



Winter 2020



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The Langford Diary

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Light Up Langford 2020

*2020 has been a pretty dark year so far,
so....*

**LET'S LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE TO BRING SOME
HAPPINESS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**DECORATE YOUR WINDOWS AND GARDENS WITH
LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS FOR ALL TO ENJOY.
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ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE.**



Light up Langford 2020

A Langford Parish Council Community Spirit Event



A Letter from the Editor

Small acts of kindness have shone through the dark days of the past months with Langford residents coming together to support one another through the crisis. Lockdown certainly brought out the best in people, and I think most of us have had more connection with neighbours than ever before. Let's hope that the shorter days and winter weather will not let the community spirit slip away. With the prospect of tighter restrictions over the coming months please keep an eye on your neighbours.

The Langford Diary was started over 50 years ago by the late Ralph Turner and late Gerry Seward to coordinate all the organisations and events that were organised in our village. Even with the pandemic most organisations have kept going as you can see from the submissions. When we will have our "What's On in Langford", and complete "Weekly Meetings" pages is anyone's guess! I sincerely hope it's not too far away.

At this time of the year I like to take the opportunity to thank all those who make our parish magazine possible. Thank you to all those organisations which have contributed. Their contributions are valued and appreciated, particularly because they are submitted by volunteers. Thanks go to John Shipman for his fascinating articles on our local history. Thanks must go to Steve Hills who collates and prints the Diary. The autumn edition with all the wonderful scarecrows was a real time-consuming challenge and Steve did a brilliant job. Thank you also to all those who advertise in our magazine. This helps to fund our costs. Thanks to Janet Bradford who proofreads every edition. That takes a lot of pressure off me! Thanks also to the shops in the village which hold spare copies for members of the public. This year has seen a new Parish Council website which I know Michelle Albone, our Parish Clerk has worked very hard to coordinate. The parish council, chaired by Gill Clarke, continues to work voluntarily for the people of Langford. Again, this year there has been much to deal with and in addition to usual business there have been yet more planning applications. If you would like to take more interest, meetings are still held monthly, but of course, virtually. John Shipman, vice-chair usually reminds us on Facebook or details can be found on the parish council website. Website address is below.

Looking forward, let us hope we can all help to make the Christmas lights really look stunning this year. I have been planning ours – at least I've been planning what my husband will do!

May I take this opportunity to wish our readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Langford Diary is also published on Parish Council Website
bedsparishes.gov.uk/Langford-parish-council

Keep up to date with parish council news with their excellent new website.
<https://langford-pc.gov.uk>

Trudy Emery – Trudy.emery1@ntlworld.com – 01462 636638

Bus Timetables

Bus timetables for our local buses seem to be only available online. I realise that not all our residents have easy access to computers or printers. If you would like me to print copies for you just give me a ring and I will pop one through your door.

Trudy Emery 01462 636638

Ivel Sprinter

Like other Community bus operators in the Bedfordshire area we had to stop our services during the lockdown. I am pleased to say that we were able to start up again in September apart from the Wednesday service to Cambridge which was not able to run again until October when we had sufficient voluntary drivers available. It has of course meant a number of changes being put in place to comply with government guidelines. We are only able to carry 8 passengers to ensure social distancing and all passengers are required to wear a mask unless they are medically exempt. The limit on numbers and passenger concerns about their own safety is an understandable problem and is being reflected in the low numbers of passengers; especially in Langford; who are using the service, but we are monitoring the situation on a weekly basis and taking every precaution to ensure our passengers are travelling in a safe as possible environment. The buses are thoroughly cleaned and sanitised every week with a special sanitiser with further cleaning and sanitising after each run.

We call in Langford on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Times and pick up points available on our website; ivelsprinter.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you on board again when you are ready.

Stay safe

Terry Woods



Services will be suspended through November and will be reviewed on 30th November to consider when they can restart in line with Government regulations

Common sense is not so common... Voltaire

With more of us working or just staying at home due to this horrible virus, we need to heed Voltaire's thought. Apart from all the precautions we need to take and rules to follow, there is a noticeable development on our village roads.

The village has been suffering for some time from an excess of cars being parked on our streets. It has worsened with an increase in overnight commercial vans, even trucks being parked outside houses. Some streets cannot cope with the number and the way they are parked. Drivers understandably want to park outside or near their homes, but this can cause problems for other large vehicles especially emergency ones, tractors and delivery vans. The Fire Service set down a gap limit that they need of 3m (around 10ft) to allow a fire engine through.

It is important that these commercial vehicles are parked sensibly and if the street is too narrow, an alternative place should be used. Equally cars should be parked with consideration for others. Let us hope, on this occasion, Voltaire is wrong and common sense prevails.

Councillor Mike Kalaher

Welcome Club Closes!

As I am sure most people will have heard, we have sadly decided to close the Welcome Club after 18 years, and I must say, they were 18 years of fun. We may have been, as I fondly called us, "THE OLDIES CLUB " but we were only old by name. If you had called in at any meeting, you would have found us noisily enjoying ourselves.

Over the years we have done so many things and been to so many places. It would take a book to tell you about the many theatres, boat trips, garden centres, holidays, meals out, in house birthday parties, harvest lunches, fish and chips and so much more. We were more than a club, we were friends meeting up each week, telling each other what we had been doing. We played our game of bingo, had the raffle and our cups of tea or coffee, not forgetting the biscuits, and very often lovely cake if it was someone's birthday. The time went so fast. It has been fun and a pleasure organising the games, the quizzes, the beetle drives and of course the weakest link. I did not do all these things without the help of Mollie and Joan at the door taking the entrance money and selling the raffle tickets. Jill was always there to serve the tea and help clear up. Margaret, Trudi and Mavis and many others were always on hand willing to help when needed.

As the saying goes all good things come to an end and we certainly came to an end with a bump (known as C19). I want to thank all the members for their loyalty over the years and the Ivy Leaf Club for the use of their facilities. It was such an ideal place for us to meet. I wish you all the best for the future, and if by any chance, when this is all over, and anyone wants to start a new club, I will be there to help you if you wish.

Stella Hill







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As I write this various parts of the country are going back into lockdown. We are surrounded by fear and uncertainty which is unsettling and anxiety producing – all of which are not good for our health.

So what can we do during these times to remain healthy?

These tips can be applied generally, but evidence is showing that, in relation to COVID, the following is important:

- Have good levels of Vitamins C and D and the mineral Zinc in your daily diet.
- Be a good, healthy weight.
- Be physically active and have good muscle tone and function.
- Reduce the number of illnesses/conditions you have.
- Improve the health of your immune system.

I would add:

- Watch your lifestyle, such as food, exercise, media intake.
- Take care of your mental and emotional health.
- Have good nutrition from your diet.
- Make sure that we get regular social connection with friends and family – safely.
- Reconnect with nature and get outside each day. Sitting within 4 walls is not healthy.
- Get a good amount of sleep each day – at least 7 hours.
- Rebalance our natural rhythms.
- Limit our time on technology.
- Find what your passion is in life, what you love doing, and do more of it.
- Educate yourself and question what you are being told.

Remember that osteopaths are Allied Health Professionals and are a regulated profession. This means that we are able to stay open should we enter a lockdown. We are pre-screening everyone and then triaging so that everyone, including those who have been shielding, are able to have hands on, face to face treatment in a safe environment. Please make sure you get any aches and pains treated. We know that if you are in pain, are struggling to move around, it will be affecting your physical and mental health and during these times it is more important than ever to take care.

For more information, please visit our website **www.SheffieldOsteo.com**

Written by Karen Robinson, Clinic Director and Registered Osteopath.

Langford Community Gardens

Calling all villagers to be a part of this exciting project!

Since the last Diary we have set up and achieved a huge amount of work on the new Community Garden. We have had some generous offers of land from Tracey at the Plough, and Enid & Glenn, along the river, for which we are very grateful indeed!

We started work in late August on clearing the first plot of land (which you will find at the back of the Plough garden) and have made great progress due to the generosity of all who have come forward to help. I want to take this opportunity to extend a great big thank you hug to all those who have put in the effort to get this project off the ground – you have all done an awesome job, so thank you!

As a bit of background, the gardens have been set up as a way of continuing to provide support and positivity to the village in the wake of the lockdowns and ongoing disruption to lives. The aim of the gardens is to offer the broadest range of benefits to all villagers, whether or not you actually want, or are able, to garden.

We see it as a place where people can meet in the open air; take exercise whilst gardening; grow healthy food so important for our immune systems; find peace and tranquillity; and give participants a sense of purpose, through contribution and friendship.

The benefits to health and quality of life are immeasurable, and we already have members who have found great benefit from being a part of this project. You can find more information and a description of its aims on our Facebook group by simply searching for 'Langford Community Garden' or typing in:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/langfordcommunitygardens/>

We have set up an initial start-up steering committee, and have plenty of room for more people, if you wish to be involved.

At our first proper meeting in the Plough, it was decided that we will run as a co-operative, which means that people become members, where one membership equals one vote on all matters concerning the gardens. We feel that this will keep the gardens as democratic and non-hierarchical as possible, and the central committee will rotate between members on a

regular basis.

Produce will be shared between members and made into products that can be sold to raise funds to go back into the gardens. We may donate produce to worthy causes which will be decided by vote. We intend to make the gardens as accessible as possible, and fully inclusive, with ideas such as a sensory area for children with additional needs, and seating to sit in the fresh air. We anticipate the gardens becoming a hive of activity and will be encouraging the local schools to get involved, with the help of one of the local school governors.



First Meeting in August



It is a place where people of all ages can learn about gardening and growing and the benefits of working the land. The riverside area will be devoted to permaculture which is a fully sustainable style of gardening that yields amazing results – some of which I have already experienced from Enid & Glen's efforts! Thank you



The 'before photos'

The 'after photo'



Whilst we are at these early stages, you simply join by turning up! Later, you will have the opportunity to join as an official member.

There are many ways that you can participate. We need gardeners, people who can make things with the produce, as well as people who can support with admin and business matters. We also need people to help with fundraising. Local businesses can be involved by offering to sponsor the gardens by donating equipment, time, money, advice, or services (eg accountants, insurance, etc), or anything else you feel would help, in return for publicity via our website (TBC), social media, and marketing materials.

If you would like to get involved in any way at all, the easiest way is to simply join the Facebook group. You can also email us at: langfordcommunitygardens@gmail.com or call Emma on 07791 520388 (Text is better).

LANGFORD COMMUNITY GARDENS **COMPETITION** TO NAME THE COMMUNITY GARDENS

We have an exciting competition for all villagers to enter.
We challenge you to come up with an interesting name for the gardens.

The competition will launch on Monday 9th November and will close on Sunday 13th December.

The winners will be announced on Monday 21st December
so please keep an eye out for information about where and how that will happen.

Winners will be notified by telephone and/or email.

You will find an entry form in the following locations:

Londis; The Plough; Langford Garden Centre; Hideaway Café; The Spice Lounge;
 in the Facebook group; and by asking for one via email.

You will be asked to write your idea for a name for the garden,
a brief reason why you decided on that name, and your name, telephone number, and email address.

Each entry is £2 and will go towards equipment that is urgently needed for the garden.

There will be three prizes: 1st Prize – Cash (minimum £15, more if there are lots of entries)

2nd and 3rd prizes to be donated by local businesses.

Payments can be made by handing in your forms to the above listed businesses,
along with your entry fee of £2.

Or, you can enter by emailing your form to : langfordcommunitygardens@gmail.com
and sending your £2 entry fee to PayPal at the same email address
or by using : paypal.me/langfordgardens –

NB : you do not need a PayPal account to enter this way.

Please remember to use the family and friends' option so that we do not incur charges.

Thank you all warmly,

Heres to a fabulous Winter Season and joyful gardening together. 

Emma Jaynes



Langford Women's Institute

2020 The Year the World Almost Stood Still

From spring into summer and now autumn the unseen menace still continues to invade our lives and living with it seems to be the order of the day. However, facing up to the damage it has caused is not so easy; we pull together, but underneath, the battle scars remain. As a result our very own Denman College has had to close and there is talk of it being sold as it can no longer remain solvent. It has been a great asset for learning and keeping connected and will be a huge blow to the WI organisation.



However, as a local group we carry on. In September we had afternoon tea with social distancing at our own garden centre which proved very successful. It was good to see members enjoying just seeing each other in the flesh and being blessed with fine weather was the 'icing on the cake' if you will excuse the pun. We hope to do it again nearer Christmas if I dare mention the word this early!!! Recently we also had the pleasure of watching Charlie Dimmock and the Rich brothers from Garden Rescue bringing a Langford garden to

new life for one of our members, which spurred us on to new ideas.

Several members are knitting blankets for the Kenya Children's Need project, more knitters are needed, please get in touch if you feel you can contribute - all helps to pass the time. Puzzles are still very much in demand, so much so I heard someone say recently you can't get one for love nor money, which brought a smile to my face - under the mask of course!

The WI Committee meet every month on Zoom and there are ideas in the pipeline. Our new president keeps us on our toes. We certainly have moved with the times with a big jolt!! The virus has made for a very strange 2020 and hopefully for us all it will become a 'once in a lifetime' experience. Having life so abruptly interrupted on a domestic, as well as a global level, has meant we have had to get creative and stay occupied finding new hobbies and maybe rediscovering the joy of long forgotten ones. Book sales have gone through the roof and who knows we may have budding authors in our midst for those taking part in the Bedfordshire Federation competition of no more than 500 words entitled 'Lockdown Covid 19 and Me' (2020 the year the world almost stood still).

As a village we have hung together with all that is demanded and let's hope by the next edition of the Diary things will start to be brighter, but in the meantime from all our WI members to you the villagers, stay safe and try to enjoy the season.

Olive Ravenall

For more information about Langford WI please call Iris on 01767 223849



Neighbourhood Watch

Langford Parish Council are promoting Neighbourhood Watch through the Village with the aim of increasing the number of Roads in the Scheme – which in turn will enable residents to help keep themselves and their property safe.

If you are interested in joining Neighbourhood Watch then please log onto their website ***<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk>*** to join an existing (or start up a new scheme) in your road.

Neighbourhood Watch is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to reduce crime.

They're community initiatives owned and run by their members which are supported by the police but not owned by them.

They work by developing a close relationship between community members and the local police.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- cut crime and the opportunities for crime
- help and reassure those who live in the area
- encourage neighbourliness and closer communities

How to join a Watch scheme:

Go to ***<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk>*** to find out what groups are active in Langford and to register to join an existing or start up a new scheme

You can also find and contact your local Watch Administrator via the same website for:

- more information on how these schemes work
- the benefits of the schemes
- advice on running a scheme in your local area

If you already run an informal scheme then please do add it to the ourwatch website to ensure it is registered and also so your neighbours can join!

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

***Clerk to Langford PC:
michellealbone.langfordpc@gmail.com
Mob: 07482 276173***

Langford Cricket Club

We hope you have been keeping safe, Cricket in 2020 quite rightfully, took a back seat, however we did manage to squeeze in some cricket, and in the end managed to play 10 adult matches across Saturday and Sundays, the Langford ladies in conjunction with Flitwick played 4 matches, and also the AllStars coaching program went ahead.

The Sunday matches were all just friendlies organised between clubs this year. However, the Saturday league did not abandon us. This was our first year back in the Saturday league for a few years, and we were hoping that we could provide some cricket to the more experienced, and youthful members of the cricket club. And we did just that, finishing top of division 3, a picture of the team can be seen below. Well done all!

The cricket square on the playing fields has been put to bed for the winter, after a fairly light season, a tractor scarifier was used to remove some dead grass and to reduce the thatch and grove the surface to help the seed bed in. Seed was applied and then loam and fertiliser applied to get the seed growing. As you can see from the picture, the grass is growing well.

As Covid restrictions allow, we will be trying to introduce some winter nets training, so keep an eye on the facebook page

www.facebook.com/LangfordCC

Any new players are welcome. Please contact us.

Andy Watson,
Chairman, Langford Cricket Club.



St. Andrew's Church

It's been a tough year. I don't need to remind you of that. The pandemic has left a trail of destruction in its wake: physically, emotionally and financially. And it could so easily, even understandably, leave us with a sense of utter hopelessness.



I have just watched a short film about the former Rugby League player Rob Burrow. Rob had an amazingly successful career with Leeds Rhinos as a scrum-half winning no fewer than 8 Super League titles. He finally brought the curtain down by winning the Super League Grand Final in 2017. When he was interviewed at the end of the game, and with a broad grin, he said that 'this was the fairytale ending'. At 35, and as a great of his sport, he looked forward to spending more time with his wife and young family.

In December 2019 Rob Burrow was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND). Today he is confined to a wheelchair and has lost his physical capacity to speak. It seems hopeless. A lost cause. And yet Burrow says, 'I am not giving in, till my last breath.'

There has been much this year to contend with. Things seem hopeless and a bit of a lost cause. So much so that we have heard rumblings that Christmas this year will be cancelled.

It will be different for sure, as so much of our daily lives have become different. But Christmas will not be cancelled. Why? Because 2000 years ago God said 'I am not giving in'. Instead he came into our world, into the chaos and confusion, as a newborn child, who would carry with him a message of hope. And then by dying and rising again at Easter he fulfilled the promise that even in the bleakest of times, we might have hope.

Rev. Shaun Speller -01462 700248

Reordering Fund at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's 100 Club

Like many organisations we are unfortunately not able to go ahead with any new fundraising events at the moment.

We are continuing though with the St Andrew's 100 Club. This is open to everyone to join. Just £1 secures a number which goes into a weekly draw. Fifty percent of weekly monies are paid out as a prize, with the remaining percent going towards our Reordering Fund for the kitchen and toilet project. Since October 2018 over £2000 has been raised for our fund.

Please contact me **Sheila Vidler on 01462 701750** if you would like to join us. We would also like to thank Richard Wood who is doing a magnificent job in applying to local and national organisations and charitable trusts etc for additional funding to help us achieve our target.

Thank you
Sheila Vidler

Langford Methodist Church

Well what a strange time it continues to be! As I write this there is a question mark over the future, and how much we will be able to socialise when Christmas comes. Despite all the problems, the Methodist Church is still very much alive. Before the Rule of Six was reimposed, Joan and Chris Rutt had been welcoming people to their garden for coffee on a Wednesday morning, for which we were very grateful. Now their hospitality is a bit more limited.

However, we have been able to open the Chapel on Sunday mornings for a time of Worship, which is much appreciated. Those with the technology have also been able to join in Zoom Worship led by our lovely minister, Lorna. We are mindful of those who for various reasons are not able to leave their homes, and have been keeping in touch with everyone with weekly news letters and telephone calls.



Coffee Morning at the Rutt's House



Back in Chapel, for a very different Harvest Service. Tins were generously donated to the NEED Project.

and behind every cloud the sun is waiting to shine down on us again. We expect to be holding our usual Christmas services, and hope to be able to welcome you to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. Happy Christmas to you all!

Jenny Broadbridge (Senior Steward)

Our Prayer Week took place at the end of October, and daily prayers were offered for individuals and situations of concern, as well as thanksgiving for all the good gifts God is still showering upon us. We live in a beautiful area, and some of the photographs which have appeared on Face Book have been stunning. Even if you are feeling a bit low, and many are for good reason, remember that God is still the same,

Langford Covid, Volunteers & Info

We have a brief update this time just to let you know that the group will continue to be operative until the potential for lockdowns and COVID related social isolation has passed. The Facebook group is still open, and we anticipate that villagers may need additional support again through the winter months and, especially, if our area experiences another lockdown.

Please know that we are all still there for you and able to help with COVID related matters, including practical support, friendship, and emotional support to any of you who may be suffering as a result of the continued stress and pressures. There is no judgement in reaching out. This is a time when we are all experiencing some form of upheaval, and if we all pull together, we can reduce some of the impact for each other.

We have been considering other ways of supporting the village at this time and have launched an exciting community gardens project as a way of extending the efforts to keep the village together as we have been doing, so brilliantly, throughout this year! (please see Langford Community Gardens post).

Much love to you all, Emma Jaynes

Langford History Society

We have decided, in view of the current situation, that we cannot consider resuming meetings until 2021. In January we will see if it will be possible to restart with our AGM in February but, of course, it will depend on the state of the pandemic and whether our venue will be available.

In the summer we produced an online Newsletter for our members containing reminiscences of Langford life and a short history of St Andrew's Church. If you would like to read it, the Diary Editor will provide the email contact. We will produce a second issue by the end of the year.

To continue your interest in local history there is plenty to read online on our website:

www.langfordhistorysociety.org.uk,

There are many stories about the village, with short histories of the church and Methodist chapel, tales of incidents in the past like the 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', 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. There are articles on the two World Wars and many on Bedfordshire villages and towns all of which can be found by using the index on the site. The autumn issue has an article on Sister Fanny (1836–1907) a pioneer Church of England deaconess in Bedford and on the Second World War sinking of the *Lancastria* linked with the life of Private Ronald Charles Pates.

There are some interesting notes from the 19th century *Beds Mercury* newspaper on the current attitudes to wild life and a short article on the East Anglian artist, Peter Gilman.

Langford History Books

Should you want to learn about Langford's history, our books are still available and to purchase them 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

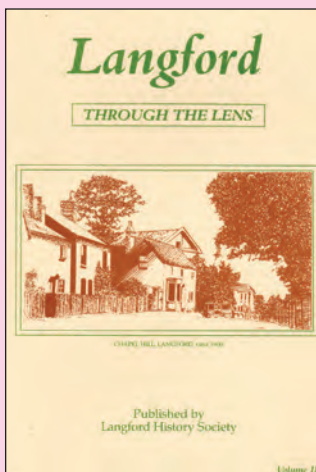
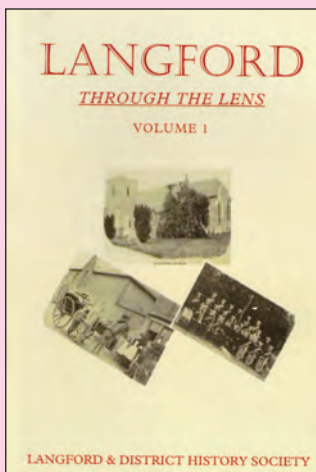
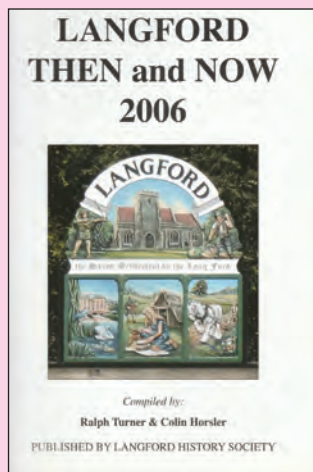
This book of 40 pages plus cover has two photographs on nearly every page of well-known places in the village showing how they looked then and how they look now. Some of the old photographs were taken from 80 to over 100 years ago. Price £4.

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.



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Since September, Rainbows, Brownies & Guides in Langford have been running online meetings via Zoom. Together we have done lots of activities from the new programme and had lots of fun! Rainbows have been creating their own stories, designing their own shoes and learning how to tell a great joke! Brownies have been learning to line dance, practising their miming skills and making sock puppets. Guides have been learning some tap dancing moves, carrying out random acts of kindness and learning both the phonetic alphabet and some sign language. They all finished before half term with fun activities such as charades, bring a pet night and decorating cakes and biscuits.

We are planning to return to indoor meetings after half term and we can't wait to see all the girls in person! We will be taking protective measures in order to do this in line with government guidelines and policies from Girlguiding so that we can keep everyone safe. We will also be placing our wreath for Remembrance Day at the memorial; we will miss the usual parade in the village but remember in our own way.

We would like to thank all the girls and parents for their support to the units in this difficult time; we appreciate all those who have joined us on Zoom meetings and those who have been doing activities at home.

Danielle Ellis

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

Methodist Services: Minister: Rev. Lorna Valentine -

Contact Jenny Broadbridge 01462 701127

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

Due to the Covid 19 Epidemic - please contact the relevant contact person as listed to ensure that the the weekly meetings are still going ahead at the present time.

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

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

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 700286

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

Please note the New Parish Website Address

Please go to

<https://langford-pc.gov.uk>

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

Langford Parish Council Meetings

Dates of Parish Council Meetings St. Andrew's Church Hall

Monday, 7th December, 2020 - 7.15pm

Monday, 4th January, 2021 - 7.15pm

Monday, 1st February, 2021 - 7.15pm

At this present time all Meetings are being held virtually via the Zoom platform. Residents are very welcome to participate and should contact the Clerk of the Council for the details to join the meeting.

If residents have any issues they wish bringing to the attention of the Council then this can be done by emailing or phoning the **Clerk of the Council Michelle Albone on 07482 276173 or michellealbone.langfordpc@gmail.com**.

Agendas and minutes can be found on the PC website – langford-pc.gov.uk

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		

Langford Parish Council

2020 continues to be a year not encountered before. We have been in lockdown, restricted in our contact with family and friends, unable to live our lives how we have been used to BUT one of the most important aspects of this is our need for contact with others, and for this, thanks should go to all of the organisations and community workers who make this possible. Who knows what the winter will bring, but I certainly hope that the community aspect in our village continues.

The Parish Council has been meeting virtually, so business as usual. Full details can be obtained from Langford Parish Website.

A flagpole has been erected in the Church grounds which is part funded from a £500 grant via the CBC Ward Councillor fund. Thank you to Steve Dixon, Brian Saunders and Nicola Fisher our Ward Councillors.

Thank you to Speed watch for their continued support in voluntarily monitoring the traffic speeds in Langford, they need help, if you would like further information, please contact Michelle our Clerk.

Also, thanks must go to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for all their continued work, a group of volunteers who have worked incredibly hard to produce the Neighbourhood Plan. It is an excellent piece of work and we hope it will be soon be ready for submission to Central Beds Council for formal examination. The Neighbourhood Plan will be something the Group and Langford residents can be very proud of achieving. Further information is in The Diary.

Unfortunately, there was lack of interest in setting up a Youth Hub so that won't proceed for the time being.

We will soon be planting some more daffodil bulbs in the village so this will add to the existing bloom of flowers during the spring. These will be outside St Andrews church Hall, on the corner of Church Street and East Road, and on the verges inside and outside the new cemetery.

The Cemetery has opened with three interments being carried out, further tree and landscaping will take place over the winter months.

The red and white barriers have been removed at The Boot corner and wooden bollards installed. Works are to take place to elongate the raised bollard area in the middle of the road to bring it more towards the roundabout to ensure the roundabout is driven around and not over.

On behalf of the Members of Langford Parish Council, and our Clerk Michelle Albone, I wish you all the best for Christmas and New Year and especially that 2021 is all we hope for.

Gill Clarke – Chairman

Langford Village Hall

The Village Hall was closed during the lockdown due to Covid-19. A few regular hirers returned in July with three classes being held outside on the Playing Field. All Covid-19 government regulations and guidelines are in place with additional cleaning being carried out between bookings. More regulars have returned but no new bookings for the present are being taken in order that we can comply with all regulations – the situation will be reviewed in the New Year.

Langford Village Hall

A grant from Central Bedfordshire Council has taken the pressure off the financial running costs, which of course are still applicable for example fire alarms testing, CCTV, cleaning, management etc.

Maintenance works were carried out during lockdown, whilst only the contractor was in the hall, these included decorating in the men's toilets, small kitchen and front of the stage. The cupboard door into the main hall was made into a double door for ease of movement of chairs and tables.

A display cabinet is being sourced to site the historical bell given to the village, and which was used to warn locals of a fire. Further details of this are with the Historical Society.

It is hoped that regulars will continue to return, and that come 2021 the Village Hall will be fully up and running again.

Gill Clarke
Facilities Manager

King George Playing Field

The Playing Field is in excellent condition, with a good report from the annual inspection by ROSPA. The minor items raised will be dealt with by Adrian our Groundsman.

The Horse Chestnut tree which had some disease causing a branch to break onto the road in Church Street has been cut back to healthy wood, and it is hoped will now survive. The trees around the Playing field will be inspected in November, and advice given by the Tree Surgeon.

Sadly, there was limited cricket played during the summer which has finished now, and youth football practice and matches are being held.

The Management Committee have consulted with residents via the 2019 fete and Langford Diary, and are now pleased to report that with Section 106 funding the existing wooden trim trail is to be replaced due to wear and tear, and new equipment installed. It is also looking to upgrade some of the older equipment in the small children's play area.

Eco plastic benches have been installed in front of the score box, together with a picnic table (which is inclusive to allow a wheelchair or buggy to reach the table) of similar materials in the smaller children's play area.

Also, under Section 106 funding is available for a soft tarmac surface, with drainage, to be installed at the north side of Knock Up Wall, which will allow the facility to be used all year round, without young people coming home completely covered in mud.

The Management Committee are also looking to install an inclusive swing near to the railings by Church Street.

Meetings have continued during Covid 19 and plans are in hand for community projects in 2021.

As the village fete was not possible this year, it was great to see the community spirit continue by way of a Scarecrow Competition, and at the end of this month (October) the Scariest House competition.

Gill Clarke
Facilities Manager

A Message from our Ward Councillor

Councillor Steven Dixon

Stotfold, Langford, Fairfield and Astwick Ward

To the many residents and businesses in the village, can I extend my personal thanks for the tremendous extent to which Langford has pulled together during the Covid pandemic. Across Central Bedfordshire, the community spirit and offer of volunteering has been phenomenal. Not only through the well established channels such as The Need Project, based from Stotfold, but through to the simpler things such as keeping in touch with vulnerable neighbours. I know from my 'check in and chat' contact across the ward, that effort by you, has been so warmly received.

All of us would have wished that the pandemic was over by now, but it does look as if the feared second wave may truly be hitting some parts of the country. The government's advice still remains clear. ***Please wash your hands, wear a face mask and keep your distance.*** I would encourage all residents to use the governments Tracing App and if you haven't already done so, can I suggest you to sign up to the updates on restrictions, advice on testing, opportunities to volunteer, schooling updates and much more information around the current difficulties we face. A special Covid-19 section has been established on the front page of our website-www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

We now produce a weekly update specific to Central Beds from Celia Shohet, our Assistant Director of Public Health and have rolled out a programme of recruiting Community Champions. We are looking for a small number of individuals or bodies in Langford, with good reach in to the village, to continue pressing home pertinent messages to residents. If you feel you can assist, please either search on the CBC website for Community Champions or let me know and I will put you in touch.

Despite the obvious distraction Covid has caused, 'business as usual' must continue wherever possible and it is tremendous that so much of what CBC does has managed to continue as near normal as possible. Schools across Central Beds currently see around a 93% attendance rate and the overwhelming majority of children using home to school transport have continued to do so since September. We have also continued to progress the Local Plan towards its adoption. A final round of representations on sites included in the plan are scheduled for the first two weeks in December and we continue to battle against those applications that fall outside of the plan and don't warrant permission. The rapid transition to on-line meetings has been both thrilling and frightening, but now seems to have settled into an alignment, as much as possible, with physical gatherings. The end of the year also sees the Boundary Commission report back on its recommendations on amendments to the wards that currently exist in CBC. It is recommended that Langford joins Henlow, Clifton and Stondon as a new ward from 2023. The village has recently been successful with a £25,000 grant and a couple of organisations have had a draw on my much smaller councillor grant scheme.

Richard Carr has served as the first substantive Chief Executive of CBC since its formation in 2009. However, earlier this year Richard announced his intention to retire this year and thus triggered the process to replace him. Richard has served this authority with the highest levels of professionalism and judgement in my opinion and I wish him well in the future. After a gruelling series of tests and interviews, including one by some of the children of Central Beds CICC, the current Director of Place and Communities, Marcel Coffait has been appointed from 1st November. We are also considering what shape CBC might be post pandemic and your thoughts are always welcome in this respect.

As ever, if I can help with anything please email, text or call me.

Cllr Steven Dixon
Stotfold, Langford & Fairfield Ward
steven.dixon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Tel. 07973 127077

Langford Shop Opening Times

HILLFOOT 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	9.30am	4.00pm
SATURDAY	9.00am	4.00pm

LANGFORD HIDEAWAY

SUNDAY	CLOSED	
MONDAY	7.00am	3.00pm
TUESDAY	7.00am	3.00pm
WEDNESDAY	7.00am	3.00pm
THURSDAY	7.00am	3.00pm
FRIDAY	7.00am	3.00pm
SATURDAY	7.00am	3.00pm

POST OFFICE

SUNDAY	8.30am	6.00pm
MONDAY	7.30am	8.00pm
TUESDAY	7.30am	8.00pm
WEDNESDAY	7.30am	8.00pm
THURSDAY	7.30am	8.00pm
FRIDAY	7.30am	8.00pm
SATURDAY	7.30am	8.00pm

PHARMACY

SUNDAY	CLOSED	
MONDAY	9-12.45	13.30-17.15
TUESDAY	9-12.45	13.30-17.15
WEDNESDAY	9-12.45	CLOSED
THURSDAY	9-12.45	13.30-17.15
FRIDAY	9-12.45	13.30-17.15
SATURDAY	9-12.45	CLOSED

LANGFORD VILLAGE STORE

MONDAY - SATURDAY 7.00am - 9.00pm - SUNDAY 7.00am - 8.00pm

Langford Welfare Trust (est 1899)

What has the Langford Welfare Trust been doing since March this year?

The Trust exists to support Langford residents with funds to help through a difficult period or crisis. Whilst the Trust holds modest funds for parish relief in April the Trust decided to apply for funds from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Parish Council to ensure adequate resources for what might lay ahead during 2020.

Here are some of the highlights of where the money has gone up to the end of September.

- Providing a loan to Langford Friends in case they needed it to provide assistance during the pandemic.
- Supporting (when appropriate) children and parents with funds for outdoor activities as part of school trips organised by Langford Village Academy.
- The Langford Welfare Trust helped one student from Langford with some funds to purchase some essential items for his studies and activities at college. Life can be tough as a young student. Books, equipment, tools and maybe lots of specialist clothing to buy. Even a modest amount can help offset the costs.
- Providing Langford Methodist Church with funds to help the church resume activities safely inside the building following the relaxation of the pandemic restrictions.
- Supplying a grant to provide Langford Owlets with some new equipment which will help them to provide safe activities in their much loved playgroup. This equipment will help the Owlets Playgroup team to educate, entertain and stimulate youngsters who have been unable to visit the playgroup which is based in the Langford Chapel.
- Providing a grant to Langford Scouts for some new equipment. This equipment will help the Scouting leaders to educate, entertain and stimulate youngsters who have been unable to enjoy their summer scouting activities due to the pandemic.
- Donating funds to the NEED project for the provision of food parcels for the residents of Langford.
- Emergency funds to help a family in Langford with the cost of repairing their cooker. Just a little job but important. Hot meals can now be served once again.
- Funds to help a family in Langford with a new domestic appliance. This was sourced locally and was installed by the supplier.
- Providing funds towards items needed for schooling. A decision to assist was made and the funds were provided quickly.

Here a couple of areas where The Trust could help

1. You may soon be thinking about what your child needs for school in the new year. Uniforms, games kit, stationery, etc. Everything seems expensive these days.
2. Does your child need any extra tuition in the coming months to help them catch up or to hone their key skills? If so you may be put off by the cost. Tell the Trust what you need, who you would like to use and what the cost will be and the Trust will see if they can help you with the costs

The Trust can be contacted in confidence by email or post. The Langford Welfare Trust. C/o 3 Old Mill Close. Langford. Biggleswade. Beds. SG18 9QY. j.m.shipman@ntlworld.com. All discussions and arrangements are wholly confidential.



HM Government

In partnership with
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND
and Langford Parish Council

Langford Village Academy

Forest School at Langford Village Academy

This year we have introduced Forest School to Langford Village Academy. The first class of children in the Foundation Stage have begun their Forest School Journey. They are learning to relax in our beautiful, natural surroundings and have been given the opportunity to explore the flora and fauna that can be found here.

It is really important at this difficult time that children have time to process their thoughts and feelings and this is what Forest School helps them to do. Nature can be very healing. We have a balance of adult led activities, which the children are then able to have access to or they can choose their own things to investigate.



We have used a map to find the different areas in our Forest School



We have made stick people



We have explored the digging area

Langford Walking Group

The walking group has managed to adapt during these difficult times and we are still walking every Tuesday but in a changed format. Initially one of the group wrote a risk assessment which we adhere to and also a register for track and trace purposes.

Our walks now are in groups of six or less and we decide on the route the previous week. This means that as we arrive we are able to start as soon as six of us have arrived. The next group waits in order that there is a gap between groups and so on until we are all accounted for. Sometimes we walk the same route but in opposite directions to make sure we are suitably spaced.

Coffee still happens but we have to be sure that there are never more than six of us at a time on the playing field and the Pimms seems to have run out! We have naturally divided into coffee groups with half of us at the garden centre coffee shop and the other half on the playing field so adhering to the rule of six has never been an issue.

Despite all these laborious arrangements we have still enjoyed our walks and are so fortunate to live in Langford with such a wide variety of walking routes to choose from.

We meet every Tuesday at 10am at Chapel Hill Bridge and welcome anyone who would like to join us. If you'd like more information please ring Val Henley on 626502.

John R Ford

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Langford Football Club



Langford FC are excited to open our doors again after an extended break due to the COVID-19 virus. We are lucky to have lots of space available around the ground, so our spectators can socially distance and we are adhering to government guidelines to keep our supporters safe.

We have taken the additional down-time to expand our club and we are delighted to have added a men's reserves team and a youth development programme to complement our men's and ladies teams. We hope to see you at one of our home games soon. Our games at Forde Park during the next few months are as follows:

Date	Langford Team	Opposition	Kick-off
21/11/2020	Men's First	London Tigers FC	3-00 pm
22/11/2020	Langford Ladies	Biggleswade United Ladies	2-00 pm
28/11/2020	Men's Reserves	AFC Kempston Town	2-00 pm
19/12/2020	Men's First	Amptill Town FC	3-00 pm
20/12/2020	Langford Ladies	Hitchin Belles Ladies	2-00 pm
02/01/2020	Men's First	New Salamis FC	3-00 pm
30/01/2020	Men's First	Rayners Lane FC	3-00 pm

Youth development training: Monday evenings from 09/11/2020.

All of these matches are of course subject to change, as a result of the weather or updated virus restrictions.

Some of our committee members have recently retired after 40+ years of service. We wish to thank them for their hard work over this extensive period. Due to these retirements, we have welcomed some new committee members and are recruiting for other roles, such as a club secretary. If you would like to come and get involved in our



local community club, we would love to have a chat with you. We welcome applications of all ages and backgrounds.

We also have various sponsorship opportunities available for the 2020-21 season, if you are looking for a great place to advertise your business, please get in touch.

For further information on any of the above please email:

**chairman@
langfordfc.co.uk**

1st Langford Scout Group

At the time of writing, all sections of the Group are currently running activities via Zoom. A high proportion of our young people are getting involved and we hope it won't be very much longer before we can all meet up again, face to face. The Leaders all miss getting out there in the open air (rain and mud) with our young people, and a summer without a camp has been really sad.

So far our Zooms have been a mix of badgework and fun. The Scouts have had a science evening with our own Dr Dave which parents tell me was a somewhat messy affair; the Cubs have been hearing about leader Jonathan's adventures abroad with Scouts and learning first aid, as well as fun quizzes and scavenger hunts; while the Beavers have been exploring morse code. We've also been encouraging badgework at home which has resulted in lots of Chef, Home Help and Gardener badges. Our oldest Beavers, Cubs and Scouts continue to work towards their Chief Scout Awards.

The Group would like to thank the Langford Welfare Trust for their grant which we will be using to buy equipment needed for getting back to face to face scouting.

We are still taking applications to the Waiting List for all sections, please contact me for more information, Jo Group Scout Leader - GSL@langfordscouts.org.uk - 07905 667427

Below are when the sections meet 'normally' but all are on Zoom for now.



Monday: Scouts 7.30-9pm

Tuesday: Beavers 6-7pm

Wednesday: Cubs 6.30-8pm

All meetings normally take place in Scout Headquarters, next to the Village Hall and are term time only.



Langford Tennis Club

During the coronavirus pandemic, tennis is the ideal sport to play. It has a natural tendency towards social distancing, requires minimal players and, in our case, is played on outdoor courts. We all know the importance of taking regular physical exercise in these unusual times and playing tennis is a great way to look after your health, fitness, strength and agility.

The health benefits include:

- Lowering blood pressure and resting heart rate
- Increasing aerobic capacity
- Improving metabolism and boosting the immune system
- Increasing bone density
- Lowering body fat (an hour of singles can burn 600 calories for men and 420 for women)
- Improving muscle tone, strength and flexibility
- Increasing hand-eye co-ordination and reaction times

As well as the physical aspects, tennis has many social and psychological benefits too:

- You can spend time with friends and family (as long as you observe the social distancing rules)
- It's a great way to meet new people (again subject to social distancing)
- It's suitable for all skill levels and ages (it's not dependent on youth or strength)
- It reduces stress as it involves mental, physical, emotional and social challenges
- It develops teamwork (with your doubles partner) and sportsmanship

And if that's not enough to persuade you, then studies have shown that tennis players have the lowest incidence of cardiovascular disease compared to other sports, children who play regularly achieve better grades due to the enhanced connections in the brain and, apparently, tennis outperforms all other sports with regard to developing positive personality characteristics!!

Over the summer since the courts were re-opened in May, we have had a very successful internal club doubles tournament with 30-40 players competing and playing over 100 matches. Due to this success and enthusiasm, we are running a similar competition through the winter.

The new restrictions have had a manageable impact on the way we play: the "Rule of 6" now means that we can only have 6 players maximum per court for informal social play (effectively this is really 4 players in a doubles match per court). There are exceptions to the Rule of 6 where the play is "organised" which is the case for coaching, tournaments and league matches where a separate Event Delivery Plan has to be written taking into account all the safety aspects of Covid-19 secure play.

At the time of writing, Central Beds is in Tier 1 of the new Tier system introduced in October. The good news is that even under current Tier 3 rules, tennis is still allowed, the only restriction being that players cannot travel in and out of Tier 3 to play.

Bjorn Borg once characterised a tennis match as "a thousand little sprints". It is the ideal socially distanced sport, it's a great workout and lots of fun!

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

The Ivy Leaf Club



I want to start with a massive thank you - we thought the Covid restrictions would make re-opening a difficult time but we have been absolutely blown away by the support of our members!

Of course it is very different times and we are managing things, in light of guidance, to ensure all members are able to enjoy a drink but feel safe. All tables are socially distanced and we ask no more than four people per table. Live football is back and we are also showing the BT box office games.

We are also pleased to announce that we now sponsor a new football

team, Ivel FC. They play on a Sunday morning and details of fixtures, and scores, are displayed on the notice board in our entrance.

We are continuing with our regular meat draws which are proving very successful.

Unfortunately there is still no live music but we hope this will return in Spring 2021.

We will continue to update our FB page with changes in light of government guidance.

We remain members only currently, but new members are welcome.

Subs are also now due.

Should you have any questions please contact the Club on 01462 700868.

In the meantime I have attached photos of members enjoying a socially distanced drink whilst enjoying the football. I have also attached a photo of the Ivel FC proudly showing us as sponsors.

Julie Devereux -
Committee Member





Langford Friends Good Neighbours Care Scheme

Are you an adult resident of Langford, Bedfordshire? Did you know that if you need a lift to a local GP surgery in Biggleswade, Langford, Sandy, Shefford and Stotfold etc. or for a hospital clinic appointment further away there is a

Good Neighbours Care scheme available to help you?

A Good Neighbours care scheme is a voluntary group run by local residents who recognise the value in having 'good neighbours' particularly where public transport and other local services can be limited and where a person's family may not live close by. Each volunteer decides what sort of help they can offer, how much and when. They do not undertake jobs best left to qualified professionals but can help with occasional lifts, befriending, collecting prescriptions or shopping etc. All driver volunteers are DBS checked and fully insured for transporting their clients for extra peace of mind. Any adult who needs a little extra help can ring the care scheme phone number. Calls are answered by a volunteer phone-holder, who will try to match the request for assistance with an available volunteer.

For almost 20 years Langford Friends has continued to serve the needs of an ever-increasing number of adult residents in Langford enabling them to maintain independent lives. Their team consisting of over 40 volunteer residents help to man a dedicated mobile phone for one week at a time on a rota and arrange for tasks to be undertaken with a volunteer.

They mainly provide transport for health appointments but will also try and help with prescription and shopping collection, occasional cooking, small household tasks, letter writing/form filling, running errands and befriending. They possess a modern lightweight wheelchair, if required for a journey, kindly donated by the parish council.

If you require assistance you can reach Langford Friends on 07884 046741 from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. You can support the service by giving a voluntary donation on completion of each task to help cover petrol, parking, phone and public liability insurance costs. The suggested voluntary donation for a return trip from Langford to the Biggleswade surgery is £5. The return trip from Langford to the Sandy surgery is £7.50. The return trip within Langford to the Langford surgery is £2. Suggested donations for hospital trips vary between £13 and £25 depending on the length of the journey. You can find Langford Friends on Facebook.

**IF YOU NEED HELP OR WOULD LIKE TO
BECOME A DRIVER VOLUNTEER OR
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEER
CALL**

LANGFORD FRIENDS ON 07884 046741



**In Order to facilitate
our Service**

**WE NEED
MORE VOLUNTEERS**

*We provide befriending or help with
Transport for Health Appointments,
Shopping, Cooking, Small Household Tasks,
Letter Writing/Form Filling,
Running Errands and Occasional Gardening.*

*If you feel you could spare a few hours a month
or act as a phone holder for one week in every three months
you'll be made very welcome to join us in what is
very worthwhile and rewarding work.*

FOR INFORMATION CALL

**MAGGIE WOOD 01462 701440
CHRISTINE TIGHT 01462 700052**

Langford Friends

Our Experience during the Corvid 19 Crisis

Like many other organisations, this has been a busy and challenging time for the Langford Friends, and I would just like to give an insight into our experience during this crisis.

In the week prior to lockdown we delivered some 1700 leaflets to all Langford residents. Our aim was to advertise our services to those in the village who would need to self-isolate and would therefore be unable to go out to buy groceries or pick up prescriptions. With an anticipated increase in demand we also asked for new temporary volunteers to come and join us.

As a result of this leaflet drop and referrals from Central Bedfordshire Council, thirty new volunteers came forward to offer their services and we have been extremely fortunate to have their support. During the lockdown particularly, we repeatedly called upon these new volunteers to help us. This was especially important because many of our own regular volunteers are over 70 years of age and therefore themselves self-isolating.

Several of those residents who requested our help responded to our leaflets, were referred to us by local GP surgeries, Bedfordshire Rural Charities Commission (BRCC) and the Community Engagement Team at Central Bedfordshire. The local Pharmacy also referred their customers to us for prescription collections.

As anticipated, during the first 2 weeks of lockdown we received about 25 phone calls per week from residents needing our help. These were mostly from residents who were self-isolating and needed shopping or prescriptions to be collected. We had lots of calls from residents who were very worried about the situation and did not have family members who were able to help them. For some we simply bought a pint of milk and left it on their doorstep and for others did a full Sainsburys shop. It was a bit of a strange experience dropping off shopping on someone's doorstep and then standing well back before speaking to them! It would not usually be considered as normal behaviour!

Several volunteers have helped with shopping by simply adding a client's shop to their own Click and Collect or supermarket delivery and are continuing to do this. Volunteers have also tried to maintain phone contact with our regular clients with an occasional phone call to simply have a chat and find out if they need anything. Sadly, we have not been able to have our planned Afternoon Tea Party this summer with clients and Volunteers at the Garden Centre, but are hopeful that we can look forward to having this party next year when we can all reflect on the year that was 2020.

Those first two weeks of lockdown was followed by a period of reduced demand as residents set up regular contact with volunteers, neighbours and family members who are now helping them on a regular basis. More recently demand for our services has started to increase again with requests for transport to GP Surgeries and Hospital Outpatient Departments. We are of course taking all recommended precautions such as wearing masks, a thorough wipe down of car seats and keeping a safe distance from the client. We are grateful to those volunteers who are currently driving clients to these appointments, as not everyone is comfortable with visiting a hospital at the moment!

I can report that throughout the initial lockdown and in the months that followed we have been able to fulfil every request that has been placed upon us. We are pleased to say that this has been recognised as Langford Friends have won a BBC Three Counties Radio 'Make A Difference' Bronze Award in the 2020 Good Neighbour Category. This Award will be put on display in the Village Hall.

Langford Friends Win a BBC Three counties Radio Award

Langford Friends have won a BBC Three Counties Radio 'Make A Difference' Bronze Award in the Good Neighbour Category in 2020. The award is in recognition of the outstanding contribution our volunteers make to the Langford community. Today more than ever Langford Friends volunteers are providing practical and emotional support to our adult community at a time most needed and I would really like to thank them for their continued hard work and dedication. Whilst they do not do good deeds to win awards it is always nice to be recognised. If anyone in the village is thinking about volunteering and really wants to make a difference, please contact Langford Friends on 07884 046741 and we will be delighted to provide more information and answer any questions. Margaret Wood, Chair, Langford Friends.



Langford Neighbourhood Plan

WINTER 2020 NEWS & UPDATES

As we're all no doubt aware, life is very different for everyone now compared to 6-7 months ago. However, the need for the Neighbourhood Plan is still as strong as it ever was, maybe more so in view of the changes to planning procedures being floated by the Government. Although we've been unable to meet face-to-face, the volunteer steering group has continued to work through the steps needed to finish the Plan. The main task recently has been to answer the 176 pages of detailed comments on the draft Plan that we've received from residents and all manner of statutory bodies, ranging from Anglian Water to Historic England and from would-be developers.

The comments received cover the whole spectrum of opinions, as you may expect! We've accepted many of them and modified text and policies where appropriate and rebutted others that were not factually correct. The Plan is now in better shape and we hope we are on the final leg of this detailed work, with more remote Zoom meetings planned for the group to approve the changes in total.

What's next for the Plan? We are very keen to get it submitted to CBC for its formal examination in the next few weeks and hopefully will have achieved this by the time you're reading this edition of the Diary. Submission to CBC should increase its stature in any planning issues arising before formal acceptance.

Our overall goal is to have the Plan ready for the village vote which we hope, virus permitting, will be held in May next year. Your approval in that vote will then make it an official document.

If you want to catch up with the Plan, go to

<https://langfordneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/> and if you want to contact us then please email us at: **langfordneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com**

We are grateful to the Parish Council for their continuing support, both financial and moral and we send you our best wishes for the festive season, with the hope that 2021 will be a lot better for all of us than 2020!

Langford in the Nineteenth Century

The repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 helped to change the shape of farming in Langford and the labourers were unlikely to benefit. Between 1850 and 1880 the number of land workers fell by 20 per cent. Industries in towns and cities were doing better and the Rev M E Welby and the Dean of Westminster, both absent, large landowners sold their Langford land in 1875. This may have contributed to the decline of agriculture.

Several bad harvests including 1879 ruined many farms in the county. Foreign imports of grain from USA and Canada made it worse. Some farms including John Cooper, Robert Isherwood and Robert Grant, changed from cereals to beef and milk production where they owned suitable pasture near the river. Labourers became unemployed and often had to resort to either moving to the towns or working in straw plaiting for the hat trade in Luton. The 1851 census shows that there were 986 people in Langford. Most men were farm labourers and 110 women and children were straw plaiters and cutters. The straw was woven into strips of various widths and designs and then sold to dealers who supplied the hat trade in Luton. It was light work and it could be done indoors or outdoors depending on the weather. There was a straw plaiting school in Langford where children were taught this useful money earning skill. 17 men were listed in the census as straw dealers and 17 as farmers or market gardeners. There were shepherds, a drainer of land, millers, dressmakers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths as well as 8 publicans. A new vicarage for Henry Addington was built in 1850. It was common for families to have many children to help support the household.

Tithe Farm was bought from Rev Welby by Edmund Piper in 1875 and he passed it on to Robert Isherwood. Charles Fowler owned Church End Farm and employed 12 men on his 225 acres. Many children did not attend school as it was too costly. In 1870 school became compulsory and Langford School opened in 1873. Robert Cater was schoolmaster until 1920.

Asbury Farm was occupied by John Cooper and Bays Farm of 400 acres was in the partnership of Joseph Gudgin and Josiah Cole. They employed 21 men and 9 boys.

James Barton, whose family owned the butchers shop, left Langford to work as a saddler and harness maker in London. He was very successful when he invented a new type of harness. When he died in 1885 he left a fortune of £15,000 so that alms-houses could be built at Turvey. Today they have been re-built into 26 bungalows and a community hall.

The first train to use the new line passed through Langford in 1851 and without a station farmers had to take their produce to Biggleswade or Arlesey until 1876 when a siding was built for loading and unloading trucks in Langford.

Towards Astwick there was Vine Farm where shepherd Francis Wheeler lived and Hill Farm with Robert and Caroline Grant who rented the land from Rev Welby. They had 500 acres, 28 employees, 2 servants and six children.

John Ball occupied Balls Farm just east of the railway in Dark Lane (now East Road). Further east in the lane known as Hungry Hill was another farm called Bleak Farm or Cock Lodge.

The 1852 census records several residents as paupers on parish relief. The reason for such poverty was the fall in demand for land workers as mechanisation took over. The birth rate increased (from 989 people in 1851 to 1250 people in 1871) and the death rate decreased. Infant mortality was less than the previous century. Small pox was on the wane but tuberculosis was ever present. Typhoid was a killer with poor sewage disposal and contaminated water. Crown Lane had a "jam factory" which was slang for a depository for refuse and sewage.

One poor boy in the census was described as “a nothing”. Some poor folk ended up in the poor house or the new Arlesey asylum which opened in 1860. As the population increased the depression became more severe. There was less farm work available and no viable alternative. Poverty in Langford moved the vicar to write to the Bishop of Ely 1883 for help. Straw plaiting paid little – 3d (old pence) for a roll of 20 yards length. If rolls were short in length or poor quality the dealers refused to pay and burned the lot!

There were well defined divisions in class between the poor and the gentry. This created bitter feelings between church and chapel which lasted for many generations. There were some Methodists who would have cheered to see the church pulled down and there were some Anglicans who mocked the “rangers” and the “long-eared uns”. This division continued until after WWI and it resulted in a dispute over the war memorial in the churchyard. Some Methodists refused to allow the names of their dead to be put on it and some Anglicans were glad they were not added.

As an open village with no large landowners or squires the yeoman farmers became more influential in Langford. A school board was set up, a parish council was established, political clubs became active and a strong temperance movement prevailed to counter “the demon drink”.

Notes made by J Shipman from The People of The Long Ford by Michael Rutt.



Part of Langford in 1827. Map shows: 57 The Mill; 18 The Church; 19 site of the New School; 54 The Poor House and Church End Farm; 61 The Wrestlers; 66 The “Jam Factory” in Crown Lane; Back Lane now Station Road; River Ivel straightened in anticipation of more barges; Ivel navigation from the river to Sheffield.
John Shipman

Langford Diary Copy Dates and Advertising

PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT

All Copy and Advertising for inclusion in NEXT Diary Spring Edition by 22nd January for events in March, April and May.

2021 Submission Dates
Summer Issue 22nd April - Autumn Edition 22nd July.

*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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1 Side Dish - 1 Pilau Rice or Any Naan

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Book your table now for Christmas Day!

First Seating 2.30pm - Second Seating 4.30pm

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Adults £29.95 Kids under 12 £13.95

Glass of Sparkling Wine or Soft Drink on your arrival

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Choice of any Starter from the menu

Main

Choice of any main dish
from the menu including specialities
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Side

Choice of any vegetable side dish
from the menu

Dessert

Ice Cream & Coffee & mint

