

The LANGFORD Diary

The Parish Council Publication for YOU the Residents of Langford

SPRING 2023

Editor: Trudy Emery
Contact: trudylangforddiary@gmail.com

Edition 219

**A
Langford Fete
this year?
see page 13**



***What do we know about The River Ivel
See Page 10***

With thanks to Peter Richards for this cover photograph

A Letter from the Editor

By the time this letter is printed the daffodils round the village should be starting to bloom, one of the many positive things organised by our Parish Council. When you read Gill Clarke's (our Parish Council Chair) letter you will realise how much Gill has done for Langford. It is sad that she will be resigning from the Parish Council and I would like to thank her on behalf of the village for the important dedication she has always given the voluntary job.

Sadly, Mavis Reavell died last November. Many of the village will have known her for her work as Akela for the cubs during the 1980's, 1990's and 2,000's. She made cubs such fun for the children, taking them on many camps with her late husband, Colin and organising exciting activities. Their sons Andrew and Simon are still active in the scouting community. Jo Smith recently found an old photo taken of Mavis and the pack round about 1989. I set my son, Stephen, on remembering the names of the lads in the photo on page 17. You may know more names.

Let's look forward to events in 2023. See page 3 for events in the spring.

There will be an Antiques and Collectors Fair in the Village Hall on 11th March from 10am to 4pm. This is a new venture for Sue, so please support her by having a stall or by going along and spending your money! The WI will be providing refreshments. See page 27 for more details.

There is a Garage Sale Trail on May 14th in aid of Scouts and guides. May be it's time for a sort out to sell some of those not needed items?

PLEASE WE NEED MORE PEOPLE WILLING TO ORGANISE AND HELP AT THE SUMMER FETE!

Please contact Gill Clarke, John Shipman or Colin Carroll on 01462 700421

See page 20 for more information.

Let's enjoy the spring and I hope to see you at the Litter Pick on Saturday 23rd March.

Trudy Emery - trudylangforddiary@gmail.com - Tel: 01462 636638

GARAGE SALE TRAIL 2023

Sunday 14th May

Sell your unwanted items outside your home.

Stall fee of £5 which will be shared between the Brownies and the Scout Group.

An online and printed map will be available on the day.

Please contact Jo Smith 07905667427

jo.smith@langfordscouts.org.uk
to register your interest.

What's On in Langford in the Spring!

March

- 1 History Society** - 100 Years of Everyday Life - Liz Davies - Church Hall - 8.00pm
- 2 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 7 Gardening Club** - Warden Abbey Vineyard - Church Hall - 7.30pm
- 10 Langford WI** - A Day in the Life of a TV Licence Inspector - Mike Long - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 11 Antiques & Collectors Fair** - Contact Sue 07920 569297 - Village Hall - 10.00am - 4.00pm
- 21 Langford Car Club** - The Plough - 7.00pm
- 25 Litter Pick** - Meet at Church Hall 9.30-9.45am - Litter Picking Tools provided - Contact Clerk to Parish Council 07482 276173 - Refreshments afterwards

April

- 4 Gardening Club** - Bach Flower Remedies Plants to Drugs - Gwenda Kyd - Church Hall - 7.30pm
- 5 History Society** - Luton's Country Houses - Ian Waller - Church Hall - 8.00pm
- 6 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 14 WI** - Annual Meeting - Village Hall - 7.15pm
- 25 Langford Car Club** - The Plough - 7.00pm
- 26 Annual Gift Day** - Coffee Morning - Chapel - 10.30am - 11.30am

May

- 2 Gardening Club** - Swines Meadow Farm Nursery - Colin Ward - Church Hall - 7.30pm
- 3 History Society** - Bedfordshire Heroes - David Fowler - Church Room - 8.00pm
- 4 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION** - Church Hall - 7.00am - 10.00pm
- 6 King Charles III Coronation**
- 11 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 12 WI** - Members Evening - Village Hall - 7.15pm
- 14 Garage Sale Trail** - contact jo@langfordscouts.org.uk - 07905 667427
- 16 Langford Car Club** - The Plough - 7.00pm

Langford Weekly and Regular Meetings

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

Sunday

St. Andrews Parish Services: Vicar Rev. Shaun Speller 01462 700248 – see page 12 for details

Methodist Services: Minister: Rev. Lorna Valentine – see page 15 for details

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 9.00am–12.00 morning session & 9.00–3.00pm full day – 07935 784567 – www.owletspreschool.co.uk

Langford Methodist Chapel Room Contact 07790 763078

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 Kasey Brooks 07584 035495

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

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

Langford Gardening Club First Tuesday of the month. See What's on in Langford in the Spring page 3 for details

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

Adult Tennis Social 9.00am-12 noon and 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Oasis Coffee Morning Chapel 10.30am-11.30am - see page 15 for details

Older Persons Exercises Village Hall - 12 noon to 1.00pm - Conor Inskip
Ci.fitness@icloud.com - 07580 002552

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 Coaching Groups 4.30pm - 7.30pm - langfordtennisclub.org.uk

Adult Dancing 7.00pm-8.00pm Latin and Cuban Line Dancing -
8.00pm-9.30pm Ballroom, Latin American, Salsa and Argentine Tango -
Langford Village Hall - Esme Castle 01767 601604

Thursday

Owlets Pre-school 9.00am-12.00 morning session Langford Methodist Chapel Room
- 07935 784567 - www.owletspreschool.co.uk

Ivy Leaf Club Lunch Club - Warm Space for over 55's - Hot meal, tea and coffee -
voluntary donation - 1.00-3.00pm

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

Tennis Coaching Groups 4.30pm-8.00pm

Langford Parish Council Meeting First Thursday of Month - See What's on in Spring
on page 3 for details

Friday

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

Twins and Multiples Playgroup for Families with twins or multiples -
Langford Village Hall 10.30am - 11.30am Contact 07745 018579

Tea, Coffee and Cake every Friday 10.30am - 12 noon at Church Hall.
Everyone welcome. Contact Sheila 01462 701750

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

Bowls Club 2.00pm - 4.00pm - Iris Roberts 01462 700748 -
Melanie Andrews 628912 - James Rix 01462 701663

WI Second Friday of Month. See What's On in Spring on page 3 for details

Saturday

Crickets, Bowls, Tennis Summer

Tennis Coaching Groups 9.00am - 1.00pm

Adult Tennis Social 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Useful Information and Relevant Contacts see langfordtennisclub.org.uk

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR

Langford Village Hall

Saturday

11th March, 2023

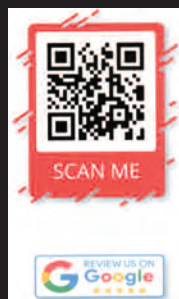
10.00am-4.00pm

Stall Enquiries

Contact Sue on 07920 569297

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The River Ivel

People walk alongside it, folk paddle in it, men and boys fish in it, and some even sail down it on homemade rafts in July. But what do we know about our River Ivel?

The river begins its life as a spring on the north side of Baldock close to the railway and the A1M. As the Ivel works its way northwards to Langford it is joined by other rivers which flow out of the Chiltern escarpment. The Hit brings water from Oughton and the Purwell and the Flit join the Ivel together with water from the Cat Ditch which winds through Bygrave, Hinxworth, Stotfold and Astwick. Eventually the Ivel joins the Great Ouse at Tempsford. After this the river reaches the North Sea via Ely, The Bedford Level, The Denver Sluice, King's Lynn and The Wash.

As the River Ivel passes Henlow Grange its course is very windy and in the past it was quite marshy too. Here it forms the parish boundary between Henlow and Langford. When the

river reaches the Henlow Road, there is a road bridge over the river near the Garden Centre. Water End was the name given to the part of Langford between this bridge and Chapel Hill due to the regular flooding that took place. The last serious flood was in 1947. Before the first Henlow Road bridge was built in the Middle Ages there was a ford at this point so travellers could pass from Henlow to Topleys Hill via Cambridge and Edworth Road. This was a minor Roman road and parts of it may have been paved for the benefit of Roman travellers.

As soon as the river passes under the Henlow road bridge the boundary follows a ditch known today as Dam's Ditch. This leaves the river which then runs quite a straight and pretty wide course from the Henlow road to the Mill at the bottom of Mill Lane and then on to Holme Mill. It is probable that Dam's ditch was called Adam's Ditch in medieval times. Perhaps this ditch was originally the course of the River Ivel. What we see now behind Riverside Gardens and northwards to the Mill is a much improved waterway enhanced as part of a failed plan in 1847 to construct a canal from Biggleswade to Hitchin. The straightness, width and high west bank of the river indicate the intervention of man. The new channel also improved the flow and increased the head of water for Langford Mill to operate more efficiently.

In 1823 a meeting was held in Hitchin where it was recommended that a route from Langford to Hitchin should be constructed. It was also decided that the company should extend the Shefford line west to meet the Grand Junction Canal. This would create a profitable link from the main inland waterways system to Bedford, Ely, Cambridge and King's Lynn on the River Great Ouse network.

The current footbridge over the river at the bottom of Chapel Hill is a modern construction and before this the crossing at this point was a ford suitable only for cattle and sheep to access the common.

The power of water was employed at Langford Mill to grind corn and to power machinery to convert old rags into paper. Water levels were managed by weirs and sluices to provide enough head of water to drive the machinery. The river then continues onto Holme Mills where the process is repeated once again to provide energy at Jordan's Mill.

Plans for a canal for the River Ivel were first announced in 1756. Locks on the River Ivel were built in 1758 at Tempsford, Blunham, South Mills and Sandy. Although tolls were initially lower than expected and the operators were in debt, trade increased rapidly and the creditors were all paid off by 1780. In the early nineteenth century the canal was extended to Shefford, with locks at Biggleswade, Holme, Stanford, Clifton and Shefford, and it was opened in 1823. The canal was abandoned in 1876.

The canal that was built from Shefford to Langford is known as the Ivel Navigation or New Cut. It passes through Stanford lock and joins the River Ivel behind Mill Meadow. The extension to the River Ivel Navigation was built by labourers or navvies from Bristol, who were paid 3.5d (not p) per cubic yard of earth removed.

The navigation proved profitable, and also had several unexpected side-effects; it helped control flooding, and great numbers of eels were captured in traps at the canal staunches. These eels graced many local tables and became extremely popular as a regional dish.

Then came the railways – in 1850 the Great Northern, and in 1857 the Midland Railway were built through the region – and the navigation gradually fell into disuse. By 1870 trade on the canal ceased with the last barge in 1876.

Information sourced from The People at the Long Ford by Michael Rutt and <http://www.canalroutes.net/ivel-River.html>

John Shipman

St. Andrew's Church

If you were taking part in a quiz, what subject would you be hoping to come up? I have taken part in quizzes where a round appears on either the bible, or religion. If it does, a cold shiver runs down my back as I think, 'I had better not get these wrong!' If you watch Michael MacIntyre's 'The Wheel' you may recall Revd Richard Coles contributing to a contestant being eliminated when his advice on 'what was not one of the ten plagues sent upon Egypt?' was incorrect. One thing to get an answer wrong but costing a contestant a prize on national television is a bit different I guess.



I would probably hope for a round on sport if I was taking part. Maybe that's why one of my favourite TV programmes is, 'A Question of Sport'. You may remember that there used to be a round called 'What happened next?' The contestants watched a short film clip of a sporting moment and then, when the clip stopped, they had to fill in the missing action. Did the goalkeeper throw the ball into their own net? Did the rugby player have his shorts torn off? Did one of the team fail to jump into the bobsleigh in time and go skidding ridiculously down the track?

We all like to know the answer to a question, and with some certainty if possible.

The week before Easter, which begins with Palm Sunday is full of assumed certainty as to what happens next. When Jesus rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday the crowds are certain that he has come to lead the overthrow of the Roman authorities and set them free. In fact he is facing crucifixion by the end of the week, and certain death. And that should have been the end. One thing we can be certain of is that dead people don't rise. Yet that is what happened. Jesus rose from the dead to give us certainty. Certainty that death does not have the last word.

May that truth set us free this Easter to live our lives, not in fear and uncertainty, but in the certainty that God is with us as we journey on.

Regular Sunday Services

1st Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion

2nd Sunday 9.30 Morning Worship

3rd Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion

4th Sunday 9.30 Morning Worship

5th Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion at either St Andrews or St Marys, Henlow
(see <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7794> for details)

St. Andrew's Church News

Our Christmas Tree Festival saw more than 400 people come to view the decorated trees. It culminated with a Carol Service attended by 140 adults and children who all enjoyed singing Christmas Carols accompanied by The Bedford Brass Band.

The well attended Christingle Service on Christmas Eve was a lovely start to the Christmas celebrations while also raising money for The Children's Society.

The Need Project

We have a collection point in our Church if you would like to drop off any food and toiletries items. They will then be taken to Need in Stotfold. The Church is OPEN from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday and Wednesday.

Lastly please come and visit us in St Andrew's Church Hall on a Friday 10.30am till 12 noon. Tea, Coffee and homemade Cake. Always a friendly face to talk to and delicious cakes.

Sheila Vidler



Langford Methodist Church

NEWS FROM LANGFORD METHODIST CHURCH



The Chapel started 2023 with its usual hive of activity and enthusiasm in planning and preparing for the year ahead with special events and services. On the 8 January the Chapel held its annual Covenant Service, followed by a lunch. It was lovely that our own Minister, Rev Lorna Valentine was able to take the service and join us for the meal afterwards. A good number attended the event and enjoyed the healthy jacket potatoes, cheese, meats and salads, followed by lovely desserts. Thank you to all those involved in preparing and serving the food and in the tidying and washing up afterwards. We have a great team and all are happy to rally round and help where they can, which is wonderful. We have lots of enjoyable events.



In today's fast-paced society how good it is to take time out to share and care together. Attending a lovely service, sharing a meal and talking to each other reminds us of the importance of sharing meals together in the bible. There are many bible passages referring to Jesus and the disciples sharing meals together and it is a reminder to us all of how important it is to have quality time at meal times, and other times. To listen, to talk, to share and to care. It can make that difference for each and every one of us. And, how lovely it is when you read through the Langford Diary to see how many organisations and groups we have in the village that are so proactive and make time for others and provide caring services. So, as we work through the year ahead and plan special events and services we hope that we too can provide some special time for you and you may like to join us at a service or coffee morning.

For further details on any of the events listed below please contact Jenny on 01462 701127.

Service Times

Services are held on Sunday mornings at 10.30 am.

Special Services at Langford Chapel

Thursday 6 March 2023 (Maundy Thursday) - 7.30pm - Communion Service - led by our Minister Rev Lorna Valentine.

Sunday 12 March 2023 - 10.30am - Chapel Anniversary Service. This Service will be followed by a special lunch (which is optional). Tickets for the lunch will be £6 each.

Sunday 19 March 2023 - 10.30 am - Mothering Sunday - Flowers will be given out during the Service.

Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings are held every Wednesday from 10.30 am at the Chapel. All are welcome.

On the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesdays there is also a short devotional time after the coffee morning, which is optional - some stay just for the coffee and chat, others stay for the longer period and join the devotional time too.

Wednesday 26 April - the Coffee Morning will include the Annual Gift Day.

Wednesday 17 May - the Coffee Morning will be in aid of Christian Aid Week.

Afternoon Prayer Group

A new afternoon prayer group will be starting on Monday 6th February at 2.00 pm and will then be held on the first Monday of the month, each month. It will be held at Beurran's. All welcome to attend. (If anyone would like to join this group and is not a regular member of the Chapel please contact Jenny on 701127 for further details.)

On a sad note, we were so sorry to hear of the death of one of our congregation, Neil Lomax. Neil had joined the Chapel fairly recently with his wife Maureen and they had become very involved and attended many chapel events. Neil was very charismatic and charming and they were a very caring couple. We know he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts go to Maureen, Jo and all the family at this difficult time.

1st Langford Scout Group

The autumn term was a busy one for all our sections as we now have over 80 young people in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We are considering opening a new section – Squirrels – aged 4–6 who are the newest members of the Scout family. If you are interested in becoming a Squirrels helper or leader, please contact me. We will not be taking membership enquiries directly for the new section until it is up and running but those in this age group already on our waiting list will have priority when spaces become available. Our waiting list is for all sections

– Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – and we recommend getting your child onto the list as early as possible. Email me for details.

The young people of the Scout Group did themselves proud with their attendance at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. We are lucky in this village to have such a great population of young people.

The Cubs went on a camp (indoors) at the start of December which was loads of fun, and the first time away for many of them. We have lots of overnight adventures booked for 2023 with a Beavers Sleepover at Shepreth Wildlife Park, a Scout hike and camp, and Group Camp – where we take all our young people away together for a weekend camp under canvas.

The Cubs had a fun visit to the Christmas House on Church Street, followed by chip shop chips and we also spent some time on essential skills such as how to iron and make tea and toast! The Beavers looked at some traditions from around the world for Hallowe'en – making Day of the Dead crafts. The Scouts have been racing remote control cars.

We also celebrated the achievements of Scout Daniel who received his Chief Scout's Gold Award in December and Cubs Sebastian, Arian and Owen who all received their Chief Scout's Silver Award in January – the highest award available in the Scout and Cub sections.

The Leaders and Exec of 1st Langford were stunned and saddened by the loss of our Honorary Presidents – Colin and Mavis Reavell within a few short months of each other last year. They were the foundation of the Group as it is today and their sons, Andy and Simon continue to play a huge part as Scout Leaders. They will be greatly missed by us all in the Group.

Many thanks to those who have responded to my increasingly desperate pleas for more adult help – we are now in a much more comfortable position. More help is always welcome, whether that is occasional or regular. We also welcome young people age 14+ to volunteer with us through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. We are currently at capacity for young leaders but welcome enquiries.





Beavers are age 6-8 and meet on Tuesdays 6-7, Cubs are 8-10.5 and meet Wednesdays 6.30-8 and Scouts are 10-14 and meet Monday 7.30-9. All are term time only and all are open to boys and girls. Beavers is currently full, Cubs is more than full and Scouts is pretty stuffed too but we are taking applications to the Waiting List for all sections - contact me for more information.

Jo Smith, Group Scout Leader -
GSL@langfordscouts.org.uk

We found this photo a few years ago while cleaning up. It's not the best quality (the mice had done their worst!). We have done our best naming everyone, but there are a few we're not sure of. If you know the missing names please let us know.



The adults are Mavis Reavell, Andrew Reavell, Ian Andrews, Keith Hichisson, Bev Emery. From top left: Lee Tapper, don't know, James Wishaw, Ben Wishaw, Stephen Emery, don't know Nick Henley, Oliver Jeeves, Richard Pettiford, Alex Gallagher, Lee Rimmer Nick Brown, Andrew Hutchinson, David Hodson, Daniel Pirie, don't know, Greg Young Luke Walker, Mark Bradford, Kevin Rimmer, Olly Wells, Don't know, Ashley Turner? Mark Smith Don't know, Don't know Andrew Hallyebone, Don't know, Andrew Griffith, Andrew Cooper

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

1st Langford Rainbows:

This term we have already enjoyed a trip to the pantomime at Stevenage to see Cinderella with the Brownies and are looking forward to attending our Thinking Day event in February with the District. We are working on our Influence Skill Builder in the unit and learning about what choices we make and how it affects other people and ourselves. We have also made underwater fireworks, told lots of jokes and made edible jewellery. We will be attending a Circus themed event in the Summer with Rainbows across the County. We still have a very big waiting list of girls so we are in the process of opening another Rainbow unit in the village – volunteers to help would be most welcome! Lots of roles are available, including leaders, unit helpers and young leaders so please get in touch with Danielle for more information (07866 395739) or register your interest on the Girlguiding website – www.girlguiding.org.uk.



1st Langford Brownies:

We are currently working on our First Aid Skill Builder and have learnt how to call 999 for help. Later this term, we will learn how to do the recovery position and how to look after those who are injured. We have celebrated Chinese New Year by delivering good wishes locally and learnt how to do hand massages. We are hoping to go camping this summer and start planning for our next International trip in 2024. Our unit is growing and we are now up to 25 girls! We will be holding our usual Easter Egg Hunt for children in the Churchyard on Easter Sunday – keep an eye out for more details on Facebook and locally.

If you would like to register your daughter for any of our units, please do so via the Girlguiding website. Rainbows are aged 4-7, Brownies are 7-10 and Guides are 10-14. Girls can go on the waiting list from when they are born! The younger they are, the more likely a place will be available when they come of age. We also have a local Ranger unit in Biggleswade for girls aged 14-18.

Danielle Ellis



We had a very successful and enjoyable winter programme at The Club, including presentations on roses and how to turn a neglected garden into one that was accepted into the National Garden Scheme. We also got out and about, visiting Benington Lordship Gardens near Stevenage for a marvellous display of snowdrops.

A highlight of the festive period was a fun quiz night which was a sell-out. Both Club members and many guests told us they had a great time and look forward to next year's quiz! The Club also dressed a tree as part of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's Church.

However, after a long winter, a vast majority of us are ready to welcome spring with open arms. It's not only a time for growth and change in the garden, but also for us. Why not come along to a Gardening Club meeting and learn about something new and meet new people. It might ignite a passion or interest you'd never even considered.

In March, a guest speaker from Warden Abbey, will be telling us the fascinating story of how a vineyard came to be planted on this beautiful Bedfordshire site in medieval times and about its current incarnation as a community project and social enterprise producing award-winning wines.

In April, Gwenda Kyd, a scientist, complementary medicine practitioner and author will be giving a talk “Plants To Drugs”. This looks at how modern-day drugs have been developed from plants. It looks at the success stories and also the problems encountered along the way. We will see where the potential benefits of plants have yet to be fully realised and consider the future use of plants as a source of medicines.



In May, Colin Ward from Swines Meadow Farm Nursery in Peterborough will be presenting a talk about how and why they transformed from an arable and stock farm to a nursery propagating rare and unusual plants. They can be found at plants fairs and have won awards at shows including the Harrogate and Sandringham flower shows.



The Club usually meets at St Andrew's Church Hall in Langford on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. We'll be announcing full details of our programme plus plans for summer outings on social media and on the noticeboard near Pound Close in Langford.

For more details on our programme:

Website: www.langford-gardening-club.co.uk/

Email: langford.gardening.club@gmail.com

Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.co.uk/g/6sfdcv4qc/?is=nav_bar

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/541571895998607/events

Langford Fete this Year? It's Up to You!

Would you like to see a Fete held on the Playing Field this Summer? On Saturday, July 1st., perhaps? And how much would you like to see it?

The reason I'm asking is, at the time of writing, it looks as though there may not be one. Fetes don't organise themselves. A Fete involves bringing together a number of organisations and individuals on one day. It needs someone to be responsible, to be aware of what's needed, and to co-ordinate everything beforehand. A lot of communication and planning work is required. That work normally starts in February.

I'm not pretending the job is easy; if it was, then anyone could do it, and we would have no problem finding someone. My wife, Christine, and I did it for a number of years, from 2007 to 2017; but others had done it before us, from 1998. We decided after 10 years that we had done it for long enough; and Taya Cleghorn very kindly took it over, bringing new ideas and methods with her.

On the plus side, we're not starting from scratch. We have an extensive list of contacts, and we've built up a fair amount of knowledge and experience over the years, as to what works and what doesn't, what is safe and what isn't, what makes money and what doesn't. Anyone prepared to take on this task would receive maximum support. A number of us are committed to helping on the day itself. And we really want to see it happen.

Knowledge is important, of course. But we still need somebody to do the actual work.

Could it be you? Or perhaps, you? Somewhere out there is someone who has some skill in administration, planning, and communicating with people, including the use of social media. Whether you've learned these things, or you just have a flair for them – could you spare the time to take on this role?

I know. It's a big ask. People who can do such things tend to be busy. But, as Benjamin Franklin once said, "if you want something done, ask a busy person." So, I'm asking.

By the time you see this article, it will be time to start. Is it you?

Please let me know if you can help – Colin Carroll – 01462 700421

Voter ID - Which Forms can I use to Vote?

Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station.

This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday, 4th May 2023.

Which forms of ID can I use to Vote?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

Passport • Driving licence (including provisional license) • Blue badge

Certain concessionary travel cards

Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)

Biometric Immigration Document

Defence Identity Card • Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Voter ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply for this at **voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk**. Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to the electoral services team at Central Bedfordshire.

Link to Voter ID at CBC

To find out more or if you have any questions or would like to find out more, go to **electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID**, or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

A Letter from our Parish Council Chairman

This will be the last submission I will make to Langford Diary, as another term of office as Councillor is near to its 4-year end.

It has been a very busy 4 years, with lots of successes and some failures. I am particularly pleased that we erected a flagpole in the Churchyard so could honour the death of our Queen Elizabeth. It was a very sad time, and the village came together with a Church service and signing of a Book of Condolence.

Christmas was celebrated with a lovely Spruce donated by Ward Councillor Steve Dixon, and lights erected around the Horse Chestnut Trees in the park, which are sadly close to the end of their life span. However, replacement trees will be planted, in memory of the men from Langford who died in WW2.

Langford has a new Cemetery, new play equipment in the park, a fantastic film, Langford Tales written and produced by Theo Goble. A Neighbourhood Plan, produced by volunteers, and accepted by Government, which is a legal document, considered by Central Bedfordshire Planning Authority. There are many voluntary groups who support Langford – Langford Friends, Speed watch, The Welfare Trust, just to name a few. Thanks to all who attend the bi yearly Litter Pick, it makes a great difference to the village. There are flower planters at each end of the village, voluntarily kept in good order by one of our Councillors.

The Pound has been upgraded, new noticeboard, bins, seats painted, and the grassed area regularly mown. Flowers tubs sited under the Pound noticeboard are kept alive by another volunteer, and thanks to him. We also have a first class village hall for community use by all age groups.

We won two appeals against development on land off Langford Road and to the west of the cemetery but sadly not the development at Tithe Farm Close. Now we have applications at the rear of Cambridge Road. However, succinct and rationalised we are in our objections, the developers and CBC seem to take no notice of our concerns and continue with their plans.

There are to be changes in the Ward – no longer, Langford, Stotfold and Fairfield, but Langford, Henlow, Clifton and Stondon. A very large ward with three Ward Councillors, who will be determined at the next election in May.

I became involved with Langford Parish Council 10 years ago, when my husband Jon, who was Ward Councillor, suddenly died. I have enjoyed being a Councillor, but am now standing down. It is not always easy, and sometimes you need to be very thick skinned, but it is a great way to look after our village. I would urge anyone with an interest to stand for the local elections. It is very satisfying and frankly a wonderful way to meet people. Please support your Parish Council, they are much needed, and thank you to all have supported me over the past 10 years.

Gill Clarke – Chairman

Langford Parish Council

Please see our Parish Council Chairman Letter on page 21

Chairman

Gill Clarke

11 Mill Meadow SG18 9UR
gillclarke@langford-pc.gov.uk

01462 700286

Vice Chairman

John Shipman

3 Old Mill Close SG18 9QY
johnshipman@langford-pc.gov.uk

01462 700650

Parish Councillors

Richard Arnott

01462 700466

20 Cambridge Close, Langford SG18 9SH
richardarnott@langford-pc.gov.uk

Joan Rutt

18 Windsor Way, SG18 9PB
joanrutt@langford-pc.gov.uk

01462 700451

Mick Beazley

01767 223849

20 Tithe Farm Close, Langford SG18 9NE
mickbeazley@langford-pc.gov.uk

Debbie Wilson

1 King George Close, Langford SG18 9QD
debbiewilson@langford-pc.gov.uk

01462 238287

Barb Hammond

01462 701070

2 Manor Close, Langford SG18 9PU
barbhammond@langford-pc.gov.uk

Jane Wright

1 Running Water Cottages, Langford Road
SG18 9RA
janewright@langford-pc.gov.uk

01767 601789

Henry Hewitt

07747 532002

7 Ewbank Corner, Langford SG18 9FS
henryhewitt45@gmail

David Williams

34 Cambridge Road, Langford SG18 9PS
davewilliams@langford-pc.gov.uk

01462 700474

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION - 4TH MAY

Clerk of the Council

clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk ***07482 276173***

Clerk Office hours

Tuesday-Thursday 9am-5pm

There is an answerphone to leave a message if you call outside these times.

Stotfold, Langford, Fairfield & Astwick Ward Councillors

Steven Dixon - Stotfold, Langford, Fairfield & Astwick Ward

07973 127077 - steven.dixon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Brian Saunders - 107 Hitchin Road, Stotfold SG5 4JE

0300 300 8560 - brian.saunders@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Nicola Harris - nicola.harris@centralbedfordshire.co.uk - 0300 300 8553

Please note the 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

Thursday, 2nd March, 2023 - 7.30pm

Thursday, 6th April, 2023 - 7.30pm

Thursday, 11th May, 2023 - 7.30pm

Langford Village Hall

**Please visit Langford PC website for meeting dates
and venues at**

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

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 on 07482 276173**
or clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk

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

Useful Telephone Numbers & Websites

Bedfordshire Police 01234 841212
Police Non emergency 101

Emergency Services
Gas 0800 111 999
Electricity 0800 072 7282
Power Cuts 105
or text 80876 POWER & postcode
priority services for people in need
www.ofgem.gov.uk
Water 0800 169 3630
National Floodline 0345 988 11 88
(24 hour service)

Langford Surgery 01767 316346
Ivel Medical Centre 01767 312441
Langford Pharmacy 01462 701518
Langford Village Academy 01462 629000
Central Beds Council 0300 300 8301

Shirley Morley
Church Hall Bookings 01462 701150

Out of Hours Contact Numbers
Social Services 0300 300 8123
Housing Repairs and Noise 0300 300 8098
Highways 0300 300 8049
Dangerous Structures 0300 300 8098
Social Services 0300 300 8123

NHS 111
Langford Friends 0788 4046741
Citizen Advice Bureau 0808 223 1133
Samaritans 116 123
0330 0945717
Childline 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

Silverline 0800 470 8090
MIND 0300 330 0648
BBC Action Line

www.bbc.co.uk/actionline

Domestic Violence 0808 2000 247
Food Bank at Biggleswade Baptist Church
www.bbchurch.org.uk 01767 312667
Langford Welfare trust 01462 700650
Papyrus Hopeline Uk 0800 068 4141



December 2022 we participated in the Christmas Tree Festival organised by St. Andrew's Church, and I would like to thank Diane Pearce who made the very creative decorations for our tree. We also held a thank you evening in December for our volunteers at the Ivy Leaf Club, and I must thank our secretary Heidi Pegrum and Trudy Emery for organising a buffet and thank our



treasurer John Shipman for handling a free raffle for the attendees. It turned out to be a very nice social event.

I also want to use this article to say a big THANK YOU to our founder member Val Henley who is stepping down from our committee after 22 years' invaluable service. I hasten to add that Val will be staying on as a volunteer. Val, you're a great person to work with, and Langford Friends truly appreciates the time an effort you have put in!

I am pleased to report that we started 2023 with two new volunteers on board helping us to continue to serve the needs of an increasing number of Langford residents enabling them to maintain independent lives. Most requests from the residents are for transport to medical appointments but we are always delighted to arrange transport to social events, well-being appointments, hairdressers and to collect prescriptions etc.

Should you require our service in 2023 call 07884 046741, and our telephone volunteer will be pleased to assist you. If this is your first call, we will need to take down a few personal details



and complete a risk assessment form with you.

If you're reading this article and enjoy driving, like working with people, want to help your local community and could spare just a few hours each month you will be very welcome to join us as a volunteer. For further information please call the number above or

email **secretary.langfriends@outlook.com**

Please do get in touch, we will be delighted to hear from you.

Richard Wood, Chairman.



OWLETS

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Thurs
9am to 12pm

Every day
8.30am to 9am

We provide care and education for young children aged between 2 and 5 years of age

Government funding begins from the term after their 3rd birthday (and in some cases after their 2nd birthday)

We accept the 15 hours and 30 hours funding (subject to entitlement), this can be used for the regular sessions and for the breakfast club.

You can split your 30 hours funding between Owlets and another childcare settings (subject to their rules).

We work closely with Langford Academy to enable smooth transitioning to lower school.



Registration
open now for
2023



07935 784567 www.owletspreschool.co.uk Langford Owlets pre-school

Langford Women's Institute

I don't believe it!" – as Victor Meldrew (remember him?) would say. It doesn't seem long since I was sitting here composing my piece for the winter Diary and here we are again. However, it isn't surprising when you consider all that has taken place so, as it is only the middle of January, I will say Happy New Year to you all and get on with it. In Sept we had



our Harvest Supper, a very leisurely evening which we all enjoyed. There was a sales table, some quizzes, good food, lots of chatter – very nice! In October we were entertained by Amanda Sutherland who told us of her career in costume design – Fascinating. We learned a great deal regarding all the different aspects of design and various members bought small items she had made as Christmas gifts.

Our speaker for November cancelled at the last minute so we had to think of alternatives and thanks to Irene Gibson several games of 'play your cards right' were enjoyed – remember that?

We also enjoyed a session of sharing favourite poems, some of which were written and recited by the entrants. Jean Rook was the worthy winner with

*It's the second Friday of the month
our WI meeting at the Hall
Iris, President, notes all ready to declare
what is on and where to go,
Jean our 'sec' making notes and reading the minutes
Christine, Treasurer, is after your money
I've forgotten my purse, which isn't funny!*

*Committee members, greet us, all so busy
doing their jobs and smiling too
All efficient and telling us what to do*

*It's good to be with friends again
Chatter, laughter and Speaker too
Hope he's interesting and speaking LOUD
for some of us 'deafies' in the crowd*

*Then refreshments all so tasty
calories forgotten and our 'waisties'
Quizzes, competitions, test our brains
'Oh no, has that ***** woman won again!'
Meeting over, say goodbyes, 'til the next time
and hope the weather will be fine.
Jean Rook*

the most votes for her poem below.

Not to be forgotten, together with many other groups from the village, our President laid a wreath at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. She also attended the memorial at 11 am on the 11th for the two-minute silence.

We enjoyed a very happy Christmas meeting. Members brought in various plates of food which all added to a mixed feast with a glass or two. We were entertained by Sarah Harrison who had us laughing so much I think most went home with indigestion – you



just couldn't make it up!!! A good evening. The following week we were due to go out for a Christmas meal but disappointingly the snow came so it had to be cancelled.

The WI entry into St Andrew's Church Tree Festival decorated by Chrissie, Brenda, Pat & Janice. Rightly the young people won the cup again, but we are reliably informed that our tree was very popular!





Recently we enjoyed Hannah Davidson demonstrating how she makes surgical gowns and pyjamas for new-borns and upward. This talented and caring lady does this all as a volunteer for the Pyjama Fairies Charity and the finished garments are beautiful. Thank you, Hannah, for a very interesting and informative evening. A very worthy one too!

And an evening of Kurling in the hall is coming up. Looking forward to that, something very different. Plus now we need to look ahead and think of ideas to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. We have gained several new members this year so if you are interested please contact our president – Iris on 01767 223849

Olive Ravenall



Antiques & Collectables Fair

Saturday, 11th March - 10.00 - 4.00pm

My name is Sue and two of my loves in life are Wildlife and Old things (I love the workmanship in Antiques and Collectable Items).

The first of my loves was satisfied by moving to the village almost four years ago. It's a wonderful place to live and I love it here. People are very friendly and I have seen so many birds and animals that I had previously never seen before. It's amazing!

I satisfy my other love by selling Antiques and Collectables online and have done this for about six years now. However, I have always enjoyed meeting and chatting to people and after lockdown felt the need to get out there and sell my items at Fairs too.

With this in mind, I decided to organise my first Antiques Fair and where better to hold it than at our Village Hall. I chose the date and booked it immediately. I wanted it to be a Community Event where local causes would benefit from any profits.

I approached the Langford W.I. who agreed to provide the refreshments on the day as well as manning the entrance desk and keeping the proceeds for their good causes.

I would also like to help other local causes if funds allow. You can help me by either **booking a stall (prices from £20)**, spreading the word or coming on the day.

For **stall enquiries** please contact **Sue on 07920 569297**. Thank you.



2022 sees the Club Celebrating its Own Platinum Jubilee.

Looking out of the window as the rain pours down, the drought of summer 2022 is but a distant memory.

The club ended 2022 with the celebration of its 70th Anniversary and our competition awards presentation, which were held in December at the White Horse Southill. The awards were presented by our Club President Iris Roberts.

Photos of the worthy winners are attached, unfortunately neither Karen or Geoff Bysouth were able to attend the presentation.

Over the winter period our green keeping team are keeping busy carrying out maintenance of our buildings and the numerous tasks required to maintain our green to the high standard we have become accustomed to.

Though very much weather dependant, it is hoped to open the green for play in the third week of April, the confirmed date will be listed on our website.

We will be repeating the “Let’s Play Bowls Promotion” open day in May, the confirmed date will be on our website, with all the new housing in the village it is hoped that we will see some new faces who might fancy trying their hand.

The mixed friendly matches against other local village clubs will again be played on Wednesdays and Saturdays with the occasional Sunday.

We have entered two teams in Division 4 of the East Beds Triples League, let’s hope we have better luck than last year.

As usual, the internal club competitions will commence in May /June and will continue over the course of the Summer.

Short mat bowls commenced in November and is played on a Wednesday at 2pm, this will continue until the outdoor seasons starts.

Best wishes for a successful and healthy 2023.

James Rix – Chairperson

For further information please go to our web site
<https://www.hugofox.com/community/langford-bowls-club-8165/home>.

We have also just created a Face Book Group
so please request to join; you will be more than welcome.

Alternatively, please contact the following: -
Mrs Melanie Andrews 01462 628912 (Club Secretary)
Mrs Iris Roberts 01462 700748 (Club President)
Mr James Rix 01462701663 (Club Chairman)

Club President Iris Roberts with Langford Internal Club Competition Winners 2022



Langford Partner Pairs 2022
Melvyn Wagstaff & Keeley Appleby



Langford Drawn Pairs 2022
Geoff Bysouth & Robert Leonard



Don King Triples 2022
Karen Bysouth, Derek Harding,
Jim Rix



Men's Single Two Woods 2022
Peter Holmes



Men's Single Four Woods 2022
David Laight

Time to Get Walking Again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Bedfordshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/beds> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bedfordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Langford History Society

We meet in the Church Hall on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 8pm and free tea and coffee is served and we usually have a raffle. We do not meet in January or August. Visitors are welcome and pay £4. Annual membership, February to December, is currently £5.

Our new website has been updated and it is the place to go for more information on Langford's history.

We had our AGM on 1 February, which was followed by a talk on 1 March by Liz Davies from St Neots Museum on 100 years of everyday life there from a printer's scrapbook.

A talk on Luton's Country Houses by Ian Waller will follow on 5 April and Bedford guide and historian David Fowler will tell us about Bedfordshire's heroes on 3 May.

We have a visit to Tempsford Museum on 7 June and a visit on 5 July to Woburn Heritage Centre will include a walking tour of the village.

Popular speaker Roy Smart returns on 6 September with the fascinating story of a woman born in Rutland who ran wild in Kenya and then became the first woman to fly the Atlantic east to west.

The stories and people behind the fonts we see and use every day will be Ted Martin's talk on 4 October and Stuart Fairclough will round off the talks season by telling us about the Metropolitan Police on 1 November. In December we will have our usual social evening.

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. 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 *Langford: A Village Walk* (now included in *Langford through the Lens* Volume 1) 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. This year's Winter issue (No 9.11) has articles on Trade Tokens; the pastoral problems of John Bolton, the Vicar of Sharnbrook; Bedford crane manufacturer Alexander Grafton, 1845–1907; and dark deeds at the Catherine Wheel, Biggleswade, possibly body-snatchers! No 9.10 is special issue devoted to the history of the Greensand Ridge.

Should you want to learn more about Langford's history, our books are available from Rowena Wolfe (or as below) by phone or email: 01767 312556 or **rowena.wolfe@btinternet.com**

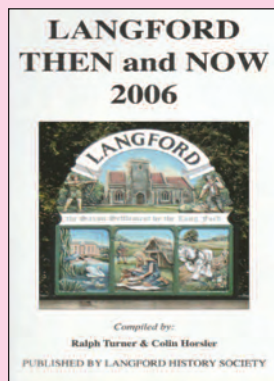
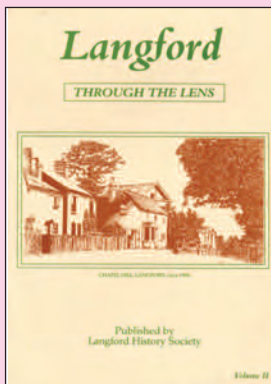
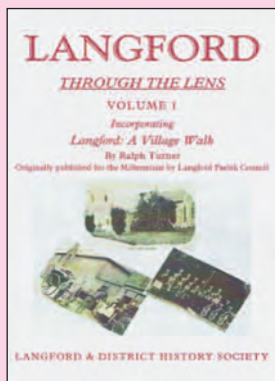
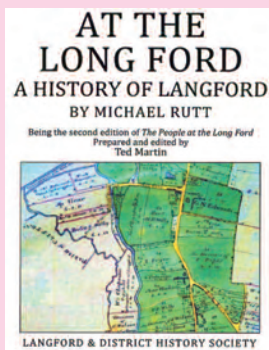
You can collect the books in the village. Most contain lots of photos preserving the knowledge of the families, homes and businesses of old Langford. They are:

At the Long Ford: A History of Langford, by Michael Rutt: 172 pages describing Langford's history from Saxon times to the present day. Copies are available from Ted Martin at 2a The Leys (01462 701096) at £7 or by post at £10 from John Shipman (01462 700650) or Rowena Wolfe (01767 312556).

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 incorporating Langford: A Village Walk - This book in 138 pages (published July 2021) delves into Langford's past with photographs of personalities and events explained in extensive captions. The reprint has the advantage of incorporating 8 amendments and discoveries made since original publication by means of an errata list in the title pages and now has Ralph Turner's Village Walk of 2000 added. Price £7.

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.



A Matter of Urgency

The History Society must find as a ***matter of urgency*** safe storage for its archives and stock of books and would be grateful to hear from anyone who could offer safe and dry storage either on a private or commercial basis. If you are able to help please contact the Secretary on 01462 701096.

John R Ford

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- ✓ 1 years road side assistance
- ✓ Part Exchange available
- ✓ Take a look at the range of
vehicles on our website



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50 Kneesworth Street,
Royston SG8 5AH
01763 250100
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**LANGFORD
WELFARE TRUST**
est1899



If you are having difficulty with paying for something that is important to you and your family why not see if a payment can help you out?

The Trust can provide funds for furniture, school uniforms, books, travel costs, tools, equipment, training costs, or any welfare related item.

If you have a group that needs funding or support to manage the COVID-19 situation and to get going once again or to get started, the Trust may be able to help.

The trust is supported by Langford Parish Council and has also received funds from The National Lottery Community Fund in 2020.

Contact - **The Langford Welfare Trust,**

c/o 3 Old Mill Close, Langford, Biggleswade, Beds., SG18 9QY

Tel 01462 700650. email j.m.shipman@ntlworld.com



HM Government



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Mobile: 07818 005773 | email: judi@judisamuelsgardendesign.co.uk

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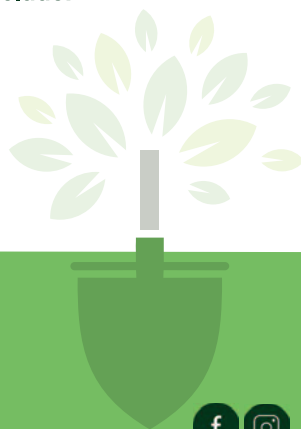
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The BiG Tidy up



Join in at www.thebigtidyup.org

Tidy up Langford event details:
Saturday 25th March 2023
9:30am-12:00noon

Meet at: St Andrew's Church Hall
Meet time: 9:30-9:45am

There will be refreshments afterwards

** Litter picking tools provided but please bring gloves
All help appreciated to litter pick through Langford

More info from: Parish Clerk
Email: clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk
Mob. 07482 276173



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Langford Village Academy

Years 3 & 4 Wow day – Vikings

Our Year three and four children enjoyed a super ‘Wow’ day this week, learning about all things Viking for their new topic. Many children came to school dressed to impress in their Viking attire before learning how the Vikings travelled far and wide on their long-ships.



The children created their own long-ships from cereal boxes, coming up with their own ideas for fixing the mast to the hull of the ship, followed by designing their own dragon head and shields to add to the ship. Next, the children tasted an array of foods consumed by the Vikings. Mrs Whitton's homemade wholemeal bread proved very popular and some children even asked for seconds of boiled cabbage!! The day ended with the children learning about Viking runes (the Viking alphabet) before translating their own names into runes. A fantastic start to our new topic!

Year 6 residential to Burwell House

We have our first class of Year 6 children this year and they have the opportunity to visit Burwell House for their residential trip. The children will get the chance to take part in activities such as working in a TV studio, Enamelling and developing geographical skills, they will have the chance to develop teamwork, communication skills and perseverance.

Years 5 & 6 at the O2 for Young Voices

In January Children from Years 5 & 6 will have the chance to visit the O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert with many other schools across England. We are all very excited to have the opportunity to be part of an amazing choir.

Our School Council are arranging Langford's Got Talent to give our talented students the chance to show each other and an audience their amazing skills!

Debbie Randall – Principal

A Plea to Trim your Hedge!

Footpaths need to be clear but, unfortunately, some hedges are so overgrown it makes walking on some of the footpaths a dangerous activity. Sometimes we need to step into the road! Please look at your hedge and think about how you would feel if a child had an accident with a car because you hadn't trimmed your hedge. It is amazing how far some hedges encroach over the footpaths from the property's boundary. Wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs also need space and are at risk. Hedges such as privet and beech will not be harmed by a severe cutback. They will look very bare and sparse for a while, but they will soon regrow with fresh new leaves during the spring and summer.

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to cut back your hedge!

Trudy Emery

Langford Football Club



Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for the support that has been given to Langford Football Club throughout 2022. It had been a tough start to the season for our First Team. We were working for stability and that takes time but we are getting there. Our First Team finished 2022 with a victory over Letchworth Garden City Eagles and we started 2023 with an away victory over the runaway league leaders Real Bedford and well deserved merit I add. Following these two victories we had a draw against Amersham giving the players a real boost. Watching these games has been a pleasure. We still know we have a long way to go but the results have given the Players and Management confidence in what they are doing and their ability. In addition to the good results of the First Team have won the Respect and Fair Play Team of the month for December, Congratulations. The Ladies Team and Langford Ivel start their season following the Christmas Break, both doing well in their leagues with the Ladies still in a cup competition. The Under 8's Team are still enjoying their football, learning all the time. Let's hope 2023 is a good year.

Paul Vince - Chair - Langford Football Club

Langford Cricket Club



Happy New Year to everyone!

Preparations are gathering momentum at the Cricket Club with the 2023 season looming large. Indoor net training is on a Thursday night at Stratton Upper School. 7-8pm for Youths and 8-9pm for Adults.

As I type this, the Indoor Team are flying high in the Bedfordshire Indoor League Div 3, undefeated so far, having won 5 and drawn 1. Check out how they have been doing on langfordcc.play-cricket.com

In 2023 Langford CC will have two Adult teams, one on a Saturday and one on Sunday. Playing on one of the best cricket pitches in the area! The Sunday XI will be once again in div 4, looking to secure a comfortable promotion this year.

The Club has again entered a Development Saturday team in to the Beds Invitational Saturday league. This development team aims to be a fun and learning experience and the Club hope that the team will be a mix of youngsters, legends, ladies and anyone else interested in playing cricket.

The AllStars Saturday morning cricket sessions will be back in 2023. The 8 week ECB sponsored introduction to cricket course, not only offers places for 5 to 8 year old boys and girls, but comes with all the equipment a young cricketer needs. Registration starts in the Spring via the ECB registration pages.

Older girls and boys are invited and welcome to attend the weekly fun Thursday evening coaching sessions 6pm to 7pm. This is a great introduction to the many youth teams the Club run, from U9's through 11's, 13's and 15's right up to Adult Cricket. These sessions start after Easter. The Club has players representing Bedfordshire at both youth and senior level, up to and including over 70's.

For more details on any of the above, check out the Langford CC Facebook page.

As a Club, we rely on volunteers and the support of players and parents of players. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, a coach or a player, please do contact us via our Facebook page.

Once again, we thank all our Sponsors for their continued support.

www.facebook.com/LangfordCC

Andy Watson, Chair. Langford Cricket Club.



LANGFORD
TENNIS CLUB

Langford Tennis Club

We are excited to announce that our new coaching programme is well and truly underway and receiving great feedback. We have partnered with Active Communities Enterprise (ACE), a not-for-profit organisation who run activities such as coaching, school sports and holiday camps. ACE works closely with uPlay Tennis in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire to make tennis accessible to everyone of any age or ability. Our current programme employs 3 qualified coaches who run coaching sessions on Wednesdays (Sharna McNally), Thursdays (Jovana Jankovic) and Saturdays (Michael Chin) during school term times. There is also the possibility of one-to-one coaching for members. There are currently spaces on some of the sessions, so if you are interested, please get in touch directly with head coach Sharna to discuss your requirements on 07305 687853 or sharna@ace-active.co.uk



Sharna



Michael



Jovana

Our Wednesday morning social sessions remain very popular, often with more than 12 people turning up to play, even in the cold weather! Pictured below are the Wednesday morning regulars at their Christmas lunch kindly hosted by Clare Warren. Beforehand they had enjoyed a friendly competition with pairs being picked at random and playing doubles matches against other pairs. Unfortunately, due to a sudden downpour at the start of the final, the winners were never decided but it's not the winning, it's the taking part!

As a reminder, our social sessions are held on a Wednesday morning from 9.00am, Wednesday evening from 7.30pm and Saturday afternoon from 2.00pm. If you fancy joining in, and becoming a member, please come along and you will receive a very friendly welcome!

For more information about the club and to keep up with the latest news, please visit:

Website www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk

Facebook page - Instagram page ([Langfordtennisclub](#))



Wednesday morning regulars at their Christmas lunch

LANGFORD - WANDERBUS

Info Tel :0300-123-3023

www.wanderbus.org.uk

e-mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com



NEW TIMETABLE VALID FROM 5th March 2023

Days /times /routes may have changed – please check & **new W5**

A regular fixed route bus service open to all passengers – young & old – run by volunteers.
Cash Fares & Travel Passes accepted on all routes.

As from 5 th March 2023		“Stops at all Bus Stops on Request”	
W1 BEDFORD	- 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of Month	OUT	RETURN
o/s Riverside Gardens		09.26	RR
Cambridge Rd, all Stops		09.27	RR
Station Rd, all Stops		09.28	RR
Church St, all Stops		09.29	RR
Bedford - St Pauls Square - Corn Exchange		10.05	12.30
- Interchange Retail Park		10.20	12.15
W4 WELWYN GARDEN CITY		- 1st Thursday of Month	OUT
Church St, all Stops		09.13	RR
Station Rd, all Stops		09.15	RR
opp Riverside Gardens		09.17	RR
Bus Station		09.55	12.15
W5 BIGGLESWADE		- Every Friday	
Riverside Gardens		10.11	
Cambridge Rd – all stops		10.12	
A1 Retail Park / Station & High St, Town Centre		10.25 / 10.30	
Pickups - Church St., bus stop o/s Asda / Retail Park			12.10 / 12.15
W8 ST ALBANS		- 1st Wednesday of Month	OUT
Church St. – all stops		09.13	RR
Station Rd. – all stops		09.15	RR
Opp Riverside Gardens		09.17	RR
St Peters St – o/s Santander Bank Stop 2		10.25	
St Peters St. – opp Santander Bank Stop 13			14.05
W9 ST NEOTS		- 2nd Thursday of Month	OUT
o/s Riverside Gardens		09.33	RR
Cambridge Rd., - all Stops		09.34	RR
Station Rd, all Stops		09.35	RR
Church St., all Stops		09.37	RR
St Neots - Market Place		10.10	12.15
W13 MILTON KEYNES		- 3rd Thursday of Month	OUT
Church St., all Stops		09.06	RR
Station Rd, all Stops		09.08	RR
Cambridge Rd., all Stops		09.09	RR
Opp Riverside Gardens		09.10	RR
Midsummer Blvd / M&S (Stop J3)		10.15	
/ o/s John Lewis (Stop E3)			13.15
OR = Stops on Request o/s = Outside opp = opposite RR = Return Stops on Request			

A RANGE OF EXCURSIONS – 4th Thursday of Every Month April - November

PRIVATE HIRE: Our 16 Seater Buses are available for Private Hire to Schools, Social Societies, Clubs.

Ivel Sprinter is for EVERYONE!

Spring is in the air!

We are looking forward to a great year. Our Mercedes bus is on the road and seems to be a hit with Passengers and drivers alike so at last we are able to “turn the frown upside down! Within a day of receipt it was working hard on the regular service runs. Our thanks to the Windfarm for a hefty grant to help us get the show on the road.

Our Services from Langford are:

Monday - to Bedford calling at Blunham, Tempsford and Great Barford.

Tuesday - to Sainsburys, Biggleswade, Tempsford, Sandy, and Caldecote.

Wednesday - to Pottton and Cambridge.

Saturday - to Sainsburys, Biggleswade, Tempsford, Sandy, and Caldecote.

For full timetable see: <http://www.ivalsprinter.org.uk>

Grant Palmer Local Bus Service Update

Please read this which is in response to the article in the winter edition of The Langford Diary regarding Grant palmer No. 74 bus service between Hitchin and Bedford and passing through Langford. Since the article was written the bus service has been much more reliable. I am a regular user of the buses and since December 1st none of the buses I required have been cancelled. However, it is always advisable to ring the bus company **01525 719719** to check regarding cancellations as problems do of course occur. The staff at Grant palmer are always polite and helpful, so you can plan your journey with confidence. There is also a **Grant Palmer app** which has a bus tracker, details of bus services and ways to plan a journey. Please use the local bus service, or we may lose it if it is not supported. We are lucky to have this service in our village. Make the most of it.

Ruby Thrussell

Langford Speed Watch

We are still busy and out there most weeks doing our bit to help traffic calming in the village.

During 2022, our small team completed 40 speed watch sessions at our various site in the village and this resulted in Kempston Police issuing 237 letters to motorists that had exceeded our speed limits. Whilst the letter is advisory only and does not incur fines or penalties, what not everyone realises is that for repeat offenders, the police do go and visit the motorist involved.

We would still appreciate another member to join our small team. Each session is just one hour, and although there are sessions weekly, individuals do not have to go to every session as we can easily be in two teams each of two individuals.

Our results are sent to Kempston Police and we send summary data re numbers of vehicles and speeders to the Parish Council.

Our busiest spot for traffic is always Langford Road near the Garden Centre, but the site that results in most offenders is the 20mph zone near the playing fields.

If anyone is interested in joining our team, please email me at heidi.pegum@gmail.com and I can tell you more about what is involved re training, compliance and vetting.

The Ivy Leaf Club

Happy New Year! Now that 2023 is underway, we have started with our programme of live music and events – the banner is on display outside the Club and flyers are posted around the village. All information is also available on our Facebook page as usual.

Immediate forthcoming events are shown below:

* **11th March - Polaroidz** – live band – post-punk Indie covers, recreating the sounds of 79-85!

* **22nd April - St George's Day Gentleman's meal and Charity Cocktail Night**

* **7th May - Pre Coronation Party (further details to follow) and Corruption** playing in the evening. Corruption are a local band who are ever popular. Playing an eclectic and diverse mix of music, sure to fill the dance floor!

Football and other sports fixtures shown on our HD TVs in the bar and lounge.

We have also introduced a community event in the form of our Lunch Club/Warm Space for over 55's which runs on a Thursday. Hot food available along with unlimited tea and coffee for a voluntary donation. We would like to thank the Welfare Trust and everyone else involved for supporting this.

Finally we would like to pay our respects to a former member and supporter, Mr Alan Smith.

Those of you joined us on New Year's Eve will have raised a glass of fizz in his memory.

A reminder that subs are due in May – new members always welcome – and that our lounge bar is available to book for most functions, with the exception of 18th birthday parties. Enquiries to bar staff or by calling the club (01462 700868).

Julie Devereux- Chairperson

Langford Businesses Opening Times

HILLFOOT FARM SHOP

SUNDAY	10.00am - 1.00pm
MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	10.00am - 4.30pm
WEDNESDAY	10.00am - 4.30pm
THURSDAY	10.00am - 4.30pm
FRIDAY	9.30am - 4.30pm
SATURDAY	9.00am - 4.00pm

POST OFFICE STORE

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

POST OFFICE COUNTER

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.00am - 6.00pm SATURDAY - 9.00am - 1.30pm
SUNDAY Closed

LANGFORD VILLAGE STORE

SUNDAY	7.00am - 8.00pm
MONDAY	7.00am - 9.00pm
TUESDAY	7.00am - 9.00pm
WEDNESDAY	7.00am - 9.00pm
THURSDAY	7.00am - 9.00pm
FRIDAY	7.00am - 9.00pm
SATURDAY	7.00am - 9.00pm

THE PLOUGH

SUNDAY	12.00am - 11.00pm
MONDAY	3.00pm - 11.00pm
TUESDAY	3.00pm - 11.00pm
WEDNESDAY	3.00pm - 11.00pm
THURSDAY	3.00pm - 11.00pm
FRIDAY	12.00pm - 1.00am
SATURDAY	12.00pm - 2.00am

PHARMACY

CLOSED FOR LUNCH EACH DAY	
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 FISH BAR

SUNDAY	CLOSED
MONDAY	11.30am - 9.30pm
TUESDAY	11.30am - 9.30pm
WEDNESDAY	11.30am - 9.30pm
THURSDAY	11.30am - 9.30pm
FRIDAY	11.30am - 9.30pm
SATURDAY	11.30am - 9.30pm

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All Adverts and Advertising Material to be emailed to steve.alh.hills@btinternet.com
and clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk

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Cost of Adverts in Langford Diary 2023 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)

PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT

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

2023 Submission Dates

Summer Edition 22nd April - Autumn Edition 22nd July

IMPORTANT

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

*All Copy for the next Diary to be emailed to both
trudylangforddiary@gmail.com and steve.alh.hills@btinternet.com*

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