

Boulmer Howick & Longhoughton

PARKING CHANGES AT BOULMER

The County Council has given notice of the introduction of parking charges for the Beach Car Park at Boulmer. The fees proposed for the period 8.00am to 6.00pm are:

- Up to two hours : £1.00
- Up to 3 hours : £1.50
- All Day : £3.00
- After 6.00pm and prior to 8.00am : No charge.

Unfortunately, the County Council do not offer a season ticket. However, a season ticket costing £25.00 is available at the adjacent private car parks at Alnmouth Burgage Car Park and Longhoughton Beach Car Park (Low Steads).

In 2021, Longhoughton Parish Council the previous operator of Boulmer Beach Car Park, recognised that it was too expensive to maintain the car park for a small Parish Council and asked the County Council, as the main car park authority in Northumberland, to take over the car park, which it agreed to do. There are considerable costs in maintaining a car park, particularly when it is built on sand.



Boulmer Beach Car Park. This was the state of the car park a few years ago. It costs money to maintain a facility of this sort which is used by people from all over the county.

A new small car park is proposed in Boulmer next to the Memorial Hall and a planning application is currently being prepared by the County Council Highways Department. Longhoughton Parish Council and the Trustees of the Boulmer Memorial Hall have been working together to produce a Statement of Community Benefit which will be part of the planning application.



CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

Boulmer Ward

Adrian Hinchcliffe (Chair)

01665 572888

[One vacancy](#)

Howick Ward

[Two vacancies](#)

Longhoughton Ward

[One vacancy](#)

Peter Bromley 01665 577071

(Vice Chair)

Carole Green 01665 572610

Hannah Horsley 07733 338487

Laura Rowberry 03001 658427

Peter McEwen 01665 572735

RAF Liaison

Laura Rowberry 03001 658427

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

Newsletter Editors

Adrian Hinchcliffe

adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com

Chris Thomas (Design)

chrismerythomas@gmail.com

Newsorthy items for the next edition before the **deadline on July 17**, 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

HOW CAN WE PROTECT THE NORTHUMBERLAND COAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS?

This was the topic of a drop-in event promoted by the National Landscape (previously known as the ANOB) and held in Longhoughton on 6 May 2025, with the emphasis on travel and access. Northumberland coast is classed as a national landscape, one of 46 in England and Wales, and on our doorstep. The concern is that our National Landscapes are being damaged particularly by the number of motor vehicles coming into them and there is a need to find ways to protect and conserve them for future generations.



The drop-in session was a great success. Twenty-one residents attended with many suggestions being made. Some supported more frequent local train services stopping at Alnmouth, linking to a much improved local bus network that would transport people to the coast and also significantly benefit residents. There was also strong support for a park and ride facility somewhere along the A1 where cars could be left with dedicated buses bringing people into the National Landscape. Many agreed that while these are major changes the responsible authorities should be planning the changes now for implementation in a few years.

More immediate issues were identified: the need to better promote walking and cycling as environmentally friendly travelling means; to improve some local footpaths and to improve the facilities for visitors. An example of this is the need for public toilets in Longhoughton. Further drop-in events are being held in Alnmouth and Warkworth and in other places up the coast. When the sessions are complete a summary of the findings will be circulated.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

16 June at Howick Village Hall

21 July at Boulmer Memorial Hall.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Parish Council has ten seats for Parish Councillors. At the recent elections there were only five applicants so they they were all elected unopposed. Elected were:

Boulmer Ward: Adrian Hinchcliffe

One vacancy remaining.

Howick Ward: No applicants

Two vacancies remaining.

Longhoughton Ward: Hannah Horsley, Peter McEwen, Peter Bromley and Carole Green.

Two vacancies remaining.

Longhoughton Parish Council would like to fill the vacancies by co-option. This is a great way to put something back into the community. For more information on what it involves please contact Liz Taylor the Clerk to the Council, or any Councillor.

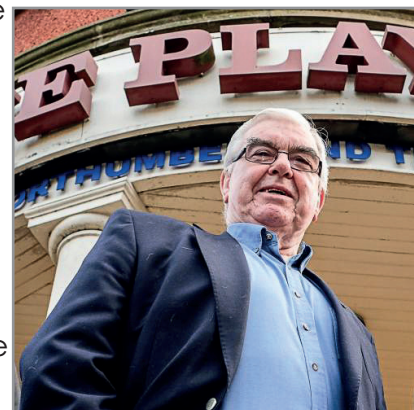
County Councillor

for the Longhoughton Division.

We welcome back Wendy Pattison who was re-elected. This is Wendy's third term as our County Councillor. Well done Wendy.

Thank you Bryan

Many thanks to Bryan Ellis for nine years of service to the Parish Council. He decided to step down this year and did not put himself forward for re-election. In two spells on Longhoughton Parish Council Bryan has acted as Chair and has co-ordinated the Council's response to planning applications. Always reliable and with considerable experience in business and charities, his contribution will be badly missed.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



THE LATEST GLOBAL TRENDS FOR SHOREBIRDS?

In 2024, a report published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) highlighted worsening declines for several shorebird species. Turnstone and dunlin, both relatively abundant in Northumberland, have each declined by at least 20% globally since 2000. Grey plover, a more occasional sighting in Northumberland, and curlew sandpiper, a much rarer visitor, have both experienced even greater global declines of around one third over the past two decades. Consequently, the IUCN have determined all these species are at a heightened risk of extinction.

Northumberland is one of the best places in the British Isles (and globally!) for shorebirds. Please help tackle these declines by giving birds space when visiting the beach. Avoiding disturbance to feeding, roosting and nesting areas allows birds to preserve energy and maintain body health, giving them a much better chance of survival.



Above: Grey Plover

Below: Dunlin



LONGHOUGHTON NEWS

LONGHOUGHTON ANNUAL FETE

We have been unable to announce details of this year's Longhoughton Fete due to the uncertainty of funding. However, the Tyne and Wear Community Foundation has confirmed that an application for £1,700 has been approved which along with the Parish Council contribution of £1,000 and a balance brought forward, will bring the funding available to just under £3,000. This is enough to put on an outstanding village fete. A meeting of all community organisations in Longhoughton is being called on Wednesday 28 May 2025 to start off the process of deciding upon the activities and format of the Fete. The date and format will be announced through appropriate websites and social media.



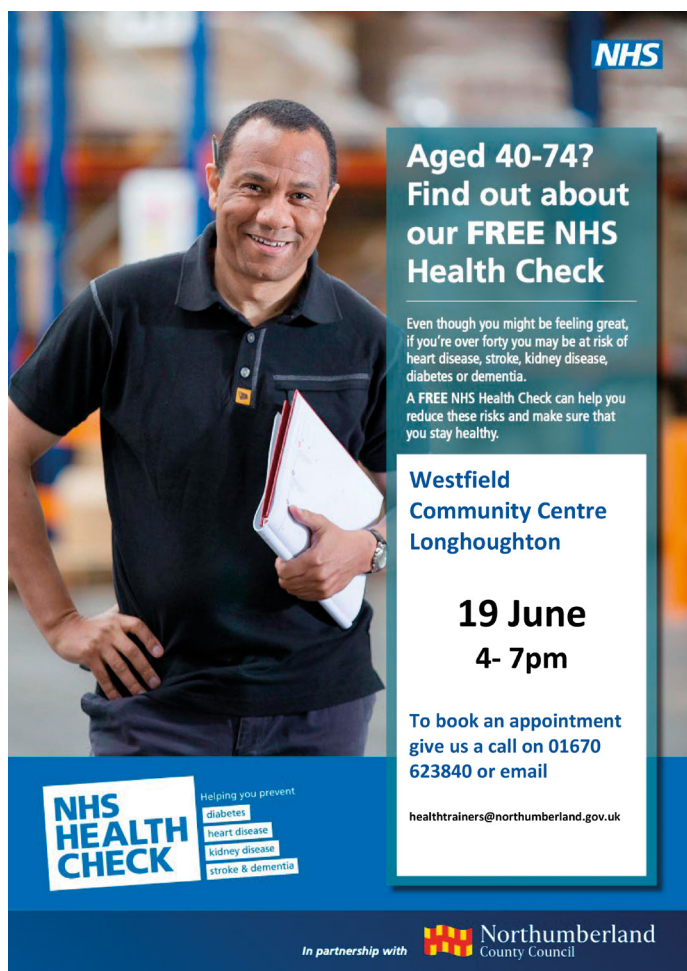
The winners of the Dog Show at last year's fete



LONGHOUGHTON NEWS

NHS HEALTH CHECK: THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2025

Free health checks for people aged 40 to 74. Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre on Thursday 19 June between 4.00pm and 7.00pm. This is a walk-in service but appointments can be booked by calling 01670 623840.



NHS

Aged 40-74?
Find out about
our FREE NHS
Health Check

Even though you might be feeling great, if you're over forty you may be at risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, diabetes or dementia.
A FREE NHS Health Check can help you reduce these risks and make sure that you stay healthy.

Westfield
Community Centre
Longhoughton

19 June
4- 7pm

To book an appointment
give us a call on 01670
623840 or email
healthtrainers@northumberland.gov.uk

NHS HEALTH CHECK
Helping you prevent
diabetes
heart disease
kidney disease
stroke & dementia

In partnership with **Northumberland**
County Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 19 May and was attended by 22 residents including five Parish Councillors. Adrian Hinchcliffe, the chair of the Parish Council, took the meeting through the Parish Council's Annual Report, which sets out what the Council has achieved and dealt with over the last year. Residents were able to ask questions and make points on the report and there was discussion on items like overgrown hedges, glass recycling, potential green routes around Longhoughton, parking fees at Boulmer and the state of the road outside the quarry. Inevitably potholes were also mentioned along with the present status of the Pondfield. SATNAVs are also

causing problems for people in Burnside and Springfield and the new library service was mentioned.

DELIVERY OF THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to those residents who responded to the appeal in the last newsletter for volunteers to deliver this newsletter. We have 800 homes within the Parish and the newsletter gets delivered to all of them. We now have 15 volunteers who deliver the newsletter to homes in Longhoughton, Boulmer and Howick. Thanks to all in the delivery team.

LONGHOUGHTON AND BOULMER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE KALEIDOSCOPE

One of my favourite toys as a child was a kaleidoscope. I can still remember the patterns and different colours. A kaleidoscope seems to me a good analogy for our WI, so many varied women belong to it, a mix of backgrounds, personalities, experiences and talents but together making a lovely, complex, complete pattern.

Since writing last, our varied, colourful programme has encouraged us to try floral table arrangements, sewing, and decorating knitted Easter Bunnies. We hosted the President of Northumberland Federation for our Annual Meeting in April and in May we listened and were moved by the Amble Poet. We've visited local WIs: Craster WI for wine tasting, and Alnmouth WI for their scrumptious VE Day Afternoon Tea. We've had day trips to Durham City, to Seaton Delaval Hall and Woodhorn Museum, viewing their exhibitions: Dig Deeper, Spotlight Tour and the Pitman Painters. We've walked on Alnwick Moor by the old Railway Line and Golf Club, the beach and lake at Druridge Bay, and plan to walk in Ingram Valley this month. We've gathered for monthly coffee mornings at Carnaby's, the Old Boathouse in Amble and Mean Bean in Alnwick.

The programme is as varied as the people who make up our group, so come and join us to add to our kaleidoscope; Jayne Knight will happily give you more details (07341 446665).



Above: The WI at Seaton Delaval Hall

LONGHOUGHTON COMMUNITY GARDENERS

Our recent dead hedge building afternoon at the orchard was a great success, thank you to everyone who came along to help, including families with children. It was a lovely day and a real team effort in creating something for the village and the wildlife! It is also wonderful to see the apple trees planted in February now blossoming and thriving. We will be announcing the official opening of the community orchard soon, so watch this space. We've had such lovely feedback about the colourful tulip displays and village planters, thank you! Over the summer we're continuing with our regular volunteer sessions to help keep the village looking its best. We'd really welcome a few more helping hands. It doesn't have to be a big commitment - just come along when you can. It's a great way to meet neighbours and enjoy the outdoors. If you'd like to get involved, or to find out more about joining the committee we'd love to hear from you. Email: longhoughtoncg@gmail.com Follow us: @longhoughtoncg on Facebook & Instagram



HOMEOWNERS: PLEASE LOOK AFTER YOUR HEDGES

Complaints are being received about some of the hedges in Longhoughton that are getting overgrown and are impeding access on the pavements. Householders have a duty to maintain their hedges so that the adjacent pavements are not impeded.

NEW MOBILE LIBRARY

A new mobile library van is now available throughout Longhoughton Parish.

It has a bright new look and above all it is disability proofed so that it is accessible to everyone. It comes to the Parish on the following dates and locations:



12 June and 3rd July 2025

Boulmer South View	13.30 to 13.50
Longhoughton Westfield Car Park	14.00 to 14.40
Littlehoughton	14.50 to 15.10

Please use this service.

BOULMER NEWS

HIRING THE MEMORIAL HALL

Hire the Memorial Hall for your celebrations. Booking or information from Nancy Robinson by email to tomsmum@icloud.com or send a message via the Hall Facebook page.



Above: Tulips planted by the Community Gardening Group

Left: The dead hedge built

LONGHOUGHTON COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE

Annual General Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Members will have been held by the time this newsletter is delivered. The existing Trustees are hoping for new people to help run the Centre and the Astro-turf pitch. If you have some spare time will you please volunteer to help in some way. There are lots of voluntary tasks that can be undertaken. The Centre has over 80 members in the Community who set the direction and appoint the Trustees.

Regular Events and Activities

What is on at the Community and Sports 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 joanna_davies58@hotmail.co.uk
Tuesday	PM Prescription pick-up 1.00pm - 2.00pm. Evening. Dancercise Sophie Hastings fusionfitnessbysophie@gmail.com Evening. Pilates. Sophie Hastings. 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) PM Indoor Bowling (winter only) Sheila Abercrombie. PM Scouts. Mike Keith.
Thursday	AM Thursday Together. (Second Thursday in the month). PM Prescription Pick-up 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Evening. Boxercise. Pip Charlton. pip@pipcharlton.co.uk

Events

The 'Events Group' are organising the following activities:

Bingo Nights: Watch out for the dates on Social Media

Quiz Nights: Watch out for the dates on Social Media

Cheese and Wine Tasting: Friday 13th June 2025 starting at 7.00pm

Races Night: Friday 4 July 2025

CHEESE AND WINE TASTING: FRIDAY 13 JUNE STARTING AT 7.00PM

Tickets £15 per head. Contact Vanessa for more information or booking on 07772469090. Come along to this event and enjoy the platter below for two along with 4 x 100ml glasses of pairing wine per person.



**citizens
advice**

Boxercise Classes

Thursday evening 6 - 7pm

All fitness levels and abilities welcome.

No previous experience required.

It's a fantastic and fun way to get Fit and relieve Stress

£7 per session and all kit provided.

For more details contact

Pip on 07900 846617

Thursday Together

Thursday 12 June 2025 from 10.30am to 12 noon

Northumberland Citizens Advice will present:

- Maximising Income through benefit checks
- Pension credits, Attendance Allowance, Housing benefit, Council Tax Support
- Energy advice and cost of living support

HOWICK NEWS

HOWICK VILLAGE HALL

Film Club: Please email John Roper johnroper1@btinternet.com to join the club mailing list and find out which films are showing and when. Donations only 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 7pm. Contact Jeanette Archbold on 01665 577384

Village Hall booking

Jane Doleman 01665 577801

Howick Art Group: We welcome new members. We meet on Monday mornings in Howick Village Hall, 09.45 to approximately 13.15. Our annual subscription at present is £80 which includes rental of the hall, the running of two exhibitions per year (one in the spring, usually over the Early Spring 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.howickartgrouphumberland.com



Painting by Hazel Armstrong, entitled *Boulmer*.

HOWICK HALL AND ITS BUCRANIA A GORY STORY?

In the Visitor Centre, which is the foyer of Howick Hall, there are three motifs recurring in series (see picture 1). There are two floral forms and what appears to be an animal skull



picture 1: Howick Hall foyer with floral forms (left) and bucranium.

bedecked with garlands. What on earth are they, and what might they mean?

To dispense with the floral motifs in a jiffy, it looks as though they might be a rose which symbolises England and a thistle for Scotland, owing to Howick Hall's location close to the border, but please let me know if you have another theory. Looking at other Palladian style buildings of the period featuring similar friezes shows the particular flowers vary quite a bit. But what is this garlanded animal skull doing there?

My research revealed that they are known as bucrania, or a bucranium in the singular. The word is derived from the Latin *bos*, meaning ox or cow; and *cranium*, the Medieval Latin term for a skull. So we might ask, why are bovine skulls decorating friezes? The skulls allude to the ancient Greek and Roman ceremonies of sacrifice. We have a glimpse of this practice in a sculpted frieze on the Ara Pacis, the famous Altar of Peace in Rome, consecrated in 9 BC (picture 2). If you're squeamish look away now, but it shows animals being led for ritualistic slaughter to appease the gods. One

of the attendants is carrying a knife, used to carve up the animal once killed. Another is carrying a shallow plate for holding sacred wine, some of which was sprinkled on the head of the animal just prior to execution. Each god required an animal of specific species and sex. For example Apollo required a bull, Jupiter an ox but also a lamb on special occasions. Mars was also placated with a bull. Sacrificial cattle were decorated with garlands of fruit and flowers or decorative ropes with tassels. Following execution, their heads were hung on the temple. This practice was eventually memorialized with sculpted heads or skulls worked into the stone of the temple frieze.

In their surveys and studies of roman ruins, the Renaissance architects encountered various versions of bucrania. Although it is not certain if they were fully aware of their pagan associations, or even cared, the architects freely applied bucrania to their works and illustrated them in their treatises. Andrea Palladio the sixteenth century Venetian

architect who gave his name to the style imported these stylistic features during the renaissance which, amongst many other things, revered the classical world.

Palladio incorporated bucrania and circular motifs in the friezes of his generic Doric order, which emerged on the Greek mainland during the late seventh century BCE and remained the prominent order for Greek temples through to the early fifth century BCE. He most famously applied these to the ground level of his arcades on the Basilica in Vicenza (picture 3).

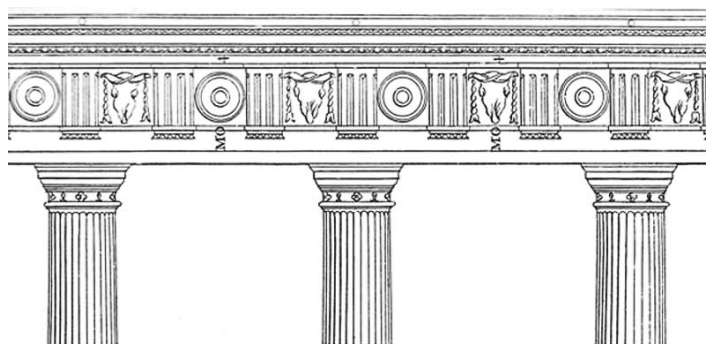
In summary then, the bucranium is a decorative device of classical architecture whose use can be traced back more than 2500 years. Originally a symbol of pagan religious rites, it came to be a motif employed mainly to lend a quality of scholarship to classical-style designs. Rarely if ever used today, it is important to be aware of these ancient motifs, and to delight in spotting them wherever you come across them?

Chris Thomas



Above: Picture 2: Frieze detail, Ara Pacis, Rome

Right: Picture 3: Basilica at Vicenza, Italy



LONGHOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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



**PROUDLY
SUPPORTING
THOSE WHO
SERVE.**