

Boulmer Howick & Longhoughton

WELCOME TO SPRING!

The daffodils are blooming, the birds are singing, the grass is growing, the lambs are gambolling, the days are getting longer, so welcome to spring! It is a great feeling especially after the awful year that we have had.



Temperatures are slowly rising. At this time of year, shorebird nesting season is almost upon us, and the birds are building up as much energy as possible to keep them fit and healthy during the summer. Some birds, such as sanderling and turnstone, migrate as far north as the high Arctic to nest but, some such as ringed plover, stay to nest on our beaches.

We also welcome back terns to the county at this time of year. Arctic and little terns nest on our shores in colonies, but ringed plovers are fiercely territorial, meaning their nests are well spread out along the coastline.

Please look out for areas that may be fenced off during the summer to provide these birds with a safe place to rear their chicks successfully. Follow us on social media (@spaceforshorebirds on Facebook and Instagram) for updates throughout the season.

Please keep your dog under control at all times to protect our shorebirds.

LONGHOUGHTON TO LESBURY GREENWAY

Discussions on the route for the proposed Greenway are still taking place. The Greenway will be for non-motorised transport including walkers and it will extend the existing route from Walkworth to Lesbury including a link to Alnmouth Station.

LONGHOUGHTON, BOULMER AND HOWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Most of the background evidence has been obtained and policies are being formulated. Within the next two months the steering group will be conducting a significant consultation on the evidence that has been compiled and what the emerging policies will look like. This will be a very wide consultation with all residents, businesses, organisations and statutory consultees.



A ringed plover feeding on the mud at Boulmer

Longhoughton Parish Council

Boulmer Ward

Adrian Hinchcliffe (Vice Chair)
01665 572888

2 Vacancies

Howick Ward

John Haughie 01665 577020
1 Vacancy

Longhoughton Ward

Jacqueline Barras 01665 577824
Peter Bromley 01665 577071
Carole Green 01665 572610
Ellie Phillips 01665 577563
(Chair)
1 Vacancy

County Councillor

Wendy Pattison 01665 579137

Parish Clerk

Elizabeth Taylor 01665 830040
parishclerk@hotmail.com
Please contact the Clerk about the parish councillor vacancies.

Websites

northumberlandparishes.uk/longhoughton
www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk

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Please let us have your newsworthy items for the next edition before the next **deadline on 21 May 2021**. Thank you.

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 News

BEACH ROAD AND PARKING ON THE DUNES

The Parish Council is aware that many residents and visitors are concerned about access to the beach via Low Steads Farm. Many comments have been made on Facebook and other media. Here is the up to date position.

There have been a number of meetings to look at the various issues around the amount, size and speed of traffic along Beach Road and the impact of greatly increased parking on the dunes and headland at Howdiemont and Sugar Sands. The Parish Council has reported back on these over the past few months.

This is a complex situation with the protection of the environment, the future of this coastal area which is part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the sustainability of the farm at Low Steads, and the rights and responsibilities of the various partners which are all critical elements. The Parish Council has been working closely with many partners, including the owners of the farm, Howick Estates (who own the headland and dunes – **there is no public right to park there**; it is only by the agreement of the farm owners and Howick Estate), the National Trust (who have covenants on the land) and Northumberland County Council as the Highways Authority and others, to seek a solution to what is an unsustainable situation.

Last year, at its peak, up to 390 vehicles a day went up and down the road and parked at the beach; as a result, amongst other repercussions, there were accidents and "near misses" on the road and increased damage to the AONB. There have been a number of posts on the Parish Council's Facebook page about seeking to keep some parking access for local residents and disabled people and encouraging cyclists, walkers and runners as well as accommodating dog-walkers, buggy-pushers and other legitimate users of the route. **Rest assured, the aspirations of the local residents is one of the issues uppermost in the minds of the farm, the landowners, the Parish Council and others.**

No details of a management scheme have been finalised yet, and when they are drafted, there will be a community consultation about them. All partners want to be as open and as inclusive as possible. What is also agreed, however, is that the current situation, which will probably be as intense, if not more so, in this and future years, is not sustainable for many reasons. Please watch this space for future developments.

BEACH AND PARISH CLEAN-UP AND GRAFFITI

The winter storms have deposited a whole range of materials on our beaches which are threatening the lives of species that live in the sea, birds and other animals. All sorts of plastic sheeting and other materials are still coming in and getting caught up in seaweed. Many people have been helping to clear this up and get it off the beach. On the weekend of 20/21 March the northern end of Seaton Point beach was an appalling mess. **It has been suggested that we create an informal Beach Cleaning Group** who could be called together on occasions when there is bad pollution. If you or members of your family are willing to be part of such a group please contact Adrian Hinchcliffe on 01665 572888 or email adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com

Unacceptable graffiti has appeared on the rocks at Seaton Point and onwards towards Alnmouth. If anyone saw the perpetrators, they should report them to 101.

ULTRAFAST BROADBAND

The Parish Council has been working with Councillor Wendy Pattison and iNorthumberland to bring ultrafast broadband to isolated properties in the very rural part of the Parish. Residents and businesses in the Denwick Lane End and some properties in Rennington Parish were recently asked if they wished to have an ultra-fast supply installed at their properties. Grants of up to £3,000 can be claimed to cover the costs of installation. Regrettably not enough residents applied to take advantage of this offer and the opportunity has been lost.

IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHOOL GREEN

Following consideration of a report that showed the village sculpture and its base to be deteriorating and in need of renovation, the Parish Council has given approval for a quotation to be obtained for considerable renovations. Also, the dilapidated seat will be replaced by a new five person bench.

Parish News

BOOKS BY THE SEA

You may have noticed on your walk down the Beach Road that Longhoughton has a 'Books by the Sea' free mini library which is one of seven along the coast going north.

It is stocked full with a great selection of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction and it will be regularly restocked with new books.

All you have to do is take a book and leave a book.

Visit the Instagram for the locations: @booksbythesea. If you would like to have one in your village please contact Gill Bromley on 07576992692 who will help you set it up. How about one in Boulmer and one in Howick?

A BRIDGE OVER HOWICK BURN

The bridge that used to cross the Howick Burn near the burn mouth was removed several years ago due to vandalism. It was put in over 25 years ago by the Percy Hunt. The Parish Council has been trying to get a replacement since the tree trunk over the burn was also removed on health and safety grounds by Howick Estates (on whose land the bridge would sit). This has been a lengthy process, not least because of Covid-19 and the difficulty in organising site visits by potential contractors. However, we now have a couple of quotes for the work. Both are higher than we first anticipated for a number of understandable and legitimate reasons, but most importantly, the health and safety implications of building such a large-span bridge have increased over the past 20 plus years. As a result, the Parish Council has to look to see how it can afford to put in the bridge.

The route is a permissive one (not a Public Right of Way; access is only by the permission of the landowners, in this case the Low Steads farm and Howick Estates) so there are no obvious sources of funding. We have applied for grants, but have not been successful. We have also been donated some of the materials, but not all of them. However, we do need to look at it further to see how we can get the bridge in place. It is a valued route for the community and we are keen to do all we can to make it happen. As ever, though, such things are never simple, particularly if there is a limited amount of money available to implement the scheme. (If anyone has experience of crowd-funding, please make yourself known to the Parish Council!) In the meantime, many thanks go to the local contractors who have shown an interest in this scheme, despite the logistical difficulties of the site and the location.



REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY CASCADE : LONGHOUGHTON CARES PROJECT

Calling all knitters and crocheters! The aim is to knit and crochet poppies which will cascade over the sculpture on School Green, across from the church, in memory of the fallen. Hopefully we will have enough poppies to decorate the church gates and inside the church too. Animals who gave their lives will not be forgotten, symbolised by a purple poppy. Wool, needles and patterns can be supplied for free and delivered to your door. Please contact Ellie Phillips 07843 380 886 for your pack.

BOULMER AND LONGHOUGHTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As for many people, during the pandemic, experience of internet use has necessarily increased for many of our WI members. Recent months have seen us joining together virtually by organised Zoom events and receiving written reports of meetings by e-mail, or post, for the benefit of those unable to access the internet at the time. In addition our President organised delivery of a lovely bag of Easter gifts to each member which included flowers, Easter egg, quiz, a hand decorated chick (see over) using a crème egg and marzipan, as well as an Easter greetings card. An accompanying letter gave details of /contd over

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reduced subscription payments for the coming year and arrangements for our April Zoom meeting, which is our Annual Meeting for officers and committee to be voted in for the next 12 months. Our May meeting is currently scheduled, also online, for 11 May. Meanwhile we all look forward to organising our face-to-face social meetings and future events and speakers as soon as the Community Centre is available and COVID rules allow. Several members will be knitting and crocheting poppies to help the Parish Remembrance Project.



LONGHOUGHTON AND HOWICK CHURCHES

After being closed for public worship for the past three months, our churches will be re-opening on 28 March with our first service on Palm Sunday.

There will be a communion service in each church on Easter Sunday. In Longhoughton it will be at 9.15am and in Howick at 11.00am. Everybody will be most welcome at these services.

The parish has been without a vicar since the Revd Ian MacKarill retired last September. The churchwardens have a meeting with the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne shortly, and are keen to learn what plans the Diocese of Newcastle has for future ministry in our parishes. We hope to have more details for you in the next Parish Newsletter.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Parish and County Council elections are taking place on Thursday 6 May 2021. Longhoughton Parish Council has ten positions for Parish Councillors – Longhoughton 6, Boulmer 2 and Howick 2. All Parish Councillors are volunteers and there are no party politics in the Parish Council. The purpose of the Parish Council is to represent the interests of the whole community by identifying issues and needs and by finding ways to solve them. If you would like to consider being a Parish Councillor, **applications have to be in by 8 April 2021**. To obtain a Nomination Pack and Papers please contact Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk to the Parish Council, on 01665 830040 or email parishclerk@hotmail.com

WE NEED MORE ALLOTMENT SPACE

The demand for allotments is growing and has outstripped the number of available plots. More land is needed for allotments in Longhoughton. Has anyone any suggestions? Please reply to Parish Councillor Jac Barras on 01665 577824'

LONGHOUGHTON COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE INDOOR ACTIVITIES

All being well from 17 May we are hoping indoor activities will be able to recommence. Please refer to the website nearer the time for details of indoor groups /activities that will be starting up again: Longhoughton Community & Sports Centre (longhoughtoncommunitycentre.org)

If you have any ideas for new groups and events you would like to see at the Centre, please email us at enquiries@longhoughtoncommunitycentre.org.

JUNIOR HOCKEY

A 10-week introduction course to hockey for 7-13 years begins Sunday 6 June 10.30-12 noon. For more information and to book your child's place please call Sam Ryder-Sommerville on 07871 888 065.

VOLUNTEER?

Trustees and volunteers are still sought. Longhoughton Community & Sports Centre is a fabulous resource and we need good people to help manage it. It doesn't have to be a drain on your time. Please contact the Chairperson Eleanor Phillips on 01665 577563 or email eleanorphillips1@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCILLOR

Kris Cochrane has had to resign from the parish council owing to work commitments. Sincere thanks go to Kris for his service to the community.

Boulmer News

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

At last the double yellow lines have gone down in place of the 'no-parking' cones.

CAR PARK REPAIRS

Longhoughton Quarry is going to help even out the surface of the car park and the approach track. Hopefully this will be done soon after Easter.

SPEED CHECK

Following complaints to the Parish Council a request has been made to the County Council for speed checks to be carried out on Longhoughton road and on Beach View.

GRASS CUTTING

Grass cutting of the links will take place early in April.