

A publication by Langford Parish Council



The Langford Diary

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Edition 207

Spring 2020



A Letter from the Editor

After such a miserable winter let's hope for a warm and sunny spring. By the time this is delivered the daffodils should be coming into bloom. The village will look at its best, especially if we have lots of volunteers for our tidy up Langford morning on 21st March.

We have articles in this edition about two villagers who were born in Langford and have contributed so much to our village. Thank you to the families who have written about their lives for our Langford Diary. A picture of Les King, a real village character, is included when he took part in the fun of last year's raft race! His life story was written by his daughter, Paula. Apparently, he enjoyed being interviewed over Christmas! Thank you, Paula and Les.

Betty Seward, another village character, sadly died last year. Thank you to Peter for writing such an interesting piece. Those of you who are new to the village will have noticed Seward Place a new development named after Betty and her late husband, Gerry. I do hope you enjoy reading about what life was like in Langford in the past.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed again to our parish magazine. Your time is appreciated. Do have a look at the "Weekly Meetings" and "What's On in Spring" pages. There might be something there for you. Most ages are catered for with many activities for fitness.

The Langford Diary is also published on the Parish Council website

bedsparishes.gov.uk/langford-parish-council

Trudy Emery

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The Langford Water Tower

The Langford Water Tower, which is illustrated on our front cover by Katie Hounsome, is an important landmark for all visitors to Langford. This is another example of her work with contact details.

I have always told visitors to turn left at the water tower! I'm sure many others have done so too!

John Shipman has provided me with some interesting facts. The tower was opened in 1934 at the cost of £14,500. The water, raised from New Spring Biggleswade is contained in a steel plated spherical bowl suspended within the structure. It holds 300,000 gallons.

In 1980 the original steel was replaced by an aluminium cap costing £26,000.

Thank you, John

KATIE HOUNSOME DIGITAL ILLUSTRATOR

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Langford Cricket Club

Happy New Year to Everyone

Preparations are gathering momentum at the cricket Club with the 2020 season approaching.

Langford has two Adult Sunday teams who play on a wicket that is one of the best in the county!

2020 sees the 1st XI looking to challenge once again in the Beds County Cricket League Premier Division. While our Sunday 2nd XI, now in Division 4, will look to continue their rise up the leagues after back to back promotions in 2018 and 2019.



Winners of the 2019 Awards Night held at the Ivy Leaf Club

The Club have entered a Saturday team in to the Beds Invitational Saturday league in 2020, this development team aims to be a fun and learning experience and the Club hope that the team will be a mix of youngsters, legends, ladies and anyone else interested in playing cricket. More details to follow shortly.

The AllStars Saturday morning cricket sessions will be back in 2020. The 8 week ECB sponsored introduction to cricket course, not only offers places for up to thirty 5 to 8 year old boys and girls, but comes with all the equipment a young cricketer needs.

Older girls and boys are invited and welcome to attend the weekly fun Thursday evening coaching sessions 6pm to 7pm. This is a great introduction to the many youth teams the Club run, from U9's through 11's, 13's and 15's right up to Adult Cricket. These sessions start after Easter, but check the Facebook page for starting dates.

The Club enjoys a very active and engaged Ladies section, who in 2020 will continue the partnership with Flitwick Ladies Cricket, entering a combined team in the Four Counties Women's League.

There will again be Ladies Softball Cricket through the Summer, offering an evening of fun, relaxed cricket, with a BBQ and Prosecco!

Once again, we must thank all our Sponsors and Handbook Advertisers for their continued support, all of which goes to ensuring we are able to provide affordable cricket for the community.

Andy Watson

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

1st Langford Rainbows

This term we are working on our Stage 1 Make Change Skill Builder Badge, learning how our actions can make important changes around us. We started the term by changing the story of Little Red Riding Hood into our own versions and later this term we will be looking at how to help charities and causes we care about. We threw a birthday party for one of our young leaders, Pink, who turned 13 this term where we played party games and had cake. We now have 20 Rainbows in our unit which is amazing! We will also be cooking pancakes for Pancake Day and having an Easter Party. We are hoping to attend our district Thinking Day Event and Division Activity Day.



1st Langford Brownies

This term we are working on our Stage 2 Influence Skill Builder Badge where we have learnt how to influence others in order to make friends and find a compromise. We learnt some good communication and listening skills before performing stories in groups to the rest of the unit. We will be doing our Grow £1 Challenge this term to raise money for our upcoming trip to France in the summer. We will be attending the district Thinking Day and are planning a residential with the Rainbows in July. We have lots of Brownies completing different interest badges at home. We had lots of fun seeing Frozen 2 for our Christmas trip and we got a special badge!



1st Langford Guides

We are working on our Stage 3 Influence Skill Builder Badge, starting by getting to know the other girls in our patrols. We have chosen our own interest badges to complete on a special badge night; lots of us are interested in the photography and vlogging badges. After half term we will be having a Diversity Night to fit with this year's Thinking Day theme and cooking pancakes. We will be having a debate to choose our Easter Party activities and attending our district Thinking Day event. We are also planning a residential stay in London over the Easter holidays. Some of us helped at the Rainbow Winter Wonderland before Christmas and got to meet Santa and his elf.



Brownies Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday – 12th April – St Andrews Churchyard, Langford – 10:15am

Come along to the Church Service and join us afterwards

£2 per child, prize for everyone

Danielle Ellis

Langford Women's Institute

Here we are again. A lot has happened since our last report, but firstly on 27 September the WI Bedfordshire Federation was 100 years old. To celebrate in Langford we held a short service, conducted by the Rev. Shaun Speller, followed by the ringing of church bells to coincide with churches throughout the county. Some members took a few lessons in bell ringing in order to take part. Very moving.

Next came the laying of a wreath on behalf of the WI at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. This was carried out by our president Jenny Broadbridge. Also, in November we had an evening in Milton Keynes when John Lewis opened its doors for all Bedfordshire WI's to do a bit of pre- Christmas shopping. A glass of prosecco and nibbles made it all the more enjoyable! After this we were looking forward to an evening at the Spice Lounge and our Christmas lunch at the White Horse in Southill. Good food, good wine and good company was enjoyed by all!

In December we provided teas at the Christmas Fair, making a small profit which was donated to the charity RNLI. Then came the Christmas tree event in St Andrews church which was very successful and enjoyable. The WI tree was beautifully decorated by Iris Roberts, who, with other members, made the decorations. We finished off the year as usual with our Christmas evening which proved to be one of the best evenings anyone can remember. We had a Pot Luck Supper and brilliant entertainer, David Tomkin, who kept us laughing for a full hour with his magic, comedy and ventriloquism!

January saw a very good attendance when the speaker was Etta Stobs-Stobart talking on natural skin care and beauty. At the time of writing this report we are looking forward to the February meeting when the speaker will be Adam Smith telling us about Wrest Park and the women who owned it. So, if you fancy coming along you will be most welcome. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the Chapel schoolroom (next to the post office) at 7.15. You will always find details in The Langford Diary in the What's On page. For more information contact Jenny Broadbridge 01462 701127 – broadbridge42@icloud.com



Spring is on its way, perhaps a little too early judging by the dashes of yellow in the gardens of the village provided by the Daffodils and Broom already in bloom.

At Langford Gardening Club we have a number of events coming up that will help you catch up as your garden wakes up after the winter months. In March, Margaret

Nimmo-Smith will be giving a talk on "How To Make The Most of a Small Garden".

In April, Lamorna Thomas will present "What Plant Where and Why" giving us tips to take into consideration the conditions of our space to get the best from our plants.

In May Claire Matthews will be giving a talk on "The History of Easton Lodge". Claire is a Tour Guide and Trustee of The Gardens of Easton Lodge, a walled kitchen garden in Dunmow, Essex dating back to the 18th century.

As you can see you don't have to be a keen gardener to enjoy our events. We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Hall and have refreshments afterwards. We also have quiz nights, visits to gardens, local food and drink producers etc. Annual subscription is £25/£35 (Single/Double) or £3 per meeting for visitors.

Details can be found on www.langford-gardening-club.co.uk/ or www.nextdoor.co.uk/groups/

Please see Whats on in Winter on p15 for details of meetings and visits.



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1st Langford Scout Group

Cubs

The Spring term for Cubs is when we impatiently wait for the lighter evenings when we can get outside and cook over open fires, sleep under canvas and run around making lots of noise. For now, we'll have to be content to make lots of noise indoors and stink out the Scout Hut cooking pancakes. We will still get outside – hiking in the dark is always fun, as long as no one loses a wellie in the mud.

Our plans this term include a visit to the National Space Centre with the other Cubs of Biggleswade District and booking out the Clip n Climb indoor climbing centre in Cambridge for the Cubs and Scouts.

We are all looking forward to our big event in the summer when a group of Cubs and Scouts, along with the Brownies and Guides, head to an activity centre in France for a week of adventure. We are fundraising hard to make this venture affordable for all our families and we were recently very grateful to receive a donation from the Raft Race team.



Cubs at district carol services

Fund raising with a chocolate tombola at Langford Christmas Fete





Our entry for the Langford Christmas Tree festival with handmade scouting fleur-de-lis decorations.

Scouts

Last term the Scouts learnt survival skills, such as first aid, cooking and the importance of taking the correct kit with you when you go out exploring. We also started a few exciting badges. We ended the term with a fun game of bowling at Hollywood Bowl, which was enjoyed by Scouts and Leaders alike!

This half term we are learning a short pantomime for our Scouts to perform for their parents to help improve confidence and teamwork. We are also very excited for the summer term to come along so we can start getting outside more enjoy wide games and water activities. We will also be attending the Biggleswade District Big Jam where there are a wide variety of activities and events we do not normally get the chance to do. And of course, we are extremely excited for our amazing summer camp in France.

Beavers are boys and girls aged 6-8, we meet Tuesday 6-7pm in termtime. We are currently accepting applications for our waiting list, please apply early by emailing beavers@langfordscouts.org.uk

Cubs are boys and girls aged 8-10.5, we meet Wednesday 6.30-8 in termtime : we currently have limited spaces for those who like the outdoors and adventure and don't mind a bit of noise. Please contact Akela (Jo) on cubs@langfordscouts.org.uk

Scouts are boys and girls aged 8-10.5, we meet Monday 7.30-9 in termtime, for more information please contact scouts@langfordscouts.org.uk



As a member of your local Community Policing Team I would like to take this opportunity to make sure you are aware of what you should do to prevent against theft from your Vehicles.

Remember

- Ensure your vehicle is locked and all windows / sunroofs are closed correctly.
- Don't leave things on show in your car, whether it's an expensive laptop or just some loose change. Even items of clothing can attract possible offenders, as they may think that there will be money in the pockets
- Don't leave valuables in the glove-box of your car. To help in proving to would-be thieves that it's empty, you can empty your glove-box and leave it open when you leave your vehicle
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit spot that is visible to other members of the public, or covered by CCTV
- At home, don't keep your car keys next to your front door or in an obvious place, there are now items that can be purchased that can block the signal from your keys - if they are keyless car fobs, as an alternative you can cut the top off a metal can, tape the top so it isn't sharp and place your keys inside.

Please report crime on 101, this ensures that accurate logs are created for all calls made to Bedfordshire Police. 101 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may also wish to use our new online reporting tool <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report>

Ann Jeeves - PCSO 4763



Langford Friends had a very successful Christmas Social evening for the volunteers at the Ivy Leaf club in the first week of December. The evening was a thank you from the committee to the volunteers who provide the service to the people of Langford.

The Friends are taking part in a scheme called Social Prescribing where a Doctor can alert relevant groups to people who need support to stay in touch with society whether it be befriending or just transport to activities. We have our first client introduced through the scheme.

We welcomed eight new volunteers in 2019. We will

always welcome more volunteers. If you think you would like to join us, please ring us 01462 701440 for more details. The next Volunteer Forum will be held on 9th March in the church hall starting at 2.00pm, tea and cake will be served.

Margaret Wood

Langford Bowls Club



The Langford Playing Field Bowls Club is a friendly and welcoming club with both ladies and gentleman members competing in numerous district and county competitions, as well as friendly matches within the club and with other clubs during week days, evening and weekends. These include mixed friendly matches for the over 60's on Wednesday afternoons.

We would like to congratulate the 2019 season's club competition winners:

2 Wood Singles

Men's 4 Wood Singles

Men's Handicap Singles

Partner Pairs

Drawn Pairs

Don King triples

B. Randall

R. Roberts

D. Laight

P. Holmes & S. Bilcock

D. Jones & S. Bilcock

B. Dickson, R. Blossom & P. Holmes

We have been bowling on our green behind the playing field for over 65 years and would love to see new members from the village and surrounding areas. There are lots of opportunities to get involved. If you have never tried your hand before, or are a well-seasoned bowler, everyone is always welcome to come along, watch the proceedings and get involved.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, why not come along to one of the following opportunities at the bowls club, accessed from the grass area behind the tennis courts, to see for yourself:-

- Wednesday afternoons from 2pm during the winter months – Short Mat Bowls
- Saturday 18th April from 2:30pm – Summer Season Opening Day (Weather permitting)
- Friday afternoons from 2pm during the summer season – Try the game at our open sessions.

Alternatively, please get in touch with our President Iris Roberts on 01462 700748 or our General Secretary Mrs Melanie Andrews on 01462 628912.

What's On in the Spring!

March

- 2 **Parish Council Meeting** - Church Room - 7.30pm
- 3 **Gardening Club** - How to Make the Most of a Small Garden - Margaret Nimmo-Smith - Church Room - 7.30pm
- 4 **Oasis Coffee Morning** - Chapel 10.30-11.30am
- 4 **History Society** - Another Icarus: The Rise and Fall of Percy Pilcher and the Art of Flight - Roy Smart - 8.00pm - Church Room
- 5 **Parchment Craft** - Church Room - 1.00pm
- 7 **Shannon Express supported by Footlights Ladies Quartet** - 7.30pm - St. Andrew's Church - £10.00 includes refreshments - Details Sheila Vidler 01462 701750
- 11 **Langford WI** - Making a Stand for Chelsea - 7.15pm - Chapel Schoolroom
- 12 **Easter Sunday - Brownie Easter Egg Hunt** - St. Andrew's Churchyard - 10.15 am - £2.00 per child - prize for everyone
- 17 **Langford Car Club** - The Plough - 7.00pm
- 19 **Parchment Craft** - Church Room - 1.00pm
- 21 **Tidy Up Langford** - St. Andrew's Church Hall - 9.30am - to 12 noon

April

- 1 **Oasis Coffee Morning** - Chapel 10.30-11.30am
- 1 **History Society** - Village Memories - Photo Research - 8.00pm - Church Room
- 2 **Parchment Craft** - Church Room - 1.00pm
- 6 **Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting** - Church Room - 7.15pm
- 7 **Gardening Club** - What Plant, where and why - Lamorna Thomas - Church Room - 7.30pm
- 8 **Langford WI - Annual Meeting** - Chapel Schoolroom - 7.15pm
- 16 **Parchment Craft** - Church Room - 1.00pm
- 21 **Langford Car Club** - The Plough - 7.00pm

May

- 4 **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by Parish Council Meeting** - Church Room - 7.15pm
- 5 **Gardening Club** - The History of Easton Lodge - Claire Matthews - Church Room - 7.30pm
- 6 **Oasis Coffee Morning** - Chapel 10.30-11.30am
- 6 **History Society** - Bread, Gruel and Suet Dumplings - Workhouse Life - 8.00pm - Church Room
- 7 **Parchment Craft** - Church Room - 1.00pm
- 13 **Langford WI** - A Woman of all Seasons - 7.15pm - Chapel Schoolroom
- 17 **Garage Sale Trail**
- 19 **Langford Car Club** - The Plough - 7.00pm
- 21 **Parchment Craft** - Church Room - 1.00pm

Weekly Meetings

Please keep me up to date with the meetings. If there are any changes, please let me know at trudy.emery1@ntlworld.com or 01462 636638.

Sunday

St. Andrews Parish Services: Vicar Rev. Shaun Speller 01462 700248

Parish Eucharist 9.15am (1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month)

Family Service 9.30am (3rd Sunday each month)

Benefice Eucharist 9.15am (5th Sunday)

3.00pm Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday each month)

Holy Communion Wednesday 10.00am (2nd and 4th Wednesdays)

Methodist Services: Minister: Rev. Lorna Valentine

Service 9.30am: (last Sunday each month)

Service 10.45am

Sunday Club 10.40am: (term time only) last Sunday of month

Dog Training 9.00am-1.30pm Langford Village Hall - Contact Gary 07738 683854

Youth Football Winter

Monday

Owlets Pre-school 9am-12.00 morning session & 9.00-3.00pm full day - 07935 784567 - www.owletspreschool.co.uk

Langford Methodist Chapel Room Contact 07790 763078

Pilates 9.30am-10.30am Church Hall Contact 07891 752906

Rainbows 4.30pm-5.30pm Church Hall Contact 07866 395739

1st Langford Brownies 5.45pm to 7.00pm Church Hall (term time only) - Contact 07866 395739

Karate 6.00pm-8.00pm Langford Village Hall Contact Richard 01462 629707

1st Langford Scouts (boys and girls aged 10-14 years) 7.30pm-9.00pm (term time only) Please contact scouts@langfordscouts.org.uk

Bushido Judo 6.30pm-7.30pm - Henlow Memorial Hall - For details contact Marion on 07940 524384 or email marrionmargetson@outlook.com

Tuesday

Owlets Pre-school 9am-12.00 & 12 noon-3.00pm Langford Methodist Chapel Room - 07935 784567 - www.owletspreschool.co.uk

Yoga - 9.45am - 11.45 Langford Village Hall Contact Caroline 07752 222542

Walking Group meet 10am at Chapel Hill Bridge. For details and of walks further afield on 1st Tuesday of month contact Val Henley 01462 626502

Dance Class Over 65's Church Hall 11.00am-12 noon - Tel 07714 378887

Langford Lollipops Toddler Group (term time only) 1.15pm-2.45pm Village Hall - See Facebook page Langford Lollipops Toddler Group

Langford Beavers (boys and girls aged 6-8 years) 6.00pm-7.00pm (term time only) Please contact beavers@langfordscouts.org.uk

Dog Training 6.30pm-9.30pm Langford Village Hall Contact Gary 07738 683854

Yoga 7.30pm-8.30pm Church Hall Contact 07891 752906

Fitness Class 7.45pm-8.45pm Aerobics/Body Tone Langford Academy
Contact - 01462 701289

Wednesday

Owlets Pre-school 9am-12.00 morning session & 9.00-3.00pm full day -
07935 784567 - www.owletspreschool.co.uk

Langford Methodist Chapel Room Contact 07790 763078

Pilates 9.30am-10.30am Church Hall Contact 07891 752906

Oasis Coffee Shop 10.30am to 11.30am Methodist Chapel
(first Wednesday in month only)

The Ivy Leaf Welcome Club Ivy Leaf Club Station Road 2.00pm-4.00pm

Fit and Fabulous Church Hall 1.45pm-2.45pm 01462 620740 or 07741 453533

Children's Dancing - Pirouettes & Pullbacks - 4.30pm-6.15pm

Langford Village Hall - Contact Danielle 07866 395739

Langford Cubs (boys and girls aged 8-10 years) 6.30pm-8.00pm (term time only)

Please contact cubs@langfordscouts.org.uk

Tennis Club Social Sessions - 9.30am and 7.30pm Contact Paul Metcalfe 01462 700001
pauln.metcalfe@ntlworld.com www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk

Adult Dancing - Argentine Tango/Salsa 7.00pm-9.00pm Langford Village Hall -
Esme Castle 01767 601604

Older Persons Exercises - Village Hall - 12 noon to 1.00pm Conor Inskip -
Ci.fitness@icloud.com

Thursday

Owlets Pre-school 9am-12.00 morning session Langford Methodist Chapel Room -
07935 784567 - www.owletspreschool.co.uk

1st Langford Guides 7.00pm Langford Scout Hut Contact 07866 395739

Functional Fitness - Total Body Workout - Please bring weights - 7.00pm-7.45pm -
Village Hall - Kerry Dennis 07882 015495

Friday

Owlets Pre-school 9am-12.00 & 12 noon-3.00pm Langford Methodist
Chapel Room - 07935 784567 - www.owletspreschool.co.uk

Line Dancing 9.45am-10.45am absolute beginners - 10.45am-12.15 beginners/
improvers - Village Hall £5.00 Contact Suzanne 07902 495602
suzannecampbell@icloud.com

Morning Coffee Shop - 10.30am-12.00 midday - St. Andrew's Church Hall

Adult Dancing - Ballroom/Latin 1.30pm-3.00pm Langford Village Hall -
Esme Castle 01767 601604

Bowls Club 2.00pm - 4.00pm - Barbara Dickson 700355 or Iris Roberts 700748

Saturday

Cricket, Bowls, Tennis Summer

Tennis Club Social Sessions - 2.00pm Contact Paul Metcalfe 01462 700001
pauln.metcalfe@ntlworld.com www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk

Langford Parish Council

Chairman

Gill Clarke

11 Mill Meadow SG18 9UR
gillyannclarke@gmail.com

01462 629440

Vice Chairman

John Shipman

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01462 700474

Clerk of the Council

Mrs. M Albone

75 Wilsheres Road, Biggleswade SG18 0DN
michellealbone.langfordpc@gmail.com

07482 276173

Ward Councillors

Steven Dixon - Stotfold, Langford, Fairfield & Astwick Ward
0300 300 8524 - steven.dixon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Brian Saunders - 107 Hitchin Road, Stotfold SG5 4JE
01462 626722 - brian.saunders@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Nicola Harris

Dates of Parish Council Meetings

St. Andrew's Church Hall

Monday 2nd March, 2020 - 7.30pm

Monday, 6th April, 2020 - 7.15pm

Monday, 4th May, 2020 - 7.15pm

The Parish Council has a website where useful information and details of meetings may be found.

Please go to

<https://www.bedsparishes.gov.uk/langford-parish-council>

There is also a Facebook page with some other limited information.

Langford Parish Council

Happy New Year, although by the time you read this article the year will certainly be in full swing.

Firstly, I would like to thank our Langford Diary Editor for the grand job she is doing. It is a relentless task chasing up the latecomers submitting their contribution, which unfortunately is usually me on behalf of the Parish Council. I like to keep it to the last moment to make sure the latest information is available to read.

Well, we had our Public Inquiry determining the refusal by Langford Parish Council, and upheld by Central Bedfordshire Council, of an application to build on agricultural land, west of the cottages on Langford Road, on the way to Biggleswade. The Public Inquiry was initially for 4 days but overran and summing up on Friday 31 January 2020. We are told it will take another 4-6 weeks to hear our fate. Thank you to the residents of Langford who supported the Parish Council by attending the Public Inquiry each day. I would also like to thank the Parish Council Members and our wonderful Clerk for manning the hall for 4 days from 8-6pm to enable the residents of Langford to have an opportunity to hear what was happening to their village. It was an onerous task, but rather in Langford than out of the village as was first arranged by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC).

My thanks also to John Shipman, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council who spoke on several occasions, putting forward the objections of the Parish Council, and querying why Langford has no say in where the Section 106 funds (monies given by developers or landowners to mitigate harm and to improve community infrastructure) are allocated. Many residents are critical that such funds do not come into the village on specific projects such as traffic calming – and that Section 106 funding can't be used to tackle 'existing' problems not linked to a new development – where it goes is decided by CBC. The Parish Council is to submit an objection to CBC against these decisions stating strongly that consultation takes place with the Parish Council before any decision is made, and how to ensure that the monies remain in Langford where the effect of these developments is felt. See CBC website for a list of all S106 fund allocations.

Many residents support the Parish Council but there are also others who are very critical, without the knowledge of what the Parish Council can and cannot do. We are volunteers doing the best with the support of our Clerk. We have to work within the law, and guidelines set down by Government. However, it is worthwhile, and we need more people to join us. We welcome new ideas: new outlook on what we are doing; more people more brainpower. The Parish Council meetings are on the first Monday of the month, except August, held in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. We have a public participation session where you can speak on anything that concerns you.

Please come along to a meeting, see how it works, what we do, although serious in places, it is also light-hearted. Look forward to seeing you.

Gill Clarke
Chairman

Useful Telephone Numbers & Websites

Bedfordshire Police	01234 841212	Citizen Advice Bureau	0844 4771600
Emergency Services		my.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk	
Gas	0800 111 999	Samaritans	116 123
Electricity	0800 072 7282		01462 455333
Power Cuts	105	Childline	0800 1111
or text 80876 POWER & postcode		www.childline.org.uk	
priority services for people in need		Silverline	0800 470 8090
www.ofgem.gov.uk		Refuge Against	
Water	0800 169 3630	Domestic Violence	0808 2000 247
Langford Surgery	01767 316346	Central Beds Council	0300 300 8301
Ivel Medical Centre	01767 312441	Out of Hours Contact Numbers	
Langford Pharmacy	01462 701518	Social Services	0300 300 8123
Langford Village Academy	01462 629000	Housing Repairs and Noise	0300 300 8098
Langford Friends	0788 4046741	Highways	0300 300 8049
		Dangerous Structures	0300 300 8098

The Ivy Leaf Club

The Committee of The Ivy Leaf would like to thank all members for their support and custom over the past year - we enjoyed a very busy festive period!
2020 looks to be a busy and enjoyable year.

Forthcoming events are:

14th March - Charity Cocktail Night
Always a fun night

21st March - The Return of our Popular Quiz Nights

4th April - The brilliant Huggy Flares
Come and have a dance and enjoy the soul and disco music
(£4 non members)

2nd May - Scooted n' Booted
The ever popular ska band return - always a busy night
(£6 non members)

New members always welcome and remember our Lounge Bar can be hired for most private functions for the minimal cost of £50.
Keep up to date with all our events on our Facebook page.

Julie Devereux

Betty Seward - A Langford Lady

Betty Seward was born in Langford in 1933 and lived with her parents Fred and Florrie Spicer and her older brother George. Her dad had served in WW1 and was invalided out following a bullet wound. Her mum served in the land army in WW1 and her brother worked in the second war. Her dad was then a Steam ploughing engine driver and steam lorry drivers mate. She was steeped in agriculture but always showed signs of an academic and artistic talent. This led to a scholarship to Dame Alice Harpur School where she learned a lot but did not remain there for long. She left school and joined the army of cycling teenagers who went to work in the hive of industry that was then Biggleswade. Working for Kayser Bondor she became a very skilful sewing machinist, a skill which she used all her life in making dresses for her girls and fancy dress costumes for the village events. In 1950 something she teamed up with Gerry Seward and supported him in his good works for 60 years or so. They joined in all village activities and went by motorbike to watch Luton F.C.



Bringing up a family of four and seeing their successes and that of the grandchildren was a pleasure but she still found time to work part time, in the fields for Ted Wells and later for PYE connectors as a plastic moulding machine operator. She also played for a ladies darts team, attended chapel, was a marvelous cook, making teas for cricket and other playing field activities as well as for large family gatherings. She joined a flower arranging class and became one of their star arrangers and often prepared flowers for the chapel and weddings. She was standard bearer for the ladies section of the British Legion and a poppy seller for many years. In later years she and Gerry travelled to most countries in Europe and to Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Dancing and entertaining friends was a big part of her life and Gerry and she often got home on a Saturday night after the teenage children had run out of steam and gone to bed! The Welcome Club occupied Wednesday afternoons in recent times, where she liked to help behind the scenes and join in the events.

Peter Seward

Welcome Club

Although we had quite a few quiet weeks before Christmas we did have our usual Christmas raffle on our last day where everyone got a prize. We also had mince pies with our cup of tea. Afterwards everyone received a nice box of biscuits. The following week we went to the Five Bells where we had a nice three course meal.

Now we are back to normal and looking forward to maybe a day out or to having fish and chips, maybe we will have a quiz but we will still be meeting our friends, having a chat and a laugh over our cup of tea as though we hadn't had a break. Why don't you join us? You might enjoy our company.

For further information come along any Wednesday to The Ivy Leaf Club in Station Road at 2pm and ask for me (Stella) or ring me on 01462 700977. We look forward to seeing some new faces.

Stella Hill

Les King - A Langford Institution

Les King has seen a lot of changes in Langford during his lifetime – this is not surprising, since he has spent 89 of his 91 years in the village, moving away only to take the 1940's equivalent of two “gap years” to serve in the RAF just after the end of the war.

Born in 1928, the youngest of three children, Les grew up at Scrupt's, the farm between Langford and Biggleswade. The family home was a tiny farm-labourer's terraced cottage (now replaced by a rather imposing mock-tudor dwelling), behind Scrupt's House. There was no electricity or running water and once he reached a height of six feet, Les was unable to stand up straight in the downstairs rooms. His father, Percy, worked on the Clark's farm and married the boss's daughter, Lizzie. By the time Les came along, his sister, Phyllis, was almost ready to “fly the nest”, taking a position in domestic service in Bedford and brother Don was eight years old. Les remembers his childhood as very happy and carefree, playing around the farm and helping out when needed. Any work involving the heavy horses was his favourite – even when it meant spreading soot on the fields early in the morning and needing a cold wash before school! He attended Langford School from the ages of five to eleven, at that time a Victorian red-brick building where the Church Hall now stands, in the company of the likes of Gerry Seward and Bill Wells. Then along came the war, which provided a great opportunity to skip school on the pretext of collecting scrap to “help the war effort”. Less than enthusiastic about organised education, Les nevertheless won a scholarship to Bedford School, which he chose not to take up as he preferred to stay with friends.

Not one for sitting down for long (hence the difficulty with formal education!), his career path was in a variety of practical trades – first, as a mechanic with a tractor firm in Biggleswade, then an enforced but enjoyable spell as an aircraft mechanic working on Lancasters for the RAF. After he was “demobbed”, Tom Chessum took him on as an apprentice bricklayer, a job which suited Les well until a back problem left him unable to carry on. Finally, he settled on the carpet trade. Robert Willson, of Doddimeads in Biggleswade, wanted to expand the family-run furniture shop into carpets and sent Les on a training course which was to set him up for the remainder of his working life – the cycle ride to college in Luton

every day was not wasted! In 1972, the sale of Doddimeads to a chain led to Les setting up with one of his ex-apprentices to launch “King & Bowles Carpets” in a tiny prefab in Back Street, Biggleswade. Their reputation as honest, hardworking tradesmen stood them in good stead and with the help of the two wives, the business moved along nicely. After Ron Bowles's retirement, another of Les's apprentices joined him and “King & Griffiths” carried on until Les's retirement in 1992.

During all this time, Les is firmly anchored in Langford. Having met Betty Pates (a foreigner from Biggleswade) through his cousin, they eventually began “walking out” and married in 1951.



For three years the couple lived at Scroupt's, while waiting for a council house to become available. By the time Les and Betty moved to a lovely new house in East Road in 1954, they had a three-month-old daughter, who was joined by a sister in 1957.



Sport has always been a major part of Les's life. As a young man he played football for Langford, cricket for both his RAF team and Langford and was a member of the tennis club. To this he added fell-walking when he discovered a passion for the Lake District in his 50's. A lifelong Arsenal supporter, he now has to be content with watching on TV but has fond memories of trips to Highbury and The Emirates, initially with his beloved Dad and latterly with his grandson.

Les has always thrown himself into village affairs. As a member of St Andrew's Church, he joined the choir aged eight and found a natural talent for music. In addition to singing in the church choir, choral societies and chamber choirs for about 80 years, he became well-known as a soloist all over Bedfordshire. His mellow baritone voice and musical sensitivity meant that he was in demand for performances of oratorios, requiems and all manner of other works. He very much enjoyed performing and finds it difficult to understand why others find it nerve-wracking. If the engagement also included dressing up and clowning, so much the better! St Andrew's Drama Club was at one time a thriving part of village life, with Les a founder member. The Club produced serious plays and comedies but also relished putting on pantomimes and "Old Time Music Halls" – wonderful opportunities to dress up, over-act, sing and generally have a good time. Sadly, the Drama Club eventually found it impossible to attract younger members and was forced to bring down the final curtain. It should perhaps be noted that the renowned actor Ben Whishaw was a member of the St Andrew's Drama Club as a child and Les claims to have "taught him all he knows"!

Continuing his family's tradition, Les has had a lifelong commitment to Langford Church. He was choirmaster, churchwarden and PCC chairman at various periods, and rang the bells with Fred Milton every Sunday for many years.

On retirement, he took up water-colour painting – a long-held ambition but something he could not find time for while working. "Les King Originals" now grace many walls. Finishing work also allowed the freedom to see some of the world. This was mainly at Betty's instigation, but they enjoyed their trips to Europe and also to Australia, Canada, and the USA. Les was devastated by Betty's sudden death in 2009 but with the support of family and friends has learned to cook – speciality dish, cauliflower cheese – and find a new rhythm to life. The Plough features strongly, with his daily glass of red and a chat with friends at the "Round Table". He is now the proud grandad of five and great-grandad of three and is at his happiest surrounded by friends and family.

So in his 91 years, Les has seen Langford grow from a tiny place where everyone knew everyone and houses were interspersed with fields and barns, to the densely-populated village we see today. He has gone from oil lamps to LEDs, from a phone box at the end of the road (4d for a local call of any duration!) to texting on his mobile and emailing on the iPad, from horses ploughing to combine harvesters. Sadly, also a decrease from five village pubs to one. It's good to know that in these times of rapid, constant change, some things endure and Les King is one of them!

Paula Moore – Les's daughter



Join the Great British Spring Clean

Be part of the pick

Langford Spring Clean will be taking place on **SATURDAY 21st March 2020**

Meet: St Andrews Church Hall
Time: 09:30-09:45 (finish approx 11:30)

...the more people who help, the more streets we can cover and the more litter we can pick up

...please come and help us keep your village tidy. Litter pickers provided, you just need to bring some gloves

...Refreshments after at the Church Hall

Contact: michelle@bone.langfordpc@gmail.com
Tel: 07482 276173

Organised by:
Langford Parish Council

Register your support keepbritaintidy.org

#GBSpringClean



ST NEOTS – TIME CHANGES

Please note the following time changes for pick-ups for St Neots (2nd Thursday of the month) as of Thursday 13th February 2020

W9 ST NEOTS	OR = On	OUT	RETURN
2 nd Thursday of each Month		RR = Return Stop on Request	
Shillington, Bury Rd, opp Woodmer End		09.10	RR
Shillington, Hillfoot Rd		09.11	RR
Shillington, Marquis Hill		09.13	RR
Meggershall, Rectory Rd		09.16	RR
Meggershall, High St, all stops		09.17	RR
Meggershall, Shefford Rd, all stops		09.18	RR
Shefford – Neil Rd		09.21	RR
Clifton, Shefford Rd, opp Post Office		09.26	RR
Clifton – Newis Crescent		09.28	RR
Clifton – Stockbridge Rd		09.29	RR
Henlow – Langford Rd, Newtown		09.31	RR
Langford – o/s Riverside Grdns		09.34	RR
Langford – Station Rd, all stops		09.35	RR
Langford – Church St, all stops		09.37	RR
Broom, High St, opp Village Hall		09.42	RR
Southill, Stanford Rd, opp Memorial		09.45	RR
Stanford, o/s Green Man PH		09.46	RR
Upper Caldecote, opp G&M Growers		09.49	RR
Upper Caldecote, o/s Post Office		09.50	RR
Roston Garden Centre – On Request	10.00 OR		12.20 OR
St Neots, Market Square	10.10		12.10

Please note the following time changes for pick-ups for St Neots as from February 2020

W10 ST NEOTS	OR = On	OUT	RETURN
2 nd Thursday of Each Month		RR = Return Stop on Request	
Lower Standon – Station Rd o/s Village Hall		09.29	RR
Lower Standon – Station Rd all stops		09.35	RR
Clifton Park		09.36	RR
Stotfold – Hitchin Rd opp Barton Ave		09.41	RR
Stotfold – Hitchin Rd, opp Recreation Ground		09.42	RR
Stotfold – Hitchin Rd, opp Hallworth Drive		09.43	RR
Stotfold – Regent St, all stops		09.44	RR
Ashtwick		09.46	RR
Roston Garden Centre – On Request	10.05 OR		12.30 OR
St Neots, Market Square	10.15		12.20

Langford Football Club



Season Update

It is difficult to present an up-beat report on the performance of the first team at present. Having lost several of our main players to other clubs, the squad is in a period of transition with many new players coming into the squad; some of them already showing promise for the future. With a run of recent defeats, including heavy drubbings from two local derbys, 0 – 5 at home to Stotfold and 4 – 0 away to Shefford, we find ourselves currently third from bottom in the Spartan Division 1. On a more positive note, the Ladies team are continuing to excel; currently just one point below the league leaders, with a match in-hand. Recent results have included 10 – 0 and 5 – 0 wins.



We now have a new club Chairman (or Chairlady), who's name is **Cara Hodge**. Cara lives in Langford, has a young family and is the Senior Marketing & Trade Operations Manager for Monster Energy Drinks. The sharp-eyed amongst you may have noticed Monster Drinks advertised on the pitch-side billboards during televised matches from several Premier League stadiums as well as other sporting events. It is hoped that Cara's experience and expertise in this area will enable Langford FC to secure much needed sponsorship in the future.

We welcome anyone from Langford and the surrounding areas to visit us at Forde Park, to provide your support and enthusiasm. Below are the Home Fixtures for the remaining season. These dates are subject to change, depending of course, upon the weather.

Please come along and show your support.

ONE	15/2/20	15:00	FC Broxbourne Borough
ONE	7/3/20	15:00	Rayners Lane FC
ONE	14/3/20	15:00	Park View FC
ONE	21/3/20	15:00	London Tigers FC
ONE	28/3/20	15:00	Amersham Town FC
ONE	25/4/20	15:00	Brimsdown FC

Help Required

Although we now have a new Chairman, we still have a requirement for someone to take on a new role of Commercial Manager to help organise events and fund-raising. Help is also required in running other aspects of the club. If you could help us in any role, please contact Dave Boswell on 01462 628427 for an informal chat.

Bushido Judo Club

The Bushido Judo Club meets in Henlow Memorial Hall, 66 Henlow High Street, SG16 6AA (next to The Engineers Arms). We are very friendly club and all are welcome to join the club, from beginner's upwards. Parents just bring your kids along. If you would like to come to see what goes on, please just turn up. You can join in straightaway or just watch.

Beginner's are always welcome.

The photo is of the kids who have won medals and trophies in the End of Year Club Awards. They are also showing their medals they gained in the last Nationals Competition. We encourage them to enter as many competitions as they can in order to put into practice what they are learning at the club. In competitions they have contests against their own age groups and similar abilities. These can be beginners or those who have been doing judo for some time. It's a great sport and gives the kids confidence and teaches them new sporting skills.

For details contact Marion on 07940 524 384 or email [**bushidojudohenlow@outlook.com**](mailto:bushidojudohenlow@outlook.com)



St. Andrew's Church

In the vestry of St Andrews is a list of all the incumbents (holder of the ecclesiastical office e.g. Chaplain, Vicar) of the Parish. Although the first dates from 1185, the list starts from 1220, with someone simply named Richard, appointed by the Bishop of Lincoln, in which Diocese Langford fell.

I think it's reasonable to assume that nobody knew much about Richard, or even what the village and the church looked like in those days, exactly 800 years ago this year. But I guess that Richard had little idea of the changes that the next 800 years would bring either.

We know the present building wasn't even the one which Richard inherited as the incumbent. A new building was placed on the site 100 years later. What we have now is a building which has changed and been transformed over the time which followed.

Change is inevitable and something we need to embrace for the good of all – as well as ourselves. That's the heart of the gospel – Jesus died and rose again so that all of our lives might be transformed and changed: to be the people that God created us to be.

And just as the fabric of our lives may, even must, be changed, so too is the fabric of our parish church: in two ways.

Firstly you will know that we are continuing with our efforts to change the use of our building so that it can be used more fully as the community asset that it is. Inside this edition of the Diary is a questionnaire. Could I encourage you to complete that, please. It will continue to be important in shaping the changes we plan, and our fundraising activity.

Secondly, you will also be aware that the village has always known it will need a new cemetery, given the diminishing space available in the churchyard. The parish council has worked hard over recent years to provide a new facility. That means the churchyard, which is nearing capacity, will have to close to new burials in the not too distant future. Both Langford Parish Council, and St Andrews Parochial Church Council, will make available details of arrangements as soon as they are agreed.

Change is sometimes unsettling because it moves us from what we know and away from our expectations. But equally it provides for new possibilities. As we move toward Easter may each of us know the possibility of changed and transformed lives. Because through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ all things are made new.

Rev. Shaun Speller



St. Andrew's Church Reordering Appeal

Enclosed in this month's Langford Diary is a questionnaire which we hope you will take the time to look at and most importantly fill in. Your opinion matters very much to us and we are looking forward to reading what you have to say.

Please also see our advert in this Diary for our next concert at St Andrew's Church.

Shannon Express on Saturday 7th March 2020 starting at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £10 from Sheila Vidler. Contact 01462 701750 or vidlersheila@gmail.com.

Sheila Vidler



Supported by FOOTLIGHTS Ladies Quartet.

Saturday 7th March 2020 at 7.30pm
St Andrews Church, Langford

Tickets £10 includes interval refreshments

Contact Sheila Vidler - 01462 701750 - vidlersheila@gmail.com

Raising money to modernise St Andrews Parish Church

Langford Village Academy

The end of the school year was very busy but enjoyable. We took all of the children to the Gordon Craig Theatre to see Beauty and the Beast. This was the first time that some of our children had been to the theatre and they all had a wonderful time! We are planning to do this every other year.

Our Foundation Stage Classes had a Christmas Craft Day and invited Parents and Grandparents to come into school to help. Everyone enjoyed the day. We also had our Foundation Stage Nativity and Key Stage performances in December. All were very good and well supported by parents.

We invited Senior Citizens from the Ivy Leaf Club and Rev Shaun to share Christmas Dinner with us as usual. Feedback from staff and children was that this was one of the best Christmas Dinners that we have had at Langford! Our Year 4 children went to see a Barn Nativity in Bedford which was enjoyed by all!

Jo Gaunt has been visiting every two weeks providing RE workshops. We have also been having Open the Book Assemblies every other week using drama to engage the children in stories from the Bible.



Fundraising

We raised £161 for Children in Need and £96 from our Christmas Jumper Day. Our Christmas Fayre was well supported and very successful raising £1400! We are currently updating our reading books and are in need new of new library books. We took part in a Christingle Service at Langford Church. This was lovely and involved songs and readings and was well supported by Parents. We raised £184 for the Children's Society who support vulnerable children.

Langford History Society

We had an excellent Social Evening in December with a fish and chip supper, quizzes and excellent keyboard playing and singing of popular songs by local resident Stuart Fairclough which we enjoyed immensely.

Our programme for 2020 is ready and on our website.

We had our AGM in February and start our season on 4 March with Roy Smart's talk on 'Another Icarus, the Rise and Fall of Percy Pilcher and the Art of Flight', about the aviation pioneer who fell from the sky. This is the talk which had to be postponed from last October. There is a change from our usual format of Village Memories Evenings on 1 April. We are going to bring out our remarkable collection of old photos of Langford so that members and visitors can help to assign titles to the photos descriptive of their location and/or the people in them. This will allow us to prepare a comprehensive index to the collection which, of course, will allow quicker access to the photos when they are needed.

On Wednesday, 6 May, in 'Bread, Gruel and Suet Dumplings' Ian Waller will talk on life in the Victorian workhouse.

The first of our visits takes place to a beautiful local garden on 3 June and on 1 July we have a visit to the Signals Museum at RAF Henlow. There's no meeting in August but RAF Henlow is in the frame again on 2 September when we have a talk on its history from a belated First World War airfield to being a major engineering centre in the second conflict and its many contributions to our security since.

To complete our talks season we have Liz Davies, a curator of St Neots Museum, coming to tell us about the 68 Iron Age coins found in a field in 2010, known as the Kimbolton Coin Hoard. Murders in Hertfordshire are the subject of Les Bolland's talk on 4 November, when this long-serving police officer gives us an insight into the crimes he's investigated.

As usual we complete our year with a Christmas Social.

Our website contains the 'Langford Index of Names', which is a source for family historians and those with roots in our village. You can download this 16-page index to people referred to in the Society's three books and also in the Parish Council's Millennium publication, *Langford: A Village Walk* free of charge. The names on the two village war memorials are also included in the index with an indication of which memorial contains the name.

We will give a warm welcome to you, either as a new member or visitor, and we are certain you will enjoy our talks. The meetings are informal and visitors pay only £4 at the door. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 8pm in the Church Hall, except for January and August, and we have two visits in the summer. There is a raffle at each meeting and the tea, coffee and biscuits are free. Annual membership is currently £5 per person.

Our website at www.langfordhistorysociety.org.uk has lots of information about Langford's past. Through the website, we have been able to answer many queries from family historians with roots in Langford.

If you need further information about us, please phone **01767 701096**.

Langford History Books

Our books on village history contain lots of photos preserving the knowledge of the families, homes and businesses of old Langford.

The following publications are available:

Langford Then and Now 2006 – This book of 40 pages plus cover has two photographs on nearly every page of well-known places in the village showing how they looked then and how they look now. Some of the old photographs were taken from 80 to over 100 years ago. Price £4.

Langford through the Lens Volume 1 – This book in 73 pages delves into Langford's past with photographs of personalities and events explained in extensive captions. The reprint has the advantage of incorporating amendments and discoveries made since original publication by means of an errata list in the title pages. Price £5.

Langford through the Lens, Volume 2 (published 1992) – This book in 80 pages offers a selection of old photographs (some with extensive captions) showing all aspects of village life and the personalities involved over the years. Price £3.

To purchase these books contact Rowena Wolfe by phone or email: 01767 312556 or rowena.wolfe@btinternet.com Book orders can be collected in the village.

Historic Fire Bell Returns to the Village

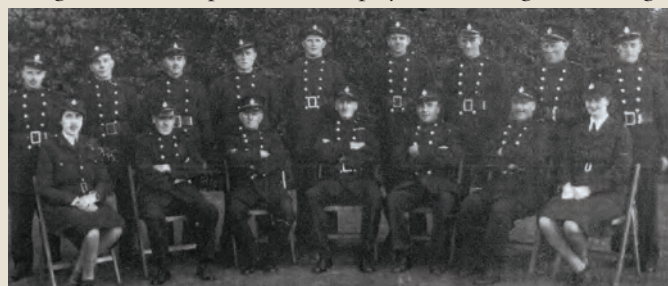


Reg Wiles helped to demolish a barn on Ashbury Farm in the village over 30 years ago. While there, he was given a brass bell that was hanging on the barn. The barn was used as a depot by the Langford Auxiliary Fire Service during the Second World War and the bell was used to summon the firemen to wartime emergencies. The bell is dated 1880 and was made by the firm that made Big Ben, J Warner & Sons.

Reg, who is 93 and his son, John, thought the bell should be returned to the village for posterity and so offered it to the History Society. The History Society was very glad to accept this very generous donation as part of Langford's history and heritage



but because the Society does not have the facilities to permanently display the bell, they asked the Parish Council to get involved so that the bell could be displayed in the village. On 7 December 2019 the bell was presented to the village by Reg and John and accepted by John Shipman on behalf of the Parish Council and Ted Martin on behalf of the History Society. Arrangements are being made for its permanent display at the Village Hall. Reg worked in Langford for local



resident Fred Rowley, a farmer and potato merchant, until he retired 30 years ago.

Reg and his family hope their gift will be of interest to people for many years to come.

Langford's Auxiliary Fire Service during the Second World War (From Langford

Through the Lens, Vol 2). Before the war their only equipment was a fire truck kept in a barn next to Ashbury Farm in the High Street opposite The Leys. During the war they received a van and a trailer pump. Their last 'shout' was in 1946 to pump out houses in the High Street during the floods of that year. They were disbanded soon after.

Langford Diary Copy Dates and Advertising

PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT

All Copy and Advertising for inclusion in NEXT Diary Summer Edition by 22nd April for events in June, July and August.

2020 Submission Dates

Autumn Issue 22nd July - Winter Edition 22nd October.

All Copy for the next Diary to be emailed to both
trudy.emery1@ntlworld.com - steve.alh.hills@btinternet.com

All Adverts and Advertising Material to be emailed to **steve.alh.hills@btinternet.com**

IMPORTANT

**Please let us know if there are any changes to the details of your meeting.
Are the times and contact information the same?**

ADVERTISING RATES FOR ALL NEW ADVERTS

Cost of Adverts in Langford Diary 2020 ALL COLOUR ADVERTS

SIZE - One sixth page

Single issue - £30 plus vat (£36 inc VAT)

Full year (four issues) - £80 plus vat (£96 inc VAT)

SIZE - One third page

Single issue - £40 plus vat (£48 inc VAT)

Full year (four issues) - £120 plus vat (£144 inc VAT)

SIZE - Half page

Single issue - £60 plus vat (£72 inc VAT)

Full year (four issues) - £170 plus vat (£204 inc VAT)

SIZE - Whole page

Single issue - £110 plus vat (£132 inc VAT)

Full year (four issues) - £340 plus vat (£408 inc VAT)

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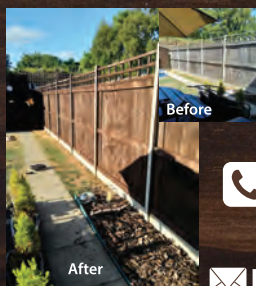
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Langford Tennis Club

Langford Tennis Club has had a very busy autumn/winter so far with events for all ages. In October half term we held a junior tournament where our juniors played matches with different partners and individual scores were totalled culminating in the top four playing in the finals. Our juniors are a credit to the club in that they are all great players and always

very polite! Four of our juniors have volunteered to be Junior Representatives who will report any issues/ideas back to our committee who meet on a regular basis throughout the year.

The Wednesday morning social tennis group met in December for their annual Christmas tournament and lunch. Much like the junior tournament, pairs were selected from those who turned up and a great morning of doubles tennis was played followed by a lovely lunch. The emphasis was very much on the social aspect with lots of laughter and some great tennis too.

Our winter ladder competition is well underway with sixteen pairs battling it out to win the most points. Pairs have a handicap according to ability (decided by our coach!). It's a tournament of two halves with the handicaps being reviewed halfway through at the beginning of January. Play will then continue until the end of March when the most successful pair will be declared the winners. This is a fantastic way to encourage people to play friendly matches during the winter when the weather is sometimes less than inviting!



Our club was very successful in the Bedfordshire summer leagues with no fewer than three of our teams winning their divisions. Congratulations go to the men's A, the ladies' C and the mixed D teams (**trophies pictured with committee members Paul Jaggard, Caroline Bowers and Jo Jaggard, L to R**).



And finally, more congratulations to Jo Jaggard, who won the Bedfordshire section of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Volunteer award. Jo was nominated by a member of the club for all the hard work she does on the committee, organising clothing orders, writing and sending out newsletters, helping to organise tournaments and many other little things including weeding around the courts!! Jo received her award in November at the Bedfordshire Tennis Association annual dinner (pictured) and goes forward to the East Region competition – Good Luck Jo!

For more information about the club, membership and coaching please see www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk

Langford Walking Group



We are a friendly, informal walking group which meets every Tuesday morning at 10am at the Ford Bridge, near the Post Office. We walk for about an hour to an hour and a half and usually end up for a coffee and refreshments at the Garden Centre, where we always receive a cheery welcome. Once a month (on the first Tuesday of the month) we go further afield. We share lifts to be more friendly and of course more Green! The photo

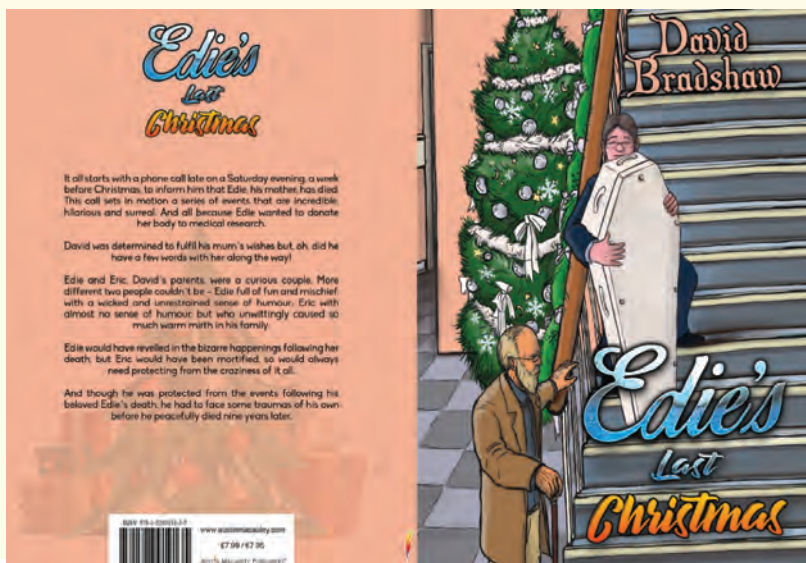
was taken during a very enjoyable November walk at Cockayne Hatley.

For more information please ring Val on 01462 626502 or just turn up on a Tuesday.

Edie's Last Christmas

A book by David Bradshaw, a Langford Resident

I (David Bradshaw) have lived at 107 High Street since April 2012 having moved here for family reasons to retire. You would know my house as the one that had the car crash into the Kitchen a couple of years ago. That apart, I like the village and myself and my wife intend to stay. The book that I eventually wrote and found a publisher for is true story that has been gestating for 30 years. The book was finally published on 12th December 2019. Here is a copy of the book cover. The picture on the front is a depiction of me carrying the coffin on my own down a staircase. This is one of a series of events that transpired when my mother died. On the back is the description of the story.



Langford Methodist Church



Christmas was a busy time at the Methodist Chapel. It started with a well attended Christmas evening with the Stotfold Salvation Army Band at the end of November, followed by our Christmas Fayre with lunches served in the Schoolroom. At the December Oasis Coffee our organist, Ruby, played Christmas Music and the Owlets joined in for part of the morning, singing their own Christmas songs. The Nativity Service was, as usual, a most enjoyable occasion and this year our minister, Lorna, was able to take part too. A more traditional Carol Service was held the Sunday before Christmas, and on Christmas Eve, Carols and Communion by Candlelight was also led by Lorna. In addition the Sisterhood enjoyed a Christmas afternoon, based on the receiving of Christmas Gifts. Now we look forward to the Spring and to Easter. Lent Groups will take place as usual this year - Look out for details, if you are interested. It is a good opportunity to think more deeply about your faith, and consider Jesus, not just as the baby in the Manger, but the Saviour who gave his life for us on the Cross and then rose again on Easter Day.

As a Chapel, we have been saddened by the death of our former Treasurer, Mark Thrussell, who looked after our finances with dedication and integrity for a number of years. We send our deepest sympathy to Ruby and her family on their loss. We have also lost Irene Snape, who has moved to a Care Home to be near her son and his family. Irene was a stalwart member of the Chapel and had served as Worship Leader and Leader of the Sisterhood for many years. She is greatly missed and we wish her well in her new home, where we understand she has settled happily. Many of us attended her 95th birthday party just before Christmas.

Jenny Broadbridge - Senior Steward

March

- 3 **Lent Course 1**
- 4 **Lent Course 1** - 24 East Road - 7.45pm
- 4 **Oasis Coffee Morning** - Chapel - 10.30am-11.30pm
Donations for Owlets
- 5 **Sisterhood** - No Sisterhood
- 6 **Womens World Day of Prayer** - Henlow Methodist - 2.15pm
- 8 **Chapel Anniversary Service followed by coffee** - Chapel - 10.45am -
Rev. Lorna Valentine
- 8 **Anniversary Lunch** - Chapel Schoolroom - 12.30pm - Tickets £6.00
- 10 **Lent Course 2**
- 11 **Lent Course 2** - 24 East Road - 7.45pm
- 12 **Sisterhood** - Chapel Schoolroom - 2.30pm
- 17 **Lent Course 3**
- 18 **Lent Course 3** - 24 East Road - 7.45pm
- 19 **Sisterhood** - TAGS Singing Group followed by tea - Chapel Schoolroom - 2.30pm
- 19 **Church Council** - Chapel Schoolroom - 7.30pm
- 22 **Mothering Sunday Service with coffee** - Chapel - 10.45am
- 24 **Lent Course 4**
- 25 **Lent Course 4** - 24 East Road - 7.45pm
- 26 **Sisterhood** - Chapel Schoolroom - 2.30pm - Rev. Jim Gorringe
- 31 **Lent Course 5**

April

- 1 **Oasis Coffee Morning** - Chapel - 10.30am-11.30am
- 1 **Lent Course 5** - 24 East Road - 7.45pm
- 9 **Sisterhood** - Easter Thoughts - Chapel Schoolroom - 2.30pm - Jenny Broadbridge
- 9 **Maudy Thursday Service and Sacrament** - Chapel Schoolroom - 7.30pm
- 12 **Easter Sunday Service followed by coffee** - Chapel - 10.45am
- 15 **Prayer Group** - 11 Riverside Gardens - 7.45pm
- 16 **Sisterhood** - No Sisterhood
- 22 **Fellowship Group** - 24 East Road - 7.45pm
- 23 **General Church Meeting** - Chapel Schoolroom - 7.30pm

May

- 6 **Oasis Coffee Morning** - Chapel - 10.30am-11.30am
- 6 **'Start Course' 1** - Details available later
- 7 **Sisterhood** - Chapel Schoolroom - 2.30pm
- 13 **'Start Course' 2** - Details available later
- 14 **Sisterhood** - Chapel Schoolroom - 2.30pm
- 17 **Christian Aid Service** - St. Andrew's Church - 9.15am
- 20 **'Start Course' 3** - Details available later
- 21 **Sisterhood** - Chapel Schoolroom - 2.30pm
- 27 **'Start Course' 3** - Details available later
- 28 **Sisterhood** - Chapel Schoolroom - 2.30pm



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