics just edged it.

Do you 'think' in numbers?

I think if I can solve a problem numerically I will always try to first, so perhaps I do!

Do you consider yourself to be a scientist, a physicist, a mathematician?

Mainly I would consider myself to be a Physicist, although of course that would also be covered by 'scientist'.

What is your PhD study about?

At the LHC two beams of protons accelerated to 99.999999% of the speed of light in opposing directions and collided, producing particles which can be detected in each of the detectors situated around the LHC. My PhD mainly concerns looking for evidence of supersymmetry (SUSY) in these collisions. SUSY predicts that for each particle we have discovered, there is a heavier partner particle associated with it. We haven't seen any evidence of this so far, but with the high energy of the LHC and the large amount of proton-proton collisions expected for 2016, the chances are the best they have ever been.

What exactly do you do at CERN?

I'm involved in an analysis team using the largest detector at CERN (and the world!) ATLAS, where we look for a specific set of particles after the collisions, which if seen in greater numbers than predicted could provide evidence of SUSY particle production. My main

role is to help to estimate the number of particles you would expect to see in each event, if you see a lot more than you expect then you may have discovered something interesting, so getting this estimation correct is vital. Apart from that I help out with simulations to determine the durability of parts of the inner ATLAS detector, and also contribute to shifts in the ATLAS control room where I try and make sure the inner detector is running smoothly!

What have been your nail biting moments, glorious moments, laugh out loud moments?

Opening an exam paper and not being able to answer more than the first two or three questions caused a literal head-in-hands moment! There have been a few nail-biting moments during my PhD too, presenting a poster detailing my work to a room full of theoretical physicists was pretty daunting! My friend was offered the PhD before me and was having difficulty choosing between it and one at Edinburgh. The department lost no time and offered it to me, and obviously I said yes straight away. My friend ended up choosing the PhD at Edinburgh, she is based at CERN now too. You certainly need to be decisive in order to get what you want and I know this is that I wanted.

What do you do in your spare time?

I try and cycle when the weather isn't too horrible, I live between two mountain ranges so the views aren't bad! There's also quite a lot of other PhD students at CERN, so we try and go out when we can. In fact I've just returned from a ski trip with some of the other students, an advantage of living so close to the Alps!

The money put into research is massive - why should we keep investing in this type of science?

The main reason is curiosity I suppose, ultimately finding out how things work at the subatomic level. We don't know the whole story, so the more pieces of the puzzle we can find, the closer we can get to a true understanding of what's really going on. Apart from that, there's a lot of other applications for the discoveries made at CERN. Some of it is obvious, such as the applications in medicine for particle physics as a cancer treatment. Other applications may not be obvious for some time, but that is the nature of any research.

What do you love about the job?

It's certainly a unique experience, and of course a great opportunity to be able to be based here. The high stress moments are all worth it when you meet a deadline and your work is used by others.

What are your ambitions?

I would love to stay involved in research/academia, however I know that jobs can be few and far between! I still have a couple of years before I'll need to make big decisions, so I'm keeping an open mind for the moment.

What would be your inspirational message to the pupils at St James today?

I'd say that if you have an interest in a subject, whatever it may be, then pursue it. If you have a passion for something, it makes the stress and hardship bearable and the successes all the more enjoyable.

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St. James' Church Longdon Open Gardens Event

Supporting Longdon Church and charities Aelfgar House and Hands at work Africa

Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th June

2pm- 6pm

Gardens to visit in three areas:- Longdon Village, Longdon Green and Upper Longdon

Tickets / programmes £4 available at the Church, Village Hall or the Gardens

Teas at the Village Hall and the Church

Can you help?

We need a few more gardens to open, so if you feel able, on one or both days, to open your garden please get in touch with one of the committee shown below, who will give you all the support that you need. Interesting gardens come in all shapes and sizes and it can be fun! Help us to make the Village come alive for the weekend.

More information
Allen Juxon 490418
Val Shand 492662
Val Passey 490681

In addition to the gardens there will be an exhibition in the Church entitled
“Gardens in Literature”

open to interpretation in any media by groups or individuals.





**CELEBRATION PRAISE AT
ST JAMES CHURCH, LONGDON,
ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
BEGINNING AT 10AM.**

March 6th April 3rd May 1st June 5th July 3rd

FAMILIES WELCOME, ESPECIALLY BABIES YOUNG CHILDREN & TEENAGERS

**THERE IS NO COMMUNION AT THIS SERVICE & IS ONLY ABOUT AN HOUR,
SO PERFECT FOR YOUNG FAMILIES**

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

If anyone is interested in forming a musical group to play contemporary music for these services you are most welcome to contact Di Asplin 01543 491515

ANTENATAL YOGA

with other mums -to -be

At Longdon Village hall



Since the last issue of Longdon Life we welcome new babies... Been a run on girls!!

Olivia

Ruby Grace

Arabella

Holly Margaret Rose

Georgina Amber Juliet

At the Village Hall on Mondays

Stretch and Relax Class

10.30-11.30am

Enjoy an hour of stretching, movement, breathing and relaxation techniques followed by a cuppa.

£4.50 weekly (£16 for 4 weeks)

Yoga for Beginners and Families

6pm-7pm

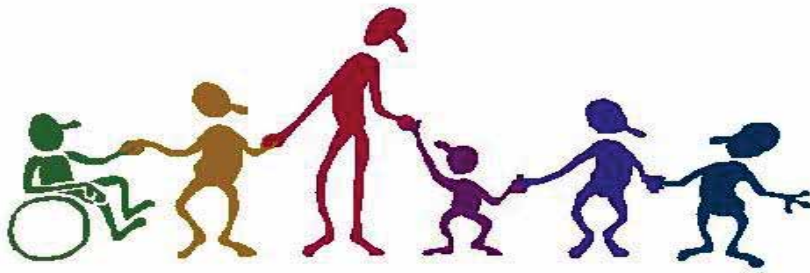
Cost £6.00 (£20 for 4 weeks)

Parent and Child £8.50 (£30 for 4 weeks)

(Minimum age 10)

Just For Fun

Can you name a country beginning with every letter of your name?



UP-CYCLE; FREE-CYCLE; RE-CYCLE FAMILY CHALLENGE

Will you take up the FAMILY challenge and re-cycle in one form or another more items than you do now?

The challenge is

1. UP-CYCLE

DON'T THROW IT OUT – take the family challenge and up-cycle it into something new then bring it to display at the Annual Assembly at Longdon Village Hall on 27th April

2. FREE-CYCLE at www.freecycle.org

you might not want it anymore, but someone else might

3. RE-CYCLE SO MUCH MORE THAT YOU ORDER A SECOND BLUE BIN FOR FREE

IF YOUR BLUE BIN IS FULL YOU CAN ORDER ANOTHER
CALL LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL 0345 0020022



www.recycleforlichfielddistrict.co.uk

TELL THE PARISH
COUNCIL WHICH
CHALLENGE YOUR
FAMILY IS TAKING
UP AND TELL US
HOW SUCCESSFUL
YOU HAVE BEEN

longdonpc@outlook.com

PLEASE clean food
and household
waste out of
containers. Tubs
that are dirty or
half-full cannot be
recycled

Show off your UP-CYCLE
project at the
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY on
27th April 7.30 at the
Village Hall, Longdon.
Please let us know in
advance so display space
can be reserved

St James The Great, Longdon

This year, Easter comes almost as early as it is chronologically able to be. (Sunday 27th March) So as you will be reading this during the season of Lent, I'd like to write something about the way we can best engage with this penitential season.

Lent started this year on the 10th February, Ash Wednesday. Lent (probably from the old Germanic word, *lenct*, meaning Spring) is the 6 week period running up to Easter. In the early church people who wanted to be baptised were expected to undertake an intense period of Christian training at this time, including a programme of regular prayer and fasting, to prepare them for an Easter baptism. Eventually all devout Christians became involved in this time of prayer, fasting and charitable giving every year.

In years gone by, on the day before the Lenten Fast began, all surplus luxury foods such as meat, eggs and dairy products were consumed so that they wouldn't be wasted. The festival was known in Britain as "Shrove Tuesday" – named after the private confessions that took place before Lent began. We may know this day better as Pancake Day. It was the last day to indulge in rich food before the fasting began. All over the catholic world there were carnivals celebrating "Mardi Gras", which means Fat Tuesday.

On Ash Wednesday worshippers receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance. The ashes remain there all day to remind us that our mortal lives are only temporary, and that we should count our blessings and live as God wants us to.

Many other Lenten traditions continue today. In church we worship more simply, the most obvious difference is that we don't usually have flowers in church. The colour used to remind us we are in a penitential season is purple, and the pulpit fall and some of the clothes we use at the altar will be this colour. Purple is an indicator that the season is one of reflection, with an emphasis on prayer, self-examination and self-denial.

Even folks who never go to church may continue the tradition of giving something up for Lent; for example giving up drinking alcohol, or eating sweets or cake. Some people choose Lent to try and break a bad habit, such as smoking and doctors do say that to give up a habit takes around 6 weeks, so there may be something in that.

I do hope we can give some time to thinking about how we spend Lent, the weeks when we prepare ourselves for Easter. And that we can share the joys of Lent together, so that the ultimate joy, Easter Day, can be as rich a celebration as possible.

God bless you all, Jan

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Services 2016

Palm Sunday 20th March 11am

Holy Communion & Passion Narrative

Holy Week

Monday 21st 7pm. Service in Christ Church

Tuesday 22nd 7pm. Night Prayer in St James

Wed 23rd 7pm. Final Lent Course session at Christ Church

Maundy Thursday 7pm

Holy Communion with stripping of the altar

Good Friday

9am Holy Communion from reserved sacrament

10am Faith Walk

2pm Service of The Last Hour at Christ Church

7pm Service of music and reflection at Christ Church

Holy Saturday 7pm Easter Ceremonies in St James

Easter Day 8am & 11am Holy Communion

LONGDON FRIENDS OF ST. GILES HOSPICE

Last year was a good year, a **total of £9000.00** was sent to the Hospice



The total raised in the 30 plus years since The Friends were formed is an incredible **£253,701.47**

Hopes and Plans for 2016

The management of "Must" have offered another Indian Banquet evening on Tuesday, 15th March 2016. The evening in October last year was a great success, tickets are priced at £14.95 per head and can be obtained either from myself or the restaurant on a first-come first-served basis.

On Sunday, 12th June 2016, Elaine and Hugh at number 18, The Grange, Upper Longdon, will be hosting a "Mad Hatters" tea party. There will be a raffle with amazing prizes including a Weber Kettle Barbecue which has been donated by Tippers Building Merchants. Please put this date in your diary, come along with your hat and have some fun, the party commences at 3.00 p.m. More details will be shown on the notice boards nearer to the date.

Nicola and Gary at the Chetwynd Arms at Upper Longdon, are, once again, hosting another "Chetfest", last year's event was very successful. This will be held on 20th August 2016. Further details on the notice boards around the village and also on the notice board inside the Chet.

The dates for any bucket collections have not yet been confirmed yet, these will follow at a later date.

The washing up rota has been received from the Hospice. If anyone would like to offer their help for 2 hours on a Sunday lunchtime, please contact me. Over the year beginning in January, Longdon Friends are asked to cover just 6 dates.

Would you like to join as a friend? Subscriptions are due now, £2.50 per single person or £5.00 for a family. Please contact me if you are interested. Many thanks to the friends that have already paid their subs.

I would like to hear from anyone who has an idea as to how we can raise further funds, always ready to listen to possibilities.

Volunteers, helpers and raffle prizes for all the events would be most welcome. Please support us in whatever way you can to enable St. Giles hospice to care for our local community needs. The hospice and I appreciate your support and help and hope that 2016 will be just as successful.

Please contact me if you need any further information regarding the above.

G. Crowe, Chair 01543 491760 gcoaklodge@gmail.com



CWAGMS

Perform the exciting and hilarious yarn **THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK**

At **THE PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE, CANNOCK**
11TH TO 14TH MAY

This hilarious yarn will have you laughing out loud and tapping your feet to the up-lifting music. It tells the tale of three disillusioned divorced women who, whilst drinking too many Martini's each summon up the man of their dream, the only problem is..... it is the same man for all of them!

This handsome stranger, Darryl Van Horne, turns their lives and the whole town of Eastwick up-side-down. What does he want and is he really the devil in disguise?

Tickets from £10 to £14

Come along for a magical evening of fun, music and mischief and make it a great night out with friends

Box office 01543 578762 or call 01889 586875



SPRING OR SUMMER WEDDING

So much to plan and do in the last few weeks before your wedding

**Have you thought about the house?
Who will clean and tidy everything
ready for family and guests arriving?**

Let us take this off your list and do it for you then you can relax and look forward to enjoying the most special day of the year.

**Enquire now to secure a date
for your Special Pre-Wedding
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BOOTS, NEXT, DEBENHAMS, B&Q,
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Choose the amount from £10 to £400 that you would like to give on the card and one card can be used multiple times in different stores until the gifted amount is spent - SO, the perfect gift for him, for her, the children, brother, sister, friends...

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Post Office 9am-1pm & 2pm-5.30pm
Wed 9am-1pm & Sat 9am-12.30pm



Longdon Over 60's Club

We finished 2015 with a Christmas party held in the school hall. After a cold buffet lunch Ronnie Coggins kept us entertained with his singing. The party was very well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

On 12th January this year we held a Beetle Drive – always great fun and we had a quiz at our February meeting. The programme for the rest of 2016 is;

- 8 March Town Crier Ken Knowles – this event will be held at Longdon Club, Brook End
- 12 April (Members only) Birthday Party – Fish & Chips in Henley in Arden
- 10 May Barbara Egerton talking about bees
- 14 June David Austin Roses, Albrighton
- 12 July Anita Wright's Garden in Milford with afternoon tea
- 9 August Strawberry Cream Tea at Levanto, Upper Longdon
- 13 September Outing to Blenheim Palace
- 11 October A return visit from George Lamb
- 8 November TBA
- 10 December Christmas party

SUNDAY 19 JUNE AT 2PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

AFTERNOON TEA AND FLOWER ARRANGING DEMONSTRATIONS



An afternoon of flower arranging demonstrations with afternoon tea has been arranged. Hannah from Ivison's Florist of Lichfield will be delighting us with her flower arranging skills.

Following the demonstrations we will be serving traditional afternoon teas.

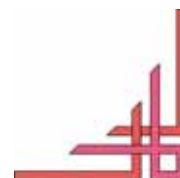
All arrangements will be put into the raffle.

Tickets are £6 and are available from committee members.

All proceeds will go towards club funds.

New members are always welcome and the subscription is only £10 for a full year, plus a small charge for outings. For more information please call:

Sue Carter, Chair, Tel: 07779 789590 Sandra Baker, Secretary Tel: 01543 490787



It's FREE & it's FUN & it's at St James Church, Longdon

Family friendly fun in Longdon's historic church
Crafts, creativity, songs, dance, friendship and a hot meal

All families welcome, you do not need to be 'church goer' to come along

4pm-6pm on the 3rd Saturday in the month

Want to know a bit more? email messy@stjames-longdon.org.uk

LYNN MARSHALL M.A.R. REFLEXOLOGY

I have been practicing Reflexology for 20 years and I have seen the benefits this ancient holistic healing therapy has had on people in this hectic world in which we live.

With ever increasing levels of stress, it is important for people to take more responsibility for their own healthcare needs. Reflexology may be one of the ways to mitigate the stresses of modern life.

Reflexology encourages the body's own healing mechanism to work at its best



ASSOCIATION of
REFLEXOLOGISTS

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The British Institute For Allergy and Environmental Therapy

I am also trained by The British Institute for Allergy and Environmental Therapy to identify and help with allergic reactions to help you take control of your allergic conditions using homeopathic remedies and non-invasive testing



If you are feeling stressed, tired or just in need of 'something' come and talk to me and see if Reflexology or Allergy Testing can benefit you

MY GIFT VOUCHERS MAKE PERFECT GIFTS

For more details, please telephone Lynn 0789 623 9288 or 01543 490381

Email Lmarshall381@btinternet.com



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One-off spring clean or regular weekly/monthly cleaning to suit your needs.

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01889 585 867 or 07783 832 758
Or email Lynda.morris@live.co.uk

When Queen Bess Came To Longdon

An evening of wine and history
FRIDAY 8th JULY at Longdon
St. James Church

The sequel to last year's popular
'When Wolf Hall Came
To Longdon'

A history of our parish church in the
sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a time
of conflicting loyalties when a Paget of
Beaudesert was condemned as a traitor but
his grandson was persecuted for his loyalty
to the Crown

Please watch the notice boards
for further information

LONGDON VILLAGES COMMUNITY GROUP

Raising funds to support the community

With the sun shining and daffodils gently shaking their heads, the thoughts of LVCG have turned to Spring and the events they have planned for 2016 but before we think about future events LVCG would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Christmas Sing-a-long such a success. It is events such as this which not only helps to bring the Villages together at such a special time but also enables the group to support organisations such as the Over 60's Club by donating the wine for their highly successful Christmas Lunch.

So, from Christmas to Spring. It was unfortunate that due to circumstances beyond our control, the Valentines Ball had to be postponed and will now be **The Spring Ball, arranged for the evening of Saturday 23rd of April.**



The event will be a real fun night out with music and dancing to suit all tastes and give the ladies and the gentlemen the opportunity to dress up and herald the warm summer weather to come. The Ball will be held at Longdon Village Hall, commencing at 19.00 hours with carriages at 23.30 hours. Tickets are £30.00 each and include music from Wayne Scott, a four course meal and

coffee, with drinks available from the bar. Tickets will be in great demand so make sure you order yours soon by contacting,

Wendy Neary on 01543 493623, or Joan Fox on 01543 493539 or Eva at the Village Shop on 01543 490394.



This year is the Queens 90th birthday and she has asked that people celebrate it by holding street parties similar to the one planned for the Mall in London. The Villages of Longdon have never been known to miss out on a Royal celebration and would hate, I'm sure, not to celebrate this most auspicious event.

LVCG is proposing that local clubs and organisations with the support of Longdon Parish Council join together to hold a **Village Party, on Sunday 12th June 2016.** It is hoped that this would be a whole village affair with family picnics, stalls, music, games and events for all ages.

Preliminary discussions have already taken place with the Parish Council and proposals made of where would be the most appropriate venue. If you would like to participate in the preparations please come along and join in the group who would love to have your input and expertise. Please look out for future updates or if you require any further information please contact Wendy, Joan, or Eva on the above numbers.

The aim of the LVCG group is to bring about more community cohesion by organising village events and raising funds to help support local organisations and residents. If you have any ideas that can help the group meet its aims please let them know or perhaps come along and help them organise it, they would love to hear from you.

Joan Fox



THE CHETWYND ARMS



UPPER WAY, UPPER
LONGDON WS15 1QB
01543 490266

We are on the edge of Cannock Chase, a family friendly pub serving home cooked food and regular guest ales. We are dog friendly too. Free Wi-fi.

Our live events feature local bands and entertainers and are always a great night to be at.



CHEF'S SPECIALITY NIGHT MENU

Tuesday 19th April, is Chef's FISH LOVERS MENU

An amazing fish menu that will leave you spoilt for choice

Table Reservations essential

Table Reservations Are Now Open For

EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH

bring the whole family and enjoy a wonderful Sunday Lunch.

Bookings advised as this is a very popular lunch served between 12noon – 5pm



We cater for all allergens

Friday Night Spring Entertainment

25 March STONECOLD SOBER...ISH 29 April MASSIVE SURF BOARD

27 May RENDEZVOUS

Tuesday April 26 Special Event A Pyschic Evening with Dawn Larose

only 40 tickets £20 each available now

CAN YOUR QUIZ TEAM WIN OUR QUIZ?

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT IS QUIZ NIGHT FROM 8.30PM

Will you rise to the challenge and take home the PRIZE POT?

Free Bar Snacks for quizzers

We are able to cater for
Wedding, Christening and
Funeral Parties

A Marque is available for
larger numbers. Come and
talk over your plans with us.



Diary Date;
CHETFEST
for St. Giles
Hospice
Sat 20 August

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Spending all weekend
doing the ironing**

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and let me do your ironing,
then you can spend more time
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and you just don't
want to tackle it?



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Tiara Design or The Bead Cove
meloniejane@ntlworld.com



**Longdon
Produce
Show**

The show will be held on

Sunday 11th September, 2016

Spring will soon be with us, so now is
the time for planning your vegetables,
flowers, pot plants and preserves
ready to show in September

Please encourage children to grow
their exhibits.

Photography Classes
will be
Adults: Waterside.
Children: It Lives in my
back garden.
Black and White.
Family Life.



Further details from
Val Heseltine 490419



Festive Walk in aid of The Midlands Air Ambulance

Although this has been the wettest ever recorded December, the
morning of this walk – 27th December - dawned fine and not too cold
or too windy either. Extraordinarily lucky I think.

There were approximately 50 people who joined the walk, to help lessen some of the innumerable
calories consumed over Christmas.

Unfortunately I was unable to take part in this year's Festive Walk, **but was very grateful to Irene
Kemp who agreed to lead the way, ably assisted by Simon Hall.**

So the walk I had planned of 4 miles was immediately diverted to take in Hill Top, Hanch, Seedy Mill,
Cleat Hill, Longdon Green and back to The Swan With Two Necks which was more like 6 miles –
(with a shorter option to find a way back from Hanch of course).

The welcome back at the Swan was as ever amazing, with Mary supplying very fortifying, hot and
delicious soups with crusty bread, just what the weary yompers needed for revival. **Thank you very
much Mary it was much appreciated by all.**

My thanks go to everyone who contributed in any way to this successful event, which resulted in **£380**
being forwarded to aid the work of the Midlands Air Ambulance. **Lynn Marshall**

LONGDON COMMUNITY GROUP SPRING BALL



***Saturday, 23RD April 2016 Time 7.00 for 7.30
Carriages: 23.30***

Venue: Longdon Village Hall

To include 4 course meal

(vegetarian options available on request)

Dance the night away to your favourite songs from the 60's / 70's and 80's

Raffle & Auction, Bar Available

Dress to Impress

Tickets are limited

Further Information and Tickets £30.00 from

Eva at The Village Shop or

Joan Fox 07967 140288

Wendy Neary 07795 420832

**DON'T MISS THE VILLAGE EVENT EVERYONE WANTS
TO BE AT !!**

All profits go towards supporting village organisations



Longdon Flower Club

Longdon Flower Club is a small friendly Club serving the Parish of Longdon and surrounding area. We welcome people of any age or ability. It is open to everyone who wishes to learn the art of flower arranging or simply wishes to meet up with like-minded people.

Our resident demonstrator, Hannah from Ivison Florist in Lichfield, inspires us with her new and exciting floral arrangements.

No experience is necessary as there is always help at hand for new members and visitors who will be made very welcome.

Outings to gardens of interest are also organised for one of the summer months.

Flower Club Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the WI Hall.

IN NOVEMBER we held a Christmas flower arranging demonstration by **Nigel Whyles** in the Village Hall. Nigel is a very talented national demonstrator and we had a lovely afternoon watching as he created his magnificent arrangements to inspire us all with our own Christmas decorations. This was the first time we held such an event on a Sunday afternoon and did wonder if it would attract a good audience. It certainly did and the afternoon was a great success.

**FLOWER CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE
THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
AT 7.30pm in the W.I. Hall**

For more information please contact Irene 490135 or Carol 490888

Longdon Cricket Club

The cricket season begins at the end of April, and net practice has now started on Sunday mornings at Rugeley Leisure Centre.

Anyone wanting to join us for practice is most welcome. We are keen to encourage both new or ex-players to join the team and spectators at our matches are also welcome.

For Further details contact

Team Captain Tom Bonsar 07852 513 608 or Vice Captain Billy Martiza 07944 165 038

or President David La Trobe on 01543 491155





LONGDON W.I.

The Winter months so far have not been marred with bad weather and therefore all our meetings and celebrations have been well attended by members.

This year Shrove Tuesday did not fall in school half term therefore our annual 'Pancake Day' celebrations were not able to take place as they have done in the village for many years. The children ran their races in the school. Tossing pancakes as they ran and WI members awarded the prizes. 43 children then came to the WI Hall to enjoy pancakes prepared and served by members. It was a lively morning but enjoyed by all.

Two of our gifted members guided us in the making of decorative bells at our Christmas meeting and we enjoyed mince pies and the sharing of gifts. We celebrated our 93rd birthday at a local restaurant in January and in February Mary Dale, our speaker, recalled her life apprehending thieves in Beatties in Wolverhampton. She gave us quite a few tips!!!

March sees the end of our year and at the AGM the new trustees and committee will be appointed. We also have many local and national matters to consider.

This has been the National Federation of WI's Centenary Year and we have undertaken many activities to celebrate. One of our members enjoyed tea with the Royal Family at Buckingham Palace. Our President and her working party took up the 'Challenge' to restore the playgoup outdoor activity area to its former glory. It had suffered serious damage during a storm the previous year.

Our recruitment strategy has attracted several visitors and we hope that they will become members soon. They can look forward to an interesting and enjoyable programme prepared for the coming year. Please come and join us, you will be very welcome.

***Our Hall is located in the centre of Longdon Village in Ford Lane,
We meet on the first Wednesday in every month at 7.30pm***

For further information contact: 01543 493623 – Wendy

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**No act of kindness
No matter how small,
Is ever wasted**

Aesop

CANNOCK WOOD AND GENTLESHAW VILLAGE HALL

FEBRUARY 2016

The hall continues to be well used by a very varied outside groups. **In August** the hall was used as a stopover and practise room for a marching band which was a first for us but very successful. **At New Year** Field Committee hosted another of the increasingly popular caravan club visits and the hall was used for various events related to that. There have also been a number of wedding receptions and childrens' parties held in the hall.

In September the WI ran their Country Fair which was an amazing success, although it did demand a huge amount of hard work. The ladies have donated the profits to the hall, and it is hoped to erect new lighting in the car park with the monies made. We used the field at the back of the hall which was a first but worked well. There were in excess of thirty stalls and the atmosphere created was excellent. Everything was much closer together than on the field and gave more of a 'buzz' to the occasion.

Our fund raising heroes have arranged a number of very successful family dances and discos, and now that we can run our own bar it means that our profits are enhanced. The bar for outside events is still being run by the Malt Shovel Chorley. There are to be more events this year, therefore it is well worth keeping an eye on the Village News section of the Mercury plus of course the website.

Trek and Troff 3 was successful though the numbers were down this year. We are hoping to run it again in 2016– if we can find some new footpaths! The date is not set year but it will be published in the Mercury and on posters around the village.

The Mulled Wine Evening in November was the usual popular pre Christmas extravaganza. More stalls than ever and exhausted Santa at the end of the evening. This is an event that is jointly run by the Village Hall and Christ Church Gentleshaw.

The Wine and Pudding evenings have continued to be sell out events. Our thanks to Sue Janes for organising and leading us through the evenings. Thanks also to Sue, Michael and Rachel for setting up and running the quiz nights which are gaining in popularity.

Since the end of November the Committee have had one or two major frustrations. For more than a year now we have been trying to change our heating from oil to gas. We have found it difficult to get quotes for the work and when we do the cost to run the gas to the hall is prohibitive. Recently we have decided to abandon the idea and stick with oil. Hopefully the installation will happen in the very near future. Richard Poynton has been solely responsible for trying to make this happen and I would like to thank him for all of hard and very frustrating work on behalf of the Committee.

We have been having problem recently with our website; apologies to anyone who has tried to use it and found it to be out of action. We are looking into the possibility of building a new site which will hopefully be more reliable.

Finally could I thank all of our regular user organisations, and anyone who has supported the hall during the year. My thanks also to the members of the Committee for giving up their time, and working so hard to help keep the hall as part of the community.

Bob Shelley (Chairman)



**CANNOCK WOOD & GENTLESHAW
GARDENING CLUB**



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 cost is £10 per person per annum. Club members benefit from a discount at four 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.

Garden and Home Produce Show 2016 The date for our annual Garden and Home Produce Show in 2016 is provisionally set for **Saturday 10th September**.

Village Open Gardens 2016 The provisional dates for this Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village event are the weekend of **25th and 26th June**. If anyone is willing to open their gardens for this two day event to support the Gardening Club, do please let us know. Gardens do not have to be 'perfect' as visitors are interested in looking at the different plants and garden layout/design. We always get good feedback from people, both local and from afar, who have enjoyed their visits to the various gardens.

Speakers and Topics 2016 Our speaker in January was Jeff Bates on the subject of 'Soft Fruit Growing' and In February we had Geoff Smith telling us about 'Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show'. Our speaker for March will be Peter Johnson on 'Butterflies and Moths'.

Trips and Visits Several trips and visits are currently being planned for 2016.

The trip taking place on 22 April will be to visit Wollerton Old Hall. A summer trip will be announced shortly.

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



**Recipe To Try.....
Lemon Drizzle Cake**

1½ large eggs
87.5g (3 oz) self-raising
flour

87.5g (3 oz) caster sugar
87.5g (3 oz) softened butter
¾ level tsp baking powder
Finely grated zest of ½ lemon

For the crunchy lemon icing:
50g (2 oz) granulated sugar
Juice of ½ lemon

450g (1lb) loaf tin, greased and lined

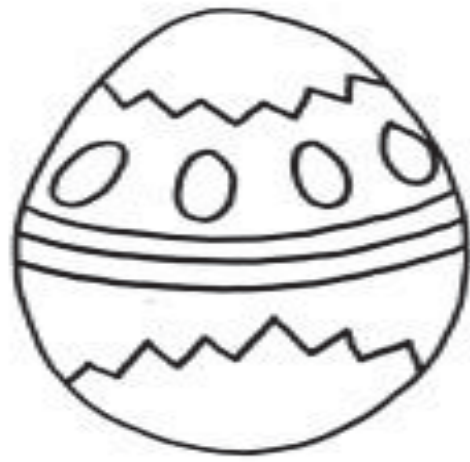
Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C, gas 4.
Beat together the eggs, flour, caster sugar, butter, baking powder and lemon zest until smooth in a large mixing bowl and turn into the prepared tin.
Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 35 mins, or until golden brown, shrinking away from the sides of the tin and springy to the touch.

While the cake is still warm, make the lemon drizzle topping. Mix together the sugar and lemon juice, and pour over the warm cake.

Leave to cool a little and loosen the sides of the cake, then lift the cake out of the tin.

Family colouring fun



Happy Easter Love From



Telephone ...

POLICE non emergency	101
BT faultline	0800 800 151
GAS emergency	0800 111 999
ELECTRIC power loss	your suppliers emergency number
NATIONAL GRID	0800 111 999
WATER South Staffs	0800 389 10 11
Lichfield District Council	01543 308 000
Staffordshire County Council	0300 111 80 00
Citizens Advice	03444 111 444
AGE UK	0800 169 20 81
SAMARITANS dial	116 123
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION welfare	0808 802 8080
Hospitals	
Burton Queens	01283 566 333
Lichfield Samuel Johnson	01543 412 900
Stafford	01785 257 731
Cannock	01543 572 757

CONTACT A COUNCILLOR



Hilary Goodreid 07703 647 883

Email longdonpc@outlook.com

Longdon Parish Council
PO Box 17056, SUTTON COLDFIELD. B73 9YL

The schedule of your Parish Council meetings are;

- **8 March, 7.30 pm, Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall**
- **12 April, 7.30 pm, WI Hall, Longdon**
- **27 April 7.30 pm Annual Assembly, Village Hall, Longdon**
- **10 May (Annual Council) 7.30 pm WI Hall, Longdon**
- **14 June 7.30pm CW&G Village Hall**
- **12 July 7.30pm WI Hall, Longdon**

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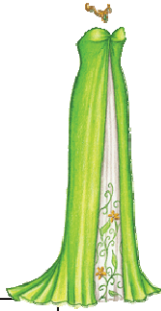
Or mobile

0789 623 9288

LONGDON VILLAGE PLANNER 2016

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 the Editor



For free publicity in the Lichfield Mercury's village section, please send details of your event to Jo Owens 01543 490555
whatsonLongdon@gmail.com

Regular Village Activities

Jam Club at Church, Mondays 2.00-3.30pm in term time. For Mums, Carers, Babies and Toddlers

NEED A HALL?????

	W.I. Hall To book contact Margaret Woollard 490389	Longdon Club To book contact 490521 After 8pm	Village Hall to book contact Karen Dawson 492303
Mon	HALL AVAILABLE Over60s 2nd Tues	Snooker and Pool 8pm	Stretch and Relax class 10.30am Yoga—Beg and Fam 6-7pm Yoga 7.15—8.30pm
Tue		BINGO 8pm	Pre-school Brownies... Gentleshaw Music Society
Wed	1st Wed - Women's Institute 7.30 3rd Wed - Flower Club... 490888	Pool 8pm	Pre-school KARATE
Thur		Snooker and Pool 8pm	Pre-school Prenatal Yoga 7.00-8.30 - 490681
Fri		Snooker and Pool 8pm	Pre-school
Sat		Snooker and Pool 8pm	
Sun		Snooker and Pool 8pm	Table Tennis 8.30pm

		Event	Venue/Time	Contact
Sat	12-Mar	Ground force 9.30-12	St James Churchyard	490681
Tues	15-Mar	Indian Banquet. Must restaurant	Brereton hill	Gladys 491760
Tues	15-Mar	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	Gentleshaw VH	
Wed	16-Mar	COFFEE MORNING 10.30am	The Cottage Ford Lane	
Fri	18-Mar	LENT LUNCH 12.00-1.30	St James Church	
Sat	19-Mar	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	
Thur	24-Mar	Last day of term	St James School	
Thur	24-Mar	Maundy Thursday service 7pm	St James Church	
Fri	25-Mar	Good Friday Walk of witness	St James Church	
Sat	26-Mar			
Sun	27-Mar	Easter day		
Sat	2-Apr			
Sun	3-Apr	Celebration Praise Service 10am	St James Church	
Wed	6-Apr	COFFEE MORNING 10.30am	'Levanto', Upper Way	
Wed	6-Apr	WI Our Daily Bread – Glynis Gayton	W.I. Hall 7.30	01889584119
Thur	7-Apr	School Term starts		
Sat	9-Apr	Ground force 9.30-12	St James Churchyard	490681
Sun	10-Apr	Church Annual Meeting 12.00 pm	St James Church	
Tue	12-Apr	Parish Council Meeting	WI HALL 7.30pm	
Sat	16-Apr	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	
Sat	23-Apr	SPRING BALL 7 pm for 7.30pm	VILLAGE HALL	Joan Fox 07967140288
Tues	26-Apr	ANNUAL ASSEMBLY Parish Council	VILLAGE HALL	7.30pm
Sat	30-Apr			
Sun	1-May	Celebration Praise Service 10am	St James Church	
Wed	4-May	WI Canal Art (painting session) with Mary Baskerville	W.I. Hall 7.30	01889584119
Thur	5-May	COFFEE MORNING 10.30am	The Bothy,	Borough Lane
Sat	7-May			
Sat	14-May	Ground force 9.30-12.00	St James Churchyard	490681
Sat	21-May			
Sat	28-May	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	
Wed	1-June	WI Garden meeting Bring and Share	6.30start	01889584119
Sat	4-June	OPEN GARDENS 2-6pm		Allen 401418
Sun	5-June	Celebration Praise Service 10am	St James Church	
Sun	5-June	OPEN GARDENS 2-6pm		Allen 401418
Sat	11-June	Ground force 9.30-12		490681
Sun	12-June	Village picnic for the Queen's 90th Birthday		Joan Fox 07967140288
Sun	12-June	Mad Hatters Tea Party	8, The Grange	Gladys 491760
Sat	18-June	MESSY CHURCH 4pm	St James Church	
Sat	25-June			
Sat	2-July			
Sun	3-July	Celebration Praise Service 10am	St James Church	
Wed	6-July	WI All about Whittington Barracks New Medical Centre	W.I. Hall 7.30	01889584119
Fri	8-July	'An evening of Wine and History'	St James Church	
Sat	9-July	Ground force 9.30-12	St James Churchyard	490681
Sat	16-July	'An Antiques morning' with Charles Hanson, Valuer	10.30—12.30 St James Church	492662
Sat	23-July			
Sat	30-July			
Wed	3-Aug	WI Amanda Hume 'Sister Dora'	W.I. Hall 7.30	01889584119
Sat	6-Aug			
Sat		Ground force 9.30-12	St James Churchyard	490681
Wed	17-Aug	COFFEE MORNING 10.30am	1, Barn Mews	Hilltop L G
Sat	20-Aug	CHETFEST FOR St Giles	Chetwynd Arms	Gladys 491760