

LONGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

The Parish Council is the tier of local government closest to the community. We hear a lot from residents when there are controversial planning applications to discuss but we would like to hear more about what you want for our villages. The Parish Council can influence the higher tiers of government on your behalf since we are represented at the Borough Council Western Area Committee and at County Council level through the 'Lancashire Local'. We will be involved in the future in looking at the plans to create a Regional Park, which would include the Brickercroft and salt marshes, which make up over one third of the land area of the parish.

The Parish Council also encourages local activities through such schemes as the Young Longton Project and also in its role as the Trustee of the Longton Victory Memorial Recreation Ground. The Council is also supporting the role of the Sports and Social Club, who use the recreation ground, to expand their role as a centre and community facility for the whole of the parish.

The Parish council is keen to engage with its residents and as can be seen below has now established its own web site dedicated to Parish Council matters.

Graham Gooch
Chairman — Longton Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

A new website has been set up specifically for Longton Parish Council which will enable more information to be provided to local residents and visitors alike. The website is already live and can be accessed at www.longtonparishcouncil.org and whilst some areas still need to be populated a lot of local information has already been placed onto the site. In future the agenda for council meetings will be published prior to each meeting taking place and contact details of the parish councillors and clerk together with links to other relevant sites have already been provided. It is hoped that this new site will enhance the communication between the council and its residents.



SUMMER 2009

NEW LONGTON SURGERIES

Surgery arrangements set up over 12 months ago are now to revert to a quarterly basis but will continue to be held at Scott's Newsagents. Notices will be placed on our notice board and website to let you know when they are taking place. If however you have any queries between surgeries please contact Cllr C Kershaw on 01772 616119 or the Clerk to the Council both of whom will try to assist with your concerns.



THE VINERY

In Autumn 2008 work finished on The Vinery in New Longton by the Parish Lengthsman who was ably assisted by the Lengthsman from Lea & Cottam Parish Council. The shrubs and plants are now established and the area is very pleasing and much improved on its previous state. Our thanks go to the Lengthsmen for their hard work.



FABBALICIOUS NIGHT FOR ALL AT LONGTON VICTORY MEMORIAL SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

It was a case of going back to the decade of platform heels, glitter and tight flares at Longton Sports & Social Club when members took a trip back to the 70's with Abba tribute band Fabbalicious. Friends and performers Paula Jay and Nikki Reece performed a glamorous 70's dance set as well as belting out hits like Voulez Vous, Knowing Me Knowing You and Take A Chance.

Manager Andrew Worthington said 'The night is just one of a string of new events the club is hosting. We have a very popular Motown and Northern Soul night which is attracting people from as far as Wigan and Manchester as well as local residents and we have started free dance classes on a Monday night which are proving popular with all ages'

The new social calendar is attracting an influx of new members who are enjoying the wide range of sports and entertainment which are on offer.

New member, Anne Grant said 'We have only recently discovered the club and its proved to be a real hidden gem. We've been to several events so far which have been fantastic. It's great because it is on our doorstep and is a great friendly place to meet new people.'

If you are interested in finding out what's on this month or want to hire the club for a family celebration visit <http://www.longtonssc.co.uk> or ring Andrew on 01772 616800



LONGTON BRICKCROFT NATURE RESERVE

This year we have seen mixed fortunes on the Brickcroft, much good work has been done by the reserve volunteers including the creation of a reed bed area and the re-profiling of a section of the south pond to help the ecology of the area. A very good early spring has brought out the marvellous cherry and hawthorn blossom and hopefully many of our nesting birds will find a comfortable home here. The summer events programme is proving extremely popular with many events on the reserve well attended as usual (please book early). Pick up a programme at the visitor centre or on-line.

The Green Flag Award, which is the national standard for quality open space will again be judging us and hopefully we will retain its coveted green flag for a 12th successive year.

It is with sad regret that we have lost one of our on-site rangers, Steve Smith, who has now returned to Preston City Council after the end of his South Ribble partnership contract. Steve has done much good work for the reserve and we would like to thank him for that.

As usual, if you would like to join our volunteers or just want to find out more about the reserve or other local parks, please phone the ranger on 01772 611497 or visit our website www.southribble.gov.uk and don't forget, Longton Brickcroft is a local nature reserve based within the parish of Longton and is a fantastic resource for you to use and enjoy. Finally our thanks to Mr Sanderson of Hutton for kindly donating barley straw which has been used to combat algal blooms in the South pond

Head Ranger





KEEP NEW LONGTON TIDY



Ginette Unsworth (01772 617210) is a New Longton resident who works for 'Keep Britain Tidy'. She recently organised a 'litter pick' in the village and intends to organise a further and larger event in September 2009. Both she and the Parish Council would appreciate volunteers to help when the date is announced. This will be a great opportunity to help preserve an environmentally friendly area for us all to live in. Further information can be accessed on the website www.thebigtidyup.org

Regretfully litter does remain a problem in both villages. It does appear that offenders (it is an offence to drop litter) are quite happy to drop cans, bottles and other rubbish wherever they please without a thought for other people. Please would villagers report litter affected areas to South Ribble Borough Council on the litter line on telephone number 01772 625625 or use the contact us on-line form on the SRBC web site.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2009

Entries have once again been placed for the 2009 competition for both Longton and New Longton. Judging has been taking place since the 1st June and continues through until 13 July 2009 so it is not too late to make that bit of extra effort to maintain a clean and tidy village and help the villages make their mark as clean and tidy places to live. Our village lengthsman will be assisting in maintaining the appearance of the village however anything that you can do however small will be of great help.



YOUNG LONGTON PROJECT

Teenagers will be able to carry on enjoying Longton Youth Club thanks to continued funding from Longton Parish Council. The Club opened its doors in July last year. The first big activity was a huge success with teenagers learning how to play the African Drums and showing off their newly acquired percussion skills outside Booths in Longton. Since then it has built up a strong following and more than 20 teenagers have enjoyed taking part in activities including Street Dancing, Table Tennis and Magic Workshops amongst many other activities. The Club is run by Longton residents and enthusiastic volunteers Helen Beresford, Emma Worthington and Rita Young. The young people at the April Council Meeting put together their own presentation for Council Members which summarised why the club was so important to them.



Emma Worthington said "We set up the club because we grew up here and didn't have anywhere we could just meet up with friends which was safe and warm. It's fantastic news that we have received further funding and we are very grateful to the Parish Council. We've had great feedback from parents and have built up a great group of young people, who are keen to welcome new members."

Hutton Parish Council has also helped with funding in order to encourage their young people to join in — which means the catchment area for the club can now be widened.

The club is registered with Lancashire Youth Association and has a full child protection policy. It is open to 12 - 16 year olds and takes place on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm at the Women's Institute Hut on School Lane, Longton. If you are interested in more information or volunteering to help, please contact Emma Worthington on 0772 0772 351.



NEW LONGTON FLOWER SHOW 2009



This year the event will take place on Saturday 5th September 2009 in New Longton Village Hall. (2pm - 4pm) Last year's show was a great success. The new section for 'home-made scarecrows' had three entries of character full scarecrows dominating the stage with their colourful presence. All entries, especially from newcomers are most welcome. This year's show will be opened by David Borrow MP and programmes/entry forms for classes will be available from August in local shops and other venues.

WHY NOT COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THIS ANNUAL VILLAGE
EVENT WHICH IS OPEN TO ALL

At the show awards will to be made to winners and runners up in the local

BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 2009



which is due to be held once again this year. Judging for this event normally takes place around this time of year and so hopefully you are all now working hard on your gardens to make sure they are at their best and make the competition even harder for our councillor judges to consider.

NEW LONGTON VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is also available for groups and events, full details of which may be obtained from Mrs. Pam Ridley on 01772 612298



The playgroup is now under new management and more children are welcome.

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Community Project organisers may not be aware of some of the local grants that are available to assist with community projects.

The LCC Climate Change Fund supports community projects on climate change aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A diverse range of projects includes such things as the insulation of community buildings, installation of solar panels to supply hot water and electricity, ground source heat pumps, wood pellet heating systems in community buildings and using alternative forms of transport to the car. Longton Ladybirds Kindergarten was able to obtain substantial funding for insulation to reduce electricity consumption from this fund. For details telephone 01772 531257.

Organisations in the Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors can apply for funding under the **LCC Gateway Grants Scheme**. All projects must demonstrate how they would benefit the well-being of the community. Guy's Farm Activity Centre, regularly used by Guides/Scouts and other youth groups throughout the County have been awarded Gateway funding. Further details telephone 01257 263254

In addition the **LCC Green Partnership Awards Scheme** can also make funding available up to £500.00 for smaller environmentally friendly projects. For further details telephone 01772 530650

Small grants may be obtained through the local County Councillor, who has a small annual budget. Under this scheme New Longton Methodist Church was awarded £350 for its 'Food for Thought' project.



If you are undertaking a local project why not contact these organisations to see if assistance is available or access the LCC web site @ www.lancashire.gov.uk



LONGTON VILLAGE FETE 2009

Longton Fete was back in action again this year thanks to the hard work of the fete committee. The location at the Longton Victory Memorial Recreation Ground was the new setting and in sunshine and showers an array of stalls and entertainment was provided both indoors and outside. Fairground attractions were also present and hopefully those attending had a really good time and will look forward to the continuation of this event in future years. Susan Fox who was instrumental in making sure the event went ahead as planned expressed the Committees appreciation to all who had helped in whatever way mentioning particularly the scout leader and her team and the ladies who organised the raffle on the day. Events such as this do take time to organise and any help is always gratefully appreciated. Why not get involved yourselves in 2010.



CHRISTMAS ROSEBOWL COMPETITION



This competition which is open to all shops, offices, pubs and churches will once again be held this year. The rules are very simple - your display must be easily visible at street level. No entry form is needed - create a display and remember that this year you could be the winner.

Winner 2008: TATTERS OF LONGTON

Commendation: SCOTTS NEWSAGENTS & POST OFFICE NEW LONGTON

CHRISTMAS HOUSE DISPLAY COMPETITION VI PEACOCK CUP (NEW LONGTON) CHRISTMAS CUP (LONGTON)

This competition which is open to all residents will once again be held this year. A panel of judges will assess the best decorated and attractive houses in both Longton and New Longton .

Winner VI Peacock Cup 2008: Mr and Mrs Barker
6 Wham Lane New Longton
Commendation: Peter Johnson
East View Brownhill Lane New Longton

Winner Christmas Cup 2008: Mrs Tracey Eastham
31 Shirley Lane Longton
Commendation: Kevin Hunt
Grange House Liverpool Rd Longton

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

WEST WARD

GRAHAM GOOCH (CHAIRMAN)
57 SHIRLEY LANE
LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 5WJ
TEL 01772 614974

SUSAN FOX
33 DALE AVENUE
LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 5YJ
TEL 01772 619270

JUDITH CRIGHTON
11 WEST VIEW
LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 5AH
TEL 01772 611290

EMMA WORTHINGTON
8 DALE AVENUE
LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 5YJ
TEL 01772 612286

STEWART MCLOUGHLIN
4 DUDLEY CLOSE
LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 5WH
TEL 01772 614457

PHIL ARTIS
128 MARSH LANE
LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 5YL
TEL 01772 617078

EAST WARD

GEOFF WELCH
3 OAK GROVE
NEW LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 4XT
TEL 01772 617791

CATH KERSHAW
2 MOSSWAY
NEW LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 4ZQ
TEL 01772 616119

JOYCE CUNNINGHAM
46 SHEEPHILL LANE
NEW LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 4YN
TEL 01772 613503

ADRIAN UNDERWOOD
11 LATIMER DRIVE
NEW LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 4ZL
TEL 01772 616873

JOAN WIGNALL
WOODLANDS
LONG MOSS LANE
NEW LONGTON
PRESTON
PR4 4XN
TEL 01772 613269

CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

W V MCENNERNEY-WHITTLE
7 BILSBOROUGH MEADOW
PRESTON PR2 1YY
TEL 01772 733829

E-MAIL: longtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Web Site @ <http://www.longtonparishcouncil.org>

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXC AUGUST) COMMENCING AT 7.30PM (AN ADJOURNMENT IS PROVIDED IN ORDER TO LISTEN TO VIEWS FROM THE PUBLIC)

DATES AND VENUES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

7TH JULY AT LONGTON LIBRARY
1ST SEPTEMBER AT NEW LONGTON VILLAGE HALL
6TH OCTOBER AT LONGTON LIBRARY
3RD NOVEMBER AT NEW LONGTON VILLAGE HALL
1ST DECEMBER AT LONGTON LIBRARY

VACANCY

There is currently one vacancy for West Ward on the Parish Council. If you are interested in representing your fellow residents please contact the Clerk for further details.