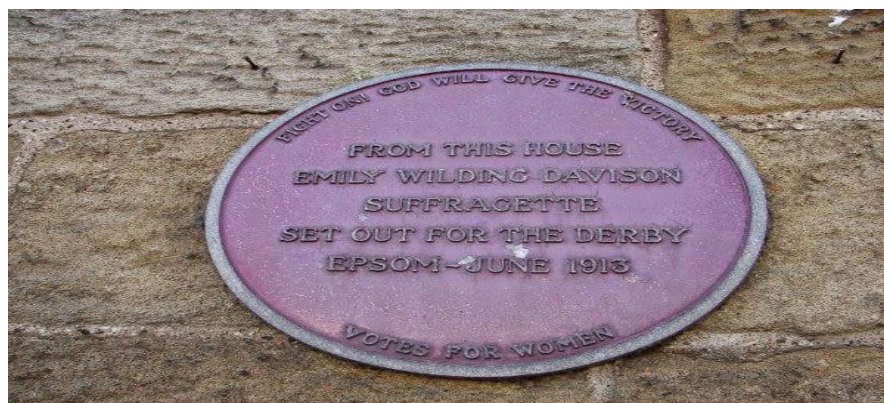


Longhorsley Parish Council

Annual Report 2023/24



Chairman's Report and Review of the Year 2023/24

During the past year we have had no changes to the members of the Parish Council and I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their valuable contribution during the year

My thanks also go to our county councillor, Glen Sanderson, for his continuing support in ensuring the issues raised by the Parish Council get the best possible attention.

Longhorsley continues to benefit from a comprehensive newsletter and breaking news facility and our thanks go to Jan and Sheena Haveman, along with their team, for all their hard work maintaining this on behalf of the Parish.

I would also like to extend thanks to our clerk, Gillian for keeping everything running smoothly, our handyman, Bob Paterson and our grounds maintenance contractor JP Garden Services.

Following the success of the King's coronation event last year some of the organising committee have banded together with some other volunteers from the village to organise a Longhorsley Village Fete which is to be held on 13 July this year. I would like to thank them all for the time and effort put into organising these events and I hope that it will not only be a great success this year but that it will also be the basis for a future annual event for the community.



The Parish Council will be supporting the 80th anniversary D Day celebrations this year and we have been confirmed as one of the national beacons to be lit on the village green on June 6th at 9.15, we hope to see a good turn-out for this event.

Planning applications and new developments always require serious consideration and often research. The development on the East Road has progressed this year with the village green at entrance being deregistered and sold to the developer. An area of village green of equivalent size is to be included in the development as part of the sale conditions.

The South Road development has also made some progress this year. The developer has changed from Calmont to Ascent Homes and the village green at the entrance has been deregistered and contracts exchanged for the sale of the land. Based on this progress, we allowed the entrance area to be cleared in anticipation of the completion, which is expected to be around June this year. The developer has agreed to remove some invasive species from the remaining village green in the area at their expense in consideration of this.

The Council continues to manage and maintain Archies Pond, Adamson Park, the Church View play area, the allotments, planters and flowers.



As I mentioned last year the annual safety inspections in the play areas had revealed a number of concerns with the Church View play area and I am pleased to say that we have been able to renew this play area this year which should ensure a safe place to play for the younger children in the village for many years to come.



Speeding on South Road continues to be a concern and this year we were able to get a speed survey done at the entrance to Church view. This showed that almost 90% of Southbound vehicles were travelling at more than 30 mph. Based on these results Cllr Sanderson is in discussion with the Police to arrange for a camera van to come to the village.

The Scheme of Management for Village Green has still to be completed. We are finding it difficult to progress this with NCC, the latest delay being the need to complete the land registrations from the developments on East and South Road, however, we are continuing to pursue this as vigorously as possible.

The Parish Award Scheme continues to be a great way to thank those who have made a significant contribution to the Parish, more on that later!

The Archie's Pond Nature Trail has now matured since its restoration and is once again a pleasant place to spend some time in the village.

Cllr Norman Douglas

Chairman

The Moor Report by Cllr Trevor Potts

Since the retirement of David Pringle, I have taken over the role as Chairman of the Moor Committee. David has been a hard act to follow and hopefully I can continue to build on his good work with the ongoing management of the Moor.



The past year has been a particularly busy one with the Moor Committee as we continue to meet on site bi-monthly from April to October. At these meetings, the animal husbandry has been monitored to ensure that both the ponies and sheep are in the best of health along with walking the full area to ensure any works requiring attention are noted and dealt with.

Over the last year we have also received an Agreement Compliance from Rural Payments Agency and approval of Stewardship Implementation Plan from Natural England which takes us up to 2026.

With the guidance of both RPA and Natural England we are also undertaking a Heath Management Plan and a Scrub Management Plan. These are being completed by George Dodds and will cover every aspect of the Moor regarding the most recent legislation.



Tom Voyce of Trevow Vegetation undertook substantial clearance to the South section of the Moor to allow the heather and other natural flora to regenerate.

Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions, a “burn” did not take place this year. However, we have also put in place a new Wildfire Risk Assessment for the Moor should any future incidents occur.



With the continued assistance of the River’s Trust, the watering hole, by the established burn, has undergone some minor repairs to ensure that there is always enough water for the animals on the Moor.

Continued maintenance such as strimming and clearance to the Cattle Grid continues as and when required.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Moor Committee for their hard work and dedication and assistance in managing this unique area.

Cllr Trevor Potts

Old Church Wood Report by Cllr Sarah Alcock



Our thanks go to Penny Ford, who stepped down this year as the coordinator of the Friends of Church Wood Group. Tim Fish has kindly taken over the reins from Penny.

We have had another successful (albeit wet) year in the care and development of the wood and the Old Church.

The Friends of Old Church Wood group has met several times over the last 12 months to check and maintain the new hedgerows around the perimeter, including checking the tree guards and strimming where necessary, to ensure the trees and hedgerows are growing well.

A big thank you to the volunteers who have kindly given up their time to help preserve this wonderful green space. In early Spring this year, the group had the pleasure of being observed by deer as they worked. We're always looking for new volunteers; we typically give two hours on a Sunday morning, four times each year. If you would like to get involved, please contact Tim or myself to find out more information.

The wildflowers grew well again last year and was a beautiful display of grasses and flowers in early summer. We cut the area back at the end of the summer and left the hay on the ground for the seeds to fall before removing it. We're looking into setting more space aside for wildflower meadows over the course of the next year. So, watch this space!

Our path contractor, James Chisholm, has done an excellent job of keeping the paths mown. Thank you for your hard work and advice over the last 12 months.

The wetland area developed in the SE corner provides an excellent habitat for biodiversity and much needed watering hole for wild animals. It has become more established over the last year and is often frequented by ducks, so do watch your dogs in this area if they are off the lead. Care should be exercised in this area as the water can be deep at times.

A number of people have dedicated trees in the coppice (set back from the main walkway to the church) to loved ones. Thank you to all who have donated and taken part in the care of the trees. If you are interested in dedicating a tree, please contact me for further information.

In addition to maintaining the Church Wood, The Friends of Old Church Wood Group have also worked hard over the last 12 months to develop and maintain wildflower beds inside the Old Church, making this a lovely peaceful spot for reflection. So, pop inside on your walks and take a look around!

Cllr Sarah Alcock



Finance Report by the Clerk

Un-Audited Accounts 2023/24

The Clerk provided the meeting with copies of the un-audited annual accounts for 2023/24. The accounts are currently being examined by the Internal Auditor, Gary Kennedy, before being presented to the Parish Council Meeting for approval in June.

She highlighted that all headings were more or less in comparison year-on-year with the addition of the one-off receipt for the sale of land re: the East Road Development (£190k) and one-off expenditure for the refurbishment of Church View Play Area (£75k).

Accounting Statements 2023/24	Year Ending 31 March 2023	Year Ending 31 March 2024
001. Balances brought forward	50,941	53,472
(+) Precept	24,660	27,200
(+) Other Receipts	27,526	207,163
(-) Staff Costs	7,528	8,078
(-) Loan/Capital repayments	0	0
(--) Other Payments	42,127	104,106
(=) Balances carried forward	53,472	175,651
Total value of cash and short-term investments	53,472	175,651
Total fixed assets plus long-term investments	253,824	258,654
Total borrowings	0	0
Disclosure note re Trust Funds	n/a	n/a

All of the year-end financial documents will be placed onto the Council's website

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhorsley> when signed-off by the Internal Auditor.

Longhorsley Community Awards 2024

In March 2024, parishioners were asked to nominate a person or organisation who they believed had enhanced the parish through:

- service to the community
- contributing to the life of the parish
- credit to Longhorsley's reputation
- charitable works
- selflessness

The number of nominations received determined who the deserving recipients would be. This year we have joint winners.... **Derek Knox, Anne Peat and Jane Pringle** – and our sincere congratulations go to you all.

Those parishioners who nominated the volunteers said the following kind words:

“Derek has done outstanding work with the local History Society. He does much research and is always posting items of interest on the Longhorsley Facebook page.

Both Derek and Billy have done a marvellous job in recording and keeping Longhorsley history alive. Their passion for the village and the characters and events that have shaped Longhorsley have been meticulously recorded. Derek has many photos of the minutiae of daily life that he shares on Facebook regularly. These posts evoke many memories of the life in the village, a different era and slower pace of life and long-gone residents. They are much appreciated by many. The efforts put into the History Society is considerable – finding engaging speakers, creating and curating resources and organising interesting displays.

He is indeed a mine of information of the history of the village we call home and can talk with such passion and when appropriate humour. I can think of no-one better to receive this award”.

“Anne rallied a variety of people from throughout the community to arrange the Coronation Day celebrations in May 2023. She brought together lots of different people and led the planning of the event which was a fantastic event for the village and community. It was done at short notice and Anne worked really hard on it, generating some great community spirit.

Jane and Anne volunteered to set up and run the Warm Space Coffee mornings in the Village Hall in 2022 and have continued to do so every Wednesday morning since. They put a great deal of hard work into this initiative. As well as providing tea, coffee and home baked scones and cakes, they provide companionship, practical and emotional support to more than 20 predominantly older village residents in a warm and friendly atmosphere, greatly enhancing the lives of many. This has been recognised by NCC and CAN and this award would be very fitting to recognise their hard work and thank them.

Jane also manages the Village Hall events effectively and Anne is the Parish Councils representative on the VH Committee.

Both Anne and Jane are welcoming and provide a lifeline for single households”.

