

Summer 2020

A publication by Langford Parish Council

Edition 208

The Langford Diary

Editor: Trudy Emery

Diary Office: trudy.emery1@ntlworld.com

Tel: 01462 636638



1st Langford Scout Group clapping for the NHS, Carers and essential workers on 23rd April

Happy Events



The residents of Cambridge Gardens enjoyed a delightful tap dancing performance by Kelly on Easter Day. Since then Emma, Kelly and Leah have been leading a keep fit group in Cambridge Gardens three times a week. Some days there have been a dozen or so participants all keeping our distance. Thank you girls for keeping our spirits up!



Some banners around the village in support of our wonderful essential workers.



Paul Smith (he is one of the long term organiser's of the Annual Raft Race) fun Easter Tree

Tony and Sheila Spencer

Lockdown Coffee Morning



Two photos that were taken on Sunday 5th April in Jubilee Lane as neighbour's had a coffee morning during the lockdown. We all sat at the end of gardens with our cuppas and had a good old natter across the road. We were also able to welcome new neighbour's, the Woodmans. Seen talking to them in picture two are Jackie and Kirsty Walker. Leaning against the wall in picture one is Tess Hendry with her husband Colin (unfortunately he has his back to the camera) seen talking to Barbara and Eddie.

All keeping their distance. A couple of walkers joined in our conversations and it was said that "this is the loveliest road in the Village" - obviously up for debate but it was really nice to all be together but not together if you follow me. There were in total 16 neighbours taking part plus Sam and Francesca who came out with her bubble machine. It was a lovely day and this event made it a cheerful one. Hopefully an event to be repeated.



This is a picture of Tony and Sheila Spencer who many people in the village know due to the huge amount of voluntary work they have done for the village for many years. Tony was on the Parish Council for years, including as chair. He was also a school governor for many years. Sheila was Tawny Owl for the 2nd Langford Brownies for 25 years. They have volunteered at the school for around 55 years and were still going to help with reading until they had to go on lock down.

On 18th April they will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Unfortunately not with the family celebration they had planned but still in lockdown.



A Letter from the Editor

A month ago, when I was thinking about this edition of our Langford Diary, I did not think people would have much to submit, but, true to form the residents of Langford have come up trumps! Most organisations have contributed as usual, thank you. Vicky of the Tennis Club has included a quiz which I hope you will enjoy.

It was with sadness I heard about the death of Margaret Hinds, formerly a teacher at Langford Lower school. The first teacher of both my sons. Thank you Sally for the tribute to her.

You may remember in the last edition there was an interesting and amusing article about lifelong resident, Les King. Recently Les has left the village to live with his daughter. I wish him well in his new home.

In these extraordinary times the people of Langford have worked together to help each other. Please remember that Langford Friends is there to help. You will also find details of the Langford COVID19 group in this edition. They have organised volunteers and have been very much appreciated with their enthusiasm and ability to help.

For members of the public library do remember that there is a virtual library where books and magazines can be viewed online free of charge. Just Google Central Bedfordshire Library and follow the link. If you are not a member already you are able to join online.

With Langford being rural, there are plenty of footpaths and please remember there are suggested walks in 2019 copies of the Diary. These walks can also be accessed by the parish council website via Langford Dairy link. It has been great to see so many families out for walks and cycle rides enjoying activities, similar to those I enjoyed as a child.

I am looking forward to the Village Scarecrow Competition in June and July (see page 17). Whatever you are doing, please stay safe.

Trudy Emery

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

This term has been a strange one as unfortunately due to the coronavirus outbreak, we have had to postpone our meetings for the foreseeable future.

Before we finished, the Rainbows learnt about different charities and how they could help them. We made growing cups of kindness for Mother's Day and we made our own mascots. We attended Thinking Day and a Rainbow Activity Day where we did activities on the theme of flying; this included making dragons, paper aeroplanes, decorating butterfly biscuits and holding an owl.

The Brownies practised some traditional sewing skills by making their own badges and we made fingerprint flower bookmarks for Mother's Day. We completed our annual 'Grow £1' Challenge where we raised over £300 towards our next trip. We were hoping to run our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the church yard but due to the circumstances, we look forward to running it next year instead.

The Guides had a London Diversity themed evening where we also explored the importance of women in different centuries. We made and ate our own pancakes and learnt how to plan a healthy meal. We attended Thinking Day where we did a dance session, a quiz, watched The Greatest Showman and had a sleepover.

We hope to be back to our usual meetings together soon but in the meantime we are practising Girlguiding activities online along with badge work at home.

Danielle Ellis



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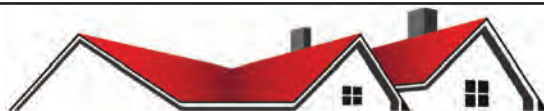
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Langford Fete - Retrospective

For as long as we have lived in Langford – and that’s quite a long time – there has always been a Fete held on the Playing Field, invariably on the first Saturday in July. There have been few exceptions; in 2002 the date was moved to early June to coincide with the Queen’s Golden Jubilee; and in the mid-nineties the event was rather scaled back.

But this year, we’ve got ***“The Thing”***.

I’m not going to dignify it with its grandiose scientific name, or with the snappy “acronym” used to refer to it in the press; but its effect has been to stop us holding a Fete at the usual time this year. Whether we will be able to do anything a bit later in the year remains to be seen. So for now, I’m looking back rather than forward.

The first few events I can remember, from 1977 on, featured a Pram Race. This Seventies idea was very popular at the time, when many young parents still used a perambulator, or “pram”, to carry their offspring about. These vehicles, designed to carry a human being weighing around 14 pounds, were pressed into service to carry one weighing more like 14 stones. Contestants would be dressed suitably as mother and baby and would career up and down (or was it round and round?) the field; there were many collisions and upsets. I think this event was discontinued due to a combination of Elf’n’Safety concerns, and a lack of prams, which had by then mostly been wrecked and sent to the scrap-heap. Pony rides were a feature, too, as were rides around the field in a large farm trailer pulled by a tractor. Music was often provided by a local brass band such as the Ampthill Band. There was always a grand Raffle of course, and we were all required to sell tickets, even to the extent of knocking on everyone’s doors in the evening. Can you imagine? Flogging double-glazing would have been easier!

A video which I took in 1987, showed a tug-of-war in progress, followed by dance performances from children of the dance school run at that time by Virginia Smith. In another scene, a pilot in a biplane performs death-defying stunts over the field; this, of course, was none other than John Jordan, of Jordans, the cereal firm. For many years the distinctive ear-splitting racket from John’s Boeing Stearman aircraft, as it pulled out of yet another dive, was a clear signal to the whole village that the Fete had begun. (The offer of a flight with John, often featured as a raffle prize, was rarely claimed!) Later on we managed to keep to the aviation theme with new pilots, including the aerobatics champion Mark Jefferies. That was, until aviation law prohibited such activity over the field. But in 2017, a new machine was seen in the skies, when Oliver Browne’s drone gave us some excellent aerial photos of the event as we had never seen it before.

Twenty years is a long time, and by the mid-nineties the Fete was rather starting to run out of steam. Then, in 1998, Jacqueline Moss, a PR and event organiser who had access to some celebrity guests, decided to put together a new team to reboot things. My job was to manage the PA system, announcements and music, which I have continued to do ever since. Over the following years we managed to build up the event, and by now we had the Raft Race on the same day to add to the fun. A number of different people took on the tricky task of planning, organising and running the Fete; and in 2007, Christine and I drew the short straw. We were lucky enough, however, to have the services of one Jeremy Bond from Cambridge – better known as JEZ-O – who, as well as being an excellent provider of PA equipment, is also a brilliant entertainer and children’s magician. In 2017, with our 11th event done, we were looking for someone else to take over the organisation; and we’ve been very grateful to Taya Cleghorn for running the 2018 and 2019 events so successfully, with hopefully many more to come once we’ve seen the back of you-know-what. And Taya’s first Fete in 2018 faced some serious competition; England had advanced so far in the World Cup that they were playing Sweden on our day! But the bar did a roaring trade as they proceeded to beat the Swedes 2-0. Just don’t ask what happened after that!

There's never been any lack of imagination in the activities on the field, which included the new sport of "Welly-Wanging" in the Eighties and a set of stocks in which someone could be pelted with wet sponges; with chariot racing and rubber-chicken shooting (I'm not making that up) in recent years. Last year saw the installation of a spectacular climbing wall. We moved everything around to use the space better. We have had fun attractions from high-tech bungee-trampolines to traditional crazy-golf, a huge range of trades and crafts in the various stalls, great generosity from our Sponsors, and in the last few years, the addition of a Fun Dog Show.

Now, what's next?

Colin Carroll

Langford Cricket Club

This time last year, I was welcoming you to the 2019 Cricket Season, and my plan was to be writing a welcome to the new 2020 season. In the Spring edition of this very publication I was excitedly telling you how the plans for the Summer were coming together, with our first team gearing up for a great season in the Beds Premier Division, our second team, after two promotions in two years, ready to test their mettle in Beds Division 4, and a new Saturday development team preparing to offer more cricket to many more people of the village. In February the Cricket Club Committee were also concerning themselves with who would be available to look after the youth teams, who would help with the AllStars on a Saturday morning, who would help with pitch and wicket preparation. They were asking if we have ordered the cricket balls; asking how could we reduce the ever increasing cost of the insurance and even if we could make a checklist to ensure the kitchen was cleaned properly after every use. In three short months, the focus has shifted dramatically. These seemingly such important matters, no longer seem quite so important. The World now seems pretty united in its attempts to defeat this virus, and the things we now focus on are things we took for granted, but are in reality, the most important.

Cricket is a pass time, a distraction to the rigours of work and everyday life. Its fun, but not to the expense of the important things. So rightly, cricket is on hold.

I cannot promise you, as I did last year, that the Summer will be packed with Cricket, because at the time of writing I'm not sure how much cricket we will have.

The Cricket Club has an excellent set of dedicated volunteers who I'm confident will be able to manage the Club until this crisis has subsided and they will do their best to ensure that when it is safe to resume recreational activities, the Club will be ready to go with coaches in place and well prepared wickets to play on.

But until then, please be safe, look after each other, support the NHS and all key workers. We will be ready and waiting to welcome past, current, and new players looking to get into cricket when the time is right.

As things progress through the summer please ensure you keep up to date on what is happening via the Langford Cricket Club's Facebook page

(www.facebook.com/LangfordCC)

and team fixtures, results and player statistics on the Langford Play Cricket Website

(langfordcc.play-cricket.com).

Andy Watson, Chairman. Langford Cricket Club.





The voluntary sector is the glue that keeps our society together!

A Pandemic year for Langford Friends

What a year for Langford Friends. At the beginning of March, I started to think about this article and what to put

in it, two weeks later I had a whole new story to tell.

This year, 2020 will be remembered for the Coronavirus pandemic but I will remember it as the year Langford showed what a caring community the village is. When the restrictions began it was worrying for us as two thirds of our volunteers are over seventy, but within days we had another twenty-five younger volunteers offering to help us. A second group of volunteers calling themselves Langford Covid Responders formed enabling us to share the load.

The first weekend of the restrictions we organized a leaflet drop (kindly sponsored by Langford Parish Council) to every household in Langford offering help. It was quickly evident that our role had changed from mainly transporting clients to appointments and leisure pursuits to collecting prescriptions and shopping.

The community spirit in the village is second to none with the Hideaway café and Spice Lounge offering take away meals. The shop local advice boosted business for the Post Office, the Village shop and the Farm shop. The Langford Welfare Trust provided us with a cash float for any emergencies. The Pharmacy provided an excellent service making sure people received their medication. If you haven't signed up for their service, can I suggest you think about it. We had a donation of fruit and vegetables which we distributed to clients. All in all, the village has pulled together to provide a safety net for the villagers that needed it. I for one am proud to count myself a Langfordian (I've lived in the village 34 years so I think I can just about claim to be one). I hope the community spirit continues when the Coronavirus is gone.

The AGM has had to be cancelled and will be held in the Autumn. We have currently 45 volunteers on our books, so Langford Friends is in a good place and we look forward to serving the village for the foreseeable future. We will hold a thank you get together for regular and new volunteers when this episode is over.

Margaret Wood - Langford Friends - Tel. 07884 046741

Welcome Club

As we are like everyone else on lockdown there isn't anything really to report. I have been in touch with some of our members and they are coping ok, keeping busy (doing a bit of housework). But we are enjoying the nice sunshine at the moment, so at least we can get into the garden. We are looking forward to getting together again and we hope to have a welcome back party so that is something to look forward to. So let's hope things are back to normal by the time you read this and please remember if you would like to join us on any Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm at the Ivy Leaf Club you would be very welcome.

Stella Hill

Langford Covid 19 Facebook Group

Emma's experience from the perspective of having set up the COVID-19 Facebook group.



On Saturday 14th March I happened to have a casual conversation with my friend, Jo Smith, on one of the village Facebook pages, wondering what we could do as a community to support people as the situation escalated. So, I simply said 'I could set up a Facebook group if it would help' - and set to, immediately. My experience and skills is in bringing



people together and arranging support for those in need, and I was inspired by other comments in the thread from people saying they would like to help as well, and so at lunchtime 'Langford COVID Responders, Volunteers, and Info' was born. In all honesty, I thought that it would be a small group of mutual friends and those in the comments who would join. How wrong was I? By the evening, 100 people had joined, and so it continued,.....And continued! And there are now circa 400 people in the group.

What happened from then on has amazed me every day. The leaflet was put together and the group contributed and made suggestions for it, and it was modified during the first week or two to accommodate the very speedy changes and escalations that were occurring on a daily basis. The group was intended from the outset merely to support, complement, and enhance the existing village infrastructure and resources already available. Instantly, the village groups and businesses pulled together and pooled resources with donations of time, ink cartridges for printing, the church



LANGFORD COVID-19 RESPONDERS

We are members of the Langford COVID responders, volunteer & information group.
We have volunteered to offer support to those who are self-isolating, or who are finding it difficult to get out & about for any reason related to the virus outbreak.

We can help with practical tasks, deliveries, errands, emotional support, business support, & financial support. Please see my contact information below.
If you are online you can find us on Facebook at: Langford COVID responders, volunteers, & info

Useful info:

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- Hildesway Café: will take phone orders & deliver where possible: 01462 701111
- Langford Friends: Are able to offer support & errands between 8am & 8pm on : 07884 046741
- Adept Living Foundation CIC (ALF/CIC) : Are running a daily Poppin for Positivity and a chat from 11am onwards, every day : 07791 520388. www.alfcic.org/covid-19-alf-cic-free-emotional-support-group/
- Langford Church: Please call Revd Shaun Speller if you need support : 01462 700248
- Small/Micro Business Support: Just Clarity have offered free support for anyone whose business has had to close, or is worried about the future for their business - 07398 449852
- Financial Support - Martin Waller CFP Chartered Independent Financial Planner has offered free calls for people worried about their finances and/or investments - 07798 888689
- Spice Lounge: operating a takeaway service only - deliver or collection, as well as fundraising via ALF/CIC for meals for the vulnerable over 60: 01462 700500.

Please contact us on the numbers below and we will allocate a volunteer to support with your need, or refer you to services that can help. We are doing our best to keep everyone in Langford supported at this time :)

Emma (CEO Positive Ways & volunteer ALF CIC) : 07791 520388
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Langford Friends: 07884 046741
Melanie (CEO ALF CIC) : 07739 849205
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buildings provided as needed, and skills being offered every day. When we checked on those who weren't yet aware of the group, they did not hesitate to get on board, with the food and shopping outlets offering special menus, shopping deliveries being organised, and meals for the vulnerable. As if the businesses, groups, and organisations were not enough of an example of generosity and kindness, it is the individuals who have excelled themselves as well.

I have witnessed countless acts of kindness and generosity from so many people, I cannot single anyone out, not least because I am likely to miss someone! Moreover, most of the people who have given of themselves do not want or need any recognition for their acts, and this is really the definition of true altruism.

Selflessness has become the norm in our lovely village of Langford, and it is an honour and a privilege to be able to serve, and be a part of it!

Emma Jaynes

1st Langford Scout Group

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

All the 1st Langford Scout Group leaders and Exec members were so disappointed to have to postpone meetings from 23rd March, in line with The Scout Association's advice. We had so many fun activities planned for the Spring and Summer term that it was desperately sad to have to cancel or postpone.

However, our young members have been continuing their Scouting activities at home during Lockdown – working on badges including Home Help and Chef with the help of online resources from The Scout Association. The Cubs have all been given a challenge by Akela to grow gourds from seed – by autumn we hope to have snake, penguin, swan and birdhouse shaped gourds fruiting!

The leaders have asked them how they are honouring their Promise and we have some great examples – Scout Charlie has been doing his bit by helping his mum sew scrubs bags for healthcare workers; Scout Josh has been helping look after his younger brothers; Beaver Oliver has been making bug houses for his family and facetimeing his grandparents; Cub Tommy has been cooking for his parents, and Cub Archie has been learning how to load the washing machine.

We look forward to seeing all our young people again as soon as we're allowed. Enquiries for new members should be sent to me jo.smith@langfordscouts.org.uk

Jo Smith – Group Scout Leader, 1st Langford



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Parish Councillors

Richard Arnott

20 Cambridge Close, Langford SG18 9SH
richard_arnott@yahoo.com

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Joan Rutt

18 Windsor Way, SG18 9PB
joan.rutt@ntlworld.com

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Mick Beazley

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Debbie Wilson

1 King George Close, Langford SG18 9QD
wilsondebbie4789@gmail.com

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Barb Hammond

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01462 701070

Jane Wright

1 Running Water Cottages, Langford Road
SG18 9RA
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Nicola Harris

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

Langford Parish Council

This has been the most difficult submission I have had to write for the Diary from the Parish Council. At the time of writing this we have no idea on a timeframe for our lives returning to some kind of normality but I know, no matter how long this takes, we will all come through this with the help and support of each other.

I can very much appreciate how hard some residents of Langford have found the COVID 19 situation and the social distancing and isolation it has brought with it.

So, what I would like to do is thank everyone in this amazing village for their total support during an event in our lives that we would never ever have imagined. I cannot list all of the groups, individuals and organisations due to the overwhelming number who have supported our villagers, from the Parish Council and myself we couldn't have done it without you. Again thank you.

It is a tribute to our Editor, Trudy Emery, that she has decided that this edition should be ways of showing how the village has supported the NHS by the clapping each Thursday, and other photos of good things happening in the village during the "lockdown". I would just like to thank one person in particular and that is Helen Lewis for her daily quiz on the food she and her family are eating. Well done Helen – would love some of the recipes.

Finally we look forward to a time when normality returns and hope that today's community spirit and our care for all neighbours will continue to grow well into the future.

NB. The Parish council aren't meeting until Government guidelines allow us to do so. So whilst it's business as usual – at this present time we are making day to day decisions via email.

Gill Clarke – Chairman

What does the Parish Council do?

The Parish Council normally meets once a month to discuss village affairs concerned with planning, safety, policing, highways, traffic, street lighting, village hall, playing field, cemetery, etc. The public are invited to attend each meeting and to ask questions and to raise any issues. A Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) representative usually attends each meeting. Agendas and minutes of all meetings are published on the parish council website. The clerk supports the volunteer council members who give up a significant amount of time to work on the behalf of the village. The council derives its income from the precept which is a tariff collected by CBC from each household. In 2019-20 the precept was £116,900. The precept for 2020-21 is £125,000.

The Parish Council budgets for an underspend each year in case of unexpected items and to produce a modest surplus for anticipated future projects. In 2019-20 the costs for the Council can be summarised as follows:

Clerk, office and admin costs	38%
Village Hall	14%
Langford Diary Printing and Delivery	11%
Cemetery	10%
Street lighting	7%
Grass cutting verges	5%
Other (donations, grants, trees, playing field, misc.)	15%

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		0330 0945717
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
Langford COVID 19		Dangerous Structures	0300 300 8098
Responders	07791 520388		

The Ivy Leaf Club

We have obviously had a quiet period due to Covid-19 but we are looking forward to welcoming old and new members very shortly. The Club has had a deep clean in preparation for this.

The Committee were completely overwhelmed by members' response to the "Save a Pub Life" campaign - this should ensure a very merry re-opening night! We sincerely thank everyone who responded from the bottom of our hearts ♥

Forthcoming events currently planned are:

***4th July - The return of local band Corruption
always a brilliant night - come along,***

have a dance, and enjoy the rock and pop music (£4 non members)

***30th August - the ever popular Cheezy and the Hellmits - if you enjoy
punk and ska***

music, this should not be missed! (£4 non members)

Please keep an eye on our FB page for any changes to our entertainment schedule
- obviously this may be necessary in the current climate!

New members always welcome and remember our Lounge Bar can be hired for
most private functions for the minimal cost of £50.

We will continue to update our Facebook page with any announcements but
should you have any questions, please do contact the Club on 01462 700868.

Julie Devereux - Committee Member

New Langford Cemetery

As you will have seen Langford Parish Council has, for some time been preparing the new Langford Cemetery which will take over from the Churchyard once that facility is full. The Cemetery Committee have been working over many months with landscapers, design services, St Andrews Church & Funeral Directors. This is to ensure the cemetery is a facility that fits appropriately into our community whilst meeting requirements of the law in terms of the actual site and regulations it needs to meet.

The Cemetery will, we hope, provide a comforting and serene setting for loved ones for many, many years to come.

We aim to officially open the cemetery on Monday 1st June at 10am though there will be some overlap with the facilities at the Churchyard for some months after that time. Residents are welcome to come along to this informal event (providing social distancing is no longer in force).

We will be holding an informal resident event where residents can come along to see plans of the layout of the new cemetery, view the rules and regulations & fee structure and ask the Committee any questions they may have. We will advise a date for this via social media and posters on the PC and Post Office noticeboards once a date is scheduled.



About the Cemetery

- The cemetery will facilitate approx. 388 burial plots and 1544 interment of ashes plots. These figures are based on our current chosen layout and current trends of burial cremation choices (though plot choices can be altered by the PC to suit future generations).
- There is an ash scattering area to the western section of the ground.
- Further landscaping/flower planting and related work will take place as the cemetery evolves over the coming months and years.
- The cemetery has bore holes throughout the grounds to test water table depth which are taken regularly and submitted to the EA for their review.
- The cemetery will be open for visitors during daylight hours (access via pedestrian gate) but at this present time the vehicular gates will be locked except when funerals take place.
- The ground will not be consecrated.
- The cemetery can only facilitate single burials due to the water table depths.
- Fees will be set for Parishioners with non-parishioners paying increased fees.
- This facility will be run by the Parish Council and is a not-for-profit facility.



If you can't come to the event but would like more information please contact the Clerk on michellealbone.langfordpc@gmail.com - Tel: 07482 276173

Langford Women's Institute

As I write this entry we are in the midst of lockdown, like millions of others. The streets are practically empty except for the odd runner, shopper or speeding car. Summertime is here but you wouldn't know it. However, there is blue sky and one can hear the birds singing. The primroses are out in their absolute best, showing colour of magnificent strength. We, of a certain age, idle our way for daily exercise or a visit the local shop, keeping our distance, no stopping for a friendly chat. We are all grateful for



how the village has responded to calls for help with shopping, and for Langford Friends who are always there to co-ordinate via the telephone. Other local businesses have offered delivery services, and this is the joy of living in a village which has grown so much in recent years.



Meanwhile the WI keeps growing in strength. Although we cannot have our monthly meetings at present, members are keeping in touch with one another, coaxed on by Iris Beazley who organises our social activities. She is doing an excellent job, keeping us all going with pictures of members' gardens and previous outings stirring the memory and making us think of when we can all get back together.





We did have some enjoyable outings and fun meetings to look forward to this year, but these have been cancelled or postponed for the time being. "By keeping the home fires burning" as they said in wartime, members are encouraged to forward photographs, recollections of time gone by, things that are happening in their lives right now, plus projects being undertaken in their gardens, items they are making, whether it be needlework, knitting or crocheting. All is welcome. That is after one has finished the spring cleaning and done the current

crossword or sudoku!!! Personally, I have enjoyed having more time for reading too, and hadn't done a puzzle in years. That's a good time waster!!

We will return and hopefully a few more ladies may feel they would like to venture to the Chapel Schoolroom on a HOPEFULLY summer evening to get a taste of what we are about.

Olive Ravenall

Cynthia's Birthday Surprise

Cynthia is a longstanding member of Langford WI and is a tremendous fundraiser for RNLI. This was the first time Cynthia had to spend her birthday alone, so to give her a surprise on her special day two of her neighbours sneaked out the night before and decorated the fence alongside the river opposite her garden! Friends were able to wish her a happy birthday from across the river.



Personal Local History

Helen Bilcock, cousin of Chris Rutt sent us this little piece of personal local history.

This little bit of Rutt family history relates to the Spanish flu and is about one of the older sons. The family were living in Chapel Hill Farm. (There were ten or more children, including three daughters.) The story wouldn't have been about my dad, Ted Rutt, as he was only just born, and the doctor told his mother not to worry about the baby as he would still have her immunity. I don't think it was Asa either as he was aged only about eight, nor was it Stanley because he had been killed in the Somme in 1916. So, it must have been about one of the others, Alf, Herb, Norrie or Tom. This son, probably Norrie, became very ill with the Spanish Flu. Mother, Sarah Rutt nee Bland, (known as Saide by her friends) knew she had to get some fluid and nourishment into him. She had the idea to make up a lemon jelly as a drink, which he drank, and that in itself was a good sign. To everyone's amusement, when mother took the g'sunder out from under his bed to empty it, she found that, due to his stomach being empty, his body had rejected the jelly drink which had passed straight through him and set in the chamberpot under the bed!

Another piece of local personal history from Chris Rutt.

Whilst clearing my sister's loft at 1 Windsor Way, we came across a small red copy of the book Mr Midshipman Easy. We thought little of it at the time but when Joan was looking through it later, we discovered that it had been presented to my father, Asa Rutt, in the year 1921 – just after the Spanish Flu epidemic – for collecting £1:16:8 during that year. The book was presented to him, on behalf of the Wesleyan Methodist Mission, by Albert Street who was the current Missionary Secretary (some will remember him) and cost 2 shillings. We worked out that my father must have been 9 years old at the time. Joan has now read the book, made another entry at the front to that effect, and we will be passing it on to our grandson, Jacob, who is also 9 years old. He will hopefully be reading it after the Corona Virus epidemic of 2020; hopefully not 2021!! Asa Rutt was involved with the Langford Parish Council for many years, also a life member and later superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School.



We Love Langford

The residents of Langford and friends of Donna Richards generously donated to her Helping the Hands initiative which she held over Easter Weekend which resulted in over 300 Avon items being delivered to our NHS Staff, promptly by Parcelforce.

Handcreams/Soap Dispensers were delivered for Lister, Bedford & Papworth Hospitals. Local Health Centres, Paramedics, NHS Blood Centre, Sue Ryder, Local Carers & Midwives. Also for the local out of hours doctors & 111 call handlers.

Donna and the recipients were delighted with the response and goodies.

Thank you Langford.

Mum - Margaret Hinds

A well loved Langford Teacher

Margaret was born December 14th 1928 and was raised surrounded by the mountains of Snowdonia in a small village called Capel Curig. She was the only daughter of Hubert and Gracie Wood. Hubert was the local postman for many years after having an injury in the trenches of the First World War. They say to be born Welsh, you have music in your soul, which was so true within the Wood family. Margaret took piano lessons and regularly accompanied her father Hubert who sang with a wonderful tenor voice. She became resident organist in the local church 3 times a day every Sunday. I remember how she told me the piano from the vicarage was taken into the garden on VE Day where she played and the villagers partied well into the night. She attended St Mary's college Bangor, and after graduating as a teacher, her first post was in Liverpool with her first class of 53 children! She returned to Capel Curig to teach in the local school where she met my father Lionel Hinds and they married in the church where she had played



the organ for so many years. Lionel's work as an engineer brought them South to Bedfordshire where Margaret took a teaching post at Rose Lane School in Biggleswade. As a married couple their first home was in Henlow, moving to Clifton Road, then to Cambridge Road, Langford in 1963. Their first daughter was Jane followed by Susan and a few years later Sally. Margaret continued teaching within Bedfordshire for nearly 40 years where both Jane and Susan followed in her footsteps becoming teachers themselves. After teaching in Clifton school a number of years she took up a post at Langford school where she taught up until she took early retirement to care for Lionel following his stroke. Anyone who went to school in Langford would remember Mrs Hinds with love and affection. Margaret also was a regular member of the church and took turns playing the organ in chapel and often played for weddings and other occasions. Margaret also took part in various activities within the village, and running errands for elderly Langford residents. She devoted her life to her family and friends, and became a loving great grandmother. Margaret lived life to the full, enjoying many holidays abroad and in England and to her childhood home of North Wales which she loved so much. Margaret sadly passed away on the 12th March this year with Susan and Sally her two remaining daughters by her side.

Margaret will be remembered by so many and will be in our hearts forevermore. The family would like to thank everyone who sent messages of support and kindness in their grief.

Sally Frost - daughter

St. Andrew's Church

As I write we are still in the midst of lockdown.

We all know the familiar message from the government by now:

Stay at Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives. And because many people have had to stay at home and self isolate, our village has had to rise to meet a challenge placed before it: to serve others before themselves. It's often said that we respond best when we know **'the chips are down'**. And there is plenty of evidence in other articles in this edition of the Langford Diary which confirm that.

The challenge though extends to what comes next. How will we respond and engage as a community, given that we are likely to have to live with this virus and its effects, for sometime to come?

There has been much talk about returning to normal. I don't know what normal really means in this context. But one thing is for sure – things have changed – and we can't expect to simply return to things as if nothing has happened. Hopefully this period will have allowed us some time to reflect on what is important in our own lives, and the way in which we are mindful of the needs of others. I hope and pray that the connections we have made in this unprecedented period of our history may be sustained and developed.

One of the things I have often written about is the desire that I have to offer St Andrews as a genuine community facility. Along with almost every other part of society we had to close our doors as a result of the pandemic.

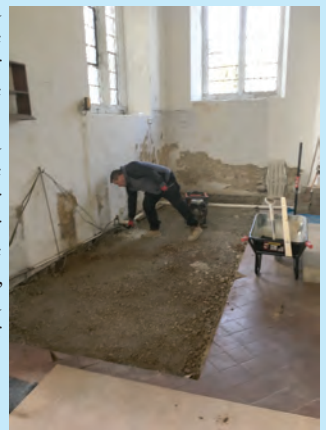
Of course we are hoping to be able to use our building again as soon as it is safe to do so. But before we closed

we had started the first phase of our building project. These are some of the photographs of the work that has started. We look forward to being able to recommence work when we are able.

Of course we were unable to celebrate Easter at St Andrews this year. We have had to find other ways to worship. But one of the things that we remember about Easter is that Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. To serve others is not confined to a building. We hope in the fullness of time to use our building to better serve our community. But maybe like

many of the good things which have begun during this time, we can look forward to ways in which we can continue and develop them, so that we may know the servant heart of our village beating ever more strongly.

Rev. Shaun Speller



Shannon Express at St. Andrew's

Residents of Langford and visitors from surrounding villages enjoyed a wonderful concert evening on the 7th March at St Andrews Church. Shannon Express, one of the Eastern Region's leading male a capella chorus groups entertained the audience performing timeless classics, hits from the musical theatre and modern standards. They were supported by the Footlights Ladies Quartet whose repertoire embraced pop and show tunes, comedy and moving ballads. The evening was held to promote St Andrews ongoing appeal to fund the the cost of installing an accessible toilet and kitchen inside the church and providing level access through the south porch. If you would like to make a donation towards the modernisation contact **Sheila Vidler** on **01462 701750**.



Langford Shop Opening Times

FARM SHOP

SUNDAY	10.00am	1.00pm
MONDAY	CLOSED	
TUESDAY	10.00am	5.00pm
WEDNESDAY	10.00am	5.00pm
THURSDAY	10.00am	5.00pm
FRIDAY	9.00am	4.00pm
SATURDAY	9.00am	4.00pm

LANGFORD HIDEAWAY

SUNDAY	CLOSED	
MONDAY	8.00am	2.00pm
TUESDAY	8.00am	2.00pm
WEDNESDAY	8.00am	2.00pm
THURSDAY	8.00am	2.00pm
FRIDAY	8.00am	2.00pm
SATURDAY	8.00am	2.00pm

POST OFFICE

SUNDAY	8.15am	6.00pm
MONDAY	7.15am	8.00pm
TUESDAY	7.15am	8.00pm
WEDNESDAY	7.15am	8.00pm
THURSDAY	7.15am	8.00pm
FRIDAY	7.15am	8.00pm
SATURDAY	7.15am	8.00pm

PHARMACY

SUNDAY	CLOSED	
MONDAY	10-12.45	13.30-17.00
TUESDAY	10-12.45	13.30-17.00
WEDNESDAY	9.15am	12.45pm
THURSDAY	10-12.45	13.30-17.00
FRIDAY	10-12.45	13.30-17.00
SATURDAY	9.15am	12.45pm

LANGFORD VILLAGE STORE

MONDAY - SUNDAY 8.00am - 5.00pm

Peasing by Estrid Bowskill

Iris Roberts has sent this amusing ditty entitled “Peasing”. Estrid Bowskill could put everyday happenings into words. In the 50’s and 60’s all farmers in this area grew fields of peas and relied on young married women to harvest them.

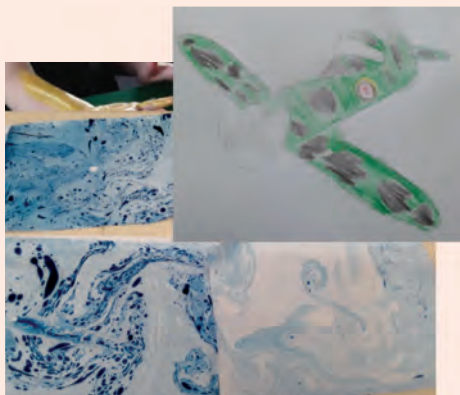
I heard that there was peasing
So, feeling rather willing
I got up nice and early
To try and earn a shilling.
While all the rest were sleeping
I went out shivering to the back
For my little stool and wellies
And the bag that held my snack.
My old bike and bucket
They made an awful noise
Waking up the children
And scaring paper boys.
Waiting on the corner
There was Marg and Glad
All eager to get going
Said Marg “We must be mad!”
We peddled up East Road
And across the railway line
And with a little bit of luck
Just missed the Five-o-nine.
We trundled along the side of the field
And Marg fell into a ditch
“Oh crickey” she said “I fell on me ’ead
These nettles don’t alf make you itch!”
We threw our bikes into the hedge
And we got stuck in.
Our hands were cold. The straw was wet
The peas were small and thin.
Said Glad “I’m saving for our holiday
We’re going on a cruise”
“More like a paddle boat” said Marg
“At Bedford on the Ouse!”
Our Susie’s starting school next week
She’s got to have some frocks
When I’ve picked another bucket
That will be a pair of socks.

At nine o’clock the mothers come.
In their prams they’ve got the lot
Crisps, lemonade and biscuits,
The baby and it’s pot.
Sometimes there are quarrels
“Why can’t you keep in line?”
“You’re putting straw all over me”
“Don’t take that sack it’s mine”
Said Glad “It’s time we has a rest
I’ll just fill up this bag
And we’ll stop and have our baver
And you can have a fag”
Suddenly a shout goes up
“Here’s Pete He’s come to weigh”
You’ve got to get your ticket
Or you don’t get any pay.
Pete weighs my bag but it’s too light
I have to put some in
“I got some back out of my sack”
said Margie with a grin.
Pete ties the bags and stacks them up,
And I add up the score
Glad’s got ten and I’ve got eight
Poor Marg has only four.
Slowly I rise “I’m going home”
“I’ll just stop and get my bait.
See you tomorrow and don’t be late”
My weary morning’s over
I curse my aching back
My legs feel just like ten ton weights
As I trudge along the track.
When I get home I’ll have a rest
And with a colander on my knee
I’ll soak my aching feet
And pod the peas for tea!



Langford Village Academy

Adventures in Art at Langford Village Academy 12th February 2020



Fire of London and learned about the meaning of translucent, opaque and transparent at the same time!

In KS2 the children enjoyed drawing WWII fighter planes before painting them with watercolours. They mounted these on background paper created using marbling inks. As well as improving their painting skills they had a go at sewing 'rag bag' cats. These were toys made during the war when resources were scarce.

The children of Langford Village Academy had a fantastic day exploring Art in a variety of ways. The Foundation Stage children enjoyed using a variety of techniques including marbling, clay modelling, mosaics, printing and wax painting and produced some fantastic work.

The children in KS1 explored using nature to create pictures, patterns and models. They loved being outside and finding different materials to create with. They also made pictures of the Great



Langford Diary Copy Dates and Advertising

PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT

All Copy and Advertising for inclusion in NEXT Diary Autumn Edition by 22nd July for events in September, October and November.

*2020 and 20121 Submission Dates
Winter Issue 22nd October - Spring Edition 22nd January.*

*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)

Editor's Reservation

This Diary is as complete and correct as possible at the time of going to press. While any Inaccuracies and Omissions in any Articles or Adverts supplied to the Editor and Parish Council for publication are regretted, the Editor and the Parish Council accept no responsibility for any such occurrences. All articles are copyright and may not be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission of the Editor or the Parish Council.

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Tues	12pm – 3pm
Weds	9am – 12pm
Weds	12pm – 3pm
Thurs	9am – 12pm
Fri	9am – 12pm
Fri	12pm – 3pm

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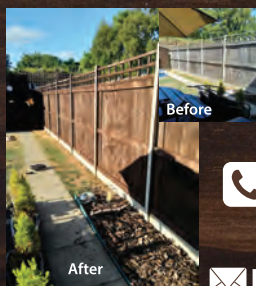
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01462 628628

Langford History Society

Unfortunately, along with most other groups and associations, our programme for 2020 is on hold because of the current crisis. We will review the situation in August to see when it will be safe to start again. We hope that our members and all our neighbours will come safely through the next few months.

We were lucky enough to hold our AGM in February and to 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'. This talk was about the little-known aviation pioneer who was on the cusp of powered flight before the Wright brothers but fell from the sky to his death.

If you have an interest in local history there is plenty of material online which you can investigate during the lockdown.

Our own website, www.langfordhistorysociety.org.uk has lots of material about the village, including short histories of the church and Methodist chapel, stories of incidents in the past such as a forced landing by a glider in the village and a sadly fatal crash of a jet aircraft on the common, a connection with Lawrence of Arabia and many others. Our Facebook page will also have stories and a local quiz.

The website also has 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.

Our Society is also a member of the county-wide Bedfordshire Local History Association and their website, www.bedfordshire-lha.org.uk

has back numbers of their journal, *History in Bedfordshire*, going back to the first issue in 1992. Here you can find articles and book reviews on almost every aspect of Bedfordshire and Bedford's history. Did you know that the county provided key members of the Antarctic expedition teams at the beginning of the 20th century? This tale is in the Winter 2019/20 issue.

Bedfordshire, so far from the sea, gave two admirals to the Royal Navy. One was shot by the state on his own quarterdeck 'to encourage the others' and the other carried the can for the Battle of Jutland – 'Admiral Byng, The Dillys of Southill, and Dr Johnson', in Vol 5, No 8, and Admiral Hugh Evan-Thomas in Vol 8, No 6. There are articles on the First and Second World Wars and articles concerning the many Bedfordshire villages and some towns all of which can be found by using the index on the site.

Langford History Books

Should you still need to refresh your history buds, our books are still available and to purchase these books please contact **Rowena Wolfe** by phone or email: **01767 312556** or rowena.wolfe@btinternet.com You can collect the books in the village.

The books contain lots of photos preserving the knowledge of the families, homes and businesses of old Langford.

They are:

Langford Then and Now 2006

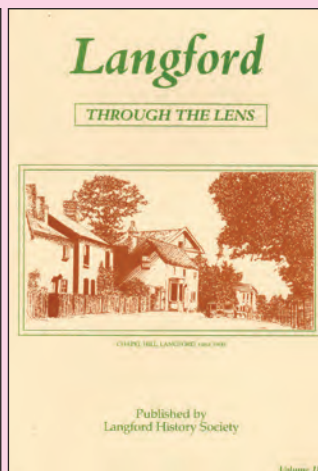
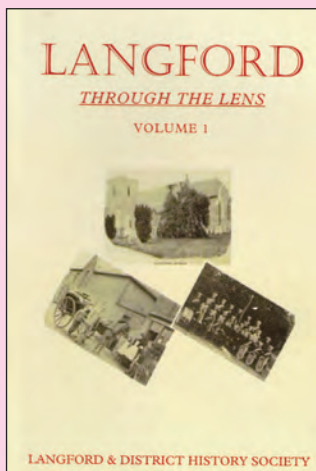
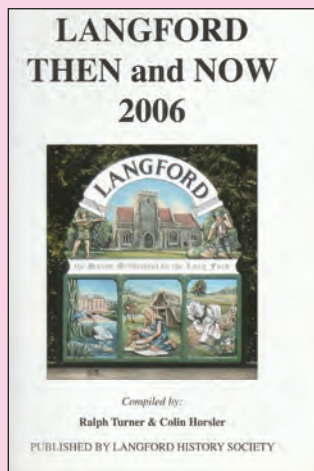
This book of 40 pages plus cover has two photographs on nearly every page of well-known places in the village showing how they looked then and how they look now. Some of the old photographs were taken from 80 to over 100 years ago. Price £4.

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.



Langford Methodist Church

Chapel News from Rev'd Lorna

We are in very strange and concerning times at the moment and the chapel continues to hold the community of Langford in prayer. Like many others, we have not been able to meet as we normally would. Initially services were suspended and then we were asked to temporarily close our buildings.

But we are still finding ways to be church where we are. We have a weekly reflection, newsletter and service to use at home that we are emailing to as many as we can and delivering to others – following government guidance, of course. People have been phoning to keep in touch and we've noticed just how much support people are offering to one another across Langford. As a result, there is a real sense of community and we are proud as the chapel to be part of that.

There are a number of online services from the Methodist Church that those with the internet can use. For a more local flavour though, we have been trying out Zoom worship. Sometimes it's more plod than zoom as the internet isn't always the best. It is great though to see people trying it out and bearing with me when I forget to turn my microphone on! Easter Day was particularly special and we enjoyed joining in with the hymns from wherever we were. Hopefully there have been special moments for you as well even though we are in difficult times.

We hope you all stay safe and well. – Lorna.

Langford Tennis Club

Since the last Langford Diary everything has changed for everyone, who could have predicted it?!

Due to government advice, the club was closed and all coaching and league matches have been cancelled and our internal winter doubles ladder competition was brought to an abrupt and early close after a hard-fought battle on court.

An abridged version of our Chair's statement to our members follows... "Although our courts may be closed, our commitment to you as members continues. The club committee is in touch on a daily basis and continues to carefully monitor government advice, and I would like to reassure our members that the courts will re-open at the very earliest opportunity, when it is safe to do so. Let's hope that's in the not too distant future – I'm sure we would all like the opportunity to play tennis in the warm sunshine as soon as possible. In the meantime, I'm sure we've all been buoyed by some of the ingenious ways people have been able to continue to practice their tennis skills, including the use of frying pans! I hope you will continue to practice in whatever ways you can [Incidentally, take a look at the LTA website for a great resource for children "tennis at home" www.lta.org.uk]. I was reminded recently just how robust the British spirit is, and how that has helped us to weather many storms over the years, and I have no doubt we will weather this one and come out even stronger. On behalf of your committee I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support during this unprecedented time and we wish you and your families good health. Stay safe, look after one another and be kind to each other. " We very much look forward to seeing our members back on court as soon as it is safe to do so!

In the meantime, for a bit of fun, see how many tennis terms you can find in the following advice (hint- a couple of them are slightly cryptic and there are at least 30!!).

Take advantage of the fact you have to stay at home and let time pass (through no fault of your own). By all means have a ball but don't drive the neighbours mad with a noisy bass line

or get caught making a racket. Swing into action and set out to do something smashing (with no strings attached) like:

- Facetime your friends and family
- Spin or toss a coin to see who does the washing up
- Play games with your children (take a break to slice a seeded bagel)
- Stroke the dog or cat for relaxation
- Match your neighbours with your clapping on a Thursday evening
- Rally round and serve your community

The net result? When we return to "normal" life and say bye to lockdown, we will bounce back and know that we have spread a little love to those that needed it most.



For more information about the club please see www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk



Langford Neighbourhood Plan

SPRING 20 NEWS AND UPDATES

Well, so much has changed in our world since our last update !! Any ideas we may have had about obstacles to the progress of the Plan and to the lives and hopes of village residents certainly did not extend to the huge effects of Coronavirus !!

However, so many people in the village have shown great community spirit. Volunteers to help the elderly and those who have had to self-isolate for many weeks have rapidly grown in numbers and they have organised themselves into informal but effective groups to achieve much, as have the long-established Langford Friends. They deserve lots of praise, as do the lone volunteers who've helped residents off their own back.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS!!

Social media has had a mixed press at times but it has certainly helped those with access stay in the loop of village support and up-to-the-minute information via the We Love Langford page on Facebook.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, comprised of volunteer residents and Parish Councillors, takes great heart from the village reaction to the virus, as it shows so well that we have a village and a community worth fighting for and protecting to the best of our ability. Getting the Neighbourhood Plan completed and approved by you will really add to that goal !!

Progress since the last update includes:

- External review completed and the suggestions acted on.
- Many consultations completed and some recommendations incorporated.
- Quality feedback from residents on the Plan to date has been received and acted on.
- Utility companies have reviewed the Plan and their comments have been used.
- Your efforts on the Placecheck website added very valuable focus on your likes and dislikes in the village.

At the time of writing we don't know if the Village Fete will be taking place on July 4th but if it does then we hope to be there to meet as many of you as possible with the latest information.

Our big goal now, virus permitting, is to have the Plan ready for the village referendum in late summer this year. Your approval will then make it an official document which all future would-be developers will have to take into account.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE KNOW WE HAVE A VILLAGE WORTH PROTECTING!!

You can keep up to date via our website <https://langfordneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/> or on Facebook (search: Langford Village Neighbourhood Plan). Contact us via email on langfordneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com or via the Parish Clerk on 07482 276173.



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