

Boulmer Howick & Longhoughton

50

Longhoughton Parish Council

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NUMBER 50

There have now been fifty issues of the community newsletter during a period of slowly increasing local activity with our residents, and despite setbacks like Storm Arwen and a pandemic, the community has never been busier caring for itself, as recently recognised by a King's Award for Community Service.

In order to recognise and celebrate this we have added a four-page insert for you to read and enjoy. The Heritage Group have kindly shared some of their amazing discoveries around the church and churchyard, hugely valued for their religious and historic significance and which give the parish its identity, along with St Michael's and All Angels at Howick. The editors have added two pages to walk you through the issues since the first one in January 2018. The competitions below encourage you to respond to the celebration, so *please get involved*.



COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES

The Parish Council and the editors of the newsletter invite you to take part in two competitions to help us celebrate 50 editions of the community newsletter. **Please give it a go!**

Photographic Competition

For the best photograph taken in the parish about spring, judged by the editors. One photo per entrant. First prize: £25 voucher. Second prize: £20 voucher. Third prize: £15 voucher.

Poetry Competition

For the best short poem (max 12 lines) about spring in the parish, as judged by the editors. One poem per entrant. First prize: £25 voucher. Second prize: £20 voucher. Third prize: £15 voucher.

To enter, please send your poem or photograph by email to Chris at LPCnews50@gmail.com, giving your name, a contact phone number and address, **by the end of April**. Your data will be held temporarily and deleted once the winners have been published and announced at the end of May.

Winners will be published in the June newsletter.

One 4 All gift cards will be delivered by hand. **GOOD LUCK!**

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

Boulmer Ward
Adrian Hinchcliffe (Chair)
01665 572888

One vacancy
Howick Ward
Ian Knox 01665 572939
Mary Calam 07740 435069

Longhoughton Ward
Peter Bromley 01665 577071
(Vice Chair)
Carole Green 01665 572610
Hannah Horsley 07733 338487
Michael Nichols 07771611332
Laura Rowberry 03001 658427
Peter McEwen 01665 572735

RAF Liaison
Laura Rowberry 03001 658427

County Councillor
Wendy Pattison 07779983072
wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk

Parish Clerk
Elizabeth Taylor 01665 830040
clerk@longhoughton-pc.gov.uk
Please contact the Clerk about the parish councillor vacancies.

Websites

<https://longhoughton-pc.gov.uk>
www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk

Newsletter Editors

Adrian Hinchcliffe
adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com
Chris Thomas (Design)
LPCnews50@gmail.com

Newsworthy items for the next edition before the **deadline on 8 May**, please.

Disclaimer: The Boulmer, Howick and Longhoughton Community Newsletter is published by Longhoughton Parish Council. The views expressed represent the understanding of the editors or of any named person contributing to the newsletter.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

LIBRARY SERVICE UNDER THREAT

Northumberland County Council are conducting a consultation into the future of the library service. Longhoughton Parish Council considered that this is a service valued by residents, so we are drawing this to your attention to respond to if you wish. Details of the consultation and how to respond are set out below.

The consultation asks residents for their thoughts on proposals to redesign library services to ensure they meet the changing needs of residents and communities in the modern world. Both members and non-members are encouraged to give their views on the proposals, which include: changes to opening hours; changes to the mobile library service; new ways of providing access to books and services in rural communities; use of new technologies to create 'open access' self-service hours; and some libraries being run by community volunteers.

Councillor Wendy Pattison, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism, said:

"It's very important that we hear from as many people as possible. After all, our libraries are for you, our residents. You don't have to be a member of the library to take part, and you can give your thoughts in a few different ways. All of the information you need is on our dedicated consultation webpage. Thank you for helping us shape the future of Northumberland Libraries." Please go to Northumberland County Council's website and search 'Northumberland Libraries Public Consultation' for more information.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Longhoughton Parish Council has moved to a new website at <https://longhoughton-pc.gov.uk>. This is a more modern and secure website, and presents lots of information about the council and the parish. For information about the Neighbourhood Plan, we are still using a separate website www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk, but as different aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan are developed and implemented, news of them will be on the new website. In addition, parish councillors are moving to new [.gov.uk](mailto:) email addresses. These are set out on the front page of this newsletter.

THE RABAT RALLY RAMPAGE IS COMING TO LONGHOUGHTON!

We are thrilled to announce that the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre has been chosen as the official starting point for the 2026 Rabat Rally Rampage on Saturday, 11 April.

Organised by Nueral, a pioneering new adventure-tech startup founded by local lads, this adventure rally brings together driving enthusiasts for a journey across Europe and North Africa, all while supporting incredible causes. Last year, our participants raised over £7,000 for mental health charities, and this year we are proud to support Driving Ukraine (providing vital vehicles and aid) and Šumski Mir (a reforestation project in Serbia).

What's Happening?

On Saturday afternoon, approximately 26 rally-prepared vehicles will arrive at the Centre. We'll be hosting a Leaving Party in the Function Room featuring live music and a vibrant atmosphere to see the teams off before they begin their epic trek toward Morocco the following morning.

Local Residents

We want the Longhoughton community to be part of the excitement! We have reserved a block of tickets specifically for local residents to join us for the Saturday evening entertainment. It's a great chance to see the unique rally cars up close and meet the teams before they head out.

Watch the Grand Departure!

On Sunday 12 April the vehicles will begin their departure one by one from 9:00 AM. We invite you to come down, wave them off, and wish them luck on their journey!

We look forward to meeting you all and making this a fantastic, safe, and memorable event for Longhoughton. Team Nueral



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

LONGHOUGHTON AND ST JOHN AMBULANCE FIRST AID VILLAGE PROJECT CELEBRATES A GREAT SUCCESS: 28 residents trained

The Longhoughton St John Ambulance First Aid Village Project has successfully completed its first five training sessions.

HM Lord Lieutenant, Dr. Caroline Pryer, attended the project's launch evening and participated in several of the skills stations. She expressed her admiration for the expertise demonstrated by St John Ambulance volunteers, as well as the enthusiasm and engagement shown by the parish council and local residents. Reflecting on the event, she said:

"I was delighted to witness the first SJA First Aid Village project in Longhoughton and see 28 residents learning about CPR, emergency first aid with lifelike prosthetic wounds, and choking life-saving procedures.

Some may use these skills, and some may even become volunteers; however, all have benefited from lifelong learning and helped strengthen their community's cohesion. All sessions ran smoothly. John's team was organised, professional, and welcoming. The Longhoughton community showed genuine eagerness to learn about lifesaving skills and St John Ambulance. It was an excellent experience for everyone involved and a fantastic first step in our village first aid project across Northumbria and Durham. We already have communities asking if they can be next!"

John Short, St John Ambulance First Aid Project Lead for Northumberland, added:

"Throughout the sessions, parish residents attended the Longhoughton Community and Sport Centre, where they completed a round-robin of skills stations covering the five ways to save a life. Their eagerness to learn was clear, and they showed great interest in the topics, even discussing ideas for future sessions".

Adrian Hinchcliffe, chair of Longhoughton Parish Council, thanked St John Ambulance for this superb initiative.



Participants and the St John Ambulance trainers.



Can you help protect nesting ringed plovers this year?

Nesting season is here! Small shorebirds called ringed plovers have begun to nest on sandy and shingle beaches and they need your help! We are looking for volunteers to help give these vulnerable birds a helping hand to raise their families! The great news is that no previous experience is required as we provide all training and resources.

There are a number of ways in which you can get involved, including spending time at some beautiful beaches along the coast to look for



potential nesting sites and protecting ringed plover chicks as they take their first steps out onto the shore.

If you would like to get involved and to receive full details of the volunteering opportunities, please send us an email at Spaceforshorebirds@northumberland.gov.uk or get in touch via our website at www.spaceforshorebirds.co.uk.

Let's give our ringed plovers the best possible chance at raising their families successfully this year!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

Alncom is helping to keep our local communities connected by providing free, high-speed broadband at two key community spaces: Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre and Boulmer Memorial Hall.

These free hubs offer reliable internet access for everyone, supporting community events, local groups, training sessions, and day-to-day communication. The aim is to make it easier for residents to stay connected, encourage social interaction, and help reduce the sense of isolation that can sometimes be felt in rural areas.

By supporting these hubs, Alncom hopes to strengthen community ties and make digital access more inclusive for all. **Residents and visitors are welcome to make use of the free wi-fi when spending time at either venue.**

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We are pleased to report that the Neighbourhood Plan has now been adopted by Northumberland County Council, which means that the twelve policies are now part of planning law and will be used to assess any planning applications that are submitted for the Parish. Additionally, the Parish Council will be pursuing many of the actions that were promised as part of the plan.



**citizens
advice**

NEED ADVICE ON DEBT?

Citizens Advice Northumberland offers free and confidential advice on:

Debt solutions: Bank loans: **Fuel Arrears:** Credit cards: **Catalogues:** Benefit Overpayments: **Council tax arrears:** Water arrears: Payday loans: **Court fines:** and Rent/Mortgage Arrears.
Call 01670 33 99 60 Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. Or email debt@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Monday 13 April at Boulmer Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Monday 18 May 2026 at Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre starting at 7.30pm. This will also be the **Annual Parish Meeting.**

LONGHOUGHTON NEWS

THE PICK-UP TIMES FOR REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS **ARE CHANGING**

Alnwick Medical Group is to change the times for the pick-up of repeat prescriptions at the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre. The pick-up times are being reduced to 30 minutes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Tuesday 5 May 2026. **The new times will be 1.30pm to 2.00pm on each of these days.**

HAVE YOU A FEW HOURS FREE TO HELP LONGHOUGHTON SCOUTS GROUP?

Longhoughton Scouts Group does a great job in providing a scouting facility in Longhoughton for many young people. The two longstanding leaders of the group provide leadership but are in need of other adults to help them run this vital scouting experience for young people. Can you give some time to help? If so, please contact Carrienne Field for more information on email carrienne@bh7370.co.uk.

THURSDAY TOGETHER

The weekly Thursday Together programme of talks and presentations will conclude at the end of March. The programme has been very successful, and the average attendance is close to thirty. The programme will start again next November and run until the end of March 2027. The organiser, Adrian Hinchcliffe, is looking for anyone who would like to make a presentation about some interesting period or situation in their life. Please contact Adrian by email adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com

COMMUNITY GARDENERS

Join us for the Grand Opening of the Longhoughton Community Orchard on Sunday 19 April between 1 and 3 pm. Come along and help celebrate this wonderful new space for the village. The official ribbon cutting will take place at 1:15 pm.

Stalls and activities will include homemade soup and cakes, a plant stall, basketry, rug-making, crafts, bird boxes, a local bat conservation group, a WI craft stall, a raffle and more. It will be a great chance to meet neighbours, explore the orchard, and enjoy the afternoon together. Stone painting for children will also be taking place in the orchard.

We are currently collecting donations of plants for the plant stall and prizes for the raffle, and would be very grateful for any contributions. It has already been a busy start to the year for

LONGHOUGHTON NEWS

the group. Our recent edible hedge planting day was a great success thanks to a fantastic team of volunteers. Thank you to everyone who came along. It's going to be a great addition for wildlife.

We also enjoyed sharing the orchard project and our future plans at a recent Thursday Together presentation.

To keep up to date with what we're doing, follow us on social media @longhoughtoncg.

If you'd like to get involved or find out more about volunteering, please email longhoughtoncg@gmail.com.

LOVE LONGHOUGHTON CHURCH

Longhoughton Parish Church is an important part of the Longhoughton community. A place of Christian worship of course, but also a significant community asset in other ways, a beautiful historic building, lots of interesting heritage and stories, a remarkable churchyard, a potential meeting space.

Peter Bromley from the Parish Council met with Rev Alison recently about the possibility of bringing together the many existing volunteers who already contribute so much to the life of the church and who want to do more, to make the most of the church in the community and to help sustain it for the future.

20 people gathered for the first meeting in early March, with several apologies. It's obvious how much the church is loved and how much potential it has. The ideas flowed!

Just a flavour: simple repair and maintenance of the building, care of the churchyard, better use of noticeboards, display of heritage materials, improvement of the under-tower space to make a meeting place with a small kitchen facility, concerts and other community activities in the building.

The next steps are for the Parochial Church Council to liaise with the group and decide on where to start.

Anyone interested in being part of this initiative, please email Peter Bromley to be added to the mailing list. There will be an update in the next edition.

LONGHOUGHTON CHURCH GIFT DAY

Longhoughton Church recently held a 'gift day' to gather funds for the upkeep of the Grade 1 listed building and to make some important changes inside. The total raised so far is £2,252.



The Parochial Church Council sincerely thanks all those who contributed. The fund is still open if anyone wishes to contribute.

EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

- Saturday 4 April at 8.00pm: Easter Vigil at Longhoughton
- Easter Sunday 5 April at 9.00am: Holy Communion at Howick
- Easter Sunday 5 April at 11.00am: Holy Communion at Longhoughton

LONGHOUGHTON NEWS



ZIGGY

Some of you already know me. I'm the striped professional patrolling fields and supervising Burnside pigeons with intense, managerial eye contact. For those who don't, I'm Ziggy. I stepped into village

security when I realised nobody else was taking the rabbit situation seriously. I regularly monitor the South End rabbit gang, conduct important hedge inspections, and provide a complimentary 2am alarm service; sometimes with a mouse for added impact. Gratitude remains suspiciously low. I briefly considered becoming a sheep for an easier life, but there was far too much standing around and absolutely no authority, so I returned to leadership.

My siblings say I "smell like outside." That's not a smell, that's field experience. The village is still standing. *You're welcome. Z.*

LONGHOUGHTON COMMUNITY LUNCH

Wednesday **29 April** and Wednesday **27 May**, both at the Community and Sports Centre at 12 noon. Three courses for £5.00.

Come and enjoy the lunch in a great social atmosphere. It's all provided by our volunteers.

LONGHOUGHTON FEAST

The 'Feast' is the new name for the annual fete following in the traditions of our local ancestors. This year, the Feast will be on Saturday, 11 July. The Organising Committee is planning new attractions and the 'village show' will be held in a marquee rather than inside the building. Watch this space for more details.

NHS Health Checks

Free health checks for people aged 40 to 74 will take place on Tuesday 14 April in the Wellbeing Room at the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. You can attend without an appointment. If you are concerned about your health, please take advantage of these checks.

WELLBEING WALKS

The walks take place every Wednesday starting at 11.00 am from the car park at the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre. The walks are on hard surfaces around Longhoughton, led by experienced leaders and last one hour. It is a good way to start improving your fitness levels, whatever your age. Specialist footwear is NOT required. **Give it a try!**

QUARRY PLANNING APPLICATION

Nothing further has been heard about the outcome of the planning application.

LONGHOUGHTON COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE

Will you stand as a Trustees of the Community and Sports Centre please?

A potential reduction in the number of Trustees has caused the existing Trustees to look for more people to become trustees of the centre. This is a very rewarding voluntary role for anyone who has the time. Induction training would be given. The Trustees meet monthly to coordinate the running of the Centre.

Longhoughton Events Group:

The events being organised are:

27 March: Quingo

05 April: Children's Easter Party

10 April: Bingo

24 April: Bingo

08 May: Bingo

15 May: Quiz

Children's Easter Party

Is open to all children in Longhoughton Boulmer and Howick under the age of 12. There will be a treasure hunt and egg painting and an Easter bonnet competition. All children will receive an Easter egg. Please bring your decorated bonnet to take part in the exciting parade to win a large Easter egg.

3.00pm- 5.00pm Easter Sunday 5 April 2026

DANCERCISE, PILATES AND BALLance: all Sophie's classes

Dancercise 6pm to 6.45pm ON TUESDAYS. Dancercise is an aerobic workout involving low and high intensity dance moves, with upbeat, cheesy music. Suitable for all fitness levels. You can't help but smile when you're doing this class! Join us on Tuesday evenings 6.00pm to 6.45, £6.

Pilates: Tuesdays 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

LONGHOUGHTON COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE

BALLance Thursday 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Do you suffer with back pain? Poor posture? Stress? Shallow breathing? Scoliosis? BALLance is for YOU! Working with trigger points along the spine to release tension in between the vertebrae, making your spine smile, your nervous system relax, improving your posture and breathing. Thursdays 6.00pm to 7.00pm. £10 booking essential via fusionfitnessbysophie@gmail.com

Regular Activities

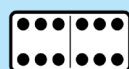
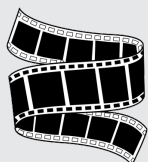
What is on at the Community Centre with contact details:

Monday	AM Monday Matters: Liz Wood lizwood1950@btinternet.com PM Pins and Needles : Jenny Cant jennet.cant@gmail.com Evening Film Club: Joanna Davies. Longhoughton Film Club Facebook
Tuesday	PM Prescription pick-up: 1.00pm to 2.00pm (1.30pm to 2.00pm from 05.05.26) PM Dancercise: 6:00pm to 6.45pm Sophie fusionfitnessbysophie@gmail.com PM Pilates 7.00pm to 8.00pm Sophie fusionfitnessbysophie@gmail.com
Wednesday	AM Yoga Stretch: Deb Swift info@debyoga.co.uk AM Wellbeing Walk (11.00am) adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com PM Community Lunch: (last Wednesday in the month) Pat Ellis PM Indoor Bowling: Sheila Abercrombie 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Evening. Scouts: Mike Keith & Carriane Field carriane@bh7370.co.uk
Thursday	Thursday Together: 11.30am to 1.00pm (up to 26.03.26) PM Prescription Pick-up: 1.00pm to 2.00pm.(1.30pm to 2.00pm from 05.05.26) PM BALLance: 6.00pm to 7.00pm fusionfitnessbysophie@gmail.com
Friday	PM 11 to 16 Year Old Kick-about: 5.00pm to 6.00pm.

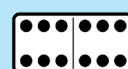
Film Club

Films to be shown on Mondays at 7.30pm are:

06 Apr:	One battle after Another
13 Apr:	The Choral
20 Apr :	Sinners
27 Apr:	Marty Supreme
04 May:	F1
11 May:	Hamnet
18 May:	The Smashing Machine



DOMINO DRIVE



Organised by Longhoughton Carpet Bowls Club

Wednesday 29 April

2.00pm to 4.00pm. Doors open 1.30pm.

At the Community and Sports Centre
£5.00 per ticket from Sheila Abercrombie
Email sheilaabercrombie195@gmail.com

Money raised will go to the
Community & Sports Centre and Carpet Bowls Club

Refreshments included

BOULMER NEWS

BOULMER BEACH CAR PARK

The County Council have now taken over the Beach car park and will introduce the parking charges as soon as the ticket machines are received, which is said to be 3 to 5 weeks.

PLAN TO REPLACE THE WOODEN STOBBS

The Parish Council is planning to replace the wooden stobbs on either side of the entrance road into the Beach car park. The existing stobbs are not in a good state after many years in the ground and many have rotted away at the base.



SURVEY OF CAR PARKING ON THE MAIN STREET

The County Council has agreed to carry out a survey of parking on the village street at Boulmer to determine the impact of introducing parking charges. If there is a big impact, residents will be asking for parking restrictions.

PROPOSED NEW CAR PARK ADJACENT TO THE MEMORIAL HALL

At a meeting with County Council officers and Councillor Pattison, the Parish Council representatives and members of the Trustees of the Hall, were told that the County Council had decided not to continue with the project to obtain planning permission. They said the reason for this was that to submit a planning

BOULMER NEWS

application that meets the necessary acceptance criteria, they would have to spend £85,000 on survey work, done by a professional company, and this did not represent good value. The pleas from the Parish Council and Village Hall representatives were not accepted. Subsequent to this meeting, the representatives and local people feel that the County Council has not taken into account the needs of the community and the needs of the Boulmer Memorial Hall. After asking for this car park since 2017 and being promised by the Leader of the Council that it would happen, this is a very sad day for Boulmer. A number of residents have made a complaint to the Leader of the County Council.

LONGHOUGHTON BEACH CAR PARK

(at Sugar Sands and Howdiemont Sands)
Car parking at this car park is only £3.30 per day; or if you buy an annual season ticket, it is just £25.00. *There is a bargain if there ever was one!*

KISSING GATES ALONG THE COAST PATH

Thanks to Northumberland Estates!

People with rucksacks on their backs and certain dogs with long backs (ie greyhounds) were experiencing some difficulty in getting through the kissing gates between Boulmer and the Seaton Point Dunes Caravan Site. A complaint was made to the Parish Council. After some investigation and a review of best practice, a possible solution was put to the landowner, Northumberland Estates. The Estates have acted, and all five kissing gates have been altered in accordance with best practice. Thank you, Northumberland Estates!

BOULMER MEMORIAL HALL

BOOKINGS Contact Nancy Robinson by email on toms mum@icloud.com or send a message on the Hall Facebook page.

BMH HAS A NEW CHAIR Congratulations to Helen Ashworth on being elected.

HOWICK NEWS

FILM CLUB

Please email John Roper: johnroper1@btinternet.com to join the club mailing list and find out which films are showing and the dates. Donations are suggested at £5.00.

CRAFT CLUB

For details call Audrey Jamieson on 01665 577797

HOWICK WI

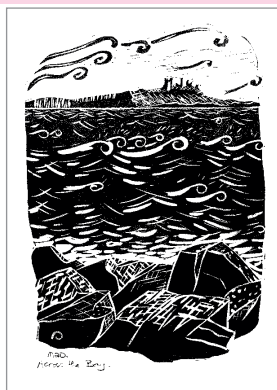
Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm. Contact Jeanette Archbold on 01665 577384.

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Contact Jane Doleman on 01665 577801

HOWICK ART GROUP

We welcome new members. We meet on Monday mornings in Howick Village Hall, 9:45am to approximately 1:15pm. Our annual subscription is £90 which includes rental of the hall, the running of two exhibitions per year (one over the Early May Bank Holiday and one over the August Bank Holiday), visiting tutors, workshops and refreshments. If you would like to join our group, please contact us via our website at: www.howickartgroupnorthumberland.com



Across the Bay

A linocut by M A Delbauve (Left)

ART Exhibition

Howick Village Hall

NE66 3LE

Early May

Bank Holiday Weekend

10am-4pm



Local artists
Refreshments

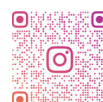
Howick Art Group

howickartgroupnorthumberland.com



LONGHOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Search for Longhoughton Parish Council on Facebook, and Longhoughton pc on Instagram.



PROUDLY
SUPPORTING
THOSE WHO
SERVE.