

# Christmas Tree

The newsletter for the parish of St Helen's  
Dec 2021/Jan 2022 Issue 100

Newsletter website:

[sites.google.com/site/LonghorsleyTree](https://sites.google.com/site/LonghorsleyTree)

or [tinyurl.com/LonghorsleyTree](https://tinyurl.com/LonghorsleyTree)

or Google "Longhorsley Tree"

## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



This Christmas scene was created by 6 year old Angharad who is in year 2 at St Helen's C of E First School. This artwork was selected from 71 created by the children - you can see them all on the newsletter website. When you see them all you'll appreciate how difficult it was to choose one.

The **Longhorsley Tree** is edited and delivered by a team of volunteers organised by St Helen's Church. We are indebted to Longhorsley Parish Council for funding the publication.

## Outgoing Editors

Well this is it. Our 100th, and final, edition of the newsletter as editors.

It's been an honour and a pleasure to provide a service with the added bonus of getting to know so many hard working people here who organise and run events and clubs, churches and businesses, the school, charity collections, the village hall committee, and the Parish Councillors and County Councillor who all do their best to maintain or improve village life and infrastructure. We are so lucky to live in this village with so many assets and have so many people who care about it.

Thanks to all who have supported us, especially St. Helen's Church and the Parish Council, and everyone who has contributed articles, supplied photos for the calendar or placed adverts over the years. Special thanks to Mary and her team who deliver the newsletter through your doors each month - even throughout the pandemic. You've all played your part.

Many thanks to you all.

**Alan and Sue**

---

## New Editors

We are delighted to announce the team that will be editing the newsletter from January 1st.

The team will be led by Jan and Sheena Haveman

☎ 07834 740649 ✉ [Longhorsley.Tree@gmail.com](mailto:Longhorsley.Tree@gmail.com)

Norman Douglas will cover parish council and county council matters

☎ 07485 174529 ✉ [norman.douglas@longhorsley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:norman.douglas@longhorsley-pc.gov.uk)

Olive Light will manage advertising

☎ 07907 714455 ✉ [longhorsley.adverts@gmail.com](mailto:longhorsley.adverts@gmail.com)

To give the new team more time to prepare their first edition the last date for submissions for the February edition will be **January 15th**.

You can email, phone or leave short articles in the Village Shop.

---

## Neighbourhood Policing Team

There was an attempted 'relay attack' theft of a car in Whitegates.

Nothing was stolen but the police advise residents to get a Faraday Pouch for their smart keys to block out telematics signals.

Our Neighbourhood Beat Manager, PC Andrea Teasdale, is on secondment at the moment. If you wish to report any incident please contact Northumbria Police on 101 or in an emergency 999.

You can also report using the 'Contacts' page of [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Alternatively you can pass information anonymously via Crime Stoppers at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or 0800 555 111.

## **COVID-19 Update** (was Breaking News)

NCC reports that Covid case rates in Northumberland remain high and have been increasing in some age groups other than school age children, which is a real cause of concern. Our NHS services are under significant pressure and have been for some weeks now. This is resulting in significant waiting times. What is most concerning is that this is occurring in early November, before we would normally expect winter pressures to have an impact.

These are the six top things that everyone can do to protect themselves:

1. Getting both vaccine doses gives the best protection against Covid-19
2. Getting your booster gives you stronger immunity
3. Hands, face, space and fresh air helps reduce the virus spreading
4. Wearing a mask protects you and others as COVID-19 is airborne
5. Meeting outside is best as Covid particles can be blown away
6. Testing regularly helps identify cases to stop the virus spreading

Home testing kits are available at the Village Shop - no need to ask, just collect them from the front window ledge of the shop.

The vaccination programme has been widened so that everyone over 40 is eligible for their booster and 16- and 17-year-olds are being asked to come forward for their second vaccine.

More details on the web version of the newsletter.

---

## **Remembrance**

St Helen's C of E First School held their annual Remembrance Service on the Village Green which had been poppy bombed with over 800 poppies by the WI, Embroidery Group, Art Club and others.



## LOCAL EVENTS

**highlights**  
rural touring scheme

and Wingates Village Institute Hall present



### **Martin Harley, Live in Concert**

**Saturday December 11th at 7.30pm**

Spellbinding musicianship from this internationally revered artist, exploring roots, blues and slide guitar.

Advance bookings only - tickets will be limited.

We will be adhering to the current Covid safety guidelines.

Adult - £10, Child - £5, Family (2+2) - £25, Concession - £8

To book ✉ [famelton@rothbury.net](mailto:famelton@rothbury.net) ☎ 01669 620512

More information and online bookings 🌐 [highlightsnorth.co.uk](http://highlightsnorth.co.uk)

## **NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**

**Longhorsley Village Hall**

7pm-11.45pm

Suggested donation £5 per family

Music and Entertainment

Bring your own drinks • Pooled supper



## **New Year's Eve Lighting of the Beacon**



COVID regulations permitting,  
see in the New Year with the traditional  
Lighting of the Beacon at midnight.  
Longhorsley Village Green, from 11:45pm



## **Defibrillator Training**

**Saturday 22nd January at 10am in Longhorsley Village Hall**

For anyone who would like to learn how to perform CPR and use the defibrillator or have a refresher. To book a place please contact

**Jane Gibson** ☎ 788711 ✉ [stephen848gibson@btinternet.com](mailto:stephen848gibson@btinternet.com)

## LOCAL EVENTS



### CHRISTMAS SERVICES ALL CHURCHES

All services depend on Government guidelines in force at the time.

Changes and additions will be announced in Breaking News and Church Notice Boards.

#### Christmas Service at Longhorsley Mission

The **Christmas Service** at Longhorsley Mission will be held on **Sunday 19th December** at 11am. All are welcome.

#### Christmas Services St Thomas's

**Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve 7:30pm - Vigil Mass**

**Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day 11:15am - Mass**

**Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day) 11:15am - Mass**

#### Christmas Services of St Helen's Church of England

**Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve 4 pm - Carols and Readings**  
on the Village Green

**Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve 11:30pm - Midnight Mass**  
side Hall Longhorsley Mission

**Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day 10am - Holy Communion**  
side hall Longhorsley Mission

**Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day) 10 am - Holy Communion**  
side hall Longhorsley Mission



#### Light up a Life at Home 6pm on 6th December



**HospiceCare**  
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND  
Caring for Life

An opportunity to remember you loved ones and honour their memory in a shared moment of quiet reflection in your own home.

Join us on Facebook at 5:45pm on 6th December to watch a short video of reflective thoughts before the lighting of our candles at 6pm.

For information and donations please visit [hospicecare-nn.org.uk](https://www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk)

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

Toddlers' Group		Every	Ths	9:15am-11am	L'horsley V Hall	Term-time	Joanna Reilly 07739 321737		
Mother and Toddler Group		Every	Tue	9:30am-11:30am	Mission	Term-time	Win Pagan 788263		
Bible Club		Every	Frd	6pm-7pm	Mission	Term-time	Ian Pagan 788263		
Playgroup		Every	Mon	10:30am-6pm	L'horsley V Hall	Term-time	07522 486910 07522 486953		
		Every	T-Th	7:30am-6pm					
		Every	Frd	7:30am-1:30pm					
Ballet Class	5-6 yrs	Every	Frd	Time tbc	L'horsley V Hall	Term-time	Miss Becky 07944 659090		
	7-9 yrs	Every	Frd	Time tbc					
Junior Football Club		Apr-Oct on the Common			Nov-Mar MUGA			Steven Dick 07803 026786 Ben McMorrow 07970 840587 Andrew Archibald 07810 115152	
		<9	Every	Tue	6pm-7pm	Every	Tue		6pm-7pm
		<10	Every	Tue	6pm-7pm	Every	Tue		7pm-8pm
		<11	Every	Tue	6pm-7pm	Every	Ths		6pm-7pm
		<12	Every	Tue	6pm-7pm	Every	Ths		7pm-8pm
<13	Please contact Steven, Ben or Andrew.								
Cinema Club		2nd	Sat	6:30pm doors 7pm film	L'horsley V Hall	Restart date tbc	Clive or Pattie 788554		
Longhorsley Carpet Bowls		Every	Mon	7pm-9pm	L'horsley V Hall	Sept-June	Alan Etchells 788847		
Wingates Carpet Bowls		Every	Wed	7:30pm	Wingates V I Hall	Oct-May	Heather 01670 778413		
Wingates Bridge Club		Every	Tue	7:30pm-10pm	Online for now		Neil Fowler 07770 641385		
Wingates Reading Group		2nd	Ths	7:30pm	Online for now	<b>Dec 9th</b> <b>Jan 13th</b>	David Sayer 01670 772225		
Embroidery Group		1st	Frd	2pm	L'horsley V Hall	Not Jan	Daphne Morrison 788547		
Art Group		2nd 4th	Frd	2pm-4:30pm	L'horsley V Hall	Not July or Aug	Maureen Taylor 788508		
Local History Society		2nd Tue alt months		7:30pm	L'horsley V Hall	<b>Jan 11th</b>	Derek Knox 788329		
St Helen's Coffee Morning		1st	Sat	10am	L'horsley V Hall	<b>Dec 4th</b>	Mary Stephenson 788232		
Coffee and Chat		Alt	Wed	10am	Suspended until further notice		Mary Stephenson 788232		
Wildlife Trust		1st	Mon	7:30pm	Jubilee Rothbury	<b>Dec 6th</b> <b>Jan 10th</b>	Conrad Chilvers 788351		
Longhorsley WI		1st	Ths	7:30pm	L'horsley V Hall	<b>Dec 2nd</b> <b>Jan 6th</b>	Marian Chilvers 788351		

Women Together	Every	Ths	10:45am-12pm	Mission		Win Pagan 788263
Christian Vision for Men	Last	Sat	8:30am	Anglers Arms	<b>Dec 13th Jan 29th</b>	Jim Cockburn 510130
Walking Group	1st	Mon	10am	SofM or start	<b>See below</b>	Jan & Sheena 07801 005634
	3rd	Ths				
Exercise to Music	Every	Mon	9:15am-10:15am	L'horsley V Hall		Mary Stephenson 788232
Adult 5-a-side	Every	Sun	6:30/7pm	MUGA or Common		Steven Bates 07793 888 311
Yoga Class	Every except	Ths 1st	7pm-8:15pm	L'horsley V Hall		Gordon Smith 07703 581171
Body Blitz	Every	Wed	6:30pm-7:15pm	L'horsley V Hall		David Johnston 07887 350842
Zumba	Every	Frd	7pm-7:45pm	L'horsley V Hall		Mariana Santiago-Mallaburn  <a href="mailto:mariana007.zumba.com">mariana007.zumba.com</a>

## Walking Group

The walks are usually 4 to 6 miles long and it's a good idea to bring a drink and energy snack on the walk.

Where suitable there may be the option of a picnic lunch.

The planned walks for December, January and February are:



**Thursday 9th December:** Simonside (Christmas walk with lunch option), organised by **Sheena and Jan** ☎ **07801 005634**.

**Monday 3rd January:** Seaton Sluice, organised by **Penny** ☎ **788278**.

**Thursday 20th January:** Druridge, organised by **Brenda** ☎ **788470**.

**Monday 7th February:** details of the walk TBC.

**Thursday 17th February:** Bothal, organised by **Tracey** ☎ **07528 014772**.

For more information please contact **Jan & Sheena** ☎ **07801 005634**

## Wingates Reading Group

The Wingates Reading Group are meeting on Zoom again to see us over the winter months. If you'd like to join or just a discussion about how it all works, please contact **David Sayer** ☎ **07952 743448** ✉ [saydj23@aol.com](mailto:saydj23@aol.com)

All members get to choose a book to add to the list and any book can be included. In recent times we've had sci-fi and crime fiction, history, a book of essays so we're happy to read anything.

Over the next few months we'll be reading:

Dec 9th Restless by William Boyd, chosen by Valerie

Jan 13th Conundrum by Jan Morris, chosen by Neil

Feb 10th The Beekeepers Apprentice by Laurie R King, chosen by Roger

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

### St. Helen's Coffee Morning

Our next Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 4th December** at 10am in Longhorsley Village Hall. Raffle and stall as usual and all are welcome to come and enjoy a relaxing coffee with friends.



**PLEASE NOTE** There will not be a Coffee Morning in January.

**Mary Stephenson** ☎ 788232

---

### Longhorsley WI

Our November meeting, enjoyed by 12 members, was a very interesting talk by Nick Johnson describing his involvement in the Northumbria Veteran Tree Project. This aims to register and maintain specific categories of these trees for the future and for the enjoyment of the public. Many thanks to all of you (and friends) who knitted or crocheted poppies for the wonderful display on the village green. Special thanks must go to Val Douglas for initiating the idea and for motivating us all into producing a total of 878 poppies and organising displaying them. They certainly seem to have been appreciated by the village.



A quick reminder that we meet at 6.30 for 7.00pm in the Shoulder of Mutton on **Thursday 2nd December** for our Christmas meal. 18 members have booked and we look forward to celebrating safely together.

We next meet on **Thursday 6th January '22**, back in the Village Hall at 7.30pm for a New Year social evening including a humorous talk entitled 'Funny Bones & Wisdom Teeth' by dentist, Dr Ray Lowry.

We wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

### Mary and Marian

Any information, please contact **Marian Chilvers**, Secretary ☎ 788351

---

### Local History Society

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 11th January** in Longhorsley Village Hall will be a 'New Year Social' with wine and nibbles. We will have a display of items from the cabinet and our archive and our resident experts will be on hand to talk about our village's 'treasures' and answer your questions.

It would be a great help if you could bring some savouries/Christmas leftovers for the 'nibbles'. Drinks will be available including tea and coffee.

We will be open from 7pm. Feel free to drop in between then and 8:30pm.

Contact **Derek Knox** ☎ 788329 ✉ [derekknnox6710@gmail.com](mailto:derekknnox6710@gmail.com)

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Christian Vision for Men

The Christian Vision for Men group is back having its monthly breakfasts at the Angler's Arms, now that lockdown restrictions have eased.



In December, however, rather than having a breakfast, we have a Christmas Dinner at the Angler's, which this year will be on **Monday 13th December** at 7pm. The cost is £22 for a two-course meal and £25 for a three-course meal.

Our first breakfast of the New Year will be on **Saturday 29th January** at 8.30am. Our speaker that morning will be Leo Osborn, formerly President of the Methodist Conference, and who will speaking on "Chaplain or Charlie?". The charge for those attending is £9.

For more information and to book a place at either event, please contact **Jim Cockburn** ☎ **01670 510130** ✉ [jim.cockburn@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.cockburn@btinternet.com)

---

### Northumberland Wildlife Trust - Coquetdale Group

We meet on the first Monday of each month from September to April at the Jubilee Hall, Rothbury. Outings/visits are organised in the summer months. Guests are very welcome and a fee of £3 is charged.

Doors open at 7pm with tea and coffee available for a small donation.

**Dec 6th** at 7.30pm. "Benshaw Moor, Northumberland Wildlife Trust Reserve"- a talk by Duncan Hutt.

**Jan 10th** at 7.30 pm. "Two Squirrel Families"- a talk by Ian Glendinning. Contact **Conrad Chilvers** ☎ **788351**

---

### Wingates Bridge Club

We're playing online via 🌐 [www.trickstercards.com](http://www.trickstercards.com) every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Although we are cancelled for the time being we are sending out regular puzzles and tips by email.

Please contact me if you want to join in.

**Neil** ☎ **07770 641385** ✉ [neildfowler1@aol.com](mailto:neildfowler1@aol.com)

---

### Exercise to Music

We are continuing to exercise in Longhorsley Village Hall on Monday mornings 9.15am to 10.15am. Covid rules for face coverings on entry and social distancing still apply and doors and windows will be open for ventilation. We will take a break from the **20th December** and resume again on the **10th January 2022**.

Sessions are in conjunction with Age UK - our instructor is Shirley Forster.

**Mary Stephenson** ☎ **788232**



## St Helen's Church Sunday Services:

10am Holy Communion

St Helen's Church is still out of use following the incident in June. We are very grateful to Ian Pagan for enabling us to use Longhorsley Mission for worship.

See page 5 for details of all Christmas Services.

You are reminded that you must not attend if you have any of the symptoms of Covid-19. Please remember to comply with social distancing rules and wear a face covering.



## PCC Meeting

The next meeting of the PCC is **19th January 2022**.



## St Helen's Contact Details

Vicar: Audrey McCartan ☎ 708806  
 ✉ [audreymccartan@btinternet.com](mailto:audreymccartan@btinternet.com)

Website: 🌐 [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

Wardens: David Pringle ☎ 788283 (Treasurer)  
 Stephen Gibson ☎ 788711 (Secretary)

## Longhorsley Tree 2022 Calendar

Our 2022 calendar costs £7.50 with the profit going to Longhorsley Village Hall. Each A4 page has a local view - see them all on the newsletter website.

You can buy calendars at the Village Shop or directly from **Alan & Sue** ☎ 788847



## Longhorsley Village Hall Sweepstake November Winners

1st Prize	£50	Mrs Alcock	3rd Prize	£15	Penny Ford
2nd Prize	£25	Janice Ritchie	4th Prize	£10	Barry Lewis

2022 draws start from January and we will be collecting money for the new year from early January. There are still some spare numbers left so anyone who wants to join or may want an extra number please let us know.

**Garry or Janice** ☎ 788986 or 07713 583311 ✉ [garry7256@aol.com](mailto:garry7256@aol.com)

## Safe Home! An Airfield Cross - The Christmas Christ

I'm writing this on 11 November, Remembrance Day. Rooted in unbelievable losses of life in WW1, the anniversary of the Armistice that ended that conflict remains a significant day of national reflection and remembrance.

When WW1 began, powered flight was relatively young - the Wright brothers had only taken to the skies eleven short years earlier. That said, the British military quickly recognised its potential and founded the Royal Flying Corps in 1912. The first planes were tested in artillery spotting and aerial photography. Then war quickly led to conflict with the enemy.

An airfield was built at Ashington in 1916. The site can still be found north of the A197 on an unclassified road to Longhirst. Before and after being requisitioned it was and is an agricultural field.



© Ian Hall. Used by permission

Even today it contains a very distinctive identifying feature, a copse of trees cut into the shape of a cross - with arms pointing NSEW like a compass - by which it is said pilots lined up their planes for landing. Making the cross their focus got them safe home!

But wait, what connection have Remembrance Day and Ashington airfield with December, with Christmas you rightly ask? Especially this Christmas where things could be nearly normal, where families can gather to celebrate as they should? Well let me say unreservedly that we all hope that will happen, that we can all enjoy Christmas.

And your focus as Christmas approaches? Present shopping, card writing, Christmas music, Advent calendars, parties, crisp walks, snow, Christmas films, festive meal(s)? All good in their place, so enjoy. But whatever you enjoy, don't miss the real focus, Jesus Christ born in a stable hidden behind an inn, born to save. Seen only by his mother Mary, Joseph, local shepherds and a group of foreign kings, but one day returning when God says clearly that every eye shall see Him. My mother loved an old carol which had lines like these:

*What have those who've never listened to the message of Christ's birth?  
No real Christmas, only Winter; fail to know God's peace on earth.*

If that's you, make Jesus Christ your focus and this your song:

*Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation:  
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.  
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,  
But a humble gift of love, Jesus, born of Mary.*

**David Marlow**, Longhorsley Mission



## St Thomas Catholic Church

Every Monday and Thursday ~ Mass at 12noon  
Every Sunday ~ Mass at 11:15am.

You no longer need to book a place at a service but social distancing and mask wearing precautions are still in place.

Contact **Fr Shaun Purdy** 📞 **01670 812 200**

✉ [longhorsley.stthomas@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:longhorsley.stthomas@rcdhn.org.uk)

🌐 [www.stthomaslonghorsley.com](http://www.stthomaslonghorsley.com)

See page 5 for details of all Christmas Services.

---

## Your County Councillor

Like everyone else I am sure, I will miss Jan and Ian's super-friendly welcome that we have grown used to for a lot of years. So thank you very much to them, and best wishes to the new faces who are taking their place.

The County Council is now beginning to fix its budget for next year which is never a particularly Christmassy experience as we always seem to have to find savings, but I am very anxious not to cut our front line services the staff in which have done us proud over the last difficult eighteen months.

And we are looking at our roads programme for next year. I am hoping to get some traffic calming for the East and West roads and some refreshing of the A697 surfacing through some of the village and - although this won't be easy - an improved crossing on the North Road.

In the meantime please get in touch with me anytime and best wishes for a happy Christmas.

**Glen Sanderson 07730 979 737** [glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk)

---

## Bird Flu (was Breaking News)

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been declared across the whole of Great Britain to mitigate the risk of bird flu spreading amongst poultry and captive birds. Enhanced measures apply to keepers with more than 500 birds but all bird owners, including backyard owners must follow minimum biosecurity measures to help control the disease.

If you find dead wild birds you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77 - please select option 7).

Do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find.

More details on the web version of the newsletter.

## Mission Free Church



Sunday morning services continue at the Mission at 11am.

See page 5 for details of all Christmas Services.

No further services are planned at present. Please remember to comply with social distancing rules and wear a face covering. You are reminded that you must not attend if you have any of the symptoms of Covid-19.

Contact **Ian Pagan** ☎ **788263** ✉ [idpagan@waitrose.com](mailto:idpagan@waitrose.com)

Website: 🌐 [www.longhorsleymission.org.uk](http://www.longhorsleymission.org.uk)

---

### TAKEAWAY FOOD in LONGHORSLEY

**The Shoulder of Mutton** is open and offering takeaways every day

Sunday lunches 12-6pm ~ Monday to Saturday 5pm-8pm

See their menu at 🌐 [shoulderofmuttonpub.com](http://shoulderofmuttonpub.com) ~ phone 788236 to order

**Pizzeria Padre** at West Moor Farm (by Forget Me Not Country Park) is open for collection every **Thursday & Saturday** 5pm – 8pm

**Closed from December 30th to January 15th – reopens January 20th**

Order by 5pm Tuesday for Thursday or 5pm Thursday for Saturday.

See the menu and place orders at 🌐 [pizzeriapadre.com](http://pizzeriapadre.com)

**The Flying Fryer** every **Friday** from 4pm to 7pm, or later

**They won't be here Fridays December 24th & 31st**

Please remember to keep 2m apart when queuing.

Facebook [The Flying Fryer](https://www.facebook.com/TheFlyingFryer) ☎ 07984 426 725

**Dou\_h&co** are here alternate **Thursdays** 4:30pm – 7:30pm

Next visits are **December 2nd & 16th** and **January 13th**

Pre-ordering only ☎ 07507 834 628 from Tuesday 9am each week.

You will be allocated a collection time and be sent a payment link.

See their menu on the [Dou\\_h & Co](https://www.facebook.com/Dou_h&Co) Facebook page

**Mivesi Naan Truck** have not notified us of any future visits.

For updates see the [Mivesi](https://www.facebook.com/Mivesi) Facebook page.

## Post Office in Longhorsley Village Hall

Mon 9am-12:15pm ~ Tues 9:15am-10:45am ~ Fri 11:30am-1:30pm.

Not open on Bank Holidays - **December 27th & 28th** and **January 3rd**

Please note that this Outreach Service cannot accept large parcels.

## December Tweets along Old Church Wood

Small flocks of Goldfinches are around the perimeter path and can be encountered flitting to and from the sapling Alders and the boundary trees. Although frequently seen in gardens, you can hear their musical twittering contact calls more easily here than through your window. Reed Buntings are likely to hang on throughout the winter, again mostly around the edge. These are quite large finches, and the males often sit still on prominent perches.

A mixed flock of tits and finches is often amongst the mature trees in the Churchyard, and a Treecreeper or a Nuthatch are the bonus birds to be seen amongst them. Anything small and brown and always creeping up the bark of a tree is a Treecreeper, though it can also hang from the underside of a bough. It will move along at the pace of the flock, presumably benefiting from the group vigilance. A Nuthatch will be noisier and more noticeable even though high up. Like the Queen on the chessboard, these birds go in any direction on the tree. They are frequent visitors to peanut feeders now, so if you have a feeder it could afford you a closer view, and without a crick in your neck.

Another opportunity to record your garden birds is on 28-30 Jan 2022 with the Big Garden Birdwatch – see  [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

**Andrew Brunt**  **788352**

For more information about birds in Northumberland, visit the Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club website at  [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

---

## Stay Safe when Buying Online

NCC recommend buying locally wherever possible, but their Trading Standards team has some simple tips if you are shopping online from businesses you don't know.

Full details on the web version of the newsletter.

---

## Ultrafast Broadband Project Update

Incom have installed their communications cabinet in Longhorsley Village Hall and once the fibre source is available they will start building the infrastructure. They hope to start connecting properties in February. The hall should have free ultrafast internet access before then.

## **ALL CHANGE AT THE VILLAGE STORE**

### **Ian and Jan Millar**

Well they've gone and done it again, the wonderful folk of Longhorsley! Just as we were leaving the shop on Sunday (14<sup>th</sup> Nov) to make our way home, we were met by an unexpected welcoming party of villagers lying in wait to give us a round of applause and many kind words, gifts and cards, thanking us for our almost 14 years of devotion and commitment to the village shop. [See a photo on the newsletter website]

We were not only utterly surprised by this wonderful heartfelt gesture but very humbled and grateful for your kindness.

We would also like it to be known to everyone who was present on Sunday, and to all our customers who have supported the shop for many years that we were privileged to run your village store. Every day was a pleasure for us, serving the nicest of people who respected us and showed us such gratitude and kindness.

We will always hold Longhorsley and it's many good people in our hearts. We will never forget you and we will always miss you, and Thank you for all those happy days we shared together.

Keep smiling, **Ian & Jan** and **A Very Merry Christmas to You All**

---

### **New Owners of the Village Store**

Allow us to introduce ourselves; we are Toby, Matty & Dave, three lads from Newcastle with a wealth of experience in hospitality, retail and a particular passion for speciality coffee! For us, this next exciting venture in Longhorsley is something we've been looking forward to for a while.

Throughout all the various lockdowns, come rain, shine or horizontal hailstones, we've been serving the people of Gosforth, Jesmond and the Quayside from our humble fleet of Coffee Vans.

For the most part, we'll be diligently running the shop in much the same way as Jan & Ian have been doing all these years, but with some gradual additions here and there to put our own fresh spin on things. We can't wait to welcome you all in and get to know our new neighbourhood!

We'd like to thank Jan and Ian for all their wisdom, patience and guidance while showing us the ropes during this handover period. We wish them all the very best for a happy retirement.

### **Toby, Matty & Dave**

#### **Village Store Holiday Closures**

Normal hours apart from Christmas Eve open 7:30am-1pm

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day

## THANKS

### Harvey Foster

Dear friends, thank you all for the cards of sympathy and condolence that you sent to me after Harvey, my son, died in a paragliding accident in the Alps in late September. Knowing I have so many good friends helped me tremendously through the hard times. I'm sorry about the lateness of these thanks but I have only just managed to get my head around it. Once again thank you for all your kind thoughts.

**Harry Foster**

### Keith Cummings

Thank you to everyone in Longhorsley and Morpeth for cards, flowers and for attending Keith's funeral. He died after a very long illness but is now at peace.

My family and I were very grateful for the generous £600 donations raised in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and the Spinal Injuries Association. We have lived in the village 36 years and have always received kindness and respect which has helped at this very sad time.

Sincerely **Sylvia Cummings**

## *The Longhorsley Ball*

Many thanks to all those who have bought tickets for this year's Longhorsley Ball at Linden Hall - we hope you enjoy your evening!

With best wishes from the **Longhorsley Ball Committee**

### The Children's Society

A huge thank you to all my box holders this year who have raised the wonderful total of £677.97.

This Charity, which has been in operation for 140 years, works to transform the lives of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. They are one of the first points of contact by Police when they find a child in trouble or danger after running away from home. Our donations help to fund Project Workers who will provide a vital lifeline to these children.

If anyone would like more information and would consider having a box themselves please contact me.

**Audrey Wiggins** ☎ 01670 788692 ✉ [swigginsa@btinternet.com](mailto:swigginsa@btinternet.com)

## THANKS

### Nicholas (Sam) Lough

The family of Nicholas (Sam) would like to thank everyone for their sincere thoughts and cards following Sam's passing. It meant a lot. We received the wonderful total of £914.50p in donations for Sam's Charities. Thank You.

**Anthea Lough**



### Coffee Morning in aid of British Legion Poppy Appeal

A huge THANK YOU to all who supported this Coffee Morning. Thanks for donations to stall, raffle and monetary donations. We were successful in raising £155:20 for the Appeal.

**Mary Stephenson ☎ 788232**

### Operation Christmas Child

Please can I thank everyone for their generosity and between the village and the school this year we made 54 shoe boxes!

**Freya**



## CAN YOU HELP?

### Longhorsley Village Playgroup Christmas Cake Raffle!

You could win this delicious Christmas Cake made by one of our children's mums.

Raffle Tickets only £1 ~ all proceeds going to Playgroup.

The Raffle will be drawn on **10th December**.

The finished cake will be available from 20th December.



Allergy advice: The cake contains eggs, dairy, gluten, cherries and sultanas soaked in Amaretto!



Our collection bin is now inside the entrance of Longhorsley Village Hall.

Please leave donations of food, toiletries, and household items such as toilet rolls and cleaning materials in the bin.

If you wish to make a cash donation instead you can find details on their website [🌐 wansbeckvalleyfoodbank.org](http://www.wansbeckvalleyfoodbank.org)

**Sue Etchells ☎ 788847**

## Longhorsley Parish Council

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on **8th Dec & 12th Jan** in the Village Hall, starting at 7pm, with a parishioner slot at 8pm. Meeting notices are displayed on village notice boards, with minutes and other info found on the Parish Council website [🌐 northumberlandparishes.uk/longhorsley](http://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhorsley)

*In the event that the meeting has to be moved to a ZOOM meeting, a notice will be placed on our website giving the joining instructions.*

Contact details for the current members are detailed below:

**Clerk:** Gillian Turner, 4 Lowther Close, Seaton Manor, Ashington, NE630HY  
☎ 01670 812704 or email ✉ [parishclerk@longhorsley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@longhorsley-pc.gov.uk)

**Chairman:** Iain Elliott ✉ [iain.elliott@longhorsley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:iain.elliott@longhorsley-pc.gov.uk)

**Councillors:** Kirsty Bell, Peter Boyle, Norman Douglas, Penny Ford, Andy Hedman and David Pringle.

### New Grit Bins/Heaps

In response to requests from residents, we have been working with Northumberland County Council to identify areas to install 2 new grit bins in readiness for the winter season. A new bin will be installed next to the litter bin at the Wilding Place Play Area and as this location does not score enough points using NCC criteria, the Parish Council has agreed to pay for its installation and filling.

Regarding the second location, Paxton Dene Banks, the Highways Inspector has looked into this one, but unfortunately a bin would not be suitable. Therefore, NCC will be putting Grit Heaps at numerous locations down the bank, similar to other areas like this throughout the county.

### Disposal of Dog-Poo Bags

Dog owners are reminded to dispose of dog-poo bags correctly and considerately. We have evidence that some owners are throwing bags into ditches and verges which is not acceptable. Please dispose of bags in a dog or litter bin, or take it home to dispose of in your household bin - remember, not disposing of a 'poo' bag correctly is also a dog fouling and littering offence.

Members of the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone  
**a Merry Christmas and  
a Peaceful & Safe New Year**



Finally, we would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Alan & Sue Etchells, as they stand down as editors of the Tree. We have appreciated all of their hard work and commitment over the years and wish them every good fortune in the years to come.

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



7 DAYS A WEEK  
Book on 788236

**Eat, Drink and be Merry this Christmas**



**December 1st to 23rd:**

Monday to Saturday: **Christmas Fayre**



**2 Courses £16:95 ~ 3 Courses £21:95**

**Book early to avoid disappointment**

**Sunday: Sunday Lunch Menu 12-6pm**

Full menus at [www.ShoulderOfMuttonPub.com](http://www.ShoulderOfMuttonPub.com)

**GreenThumb**  
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE



### Green Thumb

The leading lawn care specialists in the UK.  
Prices from just £15 per treatment.

**Wishing All Our Customers a  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Call us now on ☎ **0191 488 6202**

✉ [newcastle@greenthumb.co.uk](mailto:newcastle@greenthumb.co.uk)

## BEAUTY • MASSAGE • SKINCARE • HOLISTIC THERAPIES



**naturaplace**

With 25 years of experience  
Isobel North welcomes you to her  
home studio at 4 Whitegates.



☎ 07734 590993



Treatment list at 🌐 [naturaplace.co.uk](http://naturaplace.co.uk)

📘 [facebook.com/isobel.holistic](https://facebook.com/isobel.holistic)

📷 [instagram.com/isobel.holistic](https://instagram.com/isobel.holistic)

**Christmas Gifts & Vouchers available with complementary Eve Taylor gift wrap**



## Environmental Pest Management

Fully licenced and insured pest and vermin control.

Moles, rodents, rabbits, wasps and other insects.

**Residential ~ Agricultural ~ Estate ~ Commercial**

Contact Rory Brotherton ☎ 788174 or 07769 176666

🌐 [EnvironmentalPestManagement.co.uk](http://EnvironmentalPestManagement.co.uk) and [facebook](https://facebook.com/EnvironmentalPestManagement)

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



### STEPHENSONS GARAGE



Servicing & Repair, Winter Health Check,  
Tyres, Batteries and Exhausts

Office ☎ 01670 788 611

Mobile ☎ 07710 829437

✉ [stephensongarage@gmail.com](mailto:stephensongarage@gmail.com)

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Customers**

### Beauty Treat by Lisa

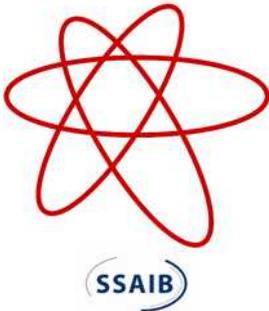
**Now at Dene House Farm, Longframlington**

Enjoy treatments in a tranquil and relaxing Salon.

Manicures, pedicures, facials, massage, waxing, tanning and more.

**To book please call or text me on 07944 451671**

**Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!**



### Atom Intruder Alarms

Commercial & Domestic Security Systems  
Alarm and CCTV  
Installation & Maintenance

For a free, no obligation quote contact

Mark Ingram ☎ 0191 428 3404

☎ 07860 471000 ✉ [mark@atomalarms.co.uk](mailto:mark@atomalarms.co.uk)

**Wishing You All a Merry Christmas**



### Professional Carpet Cleaning

Carpet Cleaning ~ Upholstery Cleaning

**Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Please contact us for a friendly and professional service

Newgate St., Morpeth ☎ 07506 622680 or 0191 2861200

[www.afr-carpetcleaning.co.uk](http://www.afr-carpetcleaning.co.uk)