

LONGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



SPRING FETE 2023

The spring fête turned out to be a successful and well attended event helped by pleasant spring weather with much to do in the way of entertainment. It began with a dancing performance by the Angela Haydock School of Dancing, a group which prides itself on the dancers having fun combined with the enjoyment of learning to dance and building inner confidence. There followed a performance by Mark Dowding (accordion, guitar, ukelele player and folk singer). Mark is also a dialect scholar and for every song sung, Mark related its history and the political and social climate in which it was written. Yooks (a ukelele band with dance callers) entertained with a fresh and unique versions of well-known songs, which are easily adapted to the ukelele playing. The proceeds of the ever popular fun dog show went to the Guide Dogs Association with prizes for the various canine categories kindly provided by Superpet Warehouse of Preston. There was an array of stalls, the majority of which represented charitable causes. Fairtrade, Guide Dogs, Greenpeace offering face painting for children, and Lancashire Badger Group. Matilda "the Milking Cow" with owner Jayne of the Hodder Valley Agricultural Show providing agricultural, farming and wildlife related quizzes for children and anyone else who wished to participate. Cycles Recycled of Clitheroe provided the popular cycling 'smoothie' maker enabling people to make 'smoothie' drinks through pedal power. There were ample fairground entertainments provided for children and teenagers in addition to refreshments being provided by the fairground people. The Fête Committee would like to express its thanks to Cycles Recycled for the provision of the bike, to Superpet Warehouse for the provision of prizes for the fun dog show, to all local businesses that donated prizes for the fête raffle and also to those that provided financial sponsorship for the fête. Thanks are also extended to the volunteers who assisted with the preparation for the event and also to those who helped on the day itself. There is always a friendly and pleasant atmosphere at the fête, so do come along to the next one in spring 2024".

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) Commonwealth initiative, begun in October 2022 and ending in March 2023 gave people in all Commonwealth countries the opportunity to plant trees in memory of the late monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. A Hornbeam tree, with its sharply toothed dark green leaves turning orange and yellow in the autumn, was planted in St. Andrew's Church grounds with an accompanying plaque by the Parish Council.

ANDREW PRATT ATTENDS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Andrew Pratt (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner) attended the Parish Council meeting held on the 12th September 2023. Over 30 residents attended and raised questions with him concerning road safety in both Longton and New Longton which are of concern to them, including speeding in New Longton, HGVs which are still using the village as a short cut and the state of some roads in Longton. Although Andy could make no promises he is now aware of the strong feeling from those present. Local SRBC and LCC Councillors are continuing to press the Highway Authority for resolutions and responses to suggestions made by residents to tackle the issues. Andy did however agree to provide links to some of the police websites so that issues could be reported and action considered as appropriate or where you may volunteer to assist with Community Road Watch.

Speeding should be reported on the following link:

<https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern/>

Submission by this means ensures a consistent response to the issue of speeding.

Any video footage of dangerous driving, use of mobile phones, etc can be submitted via this link:

<https://www.lancashire.police.uk/news/2022/april/opsnap-dashcam-portal-launched-in-lancashire/>

Volunteers for Community Road watch link:

<https://lancsvp.org.uk/opportunities/?location=&aoi-filter=10&org-filter=20&action=myfilter&order=dist>

CHRISTMAS COMPETITIONS 2023

The Parish Council will once again this year be running the 'Christmas Rosebowl Competition' and 'Christmas House Display Competition'.

The Rosebowl Competition is open to all local shops in the Parish (no entry form required) and is an award given for the best shop window display during the run up to Christmas - the winner will receive the 'Rosebowl' including flowers to be held for the following 12 months.

The Christmas House Display Competition is open to all households in the Parish (again no entry form is required) and is an award given to the best external house lighting display during the run up to Christmas - there are two awards: the Vi Peacock Cup (New Longton) & Christmas Cup (Longton).

Parish Councillors have been chosen to undertake the judging.

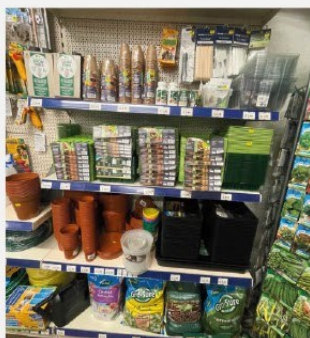
All judging is expected to take place on the weekend of the 2nd/3rd of December 2023 and the awards will be made to the winners by the Chairman of the Parish Council shortly thereafter. So why not give it a go and see if you can help to brighten up our two villages during the festive period?

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AUTUMN PLANTING

In autumn the soil is moist and warm, perfect for establishing plants before the onset of winter. Spring bulbs, the moving of perennials and shrubs, the laying of turf and planting of bare root trees can all take place at this time of year. As the days shorten there are still plenty of plants to provide a blaze of colour going into winter.



Cyclamen provide delightful flowers until the first hard frosts. They continue blooming into winter in protected positions such as a porch or sheltered garden.

Ornamental plants such as the herb Purple Sage, with its metallic green leaves look good all year round and have a pleasant aroma. They are also edible just as the green leaved variety. Heavenly Bamboo or Fire Power which turn from yellow green in summer to bright red in the autumn is another good example of planting which provides year round colour. Long lasting displays of colour can be achieved with Ornamental Cabbages which are available in a huge range of colours and leaf shapes and they can be combined with fine textured plants such as grasses.



Plumbago is a reliable pollinator friendly performer with sky blue flowers during summer then developing red tints in the autumn. It is much appreciated by pollinating insects and is a low spreading woody perennial. Sedum is a magnet for bees in the autumn. A vigorous perennial bearing masses of tiny star shaped flowers from white to deep purple. Apart from the old cottage garden favourite, Sedum Spectabile, there are some lovely purple leaved varieties such as Sedum Purple Emperor that look wonderful in the border.

The hardy perennial Heuchera Sugar Plum has bright pink leaves that provide long lasting colour and make a useful contrast to other plants, particularly grasses. The deciduous grass Imperata Cylindrica Rubra provides a useful texture in autumn with narrow leaves giving out a strong rich red which contrasts effectively with other plants.



Carder bumblebees are still looking for nectar in the autumn as well as honeybees, when the temperature allows. These autumn foragers need open flowers rich in nectar to sustain them. Growing later flowering plants such as echinacea, rudbeckia, asters, persicaria, sage, mint and marjoram can be a great help. One of the most important autumn food plants for pollinators is the wild ivy. Let it grow and let it flower, even its berries are good

for the birds.

A DOG IS A MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Yes, it is probably fair to say that a dog is often a great family friend and certainly during the recent pandemic more and more people purchased dogs as companions during lock down. However, regretfully it is not always the case that owners take proper care of them particularly in cleaning up behind them and this can in many cases lead to the spread of disease and as a minimum dirty and untidy streets.

A number of complaints have been received recently and it is perhaps appropriate to make a request to owners to clean up after their pets. Failure to do so is an offence and can result in fines and whilst hopefully it will not be necessary to go to this end owners need to be aware of the seriousness of the situation.

Residents themselves have a part to play in keeping our streets clean and tidy and in the unfortunate circumstances where dog fouling is left unattended by the owner residents are able to report the matter with full details of the owner to South Ribble Borough Council whose dog wardens will take appropriate action. Even the identification of the type of dog and the times at which the offences occur may be sufficient for the warden to take action in some way.



Please do your bit either as an owner or member of the public and help to keep our streets clean, tidy and healthy for the benefit of all.



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Before you carry out any work:

- Check with your district council planning authority whether or not the tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or whether you live in a Conservation Area. The Planning Officer may wish to supervise the work.
- Make sure the work is carried out in daylight and at a time when it's not busy to reduce congestion and delays.

What if the work isn't carried out?

We do our best to encourage householders, landowners & tenants to cut their hedges, and work closely with district & parish councils and with local communities to remind them of their responsibilities.

Where vegetation is becoming a problem we may serve a notice on the householder, landowner or occupier requiring the necessary work to be completed within a stated period. Failure to comply may result in the council undertaking the work and claiming back the cost incurred.

Want to report a problem on your road?
Visit
www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads

Is your over grown vegetation causing others a problem?



Lancashire
County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk

BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION RESULTS 2023

LONGTON

Winner – Mr P Fallon 5 Clifford Avenue

Second - Mr and Mrs Skirvin 17 Mereside Close

Third – Mr and Mrs Bleasdale 36 Formby Crescent

NEW LONGTON

Winner – Mr and Mrs Williams 22 Station Road

Second – Mr and Mrs Sutherland 5 Churchside

Third - Mr and Mrs Hawkins 29 Shaftesbury Avenue

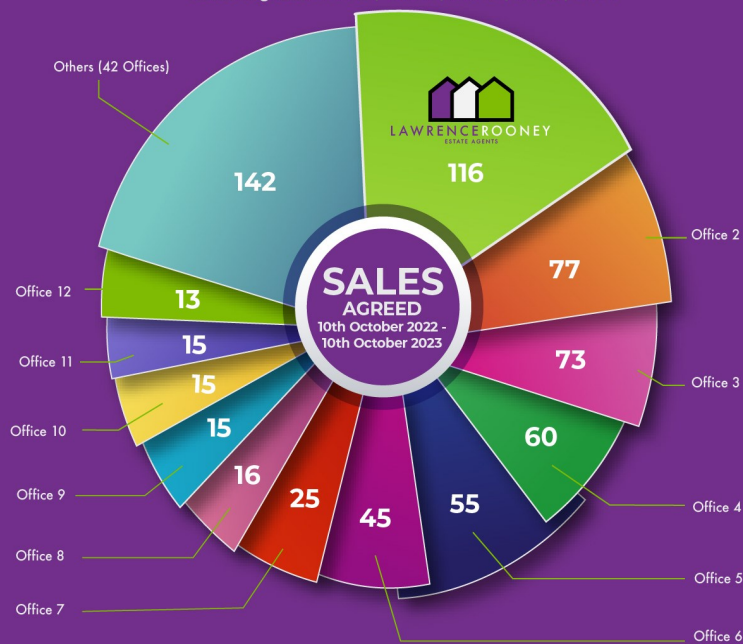


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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORGANISE AN APPOINTMENT OR VALUATION.

WWW.LAWRENCE ROONEY.CO.UK

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YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

DONALD ALSOP 8 ROYALTY LANE NEW LONGTON PR4 4JD TEL 613728

SUSAN FOX 33 DALE AVENUE LONGTON PRESTON PR4 5YJ TEL 07583058313

NICHOLAS SUMNER 8 DICKSON HEY NEW LONGTON PR4 4ZH TEL 616870

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

GRAHAM GOOCH 57 SHIRLEY LANE LONGTON PRESTON PR4 5WJ TEL 614974

KARL TURNER 35 LANDSMOOR DRIVE LONGTON PRESTON PR4 5PE TEL 07425927894

ANN MATHER PEARTREE FARM 247 CHAPEL LANE NEW LONGTON PRESTON PR4 4AD TEL 614608

GILL GARSIDE 126 CHAPEL LANE LONGTON PRESTON PR4 5FB TEL 617742

STUART BARNES 57 BACK LANE LONGTON PRESTON PR4 5BE TEL 611095

JANE RILEY 12 THE VINERY NEW LONGTON PRESTON PR4 4YB TEL 619030

ALLAN PORTER 12 MEADOWAY LONGTON PRESTON PR4 5BB TEL 615287

SHIRLEY MOLDER 18 CHAPEL LANE LONGTON PRESTON PR4 5EB TEL 07759603182

CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

EMAIL clerk@longton-pc.gov.uk
WEBSITE www.longton-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY EARLY IN THE MEETING FOR RESIDENTS TO MAKE REPRESENTATION ON ANY AGENDA ITEM OR RAISE ISSUES OF CONCERN, HOWEVER IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL CANNOT MAKE ANY DECISIONS UNLESS THE ITEM HAS ALREADY BEEN INCLUDED ON THE FORMAL AGENDA

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IS ON THE 5TH DECEMBER AT LONGTON LIBRARY

DATES FOR 2024 WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY ON OUR WEBSITE