



Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of Longdon Life covering Longdon,  
Upper Longdon, Longdon Green and Gentleshaw



## Inside this issue



NEW Kiddie Corner with drawing, story time and things to do



BEST KEPT VILLAGE  
COMPETITION  
Judge comments from last year and where we can pick up valuable points



Club reports and village news for all the family

### **A reminder from Longdon Play Group** **VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS CAN BORROW OUR MANNEQUINS**

**A reminder that The British Heart Foundation supplied us with a training kit containing mannequins to practice CPR on and DVD training videos.**

This training kit is available for any Longdon organisation to loan for their own training purposes. The videos on CPR and using the defibrillator are also available to view on the Longdon parish website and our Facebook page 'Longdon Defibrillator'. If you are interested in borrowing the equipment, please message Bryony via the Facebook page or at [bryonylindley@gmail.com](mailto:bryonylindley@gmail.com)

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The articles and comments published in Longdon Life do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council. The decision to print or not to print articles is entirely at the discretion of the Parish Council.

Published by Longdon Parish Council email [longdonpc@outlook.com](mailto:longdonpc@outlook.com)

The Parish Council do not endorse any advertisement but encourage parishioners to support local business. Editorial and advertising contact Glenys Beveridge email – [longdonlife.editor@gmail.com](mailto:longdonlife.editor@gmail.com)

### **Acknowledgement for the late Mrs Val Heseltine**

John Heseltine and family thank everyone for their kind messages of condolence, and acknowledge with very grateful thanks to those who gave so generously to Val's chosen charity, The Midlands Air Ambulance, with a total standing at a remarkable £485.



### **MOBILE LIBRARY DATES 2016/2017**

1 March, 22 March, 12 April

At the time of going to print the rest of the year dates were not available. Check the library web site for further details

The library stops at **LONGDON POST OFFICE & STORE 10am – 10.30am** and **LONGDON GREEN at the VILLAGE GREEN 10.40am – 10.55am**

Please use the mobile library and help keep this service viable



### **THERE IS A VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL DUE TO RETIREMENT**

We have a vacancy for the Gentleshaw Ward as Councillor Norman Stanfield has retired from the Council.

Cllr. Stanfield 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 his 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 18years 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](mailto: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](http://www.longdon-staffs.info/council)

## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2017**

**It's that time of year again when as a Parish Council we shall be making 2 separate entries into the Community Council of Staffordshire BKV Competition - namely UPPER LONGDON and LONGDON with LONGDON GREEN.**

We will be competing against other villages in the Lichfield/Cannock Chase Area.



With an aim to improve on our credible awards of HIGHLY COMMENDED achieved in 2016 for both UPPER LONGDON and LONGDON with LONGDON GREEN the full reports will be displayed on all Notice Boards.

We thought you would like to know the kind of things that the villages are judged on to help you see what you can do to help bring the title back.

A panel of Judges will make an unannounced visit to each village ONCE in MAY & ONCE in JUNE and judge certain features, namely

- BKV Publicity & Awareness
- Children's Poster Competition at St James School, Longdon
- Notice Boards need to be tidy and contain relevant local information
- Details of local organisations
- Church Surrounds/Burial Grounds/Seating/Benches
- Community Buildings and their carparks
- Public Houses
- Telephone Boxes/Bus Shelters/Seating Areas & Village Signs and Features
- Large Public Open Spaces/Greens/Playing Fields
- Private Gardens
- General Cleanliness and Community Effort
- Dog fouling – remember it is an offence not to pick up after your dog

The MAY & JUNE marks are aggregated and the villages with the highest marks go forward to the Area Finals – which are judged again in EARLY JULY and the best then go forward to the County Finals which are judged in LATE JULY.

**PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO HELP US WIN THE TITLE(S)!**

Cllr. Ann Fullwood

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL



Parishioners are very welcome to pop along to the Council Meeting, there will be an opportunity for your questions and then you are more than welcome to stay and listen to what is discussed at the meeting if you would like to.

A summary about what we have been doing on your behalf during the past financial year.....

- We welcomed 3 new councillors
- Refurbished all the notice boards in the Parish and replaced the one in High Street, Longdon
- Removed and refurbished the four metal finger posts
- Replaced rotted and broken flower tubs which enhance the Parish
- Given grants to the over 60's, St James Church, the Village Pet Show
- We arrange for the dog bins to be emptied and those at the Churches in Longdon and Gentleshaw
- The mowing of all the grass areas in the Parish
- The maintenance of the footpaths that cross the Parish including the stiles and gates
- Issued new leaflets and distributed them to pubs, the Church and Longdon shop showing the 8 walks across the Parish
- Kept an updated website so that those who can have access to all the Parish Council documents and news including the walks
- Organised in conjunction with our County Councillor a ring and ride bus service
- Surveyed the trees on the land in Berkeley Way
- Organised with SCC speed surveys on the A51 and in Upper Longdon the results are on the Parish website



### Diary Dates for Council Meetings

Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 7pm CW&G Village Hall  
Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> 7pm WI Hall, Longdon  
Annual Meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7pm WI Hall, Longdon  
Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm CW&G Village Hall  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 7pm WI Hall, Longdon



## 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.

**For more information please contact Irene 490135 or Carol 490888**



### Letter from the editor

When I took over as editor of Longdon Life magazine, someone asked my 'why?'.  
"Well, I ducked when I should have dived" was my response.

That said, I have enjoyed taking the magazine to a new level, but I cannot continue on my own, it needs fresh ideas to grow otherwise it will become stale.

Taking on something new as I did with the magazine, means I have learnt quite a lot - mostly about my computer and the things it can and can't do. And that my friends, has been my biggest challenge to date. The 'can't do' bit that is.

But now I have a bigger problem. One I cannot solve on my own. Because I need a buddy to help me put together the magazine

once all the articles, features and advertisements are in.

It is not difficult but for one person it has become very time consuming but with help it will be done very quickly.

A problem shared is a problem halved as the saying goes.....

Is there anyone out there who will give me a hand? Full training in our Lisbon office can be arranged....did I say Lisbon, I mean Longdon.....

Deadline for the submission of articles for the Summer edition will be  
20<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 for July, August, September and October events

For editorial and advertising information contact [longdonlife.editor@gmail.com](mailto:longdonlife.editor@gmail.com) or your parish councillor

## Longdon Walking Group



January 2017

### WE ARE TWO!

In January we celebrated our second birthday with a lovely walk along the canal at Great Haywood and Shugborough Estate, followed by drinks and cake in the Swan with Two Necks. Many thanks to Mary who provided sausages and sticky parsnips which went down a treat!

We walk every second Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. Meet at the Swan with Two Necks car park (by kind permission of the Landlady). Walks are fairly easy and last around 90 mins to 120 mins. We usually car share to surrounding local areas and have found some interesting walks close by.

Why not come and join Longdon Walking Group, you would be made most welcome.

For more information please contact: Irene 490135 or Lynn 490847

**Chiropody Services**  
Paul Adams Chiropodist  
Dip.Pod.MMCh.S  
Clinic and home visits  
Telephone 01543 274166

Let us always meet each other with a  
smile, for the smile is the  
beginning of love.

Mother Teresa



### GENTLESHAW COMMON

What have we been up to on Gentleshaw Common?

The past few months have zoomed past and we are in the midst of the winter season. This has meant that our volunteers have been busy cracking on with the winter work that has to be completed before the end of March. Primarily, we have been targeting our time in clearing the West side of the Common of small silver birch, oak and pine. This area is very important due to its wet heath properties. We will have contractors in at the end of January for a week to continue on from our volunteer's hard work.



The valley mire, Copyright Hayley Dorrington

We have also been working on a small patch of secondary woodland, on the opposite side of Commons Road. It's really encouraging to see Heathland species coming up through and we hope that with a bit of light, more will appear.

Although the winter months can be a little dreary at times, the Common still has plenty to offer, even if it is just for a walk to blow the cobwebs away on a blustery morning. With the leaves off the trees, it's a little easier to see bird life at this time of year. On a recent walk out on the common, we saw five stonechats in one tree!

Stonechats are a lovely little bird, similar to the robin in size. The male has a striking black head with white around the sides of their neck. They have an orange-red breast and its call sounds like two stones being tapped together.



Stonechat, copyright Chris Lawrence

**Our volunteers join us on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.**

If you would like to join the friendly team, then phone the ranger on **01384 221798** and we can let you know more information.

Alternatively, you could even become a member of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust; the money raised goes towards looking after the 27 reserves we look after, one of the reserves being Gentleshaw Common.

If you would like more information about membership, then phone **01889 880100**.

Hayley – Southern Heathlands Ranger.



## The Not So Secret Garden

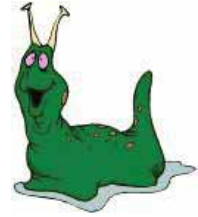
Article submitted by Lawn 'n' Order

### SLUGS

Many of us will have woken to see our newly planted hostas, delphiniums, dahlias, gerberas, sweet peas and tulips eaten by garden pests. In the vegetable garden they like peas, beans, lettuce celery and potatoes. The soil temperature warms up and as Spring approaches it time to think about controlling slugs.

These pesky creatures are gastropods, single-shelled soft bodied animals. They use their tongues to make holes in leaves, stems, buds and flowers. Leaving behind trails of slime deposits.

The key issue here is that we only worry about the slugs we see, but in fact one cubic meter of soil can contain up to 200 slugs! They are hermaphrodites and can lay about 300 eggs in the soil at one time! There are many types of slug prevention available to use;



Slug Killers such as:

- Pellets. Take care when using these as it is important to apply these in the correct quantity to be safe to pets and wildlife and then reapplied every two weeks.
- Nematodes. So exactly what is a Nematode? It's a natural organism, already present in our soil. They start working early in the spring right down into the soil, and will keep regenerating until the food source has expired. They target specific garden pests giving us natural garden pest controls. They are environmentally friendly, safe for children, pets and wildlife. They are available to buy online.
- Barriers e.g. shells, copper tape or simply a scooped out half orange or grapefruit laid cup side down, or jars part filled with beer sunk into the ground near vulnerable plants.

Three tips to get the best from your nematodes:

- Apply the nematode solution to moist soil. Above 5 degree C
- It is best to do this during your evening watering as the soil won't dry out so quickly, giving the nematodes time to go beneath the soil.
- Plan to control slugs from early in the season when they are young and before they start to do the damage.
- Rake over soil and remove fallen leaves so the birds can eat the slug eggs – these predators should be encouraged.

**Remember “prevention is better than cure!”.**

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**REMEMBER TO ONLY USE PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT AS DETAILED IN THE SPECIFIC PRODUCT BROCHURES AND ALWAYS CHECK FOR SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS WHEN CHILDREN AND ANIMALS ARE IN THE GARDEN OR HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THE GARDEN.**

**IF IN DOUBT NEVER USE WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING SPECIALIST ADVICE.**



## Longdon Produce Show



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**

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 own exhibits.

Photography Classes will be:



Adults – Sunsets      Children – Hobbies  
Black and White – Memories

**Further details from  
Martin Sandground - 490123**

## Stop the misery of Hay Fever before it begins

Now is the time to start the desensitisation to the pollens which cause hay fever and other seasonal symptoms.

check the website  
British Institute of Allergy and Environmental Therapy. (BIAET)

**Local therapist  
Lynn Marshall  
0789623 9288**

Don't suffer and sneeze  
your summer away



## Lawn 'n' Order ' You grow, We mow'

Retired businessman launching new venture, offering friendly, dependable and trustworthy garden maintenance.

Services include: - Lawn cutting/edging, weeding, hedge/shrub trimming, leaf collection



Please call Keith on 01543 491194 or 07823 387949 to discuss your individual requirements.



**Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it.**

**Author Unknown**

**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.

### Christmas Social Evening 2016

Our entertainment for our Christmas social evening in December was Gan Teideal, an Irish folk band. We had a jacket potato supper followed by a selection of Irish themed desserts provided by the committee members, the Guinness cake being among the favourites. It was a most enjoyable evening.

### Garden and Home Produce Show 2017

Our annual Garden and Home Produce Show is scheduled to take place in the village hall on Saturday 9th September.

### Speakers and Topics 2017

Our speaker in January was Ray Bassett on the 'ABC of Vegetables'. Very informative speaker who certainly 'knows his onions'. February speaker will be David Tideswell on Garden Birds in Spring and Summer. We have a wonderful programme of speakers booked up for the rest of the year.

### Trips and Visits

We will be visiting the Plant Hunters Fair at Middleton Hall in April. Our summer trip will be to Woollerton Old Hall and in the autumn we are visiting Powis Castle in Welshpool.

For further details of any of the above, or about joining the Gardening Club, please contact the Secretary on 01543 682525



### **LICHFIELD AND RUGELEY RECYCLING CENTRES**

Tel: 0300 111 8000 or

01785 277452

[recycling@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@staffordshire.gov.uk)

**LICHFIELD:** Witley Drive, Trent Valley  
Road, WS13 6EU

**RUGELEY** Station Road, Rugeley.  
WS15 2HE

### **Opening Hours (BST)**

**Sun 26 March - Sat 28 October 2017**

#### **LICHFIELD**

**Monday and Tuesday - Closed**

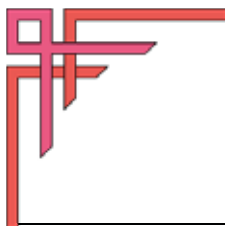
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - 6pm  
Saturday and Sunday 9am - 5pm

#### **RUGELEY**

Monday, Tuesday and Friday 9am - 6pm

**Wednesday and Thursday - Closed**

Saturday and Sunday 9am - 5pm



## Longdon Over 60's Club

### Programme for 2017

14 March	To be advised
11 April	Birthday Party      Bridgemere Garden Centre -
9 May	Afternoon Tea
13 June	Ken Knowles, Town Crier - Wearing my other Hat
11 July	Silk Mill Derbyshire— Viewing of Poppies
8 August	Afternoon Tea - Levanto
12 September	To be advised
10 October	Bletchley Park
14 November	Glynis Gayton - Our Daily Bread - tales of a family bakery
12 December	Henry and Audrey Clamp - Experiences of a Doctor and a Doctor's Wife in the 1950's and 60's Christmas Party

The Club is going from strength to strength with several new members joining us last year. Why not come and join us? It's good fun and good company. 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, Chairman      07779 789590

Irene Kemp, Secretary      01543 490135



# Sue

*Qualified*

## Mobile hairstylist

**Longdon Resident**

**01543 491514**

**07729 683 646**





## LONGDON WI 95<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY

Longdon WI celebrated their 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 11<sup>th</sup> January by holding a dinner party in the Village Hall. They entertained guests from SFWI including the present Chairman, Helen Newman, past president Sheila Moulton, Glenys Richards and members of the Rose and Shamrock Group including Rugeley, Armitage, Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw. Members were entertained by Ed Sumner, a young magician who demonstrated his amazing skills at each table during the dessert course, asking members to join in. After the meal, Chairman, Janet Drinkwater, read the following titbits taken from our archives.



*"The first committee meeting was held in Longdon Vicarage at 6.0 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1922, attended by 10 committee member, the President was Lady Berkeley Paget (aunt to the Marquis of Anglesey). The first members' meeting, with 30 members, was held in the old Village Hall, with a subscription of 2 shillings, refreshments 1d for a cup of tea and a 1d bun. After the business of the day May Johnson sang songs and Vicar, Frank Bygott, did some conjuring tricks. At the next meeting there was a lecture on Home Nursing. Competitions were for 'the best buttonhole' and 'the ingredients for a cake for 1 shilling'. Jerusalem was sung at the opening, and the National Anthem at the end of each meeting. Each month each member was asked to bring an egg to be given to the local hospital, and at some meetings there was 'member participation' called Roll Call with suggestions 'How to get rid of flu', 'What is worth its weight in gold' and 'The advantages of being married or single?' The suggestion box was always full and by 1926 all suggestions were for the building of a WI hut. A 'Hut fund' was formed with lots of fund raising activities, and in 1936 Sir Villiers Forster (Landlord) and Mr Fernyhough (Tenant) agreed to sell a piece of land (which was where the school now stands!), but before purchase was completed the blacksmith's widow, Mrs Smith, offered the smithy to the members for £60, which was much better, and was purchased - Cost of Hall £60: Land at end £2: Refurbishment by Howard Marshall (whose son still lives in the village) £78: Extras £5: Total £145. The opening and first meeting in the hall took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1937 (Sadly Lady Berkeley Paget died at the end of 1936)."*



The birthday cake was presented, with Mrs Minna Andrews longest serving member of Longdon WI and Mrs Kathleen Tatlow, who has been a member of the Womens Institute for 60 years, photographs were taken and the Chairman proposed a champagne toast to Longdon W I. Tea, coffee and mints were then served with Ed Sumner on stage amazing everyone with his magic and amusing anecdotes.

Everyone agreed that the evening had been a huge success.





## The Chetwynd Arms

57 Upper Way, Upper Longdon,  
WS15 1QB Telephone 01543 490266

[www.chetwyndarmsupperlongdon.co.uk](http://www.chetwyndarmsupperlongdon.co.uk)



We are a family friendly and dog friendly pub on the edge of Cannock Chase.  
Popular with cyclists and walkers. Coffee & Tea served all day.  
Restaurant available for meetings. Free WiFi

### Lunchtime menu 12-2 Mon to Sat from £5.00

Parties, wedding receptions, christening parties, funeral lunches and teas catered for.  
Marquee available for larger events. Please ask Nicola for further information.

### SUNDAY LUNCHES 12 – 5pm £8.95 and £6.95 under 8's always 3 fabulous roasts to choose from with seasonal vegetables

We pride ourselves on home cooked pub food using locally sourced fresh produce whenever possible. The full restaurant menu & the specials board also available every Sunday lunch time. We are often fully booked on Sunday's so please ring to reserve a table if you don't want to miss out. **Call 01543 490266** All allergens catered for.



### MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>

The Best Mum In The World deserves to be treated....book your family table for a wonderful 3 course meal with mum for £18.95 per person and just £9.95pp for under 8's

Don't forget to book your table for the restaurant menu for  
**EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>**



**ELVIS IS COMING FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY**  
**FRIDAY MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> Limited Tickets at £20.00 including food**

**YOU will not want to miss the UMPAH NIGHT Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Tickets £7 including themed food**



**We regularly receive 5\* Trip Advisor reviews for our restaurant**  
**Open Monday to Saturday 6pm – 9pm**

### SPECIAL CHETWYND ARMS RESTAURANT OFFER

**Call 01543 490266** to book a table in the restaurant Monday to Friday and receive  
10% off your food bill for 2 people or 20% off a food bill for 4 people

To qualify for the discount you will need to ring to reserve your table and quote Longdon Life  
coupon AND clip and bring this coupon with you.

(this coupon will be required when seated for discount to be applied) Valid until 30/06/17



## GRANTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council, when constructing their budget for the following year, include a value for grants, which are awarded at the March, July and November Council meetings and applications **MUST** be received **AT LEAST 3 weeks** before the meeting

**APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE 11<sup>th</sup> JULY COUNCIL MEETING MUST BE SUBMITTED by 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT THE LATEST**

Applications received after this date will be considered at the November meeting

**Please remember that Grants are never given retrospectively i.e. they cannot be awarded for something that has already taken place, nor for personal gain but are available where there is a benefit to the Parish.**

These grants can be applied for either online via the website, [www.longdon-staffs.info](http://www.longdon-staffs.info) or write/email/telephone the Clerk and request an application form be sent to you.



## YOUR LOCAL RELIABLE WINDOW CLEANER

Based in the village you can depend on a reliable and friendly service, giving you a top class

professional job.

No Streaks,

No Smears - Just

### **GLEAMING WINDOWS!**

And my price includes frames and sills

**Gutters cleaned from the winter moss and leaves**

For a quotation, please call Neil  
**01543 493287 or 07962 979 243**



## **DOMESTICARE CLEANING**

*For when you need an extra pair of hands*

A family owned cleaning company

**Completely trustworthy and competent, we can offer you a home cleaning service to suit your needs.**

We have clients in the Longdon and Gentleshaw areas and we are more than happy to come to your home to discuss the cleaning service you would like, whether it be for a weekly, fortnightly or monthly clean or for a one off clean and tidy-up.

We shall then give you a free, no obligation quote.

References available. Fully insured & very reliable. For a chat to find out how we can help,

Telephone John or Lynda 01889 585 867 or 07783 832 758

Or email [Lynda.morris@live.co.uk](mailto:Lynda.morris@live.co.uk)



**KIDDIES CORNER**  
Childrens family fun time with drawing, colouring, story time and things to do on the following pages.....

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## 1<sup>st</sup> LONGDON BROWNIES

Dark and cold winter nights might be with us this winter but that doesn't stop the sunshine or the fun from happening at **Longdon Brownies.**

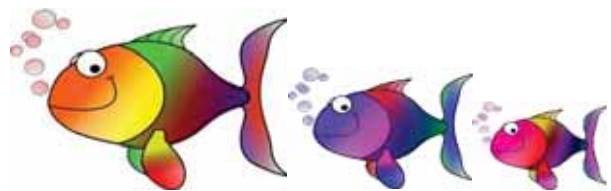


We worked on special beach challenge badge to help bring out the sunshine smiles on our Brownies.

We learnt all about keeping the beaches and the oceans clean and safe from rubbish and the harm it does to the Ocean creatures.

We made a few different types of fish.

To finished off we lay under the ocean while listening to gently sea noises and held our breath while we changed from Brownies in to Mermaids just for a few minutes.



**Staffordshire Girlguiding also is having its**

**100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year so we will be celebrating by going to some exciting events with all the other 1000's of Brownies in Staffordshire.**



We meet on Tuesday 6pm – 7.30pm at Longdon Village Hall during term time for more information, please contact **KOOKABURRA OWL [longdonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:longdonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk)**

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**BKV COMPETITION** – Watch out for details of the **SCHOOL POSTER** competition to be announced by Cllr. Ken Taylor at St James School. And for younger children, see the next page.





**CHILDREN, CAN YOU DRAW AND COLOUR A PICTURE FOR THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2017 AND DISPLAY IN YOUR WINDOW?**

The BKV judges look for posters in the windows of homes for the BKV Competition, these help the village score points for community participation. Please create a poster on this page and display in your window during the judging period. The theme should be about keeping the village tidy and pretty for everyone to enjoy. Thank you.

**BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2017**



# 1<sup>st</sup> LONGDON GUIDES

## FRIENDS MADE THROUGH GIRL GUIDING

In 2014 – 1<sup>st</sup> Longdon Guides attended “**UNTIY 2014**” - *this is camp run by Staffordshire Girlguiding*. The camp is attended by well over 1500 girls and leaders from all over Staffordshire and the UK, International Girl Guiding groups from all over also attended.

Our division was lucky enough to be hosting a group of **Girl Scouts from New Jersey USA**. Some of the Longdon Guides also had girls for home stays after camp for



another week. I was lucky enough to click so well with my American co-leader that **RENEE** and I are still very much in touch with each other.

The guides who attended Unity 2014 also got to see Renee again, as she visiting me in the UK for a few days this month and we managed to slip in a Guide meeting for her catch up and share some fun with the Guides. She brought us a very special treat in the shape of **Girl Scout cookies**.

American Girl scout cookie are only available for a short time each year in America and are used as a fundraiser for units to take trip.

The girls were only too happy to tastes test all the 8 flavours and helped lighten Renee baggage on the way home.

It’s amazing the friends and interesting people you meet though Girl Guiding, Renee and I are proof of that. The girls have many adventure while with Guiding and have made good strong friendship in that time.



We meet on Thursday 6.30pm – 8pm term time at St James School. For more information, contact

[Monique Worth - 1<sup>st</sup> Longdon Guide Leader longdonguides@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:longdonguides@hotmail.co.uk)



## The Tale of the Garden Birds in Grandma's Garden

Grandma's garden is a special place for many birds. There are lots of trees and bird boxes, so the birds know they are welcome there. At the bottom of the garden there is a field for sheep and then there is a great Forest. This is a magical place and sometimes deer can be seen roaming through the trees.

One morning Grandma went out to feed the birds and there was a lot of noise. Two birds in particular, Julie and Jack Bluetit were scolding everyone. Whatever is wrong wondered grandma? Then she noticed that the Sparrowhawk was hovering overhead. Oh dear thought grandma as she walked back to the house, the hawk is frightening the little birds.



The sparrowhawk lives in the forest and he is out hunting. The smaller birds need to keep out of his way and then they will be safe. If they stay in their little bird box house until he goes away they will be fine.

Hawks are very large birds. The bluetits are very small. Even though the bluetits can fly fast, the hawk's wings are strong and his beak is very sharp. No wonder the little birds are frightened. They need to be able to fly around the garden to find food. Whatever can they do?



Perhaps they can ask their friends indoors, bear and little cat for help. Oh dear, both the bear and the cat are frightened of the hawk too. And really they cannot help the bluetits as they live inside the big house. But they will keep an eye open and try to tell them if there is danger near.

Suddenly, there was a tinkling noise like a bell.

'What was that?' said Julie Bluetit.

'I didn't hear anything,' replied Jack Bluetit

'Listen! Can you hear that noise? It is like a bell,' insisted Julie.' The two bluetits decide to have a look outside their house to find the tinkling bell. Can you see something that makes a sound like a bell? I can, can you?

Then they see the wind chime. 'Of course,' exclaims Jack, 'the tinkling bell is the wind chime!' 'But that is strange,' said Julie Bluetit, 'it is gentle and sunny today. There is no wind to make the chimes ring.' On top of the wind chime sat a fairy. 'At last', said the fairy in a tiny voice. 'You are listening. I know I cannot shout loudly, but I am a fairy and I have magic powers, and I can make my bells chime whenever I want, even when then there is no wind. So I can warn you if the hawk is coming.' This was a very long speech for the little fairy who was not used to talking.



So now, all is well in grandma's garden. The fairy is watching out for the hawk, The Bluetits are busy getting their nest ready for their chicks and they are very happy. Oh, and we mustn't forget the bear (who just pretends to growl) and the little cat, who are waiting for the grandchildren to visit, they are happy too.

Do you have bluetits in your garden? Perhaps you do. Goodbye for now

Copyright Mary Birchenall

## Jam Club

Every week in term time on  
Mondays 2 – 2.30pm  
at St James Church,  
Longdon on the A51

Jam Club is for babies and tots  
with their mums, dads and carers.  
Play, chat, craft, songs, rhymes  
and refreshments.

For further detail contact  
Pam Cherry  
01543 490194



Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may  
remember, involve me and I learn."

Benjamin Franklin



## We are Rose & Teal

### .....and we are Really Great Decorators

(even if we do say so ourselves !)

We are BRIAN & MAXINE CRADDOCK,  
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and we are proud of the work we have  
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**Longdon Pre-school** is open to children from the age of 2years through to school age. We are open Tuesday to Friday 9.15 to 12.15 at the Village Hall.

In our run up to Christmas the children enjoyed a very busy, creative and at times messy term – glitter and glue everywhere. Having cleared the Christmas trimmings away they were ready to start a new term with new ideas. Our Little Stars (2year olds) got to grips with winter weather , snowmen, penguins and ice sculptures (containing glitter and sequins) not forgetting our feathered friends and made bird feeders, which the squirrels are also enjoying. They will then move on to look at Spring and the new life it brings.



The Little Explorers (3 year olds) have been busy practising their writing skills, in readiness to move to the next group the Little Learners. They have worked hard at straight lines, wobbly lines(curved) and marching lines (diagonal slants) using a range of resources and activities to help them. They even wrote their names in Chinese to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Our eldest group – Little Learners have been looking at measuring using NSU (non standard units) and traditional rulers and tape measures. Who would have thought that a table was 20 dinosaurs long by 10 cars high! They have counted and converted just about everything in the hall, including themselves and if that wasn't enough have counted and measured in Chinese. Their topic has moved onto space and they have been looking at making space ship controls, paper mache planets , rockets, astronauts and maybe an alien or two.



The whole group enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with our very own dragon dance, musical instruments and trying different Chinese food for our snack. The children had great fun painting and decorating boxes for the dragon's head and body, making dragon masks and dancing puppets, creating rice pictures and participating in the story of the Great Race and how the Chinese New Year began . All of the children tried the different foods at snack with fresh lychees receiving very mixed reactions – but they all

tried something new.

As part of the Pre-school's safeguarding policy we hold evacuation drills where all of the children and staff must demonstrate how quickly and effectively we can evacuate the building.

Getting children to do things at the same time and when asked can be a problem ordinarily, so to have a group ranging from 2 years to 4 years, all busy in their play to respond can be quite a challenge, more so when you consider there are ten 2year olds. However, we are

very, very, proud of all of our children who participated so well and did exactly as instructed. The only disappointment was that some of the children were expecting a fire engine to turn up – maybe another day and another topic to cover.

If you would like to see more of the fun we have at pre-school, visit our facebook page (longdonpreschool) or would like to know more about the pre-school please contact Chris Wilson (01543 473510) for details of availability of places, prospectus and registration or to arrange a visit. We offer funded places to 2year olds and children eligible for NEG funding although places are limited.



**THE PLAYGROUP CHILDREN KNOW HOW TO ESCAPE  
FROM THE VILLAGE HALL IN AN EMERGENCY  
DO YOUR CHILDREN KNOW HOW TO ESCAPE FROM  
YOUR OWN HOME?**



If you were to suffer a fire in your home – and this does happen as we see on news programmes – do you and your children know how you would escape?

Do you know what to do if you are trapped?

Don't wait until you have to do it for real – practice every year as your family grows.

Check escape routes when sleeping at other locations.



Fit a smoke detector and test it regularly

Contact your local fire service for advice.



**At St James  
Church Longdon  
4pm every 3rd  
Saturday**

A theme or story explored in Worship,  
Craft, Song and Drama for all ages

Paint! Glue! Model, Stitch!

New ideas every time

Followed by a hot meal

[messy@stjames-longdon.org](mailto:messy@stjames-longdon.org)

**All Ages and Adults welcome  
Great for family time**

**Next Messy Church, March 18<sup>th</sup>**



We will be exploring the origins of **Mothering Sunday** and having a workshop to make cards and gifts for Mums and those we love as Mums

**MESSY CHURCH DATES  
for rest of 2017**

Sat March 18th

Easter Break

Sat May 20<sup>th</sup> Sat June 17th Sat July 15th

Summer Break

Sat Sept 16 Sat Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Sat Nov 18th

Sat Dec 16th

Teach your children about tax - eat 20% of their ice cream

## ANTENATAL YOGA



**with other mums -to -be  
At Longdon Village hall**

**Since the last issue of Longdon Life we welcome  
Jessica, Rosie Elisa, Charlotte Jennifer, William Paul, Abel Andrew,  
Arthur James, Margot Rose and a few others who are due imminently!**

**CLASSES ARE ON-GOING** According to demand  
Thursdays 7.30-8.30pm

**Enquiries: [valpassey@yahoo.com](mailto:valpassey@yahoo.com)  
07737272085**

**Join any time. Pre-booking necessary**



What the mums say...

\*Attending Val's prenatal yoga class was an hour and a half of bliss and relaxation which was much needed during my pregnancy.

\*I enjoyed the relaxation element especially after a stressful day at work. Also the pelvic floor exercises and social element.

\*During labour the gas and air made me sick so for several hours I just relied on deep breaths and yoga was helpful then.



*Welcome to the world  
little ones xxx*

*Our happy mums with  
their new-borns.*



## Festive walkers raise £330 for the Midlands Air Ambulance



With all the damp, foggy and windy weather around during the festive season, we were blessed once more with absolutely perfect weather, sunshine, hardly any cloud, no wind and not too chilly. Approximately 60 people (and several dogs) arrived for this sociable walk in the beautiful local countryside. I had organised this walk so we did not have stiles to climb, nor ploughed fields to cross - knowing that these have been too much of an obstacle for some in the past. So we followed the cart track over Hill Top, coming out on Lysways Lane in Longdon Green, where we headed for Hay Lane and turned up Smithy Lane, crossing carefully over Borough Lane, into Giddywell, (where did this name come about?) into High Street and returning to our starting point, the very welcoming Swan With Two Necks.

Mary and team had prepared their usual superb soups and bread for us which was enjoyed by all. My thanks go to anyone who contributed in any way to make this event such a success. Mary and helpers deserve a special thank you for all their hard work looking after us so well. Anne Juxon for taking such super photographs, everyone who joined in the walk, making it all worth while. Of course the object of the occasion is to raise ever needed funds for the Midlands Air Ambulance, which due to the generosity of all who donated totalled a splendid £330.

Thank you to all participants, Lynn Marshall



FOR THOSE OF YOU PLANNING AN EASTER HOLIDAY TRIP TO OUR FRIENDS ACROSS THE CHANNEL, MORE VOCABULARY LESSONS TO HELP YOU CONVERSE EFFECTIVELY..... (not to be taken too seriously!)

Compiled by our special correspondent Richard Meere

<i>En Français</i>	<i>In English</i>
Plus ça change...	A pocketful of loose coins
Entente Cordiale	A refreshing drink for campers
Cor Anglais	Page 3 girl
À chacun son goût	Log cabins made to order
À chacun son goût (alternative)	Swollen toes (too much port)
Donnez moi maintenant	I'm good with my hands
Sens unique	One track mind
Sacre bleu	Royal Warrant for Tate and Lyle

## Jenny's Art Show @ the Village Hall in November

### A THANK YOU - (from Jenny's Mum)

We had a grand total of 63 people who visited the art show. It was a time for chatting and catching up as well as looking at Jenny's new art work.

We do not ask for an entry fee, but if people wish to make donations then that is great.

**We raised £345.10 which was split between the four charities which have helped Jenny over the past 20 years.**

SENSE – supports deaf/blind people,  
DELTA

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Rare Diseases Centre  
And

The Queen Elizabeth Kidney Patients Association.

Special thanks goes to Lisa Blades for making scones (to order) on the day and cups of tea and coffee.



The picture shows Jenny with her art work on display at Birmingham Cathedral in December, as part of the QE Hospital Christmas carol service.

Jenny will be 21 in March this year. To mark and celebrate this occasion, and to acknowledge her achievements despite her health challenges, we are planning a series of small events thorough out the year.

**So look out for :**

**Project**

**JG**

**2**

**1**



**National  
Trust**

### **The magnificent Shugborough Hall Estate**

is due to open on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.

Since the estate was handed back to the National Trust on 1 November 2016, we've been carrying out essential works, making a range of changes and improvements, and building the staff and volunteer teams.

So far, this work has included refurbishing the lodges, refitting the Mansion tea-room and Park Farm Café and improving toilet facilities (including a new Changing Places facility). We're also improving the car park and installing an all-weather surface, as well as taking down fences and creating new walks across the wider estate. (more in the NT web site)

*Information sourced from the National Trust web site - editor*



## Longdon Friends of St. Giles Hospice



I am pleased to say that at the end of 2016 a superb total of **£10049.40** has been forwarded to the Hospice.  
The total amount now raised is **£263750.87**.

I would like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to  
Mrs. Muriel Stevenson  
who recently passed away.  
She was a founder member of the Committee and always supported the Hospice.

Diary Dates for 2017....

The management of "Must" have offered another four course Indian Banquet evening on **14<sup>th</sup> March**. Tickets will be priced at £14.95 and can be obtained from the restaurant.

On Saturday, **1<sup>st</sup> April at 11am** there will be an Easter themed morning at the home of Jill and Steve Warwood, who live at "Eascote", Stockings Lane, Longdon.

A plant sale in the W.I. hall on **Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May**. Last year it was a huge success and I would be pleased if anyone could donate plants, however large or small.

Nicola & Gary at the Chetwynd Arms have offered to host another "Chetfest" on **22<sup>nd</sup> July**. Last year's was a superb success. Details will be announced in the coming few months.

On **Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December**, a Christmas Coffee Morning will take place in the school hall.

Bucket collections – no details from the Hospice as yet but if anyone is willing to help I would be extremely grateful.

Washing Up Rota – can anyone spare 2 hours on a Sunday lunchtime? Please contact me.

Subscriptions are now due, just £2.50 for a single person and £5.00 per family.

Thank you to everyone who supports raising funds for St. Giles Hospice and if you can volunteer or help in any way please do not hesitate to contact me any time.

G. Crowe, Chair

Home : 01543 491760

Mobile : 07944 089681

E-mail :gcoaklodge@gmail.com



**The Christmas 2016 Coffee Morning was a huge success with very generous donations to the gift table and the flower and plant table.**



## LONGDON VILLAGES COMMUNITY GROUP

### **Raising funds to support the community**

2016 was a busy year for the Longdon Villages' Community Group - we successfully held a regal red, white & blue Picnic on The Green for The Queen's 90th Birthday (albeit a soggy, wet event but still lots of fun!), Villages' Pet Show with a variety of dogs with waggy tails, big woofy smiles, most obedient, best trick and even the loudest bark!...we also exhibited a snake, a hamster, gerbils, chickens, a black rabbit, two beautiful kittens, a gold fish, a tortoise, two amazing Bearded Dragons, a skunk and a beautiful billy goat! Finally, at the end of the year, we hosted Christmas Carols on The Green with support from Paul & the team at The Red Lion pub.

This was our fourth Christmas Sing-a-long festive event with so many local villagers attending to join in the entertainment; singing to the various Christmas songs, sipping mulled wine, eating mince pies and even entering Santa's Grotto to meet the big man himself! Thank you to everyone that attended this jolly event and to many, many people who helped pull this event together - there was a lovely pre-Christmas atmosphere with lots of smiles and a generous sum of money raised to support local Community needs.



2017 is now fully underway and so is our calendar of exciting events we hope to hold for the local Communities enjoyment:

- Village Quiz - Friday 31st March tbc
- Queens picnic - June 4th tbc
- Longdon Fashion Show - May / June tbc
- Pet Show - Sunday 17th September
- Summer Fete - July tbc
- St James Christmas Fayre - November tbc
- LVCG AGM - 23rd November
- Carols on The Green - Friday 1st December
- Villages' Christmas Pantomime - Saturday 9th December

Please keep a lookout on the local Village Notice boards for further information and come along to join in our fun events!...

The aim of our group is to bring about more Community cohesion by organising village events and raising funds to help support local organisations and residents. We meet monthly at one of our three local pubs for a social hour of discussing ideas and planning events. If you feel you could help the group and / or have any ideas for Village events, activities or would like to submit a bid for a Community financial donation, then please contact:

[longdonvcg@gmail.com](mailto:longdonvcg@gmail.com)

 Joan Fox 01543 493539  
 Sharon Bedlow 01543 491932  
 Wendy Neary 01543 493623

**We would love to hear from you!    LVCG Secretary - Sharon Bedlow**

*These few photographs show just how much everyone, especially the children enjoyed Carols On The Green event.*



*Thank you to everyone who supported the event*

## St James The Great, Longdon



I am writing this article on the day that Donald Trump is to be inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States of America. It hasn't

happened yet, there are a couple of hours to go, but I am wondering how those who led the campaign for Hillary Clinton are feeling right now. Like all of us who have failed at anything, I am sure there will be regrets. Being human, there will probably be the apportioning of blame (usually to someone else) and hopefully some soul searching.

Our Lent Course this year looks, in part, at how regret feels, and how we can move forward from those feelings in our everyday life. Our explorations will involve watching and discussing a series of videos entitled "Tales from the Madhouse".

"Set in the crumbling walls of a dilapidated Victorian sanatorium, six mysterious characters reveal their secret stories. The six are linked by one unifying and crucial event in their lives: each of them had an encounter with Jesus of Nazareth in some way – an experience that has left an indelible mark. Each character brushed with Jesus, but most missed the moment. They touched the light that lingered in the shadows. They were offered freedom but made friends with their chains. Now they are haunted by the memory of what was, and what might have been." If you enjoy Alan Bennett's Talking Heads monologues, this is definitely the Lent Course for you!

Regret is a perfectly understandable human response to a variety of situations: you've made a big mistake; you've wasted an opportunity which won't come again; you wish you could go back in time and change things that seemed right then, but proved to be wrong.

Regret can be a positive emotion if it spurs us on to do better next time, or to reflect more before we act in future. But what isn't helpful is spending so much time regretting our actions that we become stuck. And God certainly doesn't want us to live lives that are weighed down by regret.

Jesus came so that we can live life in all its fullness, and that isn't being held in the past.

But there are ways we can move ourselves forward. First of all we need to honestly recall what we did and why. To Reflect on the actions, thoughts and emotions which drove us to do what we did, or not to do what we didn't. We need to make an honest inventory of our mistakes.

When Adam was confronted by his sin in the Garden of Eden, he went and hid in the bushes.

When David was confronted with his, he said "I am guilty before God." If we can follow David's example, and accept that we've made mistakes we shall be in the right place to Repent. Saying sorry is important 2 Corinthians 7:10 says "Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret". Sometimes we say sorry just because it's the expected response.

But when we truly regret something "Sorry" comes from our heart, and God can help us to make everything new.

When we have Reflected and Repented, we are in the right place to Refocus. One of the Bible's central themes is resurrection. That means that we too can start anew, remembering what God is like.

"Great is God's faithfulness, God's mercies begin afresh each morning."

So, if you find yourself regretting your actions take time to address those thoughts and feelings, and with God's help work through them.

### **God bless you all, Jan**

Please see our page with the dates and details of our Lent Course and Easter Services



## Dates of our Lent Course

Please join us and share this special time together.

We shall meet at Christ Church Lichfield on Wednesday evenings, starting at 7 for refreshments, at 7.30

We shall watch the video, and we shall discuss our thoughts about each episode, and the impact it has had.

Course dates are: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March and 5th and 12th April



Holy Week

## Easter services at St James, Longdon 2017

Services from Palm Sunday to Easter Day 2017

<b>9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	11am Holy Communion with Passion Narrative
<b>10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Monday of Holy Week</b>	7pm service at CHRIST CHURCH
<b>11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b>	7pm Night Prayer at ST JAMES
<b>12<sup>th</sup> April</b> CHURCH	<b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b>	7pm final session of our Lent Course at CHRIST
<b>13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7.30pm Holy Communion with the stripping of the altar
<b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	9am Holy Communion 10am Walk of Witness 2.00pm Service of the Last Hour at CHRIST CHURCH 7.00pm A service with music at CHRIST CHURCH
<b>15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Eve</b>	7.30pm Service of Light AT ST JAMES
<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	8am Holy Communion 11am Family Communion

## Longdon's Defibrillator Training Kit used for the first time by Yoga classes

The first groups to use the training kit provided with the British Heart Foundation Defibrillator in Longdon were the Stretch and Relax class and the Yoga class on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Their teacher, Val Passey explained the content of the training kit ...the manikins and other equipment for practising CPR, the DVD, and the defibrillator itself. Members of the classes felt more informed through having a go at CPR and all agreed that in an emergency they would have a better idea of what to do.



**The message is... Take the opportunity to learn from this training kit.**

**Pass it on to the whole community.**

Have a look at the DVD which is also available on-line through Longdon's website or the BHF site. Type in: How to use a defibrillator



Stretch and Relax class members have a go

Contact Val who is willing to help other groups, 07737272085  
(valpassey@yahoo.com)

or Bryony to book the equipment yourself for your group  
bryonylindley@gmail.com





## Telephone ...

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

### Christ Church, Gentleshaw

Revd Lynn McKeon

01543 670739

Email: [lynn.mckeon@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn.mckeon@btinternet.com)

### St James The Great, Longdon

Revd Jan Waterfield

01543 410751 or 07905 539 111

Email: [janwaterfield@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janwaterfield@blueyonder.co.uk)

Dial-A-Ride Village Community Bus Service

**01283 512705 or**

**01283 544320**

Book by latest 4pm day before travel

Service runs Mon-Fri 9.30am-3pm

Adult return £3.50 single £2.50

Children 5-11 £2.40 r £1.20 s 11-15yrs £2.50 r £1.50 s

Older/Disabled persons pass holder FREE

Booking lines are open: Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.

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**"When you need someone to turn to and help you carry out the last wishes of your loved one, or to help you to plan the funeral you know they would want, please call me, anytime, day or night,**

Sincerely, Lynn Marshall"

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**01543 490 381**

**Or mobile**

**0789 623 9288**

Horse drawn funeral carriage available.

## VILLAGE PLANNER 2017

If you are planning an event in the village let us know the date 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.

The editor or

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



### GOING FOR GOLD

Having won a Silver award for **St James Church churchyard** last year as well as a wildlife award, we plan to go for Gold this year.

Research has shown just how many people use our churchyards on a regular basis, either walking, maybe with the dog, or sitting and enjoying the views for quiet contemplation with loved ones. We want you all to have a good experience when you visit.

We are putting together a plan of work to carry out. We rely on Dennis who mows our lawns regularly throughout the season and the rest of the work is completed by volunteers who meet regularly on the second Saturday of the month from March. We plan to meet this year on the last Friday of the month AS WELL. Both times from 10-12. Coffee and even cake is provided. If you enjoy gardening or just want to get out in the fresh air, keep fit and enjoy others company then come and join us. Just bring your favourite gardening tools with you. This is your churchyard and we *really need you* to help us to get that gold and to make Longdon Churchyard a special place to visit.

For further information phone Graham (Ground force co-ordinator) on 01543 490681 or

Pam (Church warden) on 01543 490194.

Day	Date	Event/ Organisation	Venue/ Time	Contact
Sat	11-Mar	GROUND FORCE	St James Churchyard 10-12	Graham 490681
Tue	14-Mar	St Giles Friends, Banquet	Must restaurant	
Wed	15-Mar	Flower Club- Book Title	St Giles Friends 7.30	Irene 490135
Thur	16-Mar	COFFEE MORNING	10.30 Fairfield House, Borough Lane	
Sat	18-Mar	<i>Messy Church</i>	St James Church	
Sat	25-Mar			
Fri	31-Mar	Friday ground force	St James Churchyard 10-12	
Sat	1-Apr	<b>St Giles Friends, Easter Themed Open House.</b>	Eastcote Stockings Lane	Gladys 491760
Wed	5-Apr	WI	WI Hall 7.30	
Sat	8-Apr	GROUND FORCE	St James Churchyard 10-12	Graham 490681
Sat	15-Apr			
Sun	16-Apr	Easter Day		
Wed	19-Apr	COFFEE MORNING	Levanto, Upper Way	
Sat	22-Apr			
Fri	28-Apr	Friday ground force	St James Churchyard 10-12	
Sat	29-Apr			
Wed	3-May	WI	WI Hall 7.30	
Sat	6-May			
Sun	7-May	St Giles Friends Plant sale	WI Hall	Gladys 491760
Wed	10-May	COFFEE MORNING	10.30 Brook End House	
Sat	13-May	GROUND FORCE	St James Churchyard 10-12	Graham 490681
Tue	16-May	<b>Flower Demonstration and Afternoon Tea</b>	St James Church	
Sat	20-May	<i>Messy Church</i>	St James Church	
Fri	26-May	Friday ground force	St James Churchyard 10-12	
Sat	27-May			
Sat	3-June			
Wed	7-Jun	WI	WI Hall 7.30	
Sat	10-Jun	GROUND FORCE	St James Churchyard 10-12	Graham 490681
Sat	17-Jun	<i>Messy Church</i>	St James Church	
Fri	23-Jun	<b>History Talk Evening</b>	St James Church	
Sat	24-Jun			
Fri	30-Jun	Friday ground force	St James Churchyard 10-12	
Sat	1-Jul			
Wed	5-Jul	WI	WI Hall 7.30	
Sat	8-Jul	GROUND FORCE	St James Churchyard 10-12	Graham 490681
Sat	15-Jul	<i>Messy Church</i>	St James Church	
Sat	22-July	<b>St Giles Friends CHETFEST</b>	The Chetwyn Arms, Upper Longdon	Gladys 491760
Fri	28-July	<b>Sausage Sizzle at Sunset</b>	St James Church at the West Door 7pm	
Sat	29-July			



