

# PARISH NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2023



*Longwick-cum-Ilmer  
Parish Council*



## Longwick-cum-Ilmer

Longwick - Owlswick - Meadle - Ilmer - Little Meadle - Horsenden

## Welcome to the Autumn/Winter Parish Council Newsletter 2023

Autumn begins with a subtle change of the light with skies a deeper blue and nights that become suddenly clear and chilled.

The season comes full of the first frosts, the disappearance of migrating birds and the harvesting of the season's last crops.



Winter - a lingering season is a time to gather golden moments embark upon a sentimental journey and enjoy every idle hour. It is a time for comfort, it is a time for home.

Notes for your Diaries:

**The Parish Council Remembrance Service will be held on Saturday 11 November 2023 at 11.00am at the War Memorial outside Briants in Thame Road. Everyone is welcome.**

**Christmas Carol Services – Please see inside.**

**Longwick Fete will be held next year on Saturday 4 May 2024.**

I hope you have all enjoyed reading the Parish Council Newsletters I have produced twice a year over the last 16 years, but now it is time to stop writing, so this Autumn/Winter Newsletter is my final piece and hopefully you will enjoy reading this bumper edition.

**The Parish Council wishes all the residents A Happy Christmas and New Year 2024**



## Longwick Parish Council Update

In the last newsletter, I was able to confirm that the traffic speed counts and volume counts for the sites at which we are seeking reductions in speed limits had been carried out and they supported our requests.

Frustratingly the speed at which the unitary authority works is quite simply very slow and we have spent most of the summer chasing for news of any progress. Finally towards the end of August we heard from one of the Network Safety Team Leaders, had a meeting early in September when he was generally sympathetic to our wishes - he also stated that other sections of Transport have to put in their thoughts before a final say so is given and worryingly, but perhaps not unsurprisingly, we were advised that the costs on which we had based our calculations have risen sharply.

We made the point that without up-to-date figures we cannot make any decisions, and he has promised to come back to the Parish Council with some new costs soon.

We continue to press for action but there is realistically nothing more we can do until Buckinghamshire comes back to us.

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### Christmas Service Meadle

The churches within our parish all hold regular services, which you can find on their websites: ([www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk](http://www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk)) St. Peter's, Ilmer ([www.stdunstanschurch.com](http://www.stdunstanschurch.com)) St. Peter's, Owlswick and ([www.bledlowparish.org.uk](http://www.bledlowparish.org.uk)) St. Michael and All Angels)

You are very welcome to attend all services, but for those who particularly like to attend during the Christmas Season the Christmas Services are as follows:

St Peter's Church, Ilmer  
Christmas Carols December 10th at 6.00pm.  
Christmas Day Holy Communion – 9am

St Michael & All Angels, Horsenden  
Carol service at 10th December at 6pm

St. Peter's Owlswick  
Christmas Carols at on December 17th at 3pm  
Evensong on 31st December at 3pm



## Meadle

A good quiz night question is: Who wrote the book Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - The Magical Car ? Ian Fleming who of course wrote the James Bond novels, penned the original story that the film is loosely based on. Roald Dahl wrote the film's screenplay which was produced by Bond's Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, whose daughter Barbara still retains production control of the Bond franchise today under EON Productions.

Whilst it is well known that a lot of the action in the film takes place in the often used locations of Turville and Hambledon near Henley, Ilmer and Meadle also feature in early pivotal scenes. The film's stars Dick Van Dyke (still working at 93 with a recent role in Mary Poppins Returns as well as daytime TV favourite Diagnosis for Murder), Sally Ann Howes and James Robertson Justice, mingled with villagers for about 10 days during the lengthy filming of those short scenes. Whilst the filming in Meadle took place, my family became firm friends with the stars and crew with Dick Van Dyke coming in to our kitchen for regular cups of tea and Sally Ann Howes's make up team gave me my first ever makeover, in the make up tent which was set up on the verge opposite our house. But the real star of the show was the gleaming fantasmagorical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang with the numberplate GEN11, which arrived every day in the village for filming as the action led from Meadle in the car chase scene down Stockwell Lane, culminating in Ilmer where the evil Baron Bomburst's (played by Gert Frobe aka Goldfinger) inept spies lay in wait and then attempted to kidnap the car and it's inventor by dropping a fake backcloth over Ilmer railway bridge, concealing their getaway horse drawn carriage, but of course failing to capture the right car. How this was all managed between passing trains I can't imagine but in the 1960's , Health and Safety at Work didn't exist, and the fact that we were allowed to wander freely around the set chatting with the crew and stars and then continued to do so when they moved onto Turville at the personal invitation of the Director Ken Hughes, is in such stark contrast to the security measures that are deemed necessary today.



I remember being given a chocolate mini Swiss roll by an assistant to ensure absolute silence when Ken shouted "Action" at Ilmer and there were so many people involved in the production to keep quiet.

It was a long happy halcyon summer, the memories of which are still invoked every Christmas when inevitably this fine film is shown.

## Little Meadle

Little Meadle is a small hamlet within the Longwick cum Ilmer parish, located between the hamlets of Meadle and Owlswick. It consists of a collection of houses and barns built around Stockwell Lane Farm. The name Little Meadle came about in 2004 to differentiate the community from Meadle village, ½ a mile down the road, as the hamlet was previously included within the Meadle village catchment. This gave the small hamlet its own identity to make life easier for delivery drivers and visitors who often turned into Meadle Village. In recent years, Orchard View Farm has been developed and now has a Café, Farm Shop, Butchery and Campsite within the hamlet.

This photo of Little Meadle, was taken in October 1999 and shows the farm barns being converted into dwellings



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## Haddenham Community Vehicle

Within Haddenham there is a community vehicle that takes people in a wheelchair or those that have difficulty using a normal car to medical appointments, and social events, etc.

Longwick is part of their catchment.

<http://www.haddenhamcommunityvehicle.org.uk>

## Spotlight on Ilmer

Byline: Sarah Birkby

The history of the village of Ilmer is long and laced with surprises.

Hidden gems and horrible histories

Mention of Ilmer is made in the Domesday book ('Imere') and over the centuries, Ilmer has variously been known as Ylmer (1208), Elmer (1485), and in late 1800s and early 1900s, Ilmire, Illmire and Illmer. Comprising just 30 homes today - it is a fraction of its former self - decimated by the Black Death in 1349. Nevertheless, it plays an important role in the parish, not least as the centre of a network of beautiful bridleways and footpaths, loved by walkers, horse riders and cyclists alike. A haven for many in the pandemic, Ilmer is central to the health and wellbeing of the parish -and

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If you're a regular walker, you may have discovered one of Ilmer's two abandoned settlements, Lockington and Coldharbour. As many as 33 residents were identified as living in Lockington in the 1841 census, most of whom were lacemakers or labourers, and in the 1950s, it was home to Charlie Belgrove, the reclusive 'Ilmer Hermit'.

Coldharbour has a somewhat sadder history. A single farm along what is now the bridleway between Ilmer and Towersey, it marks the location of a shooting fatality: the death of a girl (aged five), by her brother, using a shotgun accidentally left loaded. Today all that remains are crumbling timber structures hidden amongst a rather alarming amount of nettles!

Diversification

Like many farming communities across the country, Ilmer has seen significant diversification. The creation of a solar development at Bumpers Farm, feeding into the Ilmer sub-station, now provides sufficient energy to

feed 2,800 homes in the Aylesbury Vale. The development has also been a catalyst for solar power generation in the area, with Whirlbush Solar Farm now under construction in neighbouring Kingsey. Even more impressive in scale is the 99MW / 198MWh Tesla Megapack large-scale energy storage plant - also at Bumpers - which at the time of writing, is the biggest of its kind in the UK and close to being energised.

Diversification comes in many forms, and perhaps surprisingly, Ilmer is now home to one of the UK's oldest chandlers, Arthur Beale! With a history dating back 500 years,

you can now click and collect your expedition essentials and count yourself in good

company: the business supplied early Everest and Arctic Expeditions for Ernest Shackleton, Gino Watkins and more.

### St Peter's Church

Probably most well known is the church of St. Peter's. One of the oldest in the Oxford Diocese, it was originally built in the Norman period, when the Lord of the Manor was Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and brother of William the Conqueror. In the 14th century St. Peter's was rebuilt and in 1909 the spire was added to the 16th century bell turret.

The church became part of the Parish of St Mary's Princes Risborough in 1979, and today faces new challenges as damage to the roof demands a significant fundraising effort (totalling some £35,000). Bat surveys have recently been undertaken prior to scheduling restoration works that will return the roof to safety. Anyone wishing to donate can do so via [givealittle.co](https://givealittle.co): fundraising efforts are essential and work cannot commence without them.

## Community and culture

The village has an active community with a mix of events - wine quizzes, Christmas carol singing and street parties, while the church is a popular venue for concerts, weddings, funerals and christenings, ably supported by a team of village volunteers who mow lawns, tidy hedges and litter pick. As you leave the village, don't forget to look at the bridge, constructed in 1904 and originally adjacent to Ilmer Halt.

Sadly, little remains of the halt and gone are the days when it provided the Great Western and Great Central Railway with a second route into London and a quicker route to the Midlands. Opening in 1905 for goods and 1906 for passengers, it closed in 1963.

The bridge itself is actually famous for featuring in the classic film, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. In fact, this is the bridge where spies accidentally capture Lord Scrumptious instead of Caractacus and the car. But as most cars still can't fly and Ilmer's single road becomes busier by the day, residents kindly request that you drive slowly and park considerately - giving plenty of room for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and farmers to pass!





## Longwick Fete 29th April 2023

We were so lucky again this year with the weather. After days of rain, the day was bright and sunny. Unfortunately, we could not park on the school field or the village green as both were too wet. However, this did not deter people. Credit to the parking stewards.

We had a couple of different attractions this year. The Last Man Standing and the Pony Rides which were both well attended. Feedback from the food outlets was positive, especially the hog roast and BBQ.

I want to give my heartfelt thanks to the fete committee, the volunteers and the W.I. Without these people the fete could not happen. Although footfall was down this year, we made a grand profit of £6,300 for the upkeep of the village hall.

The date for next year is the 4th May 2024. I hope you can all come and have a great time.



## Village Hall

Our Annual Fete was held at the end of April, with proceeds in excess of £6,000. We are grateful to Jackie Barratt and her team for all their time and work involved in making the day a great success.

Bookings for the main hall are holding up well, and use of the new Platinum room is increasing. The Preschool garden is to be extended, to include a new area behind the hall, which will offer shade on hot summer days.

Gill and Tony Stone are looking for someone to take over organising and running the enjoyable Tea at Three meetings, which they have done for many years. The gatherings are regularly attended by our Senior Community, but all are welcome. If the meetings have to stop, it will be a great loss to the village. For more information, please call **Gill or Tony on 01844 342796.**

The Management team would like to thank our retiring treasurer, Stephen Cooper, who has left us, due to family commitments.

Bingo sessions are held in the hall on alternate Fridays. Thanks are due to the Club for a contribution, enabling replacement of some of the hall's sound equipment.

When the hall was opened in 1990, the committee of Trustees numbered 16. We are now down to 8. We meet about 6 times during the year to discuss possibilities for improving the hall's contribution to village life. If you are interested in joining us, please call our secretary Sophie Shaw on 07546 264624

**For Bookings Enquiries, please call Julie Lawrence on 07793 001191**

## **Owlswick News**

Big changes are afoot in Owlswick, what was the carpark of the old Shoulder of Mutton will soon be the location of nine new dwellings, this includes the site of the old pub which will be re-built as a private house; however, it should look the same from the front. We look forward to the finish of the project and the time when the footpath to Stockwell Lane is re-opened, unfortunately this is not anticipated until next year.



Whilst the builders have been using the Green for carparking we have been sadly limited to what local events we are able to stage, in May we did manage to celebrate the Coronation of Charles 111 on the Green, but since then our annual Cream Teas had to be relocated to a private garden; the service of Songs of Praise went ahead in the chapel and was a great success.

By the time you read this we will have celebrated Harvest Festival with a collection of non-perishable items being donated to the Whitechapel mission for the homeless. The next important event will be the Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 3pm, all are welcome.

Regular services in St. Peter's chapel are Holy Communion at 9am on the second Sunday in the month and Evensong at 3pm on the fourth Sunday in the month. Everyone welcome.

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## **Longwick Scout Hut**

The Longwick Scout Hut has recently been repurposed and I wanted to let you know the reason behind this. The Scout Hut was built on the land owned by Longwick School, which was transferred to the Oxford Diocese Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST) when the school became an academy in 2018. Sadly, the Scouting Association announced, last year, that it was no longer possible for the Longwick Scout Group to continue and, therefore, no longer had a requirement to use the hut. The school was against tearing the building down and investigated converting it for its own purposes but unfortunately, it was in a poor state of repair and the costs were too great for the school to bear. This coincided with the ODBST looking for new premises, and fortuitously, it has been able to take on the renovation project and will be using the building as its Head Office. We are very pleased that the Scout Hut will continue to serve the children of Longwick, alongside many other Buckinghamshire schools. The building and car park will be in use from November, once the repairs and renovations have been completed.

Claire Randall  
Chair of Governors  
Longwick C of E Combined School

## Event Page.- Village Hall

### Monday:

Longwick Pre-school 09.00- 3.00.

Pilates at 3.30

Line Dancing 7.30pm

### Tuesday

Longwick Pre-school - 09.00 - 3.00

New Women's Wellness -Deep Rest & Relaxation 10th October 7.--9.00pm

£32.00 email [lucywalford12@gmail.com](mailto:lucywalford12@gmail.com)

to book your place.

Tea at three - 28th November Christmas Party 3.00pm.

Parish Council Meeting 3rd Tuesday in Platinum Room 7.30.

### Wednesday

Longwick Pres-school - 09.00 - 3.00

WI - Every 2nd Week of the Month @ 7.30

### Thursday

Longwick Pres-school 09.00- 3.00

Youphoria @ 7.30

### Friday

Longwick Pre-school 09.00 - 3.00

Bingo every other week @ 7.30pm

### Saturday

Oct 7th at 7.30 Uganda Piggery Project Barn Dance Tickets £12.00 including Ploughmans Supper

Contact: Marie: 07792021901, Maureen: 07818 876311, Priscilla : 07780 441975.



Welcome back to a new year at Longwick Pre-school with some new and old faces and it is so good to see the children enjoying their time at the pre-school. We have 34 children on the register with another 7 starting before January, that's not bad for

a village pre-school!

In July we said goodbye to our school leavers, with Greg Smith MP as the special guest. Greg had a great morning and enjoyed how enthusiastic the children were about moving up to school. We've since received a thank you letter from Greg which detailed how he will be recommending a Leavers Ceremony, like the one we held, to his own children's pre-school for next year.

At the end of the summer term we were fortunate to acquire some extra bits of equipment for the garden and inside, the new mud kitchen and climbing wall are amazing and the pigeon hole cupboards are a great organisational tool for both parents and practitioners. Hopefully soon there will be further improvements to the garden area, so watch this space!

If your child currently attends Longwick Pre-school please do consider joining the committee, without which the pre-school will not be able to exist. All committee members come from all walks of life and our meetings are at the Red Lion pub in the village.

If you wish to send your child to Longwick Pre-school we do have availability, 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)

We have a couple of fundraising events coming up for the community too and for more details you are welcome to contact [longwickfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:longwickfundraising@gmail.com)

#### **Quiz Night**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

7.30pm

Longwick Village Hall

£10 per person, tables of 8-10

Nibbles provided, bring your own drink

#### **Christmas Wreath Making Workshop**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 7.30pm

Ray Farm

£40 per person

Mulled wine on arrival  
Tea, coffee and mince pies

#### **Breakfast with Santa**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023

9am – 10.30am

Longwick Village Hall

Breakfast, arts, crafts and a chance to meet Santa

Alex Barter, Chair of Longwick Pre-school Management Committee

## Rights of Way



This parish is blessed by many footpaths and bridle-paths, which can connect you to surrounding hamlets and villages or just delight you with the views of open countryside

Several long-distance paths cross our parish, The “Swan’s Way” long distance bridle route runs from Salcey Forest in the north to Goring on Thames in the south, 65 miles (105km). not all sections are off road, but the lane from Owlswick towards Ilmer and from the railway bridge at Ilmer running behind Longwick and then turning towards Bledlow

are worth a visit. The “Outer Aylesbury Ring” is a 32-mile route around Aylesbury and comes through our parish from the direction of Aston Sandford, crossing the Green Lane and continuing across the fields to Owlswick then onwards to Bar Lane.

However, you do not have to follow any named route, there are 31 off road paths in the parish of Longwick cum Ilmer, I recommend obtaining an ordnance survey map and exploring at least some of them, you will find that most of them are a well worth a visit. Many of the stiles in our parish have been replaced, with the permission of the land owner, by the parish council, however if you do find a footpath or stile that is difficult to use do report it to the Rights of Way Officer at Buckinghamshire County Council. Just one thing, please remember that you are crossing working farmland, dogs should be kept on a lead, dog poo and litter should be taken home with you and stout footwear is advisable.

Enjoy the countryside.

## Neighbourhood Watch

I am always writing about various scams to keep everyone informed and safe, but I would also like to ask those of you who are new to the Area or who have not joined a Neighbourhood Watch scheme across our area to do so. Why I hear you ask?



Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership where neighbours come together to make their communities safer and a better place to live, where crime is less likely to happen, and people are less likely to turn to anti-social behaviour. It crosses barriers of age, race, and class for everyone's good.

It also makes sure that no-one needs to feel alone, scared, or vulnerable in the place where they live.

Neighbourhood Watch works by encouraging people to develop closer links with neighbours, police, local authorities, and other agencies to share information and to address local issues.

### The Benefits:

- Street Signage and door stickers to act as a deterrent.
- You will receive Neighbourhood Watch Alerts messages informing you of burglaries, scams, witness appeals from the police, from me on scams or local information etc.
- Some Insurances offer a reduced rate on your Home Insurance if you are in a NW area or a scheme.

So, I am sending out an open invitation to join our Neighbourhood Watch Area as a member or to become a new Coordinator where we do not have a scheme.

**If you are interested or need more information on the role of a Coordinator, please email on: [valthewillows@aol.com](mailto:valthewillows@aol.com).**

1st September sees the autumn nights start to draw in, so please avoid making your home an easy target for burglars by taking these simple measures:

### **Lights...**

Most burglaries are carried out by opportunists. If a burglar sees a home in darkness during the evening then it is a fair bet there is no-one in. Fit a simple time switch that comes on about 20 mins before it gets dark (so today that will be approaching 8.00pm), and goes off at around 11.00pm. A low-wattage LED bulb is enough to avoid your home standing out from the rest. I have some free timer switches.

### **Cameras...**

If you have CCTV cameras then the infra-red will come on as darkness falls, and many a good piece of evidential footage has been ruined by a spider's web reflecting the infra-red back into the lens. Now is a good time to clean your cameras, and then check them regularly - also make sure that you check that you can play back and take down footage on your system and that the time is set correctly. CCTV and/or a video doorbell is a big deterrent to burglars, as they do not know whether they have already been seen and the Police called.

### **Action**

Take general measures to protect your property: lift the handle on your PVC doors before locking; fit high quality door locks that are snap-, pick- and bump-proof; remember to close and lock windows when out; do not leave ladders and other climbing aids such as wheelie bins near flat roofs or those of your neighbours; lock side gates, keep front hedges low, and protect any rear boundary; ask a neighbour to check your letterbox if you are going away, and return the favour for them.

### **British Gas email scam offering a fake energy refund.**

Scammers are impersonating British Gas with fake emails tempting recipients to click a link to get a fake energy refund. Although the email looks legitimate, it addresses you by your email address and not your name. This is a potential giveaway that it is from a fraudster.

See the **scam** email impersonating British Gas here

**<https://www.which.co.uk/.../beware-of-this-british-gas...>**



## **Premium rate number scams**

This scam tries to trick people who are searching online for telephone numbers of government advice services. It works by displaying an advert for the phone number of the relevant government advice line.

But the sting is that you will be charged a premium for using this advertised telephone number – in some cases, as much as £20 or £30 a call. You are put through to the right advice line, but you pay a very high and unnecessary connection fee.

Find out which phone numbers to look out for.

**<https://www.which.co.uk/.../premium-rate-number-scams...>**

**And Lastly** – this is for our young generation.

Do you know about: **#Ask for Angela?**

Sometimes on a night out you can find yourself in a situation that is not safe or that makes you feel vulnerable.

Ask for Angela is a discrete way of asking for support in participating pubs, clubs, or bars #Freshers Week.

**<https://t.co/9B4CmamyRg>**

**<http://dlvr.it/SwKx64>** - Takes you to YouTube video to watch.

Take care everyone.

Val McPherson

Area Coordinator.

# Tea at Three



We are back after our Summer break.

We have had an entertaining year at our meetings. We all enjoyed a game of Bingo in September, and in November we held our Christmas party which was very well attended with entertainment by Longwick playreaders and Longwick men's choir, finishing with community carols.

In January the Kensal Duo sang and played for us, and in March we had an Easter theme with Easter eggs. Mr Eccelston dressed as a pirate which amused all of us.

In May a lady balloonist amazed us with animal figures and singing. Another successful year.

Many thanks to all the helpers and to all of you for coming along. See you all on November 28th for our Christmas Party.

Gill Stone

## **Strictly from memory**

Post War Longwick, with probably a quarter of the current population, was a close-knit community with most families dwelling in Private or Social rented homes or tied cottages. The breadwinner was a manual worker employed on the Land, the Sawmill or the Railway or in a nearby factory. Whilst the shops and Pubs catered for most needs tradesmen visited the village regularly with bread, milk, meat, paraffin, and coal – the latter by horse and cart.

The gypsy travellers and knife grinders visited occasionally with their horse drawn caravan tethered on the wide grass verges of the crossroads whilst they offered their wares door to door. Apart from a gradual increase in motor cars the main road was also used to transfer cattle from farm to field and anyone leaving their garden gate open might find they had a bovine visitor. Steam trains were an integral part of daily life and whilst they were visible to most and audible to all they were only critically mentioned when the railway bank caught fire.

At the northern entrance to the village was Dorrells Road – best known for sticklebacks, tadpoles, and wet feet.

The Three Pigeons Public House was popular with the Cricket Club who played on land behind the Pub, and where teas and after match refreshments were provided. Next door was the Sawmill – a hive of activity where often huge logs were converted into planks on a Bandmill. Other machinery cut and shaped and added to the noise of industry. Opposite was a Grocery Store known as Bottom Shop – popular and well supported. A few days after the Queen's Coronation in 1953 a party was held on the Green in front of Rose Farm. Whilst the official day was wet the Saturday brought glorious sunshine and what appeared to be a total turnout of villagers.

The field currently being developed is Crabtree where Tom the carthorse used to graze. He offered a cheek to cheek welcome to visitors to his gate. The bright red telephone kiosk further along had a regular afternoon visitor – a local policeman. He arrived on a bicycle dismounted and stood sentry like outside the box. A reassuring presence the village appreciated. The Little Chapel, built for the Preaching of the Gospel and later adopted

by the Baptist Union, was the perfect sitting for a Harvest Festival. Located in the corner of a field it was in early Autumn, surrounded by evidence of the Gathering season, the Threshing machine, a Binder, a few remaining Stooks, that the Chapel erupted to the strains of “We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves”.

The Methodist Chapel opposite held regular Sunday services and a morning Sunday School. It also organised an annual coach trip to the seaside. The destination varied but the favourite by far was Bognor Regis – not too far!

The White Horse Inn was the oldest of the four Pubs. It had a well-kept secluded garden with lawns which made it popular with family parties and an ideal venue for charitable fund-raising events. The shop next door has served the community for over six decades – an invaluable asset. It incorporates a Post Office which originally was part of a sweet shop on the opposite side. On the small holding neighbouring the shop there were bespoke green houses in which were grown tomatoes which deservedly won wide acclaim. The original Village Hall stood on the south side of the street. It hosted events from Wedding receptions to rummage sales and during the war has been a Classroom when evacuees arrived. When land to the rear had been purchased and landscaped as a Playing Field proceeds from the sale of the original building funded the Hall we know today. Team sports were played on the field and a new Scout Group was formed – with its own premises.

The C of E School, circa 1950 had just thirty pupils in rooms of 18 and 12. As the village expanded a new school built in Walnut Tree Lane, became inevitable.

One day a flat bed lorry with goods on pallets misjudged the Red Lion bend and deposited his payload in the open ditch by the War Memorial. He was carrying jars of Horlicks. The emergency services were quickly on the scene, but some villagers were even quicker!

The Red Lion Pub was popular with a reputation for good beer. Pints were drawn directly from the barrel – which was situated in the cellar! Several wooden steps were negotiated for every pint consumed. Newspaper

articles have claimed that new breed of duck had been introduced to Laurel Farm where it was bred successfully. It became known as the Aylesbury Duck!

At the Sportsmans Garage petrol was four shillings and seven pence a gallon for 2 star and fourpence more for 4 star. Vehicle recovery and repair services were also available with materials to hand in the event of crossroads accidents. Immediately across the village boundary was the Top allotments which was well subscribed.

The Duke of Wellington was a favourite with the Railway Workers. It had a rear window through which sweets were sold and was popular with the village children.

One Sumer night, just beyond the Duke bridge was the well documented " Acid Home Party", A rave that shook the village – both people and buildings as vibrations could be felt on bedroom walls.

Longwick Mill played a significant role in the rural economy- the Mill pond in times past, was a popular swimming venue.

This lightning Village tour reminds us of our history which hopefully some may find of interest.

Ian Walker.

## Farming in the Parish

Well who could have predicted the weather we have experienced this summer!!! It has been extremely harsh on the farmers trying to get their crops harvested in between the changeable weather we have had. Even as I write this piece there is a plague of showers ruining any chance of drying clothes on the washing line.

Even though the summer crops are harvested there is still no rest for the farmers as some are looking at getting their maize crops in over the next month or two. This crop is similar to sweetcorn but isn't as tasty, unless you are a cow, so please do not pick it if you see it! A forage harvester will chop this crop up into more palatable sized pieces for cows to enjoy as a food source throughout winter.

Throughout the Autumn you may come across tractors in the fields and on the roads with a variety of equipment that is used to prepare the ground for the next crop. This could be grass, barley, wheat, oats or even field beans. As some of you are probably aware most farm machinery is very large and fairly slow moving on the roads, please be patient as every road user is entitled to be on the road.

After a summer out at grass, the cattle will soon be coming into their winter housing. For the farmers this adds more jobs to the never-ending list but for the cattle it is like a 6 month long all-inclusive holiday with all their needs provided for within a very short walk!

Although there will be significantly less cattle out in the fields over the autumn/winter there will still be sheep as they do not poach the heavy clay ground we predominantly have within the Parish. Please remember to keep your dogs on leads around all livestock as farmers do not need their sheep worried by loose dogs. Remember that an out of control dog is a criminal offence and carries a fine.

The fields may be slightly more empty but they will still be growing a crop. Please remember to continue to collect your dog poo, take the bag home and bin it. In one field in Longwick, which has a footpath across it, 20 dog poo bags were found by the gate or hanging on the gate over only

a few weeks. Thank you to the dog owners for collecting but those bags were very nearly ingested by the livestock in that field, please take them home. The parasite called Neospora in dog poo can remain in the ground for several months, it is important to note that not all dogs show any symptoms, so you may be unaware that your dog is a carrier.

When winter sets in farmers want to enjoy putting their feet up while sitting by the fire, in reality this seems to be only saved for very special occasions. There is no rest for farmers as there is always something to be doing, maybe those maintenance jobs that were meant to be done last winter will get done or maybe they will put up the picture frames that have been leant up against the wall for over a year. One thing they hope to not miss out on is Sunday roast dinners.

Please continue to enjoy the countryside but remember to stick to the definitive right of way and not deviate and trespass, this includes climbing fences and gates to get to another field and if a field is ploughed you will have to walk through rough uneven muddy ground! While you are enjoying the countryside take a step back and admire the work these farmers do and the equipment they use, it truly is fascinating. The countryside is a wonderful place but the farmers are the custodians.

Alex Smith, Ray Farm

## Looking after Longwick

Passport, iPad and pants. You never know what you might find on a Longwick Litterpick! There are now over 50 members including lots of junior eco-warriors who join forces every 2 months to clean up our village. In the past year we have collected a total of 152 bags of rubbish and reported 24 incidents of fly tipping. We've also been known to clean road signs and do some weeding along the way!

If you'd like to lend a hand, meet like-minded people and up your steps at the same time we always welcome new members. **Contact Judi on 07816 386288.**





## Gill Stone

Gill took over Tea at 3 from Mr and Mrs Cunningham in 2009, and now feels it is time to retire as she has worked hard for the community over the years.

A recap on all the volunteer roles Gill has undertaken:

Gill was one of the founder members of the High Wycombe Dog Rescue in 1960 and organised all the fund raising for this group.

She also chaired a children's Christmas party for 10 years and became a parent governor at her children's school, plus a Sunday school teacher.

Gill was president of the WI 5 times and now feels that doing Tea at Three for 14 years she would like to take life a little easier at 83 years of age.

Gill mentioned that the WI ladies have circulated on both Longwick Village News and Wickfields Facebook asking for someone to take over the role.

Is there anybody there.....?

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## Allotments

The allotments known as "The Bennell" in Stockwell Lane, Meadle have been producing food since the early 1800s, and are administered by the trustees of Monks Risborough Parochial Charities.

There are 22 allotments of varying sizes, water is available from a shared trough. It is a delight to see what different people can produce from a small plot of land, delicious fruit, and vegetables, also flowers are produced in abundance on this open, sunny site. The allotments are rented on an annual basis at a very reasonable rent. If you would like more information or to be put on the waiting list for an allotment contact [jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com](mailto:jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com)

The allotments in Bar Lane, Longwick are administered by Princes Risborough Parochial charities and can be contacted via Princes Risborough Town Council.



## **Longwick Chase – Miller Homes**

"More than building new housing, Miller Homes is also committed to creating a better environment. In addition to the new homes at Longwick Chase, we have made significant ecological enhancements throughout the development which encourages the habitation of wildlife and offers an environmental benefit to the local area, as well as being visually attractive to provide a sense of place through our green strategy within the scheme.

Here, we are introducing bat boxes, bird tables and hedgehog highways to enable the free movement and settling of local wildlife. For shelter and hibernation opportunities to the areas near the existing watercourse/stream, which runs across the development, we will introduce log and brush piles for amphibians and reptiles and nest domes for hedgehogs. This will create a net gain of 104 per cent for habitation, plus an increase of 494 per cent in hedgerows within the site's boundary. These ecological enhancements will work together to create a residential area we can all be extremely proud of at Longwick Chase, as the benefits play out for years to come."

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## **Archaeology on Rose Farm**

Pre-Construct Archaeology was undertaken between the 7th February and 25th May 2022. The excavation at Rose Farm revealed the well-preserved remains of a field Kira system, a possible post structure and a multi-phased waterhole feature, evidencing activity across the site from the Neolithic, through the early and later Iron Age, Roman, medieval and into the post-medieval periods. Iron Age pottery vessels may have been deliberately deposited within the waterhole and the site was used for ridge and furrow cultivation in the post-medieval era. The archive produced will be collated and deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum Service.

Katrina Crawford Sales & Marketing Director of Miller Homes Southern



A warm welcome from Longwick C of E Combined School,

I hope all members of our community have enjoyed a lovely summer, albeit a rainy one!

We've set the term off to a very good start at Longwick school and all the children, including our wonderful Reception class, seem to be settling in very well! Our Christian value this term is perseverance. We've enjoyed some fantastic assemblies from the team at St Mary's church and have also have a special visitor BMX champion Mike Mullen, who have been teaching the children about the importance of not giving up and the power of yet!

We are preparing for our Harvest celebration at St Mary's church in the next few weeks and the children will be visiting the church to celebration with artwork, poems, writing and an array of songs. We will also be sending our donations to the One Can Trust.

In the curriculum. we have also been learning about feeling safe in school and at home and importantly who we can speak to when we need help. We have our 'trusted 5'. We have five people who we can count on our fingers and can go to each one if we need help or need to share something.

Recently, I also have had the pleasure of working the Longwick ART Show team looking at the space around school for local and national artists who will exhibiting at our school for the Longwick Art Show in February 2024. We are very much looking forward to it!

Next week, we welcome Greg Smith the Buckingham MP will be visiting the school on World School Milk Day. The school council are currently preparing some important questions to ask him and are very excited!

We hope you enjoy the next few autumn months,  
Mrs Jade Wakefield

# Horse Power

By Sarah Birkby

With over three million horse riders in Britain,\* it's no surprise that equestrians are well represented in the Parish, and unfortunately, that means we've experienced our fair share of accidents too. In fact, 127 accidents involving horses were recorded in Buckinghamshire in 2022, including one fatality: it's really not a number we want to see grow.\*\*

The British Horse Society (BHS) has been collecting data on accidents involving horses since 2010, and in 2021 released a report analysing over 4,107 reported incidents between 2010 and 2020. It reveals a number of triggers. Top of the list are drivers passing too closely (reported in 84.2% of incidents); road rage and speeding (40.3% and 40.1% of incidents respectively).

As a Parish, we're blessed with a number of bridleways, restricted byways and of course, The Phoenix Trail: a shared use (predominantly) traffic-free path between Princes Risborough and Thame, popular with walkers, runners, cyclists and riders. But the bridleway network is disrupted: gateways and entrances are often narrow or tricky to negotiate, and most riders will need to ride on the road at some point to reach safety.

It's therefore hardly surprising that recent discussions on traffic management and speed reduction expenditure in 'equestrian' locations such as Meadle, Little Meadle, Owlswick and Ilmer, have been a little heated.

Roads here have grown increasingly busy with traffic, with large goods and delivery vehicles all passing at speed and no pavement or means of egress for ambulatory residents or riders.

As a community we all want to feel safe and enjoy the countryside: the pandemic proved just how critical green space is to our collective health and wellbeing.

So what can we do to support each other?

The BHS provides guidance for riders on how to work with other road users to stay safe - not least to **be aware, be considerate and be visible**.

You can find more information at [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk), but in the meantime, here are some top tips:

### **For cyclists and runners**

- Let the rider know you're there. Call out in advance - say hello and ask if it is ok to pass.
- Give the horse and rider time to react. They might not hear you, or be able to move aside straight away.
- Give way. It's worth noting that cyclists and horse riders both have a statutory right to ride on byways, bridleways and roads, but while The Countryside Act 1968 gives cyclists the right to use bridleways, it states that cyclists must give way to horse riders and walkers.
- Slow down or stop if the horse rider asks you to. The rider may feel that the horse is about to react to something, meaning that the horse might suddenly move forwards, backwards or sideways. They're trying to keep you safe too.
- Never pass a horse on the horse's left.
- Pass wide and slow. If possible, pass with at least a car's width.

### **For dog owners**

- Always keep your dog on a lead or in sight.
- Be confident your dog will return on command.
- Make sure your dog does not stray from the path or area where you have right of access.
- Introduce your dog to horses and train them to maintain calm around horses.
- Don't allow your dog to jump up at the horse.

### **For riders passing dogs**

- Always slow to a walk to pass dogs.
- Communicate with the owner if they have not seen you, or call out for an owner if a dog is loose or unaccompanied.

- If necessary, stop to allow the owner to put their dog on a lead.
- Give dogs a wide berth so they do not feel threatened.
- Always wear hi vis to enable other route users to see you.

**In all cases, be nice and say hi!**

### **A final thought ...**

The Highway code is now much more specific regarding driver's responsibilities when passing horse riders. It requires car drivers to pass horses not just wide and slow, but at no more than 10mph and allowing at least 2m of space. (rule 215).

Additionally, a new hierarchy of road users prioritises pedestrians, followed by cyclists, horse riders and drivers of horse drawn vehicles, ahead of vehicle drivers. But the rules apply to all, and it is our collective responsibility to keep each other safe on our roads.

## **Longwick Evening WI**

Longwick Evening WI is always happy to welcome new members. We hold our meetings every second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 at Longwick Village Hall.

At these meetings, we have a book desk, where you can donate books, also you can purchase books at £1 per book. At half time we have tea, coffee and either biscuits or cake! There is also a raffle which is drawn after our break, following this we hold a quiz which we organise amongst ourselves.

Longwick Evening WI has a speaker at most of our meetings. Details of the speaker are posted at various locations around our village advising villagers of the upcoming event of the month.

We also hold a coffee morning at the Red Lion Public House, where Sam and Andy kindly open the doors for us every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11am for one hour.

Come along and join us at Longwick WI, meet your villagers and neighbours. Join in our fun and help us continue our good works for the village.

We are involved in various celebrations for our village during the year, which we all enjoy and like to keep as many Longwick local traditions as possible. There is a group who organise a walk, with pub lunch, each month if you need to keep fit!

We also organise several 'outings' over the year too, i.e., farm visit, wreath making and various other destinations of interest.

Please come along and join our happy group of ladies we will always be pleased to welcome you.

Judith Judd

# USEFUL NUMBERS

Clerk to Longwick Parish Council	Tracey Martin	07521 161645
Charity Allotments Bar Lane	Sue Coombs	01844 344791
Charity Allotments Stockwell Lane	Jane Rogers	01844 347906
Buckinghamshire Councillors	Alan Turner	07552 181400
	Matt Walsh	07712 224805
	Gary Hall	07500 441051
	BC-Wycombe Area	03444 828342
Dog Warden	BC-Wycombe Area	03444 828342
Fly Tipping (Road/Footways)	Fixmystreet	020 3287 9859
	<a href="https://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">https://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>	
Longwick Fete	Leigh Burnett	07866 414225
Longwick Pre-School	Lisa Lowles	07564 819666
Longwick School	Office	01844 344769
Longwick Litterpicks	Judi Earl	07816 386288
Neighbourhood Watch	Val McPherson	07815 144691
Police Neighbourhood	Sgt Mark Palethorpe	101
Police (call centre)	Non-Emergency	101
Tea at Three	Gill Stone	01844 342796
Village Hall Hire	Julie Lawrence	07793 001191
Village Hall Secretary	Sophie Shaw	07546 264624
Longwick WI	Janet Smith	01844 347564
	Ruth Shorttle	01844 342195
	Joint Waste Team	0300 131 6000
Buckinghamshire Council- Wycombe South Bucks and Chilterns		

Keep up to date with all the  
latest news by visiting  
[www.longwickcumilmer.org.uk](http://www.longwickcumilmer.org.uk)