

# PARISH NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2021



*Longwick-cum-Ilmer  
Parish Council*



## Longwick-cum-Ilmer

Ilmer - Meadle - Longwick - Owlswick  
Horsenden - Little Meadle



# Welcome to the Parish Council

## Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2021.



Summer sunshine has now disappeared and start of the Autumn chills and temperature drops. The leaves are beginning to fall, with vibrant colours of ambers, reds and yellow. Shorter days, but we still have summer and autumn flowers bringing colour to our gardens and fields.

Keats calls this time of year “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”

The harvest has been gathered in and harvest festivals may have taken place in September or October depending on local tradition. At Harvest Festivals singing hymns, praying, and decorating the churches with baskets of fruit and food and flowers. Afterwards the food is given to the senior citizens or local community.

Next comes **Halloween**, held annually on **31<sup>st</sup> October**. The holiday has Christian origins dating back to 1745. Many people believe that most Halloween traditions originate from ancient Celtic harvest festival, but also celebrating ghosts and other scary themes.

**November 5<sup>th</sup> is Guy Fawkes night** which celebrates the foiled attempt to blow up the House of Parliament in 1605. The attack was planned by a group of Catholics to assassinate the Protestant King James 1 and VI of Scotland, and Guy Fawkes was one of them. He was caught guarding the Gunpowder. Fireworks displays take place or in gardens to remember this event.

Please remember not all pets love noisy flashing fireworks. Please keep your pets inside and stay with them if possible.

Winter times starts in December and continues to February when it becomes very cold, wet, damp, and miserable except when the ground looks beautiful covered with snow, often glistening in the winter sunshine. During this season the earth is actually closer to the sun, and the temperature drop has nothing to do with our location to the sun, it relates to the earth's tilt.

**Christmas** is the next main event. It is the annual festival which starts with Advent when holly wreaths were made with three pink, one white and one purple candle. **Christmas Day** is celebrated on **25<sup>th</sup> December**, and it traditionally celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, but a number of aspects of this holiday have pagan origins.

It is a time of giving and most families have a Christmas Tree that is an evergreen, a conifer or spruce that they decorate with baubles, ornaments, tinsel, and lights. The tree was traditionally decorated with roses made out of coloured paper, apples, wafers, and candles, but now lights have replaced candles.

It is tradition to share gifts which are placed around the tree ready for opening on Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, the children put out their stockings or pillowcases at the end of their beds hoping Father Christmas will leave presents. Notes for your diary:



Remembrance Sunday The Parish Council Remembrance Service will be on **Thursday 11 November 2021 at 11.00** by the War Memorial, outside Briants in Thame Road. We look forward to seeing you.

The Longwick Carol Singalong will be held in Longwick Village Hall on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.00pm**. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served after the event. We do hope you will join us for this festive occasion.



### Christmas Services.

**The Christmas Carol Service at St Peter's at Ilmer will be on Sunday 12 December at 6.00pm**

**Christmas Carols at St Peter's Owlswick: Sunday 19 December at 3.00pm. Further details to follow.**

If you have any articles you would like included in the next Spring/ Summer newsletter please send them to me by Monday 21st March 2022 to: [valthewillows@aol.com](mailto:valthewillows@aol.com)



**The Parish Council wishes everyone a  
Happy Christmas & New Year.**



# Longwick-cum-Ilmer Parish Council

## October 2021

The two key issues for the Parish Council over the past few months have been the longstanding proposal for the refurbishment of the Village Hall and the completion of the Parish Traffic Survey, but before covering those subjects in greater detail may I mention three recent concerns.

Sadly, a small number of people seem to believe that it is acceptable to take a dog into the children's play area – it is not, both from hygiene and safety reasons, so would you please stop doing so immediately. Secondly, whilst most people who walk their dogs on the playing field do clear up after their animals, a small minority deliberately do not bother to do so – may I just say to you that the CCTV system covering the field is noise and movement sensitive, and we have some images of the worst offenders and a couple of car registration numbers which have been sent to the authorities. Action will follow if the problem persists.

And lastly, the hiring of the Village Hall is separate to hiring the Playing Field for an event or a Children's Party. If you wish to use the field, please contact the Parish Council Clerk on:  
[clerk@longwickcumilmerparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@longwickcumilmerparishcouncil.org.uk) for details.

### **Village Hall Refurbishment:**

The plan here is to create a new second meeting room, to modernise the toilets and washbasins, and to have a more modern fire alarm system. A working group of two councillors and the chair and vice chair from the Village Hall was created to progress matters, and as the Village Hall is not registered for VAT, then the contract for the work will be between the builder and the Parish Council who are registered and will be able to reclaim VAT moneys. A specification was provided to any interested parties and bids for the work were sent to the Parish Clerk in special envelopes which were all opened together at a specified time and date. The bids were assessed in terms of cost, possible starting date, probable duration of work etc. Names were redacted, and the builder chosen was voted for by the Parish Council with a 6 to 1 majority. The working group will be meeting with the builder shortly to firm up the starting date and other details.



## Parish Travel Survey

Last autumn, we commissioned a firm of travel consultants to draw up a plan/vision for the Parish. Normally residents would have expected to come along to public meetings to have their say but due to the coronavirus pandemic this was not possible. Instead, questionnaires and zoom focus group meetings as well as an exhibition in Longwick School in July provided the medium for people to flag up concerns and make suggestions. A draft final report (running to fifty-four pages) has just been given to councillors for any further input before the consultant in charge of the process returns from Canada to make his final presentation when the document then becomes the property of the Council.

Afterwards we will be seeking meetings with Transport for Bucks to discuss the feasibility/desirability of the plan. At this point I would expect the document to be on our website for residents to look at.

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## Tea at Three



Hello everyone, we are back after a long time.

We are delighted to begin with our Christmas Party on Tuesday November 23rd in the village hall at 3pm. It will be lovely to meet up with old friends and new.

We have entertainment by the WI and carols by the LOG's choir and also our usual afternoon tea sandwiches and cakes.

We are making sure we will all be as safe as we can with face coverings hand sanitizers etc.

We hope you will all come along so we can all start Christmas together after a bad year

Dates for your diary 2022.

January 25<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 24<sup>th</sup>, then summer break. Start again September 27<sup>th</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Looking forward to meeting you again

# Longwick C of E Combined School

Children at Longwick C of E Combined School have returned after the summer break in good spirits, and we are back loving learning and finding out about lots of new things. Our classrooms are back to normal again with children working together in groups and developing their collaborative skills and group working again and we have a new set of children who have joined us in Reception as they start their first year at our school.

School is opening up more now and we have already invited parents/carers in to meet new teachers and to share in what we are doing. We are planning trips for the children, have restarted our extra-curricular clubs and our children are back together in Collective Worship. Our school is buzzing in the way that it should again, and it is lovely.

Our Christian Value for this half term is Responsibility and we now have values certificates for each of our values to recognise those children who go the extra mile, and so many of them do. We are looking together at responsibility for our own behaviours, our responsibility towards each other and our local community and our responsibilities to our world as we consider Climate Change and what we can do to support this. We are very much looking forward to our Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church and being a part of their work towards developing a more responsible approach to sustainability and climate control.



Mrs Joel Feltwell  
Head of School



## Farmers Page

Longwick is surrounded by farms, many of which have animals grazing on land that also has footpaths. Residents who wish to walk on the many footpaths must be aware and respect the countryside code. Closing gates to prevent animals from wandering out of the fields, putting dogs on a lead. A farmer is at liberty to shoot a loose dog, especially if it is in a field with sheep or cows causing concern.

# Longwick Pre-school



We were sad to say goodbye to our manager, Sophie Shaw, at the end of the summer term who has gone off to pastures new. Sophie will be missed by the staff, committee, parents and children but we wish her well in her future endeavours.

After a successful recruitment drive, our Deputy Manager, Lisa Lowles, was promoted to manager! Lisa has a wealth of experience and knowledge in Early Years childcare and is relishing her new position. We have also recruited and welcomed another practitioner to the setting and she has settled in very well.

Since returning in September, we become incredibly busy with numbers of children wishing to attend, soaring once again since the summer term which is fantastic for our lovely community pre-school.

Over the summer holidays our fabulous new garden took shape and we now have a larger area which wraps around the back of the village hall with a wood chipping surface so it's lovely and safe for the children to play on and it almost has a forest school feel, complete with mud kitchen and wooden reels and planks for climbing and exploring! We also have a lovely new, much bigger, sand pit which the children enjoyed using in the last of the warmer weather we had. Our dear old Wendy house was even treated to a new roof as it was starting to fall apart. This larger space means that we can separate the new and original gardens so the younger children can be kept separate if they wish to play quietly in the old garden whilst the older ones can run about and explore the larger, new addition or vice versa.

Despite the covid restrictions being lifted, we are still being very careful at pre-school and have maintained our drop-offs and pick-ups outside the hall, wearing masks when conversing with parents and being outside as much as we can, weather permitting. We are also hoping that we can return to hosting some fundraising events in the near future so watch this space!

We have very limited availability and are now full on Wednesdays, but if you would like your child to attend the pre-school, please email us [longwickpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:longwickpreschool@gmail.com) or visit our website and complete the enquiry form [www.longwickpreschool.co.uk](http://www.longwickpreschool.co.uk) and we will try to accommodate you as best we can.

**Lisa Lowles, Manager of Longwick Pre-school**

# Neighbourhood Watch



Since schools and colleges have gone back after the Summer, there has been a decrease in Anti-Social behaviour, but Doorstep crime and scams are still on the increase.

As the darker nights are now drawing in it is time to take another look at your property to make sure it is secure.

Here are a few tips:

- Make sure you keep your doors and windows secure all the time. If you have UPVC front door just closing the door is not secure. These doors must be double locked. Please lift the handle and lock it.
- If you are at home, make sure that your top floor windows are closed.
- Always make sure your house looks occupied, leave lights on.
- Burglars do not like to be seen! Do you have sufficient lighting?
- Make your house look occupied, use a timer switch to operate lamps as it starts to get dark, leave a radio on.
- Keys should always be kept out of sight and not left in doors or in view of windows
- Do not open the door to anybody you do not recognise. If you are not sure do not open the door.
- Never keep large amounts of cash at home.
- Invest in a CCTV doorbell.
- Ensure your door number/ house name is visible to the emergency services –consider putting your door number on your wheelie bin outside your address.
- Lock gates and keep unwanted visitors from getting to the rear of your home.

## **DISTRACTION BURGLARIES**

Please read the advice below and consider what steps you can take to protect yourself and equally importantly any advice you can pass to elderly relatives or friends who can be vulnerable to these types of crimes.

Many of these offences involve the suspect purporting to be from "The Water Board" or "The Gas Board" and wanting to check your taps or pipes. They broadly target older residents and rely on people not wanting to appear rude and who will simply let them into their houses without checking they are genuine.

It is important to remember there are no such organisations such as The Water Board. Your utilities will be supplied by private companies such as Thames Water. Their employees will be uniformed and carry ID. Likewise, anyone claiming to be from "The Council".

Any legitimate caller will be happy for you to refuse them entry until you have contacted their employer and confirmed their identity.

Tips to keep safe. The message is simple, if in doubt, keep them out.

1. LOCK - keep your front and back doors locked, even when at home

2. STOP - are you expecting anyone?

3. CHAIN - if you decide to open the door, put the chain on first

4. CHECK - ask for the caller's ID and check it by phone

- Encourage our elderly members/residents to get into the habit of always locking their doors and by using a door chain or spy-hole.
- Telephone a neighbour, or a nearby friend, and ask them to come along to help check out the caller before you open the door to them.
- Insist on checking the identity of the caller. If they are genuine, they will not mind waiting or returning later. Do not use any telephone numbers provided by the caller as they may be bogus.

- Do not keep large quantities of cash or jewellery at home; put it in the bank or post office where it is safe.
- Remember, it is not rude to refuse letting a stranger into your home!

## **BURGLARY**

Doors and windows are the primary route of entry and exit for most burglars, so it's vital you secure them effectively.

It is important to remember these tips when buying, installing and using uPVC doors and windows:

### **uPVC Doors.**

If your house is fitted with uPVC doors make sure you always lock the door with a key. Simply closing the door and pushing the handle up will not prevent someone entering. Ensure that you engage the multi-locking mechanism and that the door is securely locked.

### **Patio and French doors**

Patio doors should have a minimum of three locking points, with an anti-lift device to prevent them from being lifted from their runners. Always remember to lock your patio doors with a key and remove the key from the lock.

### **Gardens and Sheds.**

When considering your garden, it is important to remember how to protect your property from opportunist thieves. How many of us consider crime when we look at our gardens? To the thief anything can be stolen, whether opportunist or carefully planned. Think how much you have spent on plants, garden equipment, tools, and furniture for your garden. Could a thief have their eye on your new lawn mower?

Your garden is your first line of defence against crime. Whilst you are out in your garden, it is well worth checking that your fences are secure and getting any repairs done as soon as possible to ensure there is no easy access for potential thieves.



Make sure your shed is up to the job. Shed doors and door frames can be easily reinforced, especially around the lock.

Remember a thief can get tools from your shed to use on your home, a screwdriver or a spade is very handy to the burglar.

Always make sure that all tools are put away securely.

And lastly, I am still looking for Co-ordinators in the following roads:

**Lammas Close,**

**Sportmans Way**

**Thame Road from Chilterns to the Post Office and then the other side from Brook Side to Cotleigh.**

**The Green.**

**Blenheim Close.**

**Wayfarers End.**

If you are interested in becoming a Co-ordinator please let me know.

Keep safe and secure.

Val

Area Co-ordinator for Longwick, Ilmer, Owlswick and Little Meadle NW

Mob: 07815144691

### **Are you having any issues with Potholes, Flytipping, Footpaths, Flooding, Dog Fouling, Abandoned Vehicles etc.**

You can now report your concerns directly to Bucks County Council through their new web site <http://parishes.transportforbucks.net/>

Here is how you do it. Click on "Tell TfB" box. Then, click on "Report a Highway Issue". There is an online guide see "User Guide (pdf)". Next, enter an area or postcode in the box where the problem then click go. You will be able to click on the map to indicate the location and fill out the form and submit. You can add photos if you want to help explain the issue. There are many other areas on this site you can look at which you may find useful.

# Changes in Longwick cum Ilmer during the Past 45 years

Longwick has transformed from being a rural village with farm workers to probably a 'dormitory' village from the 70s onwards. With many new residents being commuters.

A large amount of development took place in the 70s with three major new estates being built, namely Walkers Estate towards the end of Thame Road, the development of Bell Crescent, Boxer Road, Barn Road and Williams Way all off Chestnut Way. There were additional minor development down Walnut Tree Lane. Even with this change the village has retained it's community feel.

At this time the village had a total of four public houses, namely The White Horse, The Red Lion, The Three Pigeons and The Duke of Wellington. Unfortunately even with the growth in population three of the pubs no longer exist. The first to go was The Three Pigeons which was an Ale House now a private residential house followed by the Duke of Wellington which initially was converted to offices and is now private flats. The White Horse went early in the new millennium and was demolished and replaced with new houses. The Red Lion thankfully still exists. If you want to keep it please use it.

With the influx of new families to the village in the mid 70s it meant further changes could be expected. Guiding and Scouting started with both a Brownie and Cub Scout section which used the school for their meetings. Not long afterwards a Scout troop was started again meeting in the school hall. The use of the school was not very convenient for a Scout troop as equipment and any on-going projects could not be left at the school. As a result the unit decided it needed it's own building. After a few years of fund raising and searching for a site, an agreement was reached with Bucks Education that they would lease a corner of the school field to the group. This resulted in the building you see today when entering the Village Green. This building was opened in the early 80s. and is still actively in use. To support the financial needs of the group it needed a stream of revenue and various fund raising events were held in the late 80s and early 90s, the most successful being an annual 50 / 50 auction. This went on for a number of years and was missed by many who used to come from far and wide to the auction. All adults involved in running these organisations are volunteers and are not paid.

The original village hall across the road from the village shop and post office was typical of what all villages had and many still have them today, Monks

Risborough comes to mind - a green wooden building similar to a military block. A project to replace the Village Hall with a brick built building was headed by the late John Gummer. He negotiated a deal with a local builder to build the current building 'pavilion styled' in the corner of the Village Green which was opened in 1990. John drew up the plans for the building so that it had facilities to enable it to be used as a sports changing room and as a hall with the necessary kitchen for other functions in return for the land where the old village hall stood. Houses now stand on site of the former village hall opposite the Post Office.

During this time the village had successful Cricket and Football Teams. Part of the Village Green even had an area dedicated as the Cricket pitch and was screened from the rest of the green during the winter months. Unfortunately at the time of writing there are no active Longwick sport teams. Maybe with the recent new houses and the resulting population growth, Longwick will once again have successful Cricket, Football and other sporting teams.

The Village Hall is run by a trust (committee) on behalf of the village. The Trustees are all volunteers and like any venture require additional funding above the revenue it receives from letting out the hall to maintain the building. Today it's biggest fund raiser is the village fete held at the beginning of May. The village fete has been a feature of Longwick cum Ilmer for a very long long time. In the 70s / 80s it was held at Ilmer and moved to the Village Green which is under the care of the elected Parish Council. However the fete is totally organised by the Village Hall committee with additional volunteers (helpers) to organise and run the event on the day. Another local volunteer run event is "Tea at Three" run by Tony and Jill Stone. This is held one afternoon a month and it's totally free to all. Afternoon tea with sandwiches and cakes is provided and attendees are asked to make a voluntary donation. This like the majority of village events has sadly been affected by Covid-19. Their first event since lockdown is on 23rd November in the Village Hall and is their annual Christmas event with festive entertainment.

I hope these volunteer groups mentioned, and others I may not be aware of, are able to survive and get new volunteers stepping forward to keep them running. Without 'volunteers' the village of Longwick will become just a village of commuters without any community spirit.

The major impact to the village, due to all the development in Longwick and surrounding villages, is the growth in the traffic which seems to endlessly flow along Thame Road and Chestnut Way. This undoubtedly will grow over the next couple of years as a result of all the planned developments due in Princes

Risborough, Haddenham and Aylesbury. The promised infrastructure changes required to cope with these changes have yet to be seen. Let's hope the recent "Transport Initiative Survey" will provide some solution to the traffic issues. There is a great danger the village will lose its identity and be swallowed up by Princes Risborough.

Let's hope common sense prevails and Longwick gets the infrastructure it deserves so that it remains a pleasant place to live with a thriving and friendly community.

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## 1st Longwick Scouts

It is great to be back to face to face Scouting again and 1<sup>st</sup> Longwick is back with a bang for the autumn term with two Scout camps and a village picnic / open afternoon already under our belts! Below gives you a flavour of the latter – a relaxed time of Scouting activities which also included games, a marble run and campfire cooking. To find out more about the Group and its activities visit [www.longwickscouts.co.uk](http://www.longwickscouts.co.uk).

We are very pleased to be able to welcome recently two more volunteers willing to become leaders, but are still on the look-out for new assistants in the Cubs and Scout sections. In addition, although we were very pleased to welcome our new Group secretary recently, we still have other background roles on the Executive committee to fill.

If you are interested in helping or have a skill that you would like to share, get in touch or drop by the Scout hut on a Monday or Friday.



# Longwick Evening WI



Back in April we were still holding our meetings via Zoom, all of us becoming more proficient as the weeks went by. Under normal circumstances we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month but to stay connected with our members, during lockdown, we were “Zooming” most Wednesday evenings. Several of our members have entertained us with talks and photographs from holidays or from other countries that they have lived in or their homelands; so, we have been to Peru, Tibet, the USA, the Czech Republic, Holland, and Belgium! We also heard from a very gifted member about her artwork, and she amazed us with photos of the animals and birds that she had painted. Another member talked about her doll's houses which are replicas from different periods of history and every detail is true to the period.

Nineteen members joined a Zoom meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April to hear from Adam Smith about the Rothschilds and the Vale of Aylesbury. Adam, who lives in Tring, is a lecturer and former museum curator specialising in the history of English country houses and estates, explained why this powerful family came to the area. Mayer Amschel Rothschild was born in a Jewish Ghetto in Frankfurt; orphaned at 12 he went on to have five sons. This is where the five arrows originate in the Rothschild's family crest. Houses owned in the Vale of Aylesbury included Mentmore, Aston Clinton (which no longer exists), Ascott (now passed to the National Trust), Waddesdon (now also National Trust), Eythroe, and Halton.

Sarah Slater, Guide Lecturer at Hampton Court Palace, Historic Royal Palaces, Affiliate of the Institute of Tourist Guiding spoke to us in May. 'Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660 to 1830' was

the title of her talk and it came with the disclaimer, 'not for prudes'! Sarah wore one of her costumes of the period, which she made herself, and talked about all the naughty bits of history!

**Sarah wearing two of her beautiful costumes**



Sarah describes the talk as fun but rude! It was! It is a testament to her skill and knowledge that many of our number are keen to take a tour with her at Hampton Court Palace.

In June, Rosie spoke to our group, via Zoom, explaining that “growing beautiful, scented British flowers on the farm seemed a logical step to finding a sustainable, local business whilst offering something refreshing and new to the community.” Rosie's desire to follow a passion in horticulture whilst supporting her partner Steve on the family working farm was the inspiration behind Wild Rose Flower Company. Rosie's mother has been, and still is, her inspiration and mentor at the farm at Hoggaston, near Wilmslow, Buckinghamshire.

In July we had our first meeting back at the Village Hall, after the easing of Lockdown regulations, when about half of our members attended, to hear about “The Secrets of the KGB” by Keith Muras. Keith served as a Diplomat in the British Embassy from 1982 – 1984, during the “Cold War”. What an entertaining evening! The KGB was formed in 1954 after the death of Stalin and we learnt about the difficulties of living in a neighbourhood of spies and having your every movement watched. Hidden cameras were even found in bedrooms!

Graham Laurie MVO (Member of the Royal Victorian Order), spoke to us in September about the History of Royal Flying. Graham was a pilot on the Queen's Flight for 26 years and has been to 172 countries. His most memorable flight was on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1997 when he flew the body of Diana, The Princess of Wales, home to RAF Northolt. He also recalled happier memories of Prince William being allowed into the cockpit. When Prince Harry arrived, it was deemed “unsafe” to have two boys in the cockpit!



We had a wonderful garden party in August, on a warm sunny day, in the garden of Jenny, one of our members.

It was so lovely to be together after Lockdown and everyone enjoyed the afternoon, particularly the Auction and Bring and Buy stall which raised £200 for a Breast Cancer charity.

We are now planning for Armistice Day, entertaining at Tea @ Three, the Carol Service, and potential day trips. You would be welcome to join us, we would love to see you!



# Owlswick



I am delighted to announce that services in the chapel of St. Peter's in Owlswick are now gradually returning to near normality. Owlswick is in the ecclesiastical parish of Monks Risborough and the parish has been without a permanent vicar for eighteen months, however on 13<sup>th</sup> July the Rev's Peter Godden was installed as the new vicar and we have now been able to welcome him to his first service in St. Peter's.

Services in St. Peter's have now reverted to the pre-covid pattern of Holy Communion on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month at 11.30am and Evensong on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month at 3pm for the winter period. Members of the congregation are advised to dress warmly as to mitigate the risk of infection the door is at present being left open during services.

There will be a variation in the above dates:

**Remembrance Sunday** 14<sup>th</sup> November. Due to the difficulty of timing, there will not be a service on that day and worshippers will be invited to join the congregation of St. Dunstan's for the service of Remembrance.

**Christmas Carols Sunday** 19<sup>th</sup> December 3pm We hope to be able to hold the usual service of lessons and carols, look out for details closer to the time.

## Allotments

There are **two allotment fields** within the parish of Longwick cum Ilmer, one at Bar Lane Longwick and one at Stockwell Lane Meadle, they are administered by the Princes Risborough Parochial Charities and the Monks Risborough Parochial Charities respectively.

At the time of writing there are allotments available at both these sites, although they are in need of attention to bring them back into productivity.

If you are interested in these allotments contact Cllr. John Coombs [john@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:john@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk) for Bar Lane or Jane Rogers [jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com](mailto:jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com) for Stockwell Lane

# Children's Page



I was in my garden cutting back a few bushes when I heard a strange sound coming from the bottom of the bush. I looked around the bush, on the ground, in the bush but could not see anything so continued with my trimming. Suddenly I heard a rustling sound like leaves blowing around in the wind, so I looked again. Could it be a bird trying to find grubs and worms from the earth or a mouse? I decided to look a little closer around the base of the bushes and suddenly I saw a little brown mouse with a very fat belly holding onto berries from the bush he had collected to take home but had eaten so many he could not move. I do not know who was more surprised to see each other. He looked very timid and a little afraid as his whiskers twitched, and his fat tummy wobbled as he tried to move but could not as he was so full of red berries. I decided to pick a few of the big leaves from our tree, to cover the little mouse so that our neighbours' cats did not have him for suppertime! When I came back, he had managed to roll himself sideways further under the bush but cats on the prowl, could still see him, so I gently covered him with a couple of large leaves to give him time to rest and then go back to his home in the ground. Later that evening I came out to check to see if he was still there but luckily, he had managed to go home for a feast of berries with his family.



We only had two entrants for the Competition to make a spring picture, but the pictures were excellent, so congratulations go to:



Rogan-Reece  
Tagoe-Gilbert  
Aged 4.



Elizabeth Byrom,  
aged 5



I received an email from Gill Healey Class Teacher, to say that the school did not forget the Tradition of the Longwick May Garland last year and Year 2 and a selection of other pupils helped make the May Garland using flowers donated by Jacqueline Ann and also the hoop, net, and doll from Sue at Pastures Farm. They learnt about the history of the garland and also the link with Alison Uttley.

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## Village Hall

Following the ending of Covid restrictions, use of the hall is on the increase, although there is still some time to go before bookings get back to pre-Covid levels.



A builder has now been appointed to undertake the conversion of our disused changing rooms and showers, to provide a new meeting room with a kitchenette. The work will also include refurbishing of our toilets. A start date for the project has not yet been fixed.

Other projects completed during the summer include provision of new cupboards in the chair store-room and replacement of the veranda railings. Staining/varnishing was completed by a team of volunteers. The preschool garden has been extended to include land behind the hall. Work will start soon to replace leaking guttering around the hall.

We are hopeful that the annual May Fete will take place next year, having been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. A team of volunteers has been formed to start working on the plans.

Three new members joined the Village Hall Committee during the summer. A welcome was extended to Debbie Goodchild, Alan Inglis and Neil Dingle.

We are grateful for a donation of £500 towards Village Hall funds from Bellway Homes Ltd. Our reserves at the bank have fallen to an all-time low due to the pandemic, but things should improve from now, as bookings start to come in.

Our website, [longwickvillagehall.com](http://longwickvillagehall.com) is updated regularly, and includes information about the hall and a booking form. To enquire about availability, or to make a booking, please call Julie Lawrence 07793 001191.

# USEFUL NUMBERS

Clerk to Longwick Parish Council	Tracey Martin	07521 161645
Charity Allotments Bar Lane	John Combs	01844 344791
Charity Allotments Stockwell Lane	Jane Rogers	01844 347906
Buckinghamshire Councillors	<b>Alan Turner</b>	07752 181400
	Matt Walsh	07712 224805
	Gary Hall	07500 441051
Dog Warden	BC- Wycombe Area	03444 828342
Fly Tipping	Fixmystreet	020 3287 9859
	<a href="https://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">https://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>	
Transport for Bucks	BC	01296 382416
Longwick Fete		
Longwick Pre-School	Lisa Lowles	07564 819666
Longwick School	Office	01844 344769
Longwick Scout Groups	<a href="http://www.longwickscouts.co.uk">www.longwickscouts.co.uk</a>	
Neighbourhood Watch	Val McPherson	07815 144691
Police Neighbourhood	Officer Sgt Nathan Davey	101
Police (call centre)	Non- Emergency	101
Scouts Secretary	Liz McGugan	07789208118
Tea at Three	Gill Stone	01844 342796
Village Hall Hire	Julie Lawrence	07793 001191
Village Hall Secretary	Liz Walker	01844 275492
Longwick WI	Janet Smith	01844 347564
	Ruth Shorttle	01844 342195
Buckinghamshire Council - Wycombe Area	Joint Waste Team	01494 586550

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