

# **LONGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2023**



## **PARISH COUNCIL REDUCES PRECEPT**

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The Parish Council, as you will have noticed from your recent Council Tax bill, have significantly reduced the Precept for 2023/2024. This has been possible after much debate concerning the bus service 12 which had been subsidised by this Council for a number of years. The Council were faced with a massive increase in the subsidy which would have doubled the Precept. The Council could not justify placing this additional burden solely on the residents of Longton and New Longton.

The Council engaged with Lancashire County Council and agreement was reached with Stagecoach that a new service 12 would be introduced. The new service commenced on the 3rd April 2023 and is operating Monday to Saturday on an hourly basis with the Saturday element subsidised by LCC. In the recent press release, County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport said: "New Longton is a sizeable community and I'm pleased that a new operator has come forward to run Service 12. I am also pleased to be supporting the service run on Saturdays and I'd urge people to use the bus as often as they can to ensure it becomes more sustainable in the longer term."

Although the Precept has been reduced the Parish Council will continue the important work of looking at planning applications in its area and where appropriate making representations as to the suitability or otherwise of proposed developments. It should be noted however, that SRBC have the final say on planning matters. Your Parish Council can however ensure that pertinent points are raised for consideration, provided of course that those points are planning matters.

In addition, the Lengthsman's contract has been renewed for a further 4 years ensuring that we have the resource to keep both Longton and New Longton clean, tidy and attractive villages in which to reside or visit.

## **THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY**

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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. This was originally intended to mark the Platinum Jubilee, but was extended to enable people to plant trees in her memory when she passed away. The Queen's Green Canopy is proud to be creating a living legacy with over a million trees planted in the UK alone and millions elsewhere in the Commonwealth. The extension of the QGC initiative will build on this legacy and serve as a lasting tribute to the late monarch's committed and dedicated service to the people of all Commonwealth countries.

With that in mind, the Parish Council planted a Hornbeam tree, Beech and Silver Birch trees in addition to an Acer and Hazelnut trees (both kindly donated) in Longton Victory Recreation Memorial Ground and also Hornbeam, Beech and Birch trees in a location in New Longton. In addition, another 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. The semi-deciduous Hornbeam holds significant value as food for Wildlife, also providing roosting and shelter. Like the Beech tree, the Hornbeam does not shed all of its leaves during the autumn, so it can provide shelter during winter for birds. It produces female and male catkins in spring with pollinated female catkins transforming into papery winged fruits known as samaras, which small birds and mammals feed on during summer and autumn. Various moth species feed on Hornbeam in spring. The Hornbeam gets its name from the strength of its timber, producing the hardest wood of all trees in Europe. The Romans used it to make chariots and it was also used to make wooden beams called ox yokes, which joined ploughing oxen together via their horns.

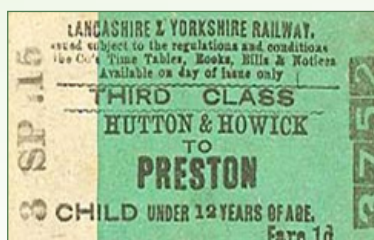
Throughout her long reign, the late Queen always showed a keen interest in gardens, forestry and woodlands. She personally planted more than 1,500 trees around the world. When the Queen's Green Canopy was launched, it comprised 70 Ancient Trees and 70 Ancient Woodlands, including the 900-year-old Signing Oak and Dumfries House Sycamore, believed to have been planted in 1599. Trees are vital in beautifying the natural environment, acting as sound barriers, purifying our air, absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen and helping to save energy through their cooling shade in summer and their wind reduction in winter.

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## HISTORIC RAILWAY STATIONS

**Howick** station (as it was then called) which was opened in June 1889, was a railway station on the West Lancashire Railway just over a mile from the villages of Howick Cross and Hutton. The station, which had two platforms, was located at the junction of the current Chapel Lane and Station Road. After the takeover of West Lancashire Railway by Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway in 1897, it was renamed **Hutton and Howick**, getting a new signal box in 1901. The coming of the railway attracted a settlement around the station which grew into the village of New Longton. The rapid growth of the village was the reason why the station was renamed **New Longton and Hutton** by the London and Midland Railway in October 1934. Following the Beeching Report, the station was closed to freight and passengers in 1964, along with the whole line.

**Longton Bridge Railway Station** was opened in 1882 as the temporary terminus of the West Lancashire Railway, when it opened a section from **Hesketh Bank**, becoming a through station when the section of the line to **Preston Fishergate Hill** was opened later that year. The station was located on an embankment at the southern edge of Longton to the east of Liverpool Road running south. It had double track lines and platforms on both sides. The main station building, built in the company's typical red brick style, was north of the lines and the signal box was located at the end of the Preston bound platform. The station was able to cope with most types of freight, as it accommodated a small goods yard linked to a single line shed. Bricks were removed and transported from the nearby Bentley Brick, Tile and Pottery Works (now the Brickcroft). The station also closed to passengers and freight in 1964, another casualty of the programme of closures advocated by the Beeching Report.







LONGTON VM WOULD LIKE  
TO INVITE YOU TO OUR

# ***FAMILY FUN DAY***

***SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY***

***1:00PM - 5:00PM AT***

***LONGTON VM, VICTORY LANE***

***OFF SCHOOL LANE, LONGTON PR4 5DL***

***FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL THE FAMILY***

**HOOPLA - KATY B MUSIC**

**TOMBOLA - GLITTER TATTOOS**

**TARGET BOWLS - HOOK A DUCK**

**TENNIS - HUMAN FRUIT MACHINE**

**COCONUT SHY - BEAT THE BUZZER**

**CAKE STALL - REFRESHMENTS**

**TEA / COFFEE / ICE CREAM/ BAR**

**[www.longtonvm.co.uk](http://www.longtonvm.co.uk)**



# **LONGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

## **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 2023**

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This year will once again see the Parish Council sponsor the above competition. The competition is automatically open to ALL residents without the need to complete an application form. Members of the Parish Council will be viewing gardens during late June and early July with a view to selecting the best kept gardens in both Longton and New Longton. Why not do that little bit extra and see if you can win one of the garden voucher prizes that are awarded by the Parish Council and presented at the:

### **New Longton Flower Show event on Saturday 2nd September 2023**

The Annual Flower and Handcraft Show is back and will be held at the New Longton Village Hall on Saturday 2nd September 2023 and promises to be a great event. Everyone is welcome and new entrants, especially children are particularly welcome. This is the opportunity to show your skills in growing plants/flowers, making cakes, painting, crafts, baking and photography. You can also enjoy a cup of tea with homemade cakes. Details of all the classes will be available from local shops in New Longton and surrounding areas in early August.



## **CHRISTMAS COMPETITION AWARDS 2022**

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**Shop Display - Winner** - Happy Bunnies - Longton

**Shop Display - Commendation** - New Longton Post Office

**House Display Longton - Winner** - Rebecca Goodwin 31 Shirley Lane

**House Display Longton - Commendation** - Mr and Mrs Sourbutts 13 Clifford Avenue

**House Display New Longton – Winner** - Mr and Mrs Walton 19 Sheephill Lane

**House Display New Longton – Commendation** - Mr & Mrs Carter 1 Waverley Drive

***[www.longtonparishcouncil.org](http://www.longtonparishcouncil.org)***  
***[longtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:longtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk)***

## **LONGTON AND NEW LONGTON HAVE BEEN ENTERED INTO THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2023**

Please help by keeping your villages tidy, put your litter in the bins which are provided rather than leaving it on the pavement or footways.



**JUDGING STARTS IN JUNE 2023**



# LONGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## A DOG IS A MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Yes, it is probably fair to say that a dog is often a great family friend however regrettably 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.





**Longton VM**  
Victory Lane, Off School Lane, Longton PR4 5DL  
☎ 01772 616974



## CHATTY LATTE

Feeling lonely after spending an eternity in isolation? Then why not join us for a brew, a cake and a chat, in the comfort of a modern lounge overlooking our two bowling greens

**EVERY MONDAY 2PM UNTIL 3PM**

**ALL WELCOME**

To find out more, please contact : Jayne on 07392 326001

Proudly supported by



## NEW LONGTON VILLAGE HALL

The hall continues to be a focal point for a range of activities in the village. In addition to regular use by the Under 5s, there are art classes, a number of keep fit classes, and several badminton sessions. **If you would like to book the hall for a function, please contact 01772 614264.**

A small Management Committee looks after the running of the hall and are keen to have new members to help on the Committee. If you are interested, please contact Bernard Kershaw (01772 616119).

***www.longtonparishcouncil.org***  
***longtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk***

## **YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS**

<b>Donald Alsop</b>	8 Royalty Lane New Longton Preston PR4 4JD	613728
<b>Susan Fox</b>	33 Dale Avenue Longton Preston PR4 5YJ	07583 058313
<b>Nicholas Sumner</b>	8 Dickson Hey New Longton PR4 4ZH	616870
<b>Geoff Welch</b>	3 Oak Grove New Longton Preston PR4 4XT	617791
<b>Graham Gooch</b>	57 Shirley Lane Longton Preston PR4 5WJ	614974
<b>Karl Turner</b>	35 Landsmoor Drive Longton Preston PR4 5PE	07425 927894
<b>Ann Mather</b>	Peartree Farm 247 Chapel Lane New Longton Preston PR4 4AD	614608
<b>Gill Garside</b>	126 Chapel Lane Longton Preston PR4 5FB	617742
<b>Stuart Barnes</b>	57 Back Lane Longton Preston PR4 5BE	611095
<b>Jane Riley</b>	12 The Vinery New Longton Preston PR4 4YB	619030
<b>Allan Porter</b>	12 Meadoway Longton Preston PR4 5BB	615287
<b>Shirley Molder</b>	18 Chapel Lane Longton Preston PR4 5EB	07759 603182

## **CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**W V MCENNERNEY-WHITTLE**

7 BILSBOROUGH MEADOW PRESTON PR2 1YY

**TEL:** 01772 733829

**E-MAIL:** clerk@longton-pc.gov.uk

**WEB SITE:** www.longton-pc.gov.uk

## **DATES AND VENUES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

MEETING DATES FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:

**11th July 2023 at NLVH**

**12th September 2023 at Longton Library**

**31st October 2023 at NLVH**

**5th December 2023 at Longton Library**

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