



# The Long Itchington Newsletter

New Year Edition  
January 2024



Courtesy Malcolm Hepple

## Annual Parish Forum – Community Centre

This open meeting will take place on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at 10.00am and is an opportunity to hear about the work of the council and our plans for the future. It is an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and visit stands displaying the activities of local organisations. Doors open at 9.30am. Refreshments are available.

### Presentations

10.00 - Parish Council Finances and the precept for 2024/25

10.15 - Short presentation of the Parish Council's year

10.20 - Parish Council plans for 2024

10.30 - Questions from residents and suggestions for future projects

11.15 - Opportunity to view displays by village organisations and talk with councillors informally

12.00 - Meeting closes

## Anti-social behaviour and vandalism damages Green End toilets and the Pavilion

We are very disappointed to report that, over the Christmas period, there was vandalism in the parish. The public toilets were trashed with paper, water and mud, so that we were forced to lock them, the Christmas tree was damaged as were the lights.

The most devastating incident occurred on December 27<sup>th</sup>, when the pavilion was broken into, and all electrics were very seriously damaged and, in some cases, destroyed. We have CCTV and, therefore, can identify some of the perpetrators. The police are aware and are taking this very seriously.

Sadly, we believe that those involved in these crimes live in the village and are minors.

If you witness any incidents of vandalism, we urge you to report to the police on 101 (999 if the incident is happening in front of you) or online at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk).

We also appreciate knowing about such incidents, but it must be the witness who reports to the police. (see page 4)

## Parish Council Grants

Every year the Parish Council sets aside a sum of money to be distributed amongst local village groups. We would very much like to hear from your group with a view to receiving one of these grants. Take a look at the parish council website, in the section "policies and documents" to download a [grant application form](#) or contact: ~ 815216 to ask for one to be sent to you.

Please sign up to regular email updates from the Parish Council, by emailing [parishcouncil@longitchington.com](mailto:parishcouncil@longitchington.com). You will then receive regular updates on local issues of interest – events, road closures, flood warnings, film nights, and many other things.

## **The Pond - purity of the water and protection for wildlife**

Water quality in the pond has been seriously compromised in recent years, leading to a catastrophic loss of fish in the summer. A working group is exploring ways to improve water quality. But first we need to understand what consequences changes to the water supply system might make to other drainage systems.

One option is the possible installation of an aeration system that could be deployed in periods of extreme heat to ensure oxygen levels in the pond do not drop to a point where fish (and other wildlife) might be threatened.

Residents will also have noticed that the viewing platform has been taped off. Unfortunately, the structure has reached the end of its life and is unsafe, so we have closed it to the public. We would ask that residents please respect the closure and do not attempt to gain access to the platform as it is now dangerous. Recently someone removed the barrier tape with the result that a resident was injured when they walked onto the platform and lost their footing by going through the decking. More work will be undertaken to explore options for removing the existing structure and its eventual replacement.

The swan - the Pond Warden is aware of "flights of fancy". If you are worried contact John on 07976 946729

And finally, we ask residents not to feed bread to ducks in the pond, but to use appropriate foods, which can be purchased from Southam Country Stores, Westfield Road, Southam. It is very sad that one act of vandalism has damaged the bird feeder at the pond. We hope to repair and replace it very soon.

## **FLOODING - recent events and what resources we have**

Recent events have demonstrated that our parish is not immune to flooding. Sadly, houses at Willow Grove and a significant part of Church Road experienced the effects of flooding. Bizzy Tots was seriously affected when parents struggled to pick up their children at the end of the day. We outline here what the parish council has in terms of mitigation measures and which services and councils are responsible for specific issues.

### **Parish Council resources**

We have a water pump, sandbags, barriers & cones. We have a volunteer group who can be deployed at short notice to move the pump. In extreme circumstances we have the Community Centre which can be used as a warm refuge. Should you need any of these things the first port of call is to contact the parish office - **01926 815216; out of hours phone: 814921/812248/811613 or email: parishcouncil@longitchington.com.**

With regard to **road closures, we do not have the authority to close roads.** Highways (WCC) or the police hold this responsibility. We can report issues and we urge residents to do the same as many reports may be more effective than one or two. Report to **01926 412515 or [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit)**

**If you are flooded or worried about flooding** - please contact WCC (details above) and also let us know. Please recognise the dangers to yourself and other people of driving or walking in flood water: 1. Damage to your car's electrics. 2.Reduced or no braking. 3.Hitting objects hidden under the water (e.g. loosened maintenance hole covers). 4.Splashing pedestrians or causing flooding to properties. 5.Coming into contact with sewage.

This recent event demonstrated that the flood defences along the river are holding, but we need to be prepared. **If you would like to join our fast response flooding group, please contact us on 01926 814921.**

## **School News - from Rebecca Richards, Headteacher**

Very exciting news! The extensive building work to Long Itchington CE Academy is set to go ahead this year and it is anticipated it will be commencing around Easter time. This is going to be a fantastic project which, on its completion, will make classroom spaces in KS2 amazing learning environments.

We are currently liaising closely with the community centre as they are keen to work with us to ensure that any disruption has no impact on the teaching and learning of pupils while the work is being undertaken. We are really grateful to be able to work together on this for the good of the whole community. We have also been working hard with the central DMAT team to ensure that the programme of works is achievable in an open school.

With everyone working together, we are reaching really positive solutions to any potential issues. We look forward to sharing more on this exciting project as time progresses!

## LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

**History Group** - meets every second Wednesday of the month.

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Jan - Experiences of a Local Conservation Structural Engineer by Clive Haywood

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb - 2000 years of British Coinage by Colin Clay

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Mar - 3D Slides of Leamington Spa by Dr Bob Pryce

All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held at the Community Centre, Stockton Road. Entry £3, all welcome.

**WI meetings** are held at the Community Centre and start at 7.30pm.

18th January 2024 with speaker Anna Prosser on *Dogs for Good*

21st February 2024 with speaker Laura Eaton on *Myton Hospice*

20th March 2024 with speaker Alan Deeley on *Burton Green Honey*

For more information about WI, please contact Jenni Venn on 812248 or email: [secretary.liwi@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.liwi@gmail.com)

**Community Café** - Run by friendly volunteers, the Community Café is free and open to all residents. It is a warm and welcoming space where you can enjoy food and hot drinks and engage in friendly chatter with both familiar faces and those you've yet to meet. Community Centre, **every Thursday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.**

**Film Night - 23rd February - 7.30 at the Community Centre**

"**Dream Horse**" follows the story of Dream Alliance, a horse that raced in the Welsh Grand National in 2009.

Booking essential. Tickets £5. Refreshments available. Phone Margaret on 814397 or Wendy on 812751

**Wednesday Club** meets at the Community Centre on 14th February and 13th March, 2.30 - 4.30pm.

For more information, contact Lorna on 01926 814376

**Cricket Club** - Our new season is only a few months away. We start with Winter nets at Princethorpe College from **Monday 12th February** (juniors - year 7 to 10) 6.30pm to 7.45pm, Seniors 7.45pm to 9.00pm - all OLD & NEW PLAYERS welcome.

Our AGM is at 7.30pm on **Friday 23rd February at the Green Man.**

**Help raise essential funds for Holy Trinity** at no cost to you - with Easyfundraising! It costs over £3,900 a month to keep our parish Church open and working.

Help raise much needed funds for Holy Trinity when you buy online, at absolutely no cost or commitment, if you sign up to Easyfundraising, whose partners have over 8,100 well-known brands. When you buy online, the brand donates a percentage of your purchase for free. This is Holy Trinity's Easyfundraising QR code. You can scan and sign up with the QR code (see right), or log on to:-

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holy-trinity-long-itchington-1>

Please sign up to help your parish church today.  
Regular services every Sunday at 9.30am

QR Code for Easyfundraising



### **A message from Rev Canon Richard Suffern, Holy Trinity Church**

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light so that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way. So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.'" These words were quoted by George VI in his Christmas 1939 broadcast. They struck a chord with a country engulfed in war. In these uncertain days, with much conflict in the World, maybe we can take them, and the faith contained therein to be our source of hope and strength at the beginning of a new year. May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

*Rev Canon Richard Suffern. Holy Trinity Church*

The next newsletter runs from 16th March - 18th May. Articles & notices **must be received by 4th March** to [lipcdiary@gmail.com](mailto:lipcdiary@gmail.com).

Parish Council meetings - 24th January and 28th February at Community Centre, 7.30pm. Agendas are published on the website and posted on noticeboards. Residents are welcome to attend.

**Memorial Garden**

The Memorial Garden has been designed to be a quiet area for contemplation. The south-facing timber wall provides the backdrop for fixing personal dedications in the form of commemorative plaques with personal messages. You can also order a tree as a memorial to be planted there.

**How to order your memorial:**

To find out how you can order a commemorative plaque or tree to remember your loved one, please see our website or ring 01926 815216

[longitchington.org.uk/long-itchington-memorial-garden](http://longitchington.org.uk/long-itchington-memorial-garden)



**How to report faulty streetlights**

With an ageing stock of lights in the parish, inevitably lights do fail. The parish council has a programme for replacing lights. You can report faulty lights at:-

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reporthishighwayproblem](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reporthishighwayproblem)

It's very helpful if you can give an accurate location with road and name/number of the nearest house. Sometimes light posts will show a designated light number.



When lights are replaced, you may find that they do not appear to shine as brightly, and this is because modern replacements use white LED lamps, which use less energy, dramatically cutting carbon emissions.

**Dog poo & out of control dogs!!!!**

There is some very useful information about dogs and the regulations at the following website: [www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/dog-warden.cfm](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/dog-warden.cfm). Other dog related incidents, such as dog-on-dog attacks are civil matters - contact Environmental Health on 01789 260839 between 08.45 and 17.00, Monday - Friday. Or speak to Citizen's Advice.



**Parking responsibly**

With increasing numbers of cars in the parish, but no more parking spaces, we urge motorists to be considerate.

Currently, the most prevalent issues of concern in our parish are:

- Cars parked across dropped kerbs
- Obstructing pavements, especially for those with mobility issues and prams
- Obstructing other residents' driveways
- Inappropriate parking in Stockton Road during school drop off and collection times
- parking on grass verges, particularly around the Green
- parking opposite or within 10 metres of a junction (see Highway Code)

As a parish council, we receive many complaints but do not have any powers of enforcement. Please think before parking.....



**And finally.....**

Let's all be vigilant in reporting crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Reality in 2024 is not always what we might wish for and, sadly, Long Itchington isn't immune from anti-social behaviour and crime.

If you witness such events, please report to the police - **ring 999 if a crime is taking place or 101 to report an incident afterwards**. You can report online at [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk). The most important thing is to get an incident number so that similar events can be investigated together if appropriate.

It's good when you tell the parish council about incidents, but it has to be the witness who reports. If safe to do so, please take photographs as evidence, but do not put yourself in danger.

Please remember, these events are still rare.

Newsletter written & published by Long Itchington Parish Council. To submit articles - [lipcdiary@gmail.com](mailto:lipcdiary@gmail.com)

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