

The LANGFORD Diary

The Parish Council Publication for YOU the Residents of Langford

WINTER 2023

Editor: Trudy Emery

Contact: trudylangforddiary@gmail.com

Edition 222

What goes on in Langford?

All the information you need is here!

Inside you will find details of

***Parish Councillors
and Meeting Dates***

***Ward
Councillors***

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News***

***So Keep
your Diary
Handy!***

***Shop
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which Advertise***

It's All About Langford!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

A Letter from the Editor

As the year draws to an end may I take this opportunity to thank all the residents of Langford who have taken the time to contribute to our Langford Diary throughout the year. For readers I do hope having the information of local events and organisations helps to contribute to the community spirit of the village. Thanks to the local businesses too who advertise and are a useful point of reference when a service is needed.

Many residents are appreciative of The Langford Diary, and I would like to thank them for their comments. Other residents may confuse us with The Villager, another useful publication. The Langford Diary is distributed only within Langford and funded through business's advertising and the Parish Council. The Langford Diary was founded by the late Ralph Turner in 1968 when he decided that a village diary was needed. He felt that, as there were so many village organisations there needed to be a drawing together for the residents, and so The Langford Diary was created. As you can see from the front cover this is the 222nd edition. Quite an achievement over the years! We can only be a useful and interesting publication because of those who take their time to contribute to our publication. So, thank you again for taking the time to send me your news and photos.

I would like to thank the parish councillors for their dedication to our village. Please read John Shipman's piece about the work of the Parish Council. Maybe you would be interested in becoming a councillor. Think about it.

Personal thanks must go to Janet Bradford who proof-reads each edition, I do hope you don't find too many errors!! Thanks to Steve Hills who collates and prints the Diary and organises the delivery to every household and business in Langford.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy New Year.

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

What's On in Langford in the Winter!

December

- 5 **Gardening Club** - Christmas Social. - Church Hall - 7.30pm
- 6 **Oasis Coffee Morning with Christmas Music** - Chapel - 10.30am
- 6 **History Society** - Christmas Social - Church Hall - 8.00pm
- 7 **Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm

December - continued

- 8 WI - Christmas Evening** - Amazing Things can Happen - Ian Stimson
- Village Hall 7.15pm
- 8-10 Christmas Tree Festival** - St. Andrew's Church
- 10 Carols with Bedford Brass Band** - St. Andrew's Church - 4.00pm
- 17 Carol Singing on The Leys Green** - 2.30-3.30pm
- 17 Nativity Service** - 10.30 am - Langford Chapel
- 18 Langford Car Club** - The Plough - 7.00pm
- 24 Christingle** - St. Andrew's Church - 5.00pm
- 24 Carol Service** - 10.30 am - Langford Chapel
- 24 Carols & Sacrament** - 11.15 pm - Langford Chapel
- 25 Eucharist for Christmas Day** - St. Andrew's Church - 10.00am

January 2024

- 2 Gardening Club** - Saxon Gate Flowers - Peta Frost - Church Hall
- 7.30pm
- 4 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 12 WI - An Evening of Light Entertainment** - James Cooper Watson
- Village Hall - 7.15pm
- 15 Langford Car Club** - The Plough - 7.00pm

February

- 1 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 6 Gardening Club** - Designing Gardens in a Changing Climate
- Church Hall - 7.30pm
- 7 History Society** - Please see web site for details - Church Hall -
8.00pm

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 18 for details of regular services

Methodist Services: Minister: Rev. Lorna Valentine – see page 17 for details of regular services – Contact Jenny Broadbridge 01462 701127

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

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

Tuesday

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

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 Autumn page 2 for details

Over 60's Movement to Music Class 11am-12noon and is £5.00 PAYG including tea/coffee at St. Andrew's Church Hall – Contact Hannah info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com or 07394 93411

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

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 page 23 for details

Langford Cricket Club All Stars Cricket Club 6-7pm -
www.facebook.com/LangfordCC

Langford Bowls Club 2.00pm Training/Practice/Coaching - See page 42 for more
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 Winter on page 3 for details

Saturday

Cricket, 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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Langford Walking Group

The walking group continues to thrive, often with 30 members setting off each week. We are fortunate in having many walking routes on our doorstep and have again been able to walk more often to the north end of the village since Jordan's re-opened on Tuesdays. We also regularly walk to the Green Man at Stanford where the staff are kind enough to open early in order to supply us with coffee.

We continue to explore routes away from Langford on the first Tuesday of every month. Recent walks include the Forest Centre at Marston, RSPB reserve in Sandy and, a new walk for many of us, around the countryside surrounding Baldock.

The benefits of group walking on all aspects of health are well known and we continue to welcome new members.

However, it has occurred to some of us that a group walk on another day of the week might be preferable to some people. So, if anyone wants to start a second walking group, go for it!

We're currently looking forward to winter with some interesting walks and, more importantly, our annual Christmas party which will be held at the Village Hall on December 1st.

If you'd like to join us we meet every Tuesday (except the first Tuesday of the month) at 10am at Chapel Hill Bridge. Please do join us for good walks, good conversation and good coffee!



Walks around Langford

A few years ago, we included in The Diary some of the walks that are available to us within the village. If you are interested and no longer have the editions, you are welcome to email me and I will forward the details of the routes to you. They are around two miles to four and a half miles in length.

trudylangforddiary@gmail.com

Clifton Bury Farm Walks

For many years, many of us have enjoyed walking on what we locals have called Set-aside land. This is land which is found across the river at the ford bridge, over the common and then on towards Clifton. Some are public footpaths, but some are permissive paths. To keep the permissive paths open and maintain them there has been funding from a scheme from central government. From September 2023 this funding ended and so too could our right to walk them. However, the farmer has managed to sign up for five years stewardship to keep the footpaths and bridleways open. But he is not receiving any funding for maintenance from the government or CBC any more. It is going to cost between £4K and £6k per year to maintain the paths.

The walking group has decided to donate some money towards this maintenance. We realise that this will only make a small dent in the cost, but we hope it will show our appreciation. If you would like to help, please pop your donation into 2 Church Crescent.

Looking forward to more enjoyable walks.

Trudy Emery

1st Langford Scout Group

Scouting is in a period of growth – in a time where children are helicoptered from activity to activity, sometimes slower paced traditional fun and outdoor skills are the perfect antidote to the demands of modern life.



We try to spend lots of time on nature activities and hikes in the dark before it gets too cold and wet later in the year. This term our Cub Sixers camped at Boyd Field Henlow, and made rafts, whittled sticks and cooked on an open fire. The Squirrels have been bug hunting. The Squirrels and Beavers have been growing seeds. The Cubs had a conker competition. Lots of things going on!

The Scouts have been exploring Scouting traditions, including knotting and lashings to build a raft. They hiked (in the rain) from Arlesey train station to HQ. The older scouts are running meetings as part of their leadership awards. They also plan an escape room, pumpkin carving and Halloween fun, remembrance prep and poppy making, bowling, DIY badge work, gender, drugs, disability and other badge stuff.

We have various activities planned for this term including indoor camps for Beavers and Cubs.

The Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be taking part in the village Remembrance service at the War Memorial. Always a moving occasion and one the leaders are proud to take part in with our young people.

Our Squirrels Drey is fully up and running, and had a fun day out at Herrings Green Farm meeting the birds of prey. As there are so few Squirrels Dreys in the UK, I am receiving a huge number of enquiries from all over the area. Luckily for you guys, we are only accepting children onto the waiting list for any of our younger sections if they live in Langford or go to school here. We are limited to 12 at the moment, as this age group needs a higher supervisory ratio – we would love to take it up to 24 but can only do this with more help – please let me know if you can spare an hour a week for Squirrels (who meet Mondays 5-6)

The Cub Pack is having an experimental period for the winter months, when we split the pack into two groups. Having over 30 boisterous young people in the confines of the Scout Hut makes for a very noisy and chaotic atmosphere so we hope that by having two smaller groups we can improve the fun and skills learned. If it works out, we will split permanently but to do this, as always, we need more regular adult help.



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.

Squirrels are age 4-6 and meet Mondays 5-6, Beavers are age 6-8 and meet on Tuesdays 6-7, Cubs are 8-10.5 and meet Tuesdays 7-8.15 or 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.

Squirrels is full, 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 – please get your child on the list as early as possible (current youngest on the list was born this year!) – contact me for more information.

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

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

At Easter, we opened a brand new Rainbow unit in Langford, 2nd Langford Rainbows, which runs on Tuesdays, making it the 4th Girlguiding unit currently open in Langford alongside Rainbows and Brownies on Mondays and Guides on Thursdays. We already have 18 girls in the new unit who have made their promise!

Rainbows in both units have been doing communication badges which has helped them to make friends, develop good listening skills and sing songs! Brownies have been learning about their local area – you may have seen us out on a walk! We also play lots of games at Brownies and have recently done a wide game version of Cluedo.

In May, we attended District Sports Day – 1st Langford Brownies and 1st Langford Guides both came first in their sections and won our District trophies. In June, we all participated in Biggleswade Carnival with our district where we represented the toys and games theme with monopoly. In July, the Rainbows attended a County Rainbow Circus day where we danced, played outdoor games, learned circus skills, did craft and had fun on the bouncy castles.

Over the Summer holidays, Brownies went to camp at Molliver's in Bromham. We had a Jungle/Under the Sea theme with crafts, games and outdoor cooking. We also did axe throwing, caving and went on the adventure course.





In October, Rainbows and a few Brownies went on a sleepover at the Sea Life Centre in Great Yarmouth where we slept under the tunnel and next to the big tank. We got our own VIP tour, Virtual Reality experience and some fun on the beach too!

We have had some parents and young leaders volunteer with us which is amazing! There are a few units in the local villages that would love some more leaders though if you would be able to help, as well as our Rainbow unit on Tuesday is in need of another adult. Please register at www.girlguiding.org.uk.

Danielle Ellis



Langford Methodist Church

At Langford Methodist Chapel you will find fellowship, smiling faces and a great welcome from members that enjoy singing and sharing worship together. In September we held our Harvest Service and Lunch at the Chapel and it was lovely to sing some well known harvest hymns, celebrating harvest time and focusing on the importance of our farmers and farming throughout the world. It was a lovely service with a delicious lunch afterwards. The Chapel was decorated especially for the occasion, with the array of donated food items arranged neatly amidst pretty sunflowers at the front of the Chapel. The food items donated were all given to the Need Project at Stotfold, where they were gratefully received.



We are a friendly, caring community at the Chapel, united in faith and sharing in worship and prayer. And, in times of difficulty, we feel prayer is so important; not only for those we know and love but for those all over the world who are suffering such hardships or in war torn areas of conflict. At times we can feel so helpless, but we can pray. At the end of October we held our annual prayer week, where each day the Chapel is open for a period of prayer. It is a special time of solemnity and unity, sharing our concern for others and situations.

At the end of October, Jenny Broadbridge hosted the regular Coffee Morning at Henlow Chapel, with proceeds going to Compass Braille, a Christian organisation producing braille literature in Asian languages. Several members at the Chapel have held special coffee mornings in aid of different charities and it is always good to support them as well as being enjoyable events. Members of the Chapel were also pleased to provide refreshments after the special Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, which, as always is very well attended.

Service Times

1st Sunday in the month - 10.30 am - Mission Group Service - led by our Minister Lorna Valentine. These services will be rotated between some of the local churches that our Minister oversees, so they won't always be at Langford Chapel. All are welcome to attend, but please check beforehand with one of our members as to which church the service will be held at and to clarify details.

2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th Sundays in the month - 10.30 am - Service at Langford Chapel.

Chapel Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays - 10.30 am - Langford Chapel

Monthly Prayer Group

1st Monday of the month - 2pm - at Beurreean's.

Forthcoming Events

25 November 2023 - Langford Chapel Christmas Get Together/Fayre -
12 noon to 2 pm - Langford Chapel

28 November 2023 - Stotfold Salvation Army Band - 7.30 pm -
followed by refreshments - Langford Chapel

3 December 2023 - Advent Carol Mission Group Service - 10.30 am - Shefford

6 December 2023 - Oasis Coffee Morning with Christmas Music - 10.30 am -
Langford Chapel

17 December 2023 - Nativity Service - 10.30 am - Langford Chapel

17 December 2023 - Carol singing - 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm - on the Leys Green

24 December 2023 - Carol Service - 10.30 am - Langford Chapel

24 December 2023 - Carols & Sacrament - 11.15 pm - Langford Chapel

7 January 2024 - Mission Group Covenant Service - 10.30 am -
Upper Caldecote Methodist Church

14 January 2024 - Week of Christian Unity - Service 10.30 am - Langford Chapel

If you would like further information about our Sunday Services or any of our events, please contact Jenny Broadbridge or another member of the Chapel, who will be pleased to provide further information.

St. Andrew's Church

I wonder what you expect in terms of Christmas?

A few years ago I spent Christmas in New Zealand. It was familiar but in parts different. Christmas travelled with the early English and other European settlers in the 19th century, and so as you might imagine, seasonal festivities from their own background became commonplace. Today you still find snow filled scenes on cards and advertisements, which seem somewhat out of context given that December is the beginning of summer in New Zealand.

Jingle bells and carols such as 'In the bleak midwinter' don't particularly fit with the rising temperature!

Over time Christmas has embraced more of its Kiwi context. So you might expect a 'Santa' parade with Father Christmas wearing sandals and an All Black rugby jersey; a sausage sizzle at carol services; children leave out beer and pineapple chunks in anticipation of Santa's arrival; and Christmas Day usually involves a barbeque and beach, or pool.

And New Zealand has its own 'Christmas Tree', the Pohutukawa. It can grow to be a very large tree and has bright red flowers which bloom between mid-December and January, are popular decorations and also feature on Christmas cards.

Irrespective of where we happen to be though, the basis of our Christmas celebrations remain the same. Christmas is a wonderful time and it is good to celebrate with all of the things that we associate with it. But at the heart of Christmas is the reminder that God came to us in the form of Jesus, so that we might know him, as he knows each one of us. Come and celebrate with us this Christmas.



Christmas Services

Sunday, 10th December - 4.00 pm

Christmas Tree Festival Carols with Bedford Brass

Sunday, 24th December - 5.00 pm

Christingle

Monday, 25th December - 10.00 am

Eucharist for Christmas Day

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

On Sunday 24th September we gathered at David Quinlan's Oaktree Farm to celebrate Harvest. We had a short service accompanied by our music group. It was so windy that the music group had to peg their music onto their music stands! Our Harvest offerings were delivered to The Need Project in Stotfold.

We held a Pet Service a first for St Andrew's in the afternoon on Sunday 8th October. Mostly dogs came with their owners but you could have brought any pet. Everyone behaved themselves animals and their owners!!!

Did you know that your dog is always welcome anytime at St Andrew's.

Sheila Vidler

Christmas Tree Festival

Our Festival this year will run from **Friday 8th December to Sunday 10th December**. Each day we will be open 10.00 a.m till 4.00 p.m. Coffee, tea and cake will be available while you decide which tree you would like to vote as the '**Best Dressed Tree**'.

The Festival will end at 4.00 p.m on Sunday with Hot Chocolate, mince pies and sung Carols accompanied by The Bedford Brass Band. We look forward to welcoming everyone to St Andrew's.

Bob Vidler.

King George Memorial Playing Field

The field is looking particularly good, thanks to Adrian Crawley, our Grounds Maintenance man. The Management Committee thank Adrian for this.

An inspection of the trees found that there is further decay in the Horse Chestnut trees, so much so that one tree in the Junior Play Area had to be removed and another at the rear of Pound Close, heavily pollarded to see if that would elongate its life span. Several trees have been reduced in height and width, and the Lime Trees in the playing field roadway heavily pollarded. The inspection is carried out annually. Replacement trees are being sought for the two Horse Chestnut Trees removed.

Additional benches and picnic tables are being installed, funded by Section 106 monies, which come from development in the village.

The annual ROSPA play inspection found that all the equipment was in good condition, with a couple of maintenance repairs to be carried out. There are no further plans to add any additional equipment, but we are always happy to receive any suggestions from residents – gillyannclarke@gmail.com

Gill Clarke
Facilities Manager

Langford Village Hall

The Hall continues to be in high demand for bookings, these now well into 2024. There are a good variety of classes using the facilities, many children's parties, adult celebrations and weddings, craft fayres and meetings. Our hiring charges are in line with other halls in the area, which, with the good facilities around e.g., car park, playing field, make it a great place to hold a function.

Works are planned to renovate the small hall into a "standalone hall" with separate access, picture window overlooking the park, and more "user friendly" for small functions, meetings, and get togethers. It is hoped to put some activities into place once the works have been completed which will be in the new year. Funding for this work is from Section 106 monies, hiring of the hall and grants from Langford Parish Council, together with a grant from Langford and Biggleswade Wind Farm Community Fund.

Gill Clarke
Facilities Manager

Langford Parish Council

We now know that Phase 2 of the Cambridge Road development was refused by the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) DMC meeting in August. Thanks to all those residents that made comments and representations. The developers have lodged notice of an appeal. At the time of writing no more has been heard from Innerspace Homes following the public exhibition of their eco house concept and a proposed housing development.

Some residents may be aware of a recent Gladman proposal for a further 170 dwellings at the north of the village. The Parish Council will not support any large housing development proposal that does not conform to the Local Plan or the Langford Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council is still looking for opportunities to create some allotments. CBC cannot help and we ask all landowners if they would be prepared to sell or let a suitable piece of land for an allotment. Get in touch if you can help.

Work continues to improve the the community facilities with improvements at the village hall and playing field. Plans include the planting of significant numbers of trees at the playing field and cemetery. Roadside verges and trees are in the domain of CBC and any suggestions submitted will be passed on to CBC.

Speeding, roadside parking and potholes continue to be serious, emotive issues for Langford and the parish council seeks to reduce these problems through reporting and consultation routes to CBC.

On a more positive note, dog fouling and litter appears to be on the decline. Thank you to all those who helped with the litter picking event on September.

John Shipman
Chairman Langford Parish Council

Langford Parish Council

So what does the Parish Council do?

A question often asked. Let me try and explain. The Council is comprised of nine volunteers and a clerk who work together to serve the community. The members might be elected or co-opted. They represent the interests of the community and are the first tier of local government. The Parish Council is non-political. Limited powers and budgets mean the main tasks are to communicate and influence CBC – the next tier of government. Funding comes from the precept which is a small tax you will see on your council tax bill.

Public meetings are held most months at which the public may speak and ask questions. Agendas and minutes of meetings, budgets and accounts are available for inspection.

Housing development plans are reviewed and comments fed back to CBC planning department. Comments relating to planning issues are valid but personal opinions, likes and dislikes are not permitted.

The Langford Neighbourhood plan is promoted and supported by the parish council and can form a useful yardstick to measure the suitability of planning applications. The Langford Neighbourhood Plan has full, legal status within the planning process. It's value and credibility will grow as developers and planning officers become more familiar with it.

Other activities in Langford which the Parish Council are involved in include:

Helping to source land for allotments – not much progress here sadly! Providing and maintaining a cemetery. Providing bus shelters, meeting places and community buildings for local groups of all ages and for a variety of functions. Providing and maintaining some street lighting and seating. Planting trees on parish council owned land. Providing some litter and dog waste bins. Publishing The Langford Diary. Maintaining recreation, play and sports areas. Managing properties and buildings owned by the council including the war memorial, a house, village hall and sports facilities. Providing a website for the council and other village groups. Supporting local charities and providing trustees. Supporting safety initiatives such as Speedwatch and speed indicators. Cutting some grass verges and open spaces.

As Langford develops and gets bigger we want to retain the strong, friendly community spirit that currently exists. The parish council wants to improve and protect our growing community, to make Langford fit for purpose with sufficient infrastructure and facilities for everyone to enjoy the quality of village life. To do all of these we need ideas and suggestions. Get in touch! To make them work we need investment of skills, knowledge, time and commitment from residents to be involved in village organisations, clubs, sports activities, leisure groups, and the parish council. Get involved! It can be very rewarding.

John Shipman
Chairman Langford Parish Council

Langford Parish Council

Please see our Parish Council Chairman Letter on page 20 & 21

Chairman

John Shipman

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

01462 700650

Vice Chairman

Drew Richardson

8 Blackbird Gardens SG18 9RD
drew.richardson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

0300 3008550

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

David Williams

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

01462 700474

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

Clerk of the Council **Sarah Gallagher**

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

Clerk Office hours

**Clerk works part-time and is usually available Monday-Friday
There is an answerphone facility to leave a message.**

Clifton, Henlow and Langford Ward Councillors

**Councillor Drew Richardson - Tel 0300 300 8550
drew.richardson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**

**Councillor Richard Wenham - Tel 0300 300 8563
richard.wenham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**

**Councillor David Shelvey - Tel 0300 300 8553
david.shelvey@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**

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

held at The Village Hall

Thursday, 7th December, 2023 - 7.30pm

Thursday, 4th January, 2024 - 7.30pm

Thursday, 1st February, 2024 - 7.30pm

Thursday, 7th March, 2024 - 7.30pm

**Details available at Langford PC website
<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
Langford Friends	07884 046741

Church Hall Bookings	01462 701150
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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
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



Langford Friends continue to support Langford residents. The majority of requests are for transport to and from medical appointments but we are also available to transport people to social events.

Our main event in the last quarter has been an Afternoon Tea at the Watering Can Café at the Garden Centre. Fifty six clients and volunteers enjoyed an excellent tea on Tuesday 22nd August 2023. We received many messages from clients saying how much they had enjoyed the event, not just the food but also the chance to meet up with others.



Many thanks to Emma and her team at the Watering Can Café for all their hard work and the delicious food.

We have recruited a few new volunteers, including some willing to take on driving tasks. We are sad to be saying goodbye to our secretary, Heidi Pegrum. Heidi has decided to step down to concentrate on her busy family commitments. She will be greatly missed as she has contributed a huge amount to the smooth running of Langford Friends. On behalf of all volunteers and clients of Langford Friends I would like to say a big thank you to Heidi and hope that we can welcome you back in the not-too-distant future.

Langford Friends offer transport to medical appointments, social events, and other appointments. We are also available to do shopping, collect prescriptions and help with form filling. We have a volunteer who is willing to help individuals with the use of mobile phones and computers. If you require assistance with any of the above or are interested in volunteering please contact us on 07844 046741.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and to wish all volunteers and clients a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Pauline Williams (Chairperson).



VOLUNTEER SECRETARY

LANGFORD FRIENDS

Would you like to use your excellent communication and organisational skills to support your local Good Neighbour Group while making a big difference to the residents of Langford that use our service.

**Volunteering as a Secretary for Langford Friends
could be for you!**

*For more information call 07884 046741
OR email secretary.langfriends@outlook.com*

Meet the Henlow Singers

We need your voice!

The Henlow Singers were founded in 1968 by the late John “Jimmy” Alexander, MBA, who directed until he passed away unexpectedly in 1986. David Barker, an Air Force musician took over directing until 2017, when he sadly passed away. The current director is Beth Hutton. The Singers originally rehearsed and performed at the station church, St Andrews, RAF Henlow and in local churches, chapels and village halls. Then security was tightened on base, so rehearsals were moved to St Mary's Church, Henlow, where they have continued ever since. Membership was made up of about 40 Air Force officers and was open to everyone including wives, but most of these members have now moved on.

The Henlow Singers are actively seeking more members of all ages, abilities and voice parts. You do not have to be able to read music, but it would be an advantage, and there is no audition required, just come and try us out! You may not have sung for a while and feel ‘rusty’, but singing is good for the soul, makes you happy and is great exercise. You also do not have to live in Henlow, as we have members from several of the surrounding villages and towns, and lifts can be arranged.

We are a very friendly community (not church) group, who sing mostly classical and sacred choral music, and rehearsals are fun, relaxing and social. Rehearsals are every Monday from 7:30 – 9:00pm in Saint Mary's Church, Henlow SG16 6AN, beginning again on the 4th of September 2023, but you can join in at any time. We perform twice per year in the same church; a Christmas concert this year on 8th or 15th of December (TBC) and a Spring concert on 22nd of March 2024, after which we break up for the summer. We also sometimes sing Christmas Carols at Jordan's Mill one afternoon in December. We would love to see you there as a member or in the audience.

Please contact Mrs Beth Hutton, music director at bhutton966@gmail.com or on 07891 504994 as soon as possible if you are interested in joining the Henlow Singers, so that we know how many singers to expect. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Ivy Leaf Club

I can't believe as I'm writing this we are thinking about Christmas! As ever a massive thank you to our members for their ongoing support.

We are booking entertainment for 2024 so look out for our banner and keep an eye on our Facebook page.

Upcoming events are:

Saturday 2nd December - Jam 69 – It is a while since they have played at The Ivy Leaf so it's sure to be a good night. Come and dance the night away to Punk, New Wave and Ska classics. Non-members £4 on the door.

Saturday 30th December - Fishing for Robots - Come and celebrate at our New Year's Eve Eve party! No double price babysitters! Sure to be an amazing night dancing to electro-pop and synthesised 80's classics! Non-members £4 on the door.

Saturday 27th January - Charity Cocktail Night - Come and enjoy delicious cocktails whilst raising money for charity. Disco and raffle on the night. Voluntary donation to charity of £1 per person on the door.

Saturday 10th February - The Atomics - Popular band playing Post Punk, New Wave and Power Pop. First time at The Ivy Leaf so let's give them an incredible welcome. Non-members £4 on the door.

Our Lunch Club/warm space continues to be popular. This is a weekly event for over 55's on a Thursday from 1-3 pm. Come along and meet new people and enjoy food and unlimited tea and coffee for a voluntary donation. The last date for 2023 will be 21st December and will be a Christmas buffet. We will then restart on 4th January.

All football and other sporting fixtures shown on our large screen HD TVs. Pool and snooker tables also available.

Finally our lounge bar is available for private functions (excluding 18th birthday parties). Pop in and speak to us or call 01462 700768 during opening hours

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for regular updates.

Julie Devereux - Chairperson

Biggleswade Library re-opens after Transformation

Biggleswade Library opened its doors in October after being transformed into a modern facility and community hub for residents, with a children's centre, Registrars office and help for people moving to online banking.

The refurbishments have enhanced the current library layout, made better use of the space and enabled additional services to be offered within the building. The improvements to the library include:

- ***a bigger children's library***
- ***an improved information technology (IT) zone***
- ***increased study space***
- ***new books, a microfiche reading machine and self-service machines***
- ***improved Wi-Fi***

Library staff will be on hand to show customers around the new library.

There have also been crucial improvements made to the building including new ventilation, flooring, furniture and shelving. The building has been upgraded to function more efficiently and sustainably.

Starting 1st November 2023, the registration service will be available in an office located in the library building from Wednesday to Friday, operating between 9.30am and 4.30pm. It will handle registrations for births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships exclusively; ceremonies will take place at different locations. To schedule an appointment, visit our website.

Biggleswade Children's Centre will begin to deliver services from this new location from November 2023, being fully operational from January 2024. Offering a sneak preview from 9am to 3.30pm on Tuesday 24 October 2023, the centre's staff will be available to offer information about current and future services.

Barclays Bank will host a weekly advice centre in the library, from Tuesday to Thursday, operating between 10am and 4pm. The purpose of this centre is to provide support and guidance to customers looking to transition to online services.

To find out more about the library service and activities happening at Biggleswade Library, visit our website or follow our libraries service on Facebook.

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. We do not meet in January or August. Visitors are welcome and pay £4. Annual membership, February to December, is currently £5. Our website has been updated and it is the place to go for more information on Langford's history (see below).

We are now coming to the end of our season, during which we had a succession of interesting talks. March saw Liz Davies from St Neots Museum on 100 years of everyday life in the town; in April Ian Waller told us about Luton's Country Houses and Bedford guide and historian David Fowler told us about Bedfordshire's heroes in May. Tempsford Museum was visited in the evening on 31 May and on 5 July we went to Woburn Heritage Centre and had a walking tour of the village.

In September Roy Smart had to change his projected talk but instead gave us a talk incorporating his latest research on 1930s aviation icon Amy Johnson.

Ted Martin told the stories and people behind the fonts we see and use every day in October and Stuart Fairclough talked about the history of the Metropolitan Police in November. In December we have our usual social evening.

Our programme for 2024 is in preparation and we will be on the website in November.

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, and 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 read articles and book reviews on almost every aspect of Bedfordshire and Bedford's history all free. 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 Autumn issue (10.2) has articles on 'A bridge too far . . . ' by local resident Ann Currell, describing the bad accident on Broom Bridge in 1873, and a continuation of the story of the Tacchi family of Bedford from the previous issue,

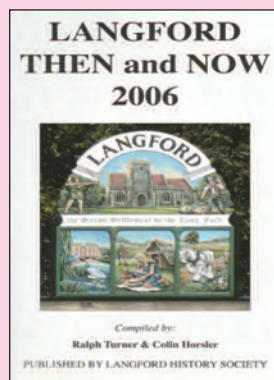
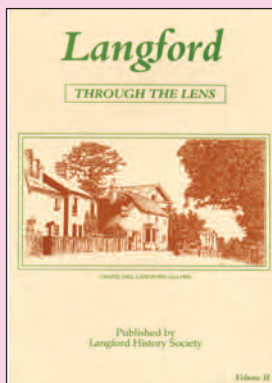
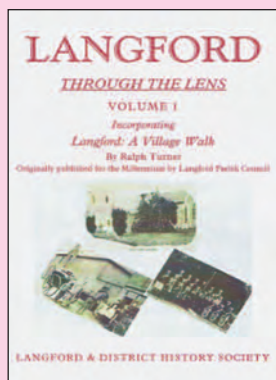
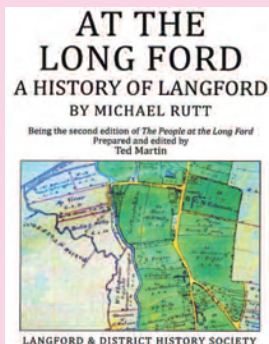
Should you want to learn more about Langford's history, our books can be collected in the village or posted, contact John Shipman (01462 700650). Most contain lots of photos preserving the knowledge of the families, homes and businesses of old Langford. They are:

At the Long Ford: A History of Langford, by Michael Rutt: 172 pages describing Langford's history from Saxon times to the present day, £7 or £10 by post.

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.





The autumn was a busy time for gardeners; getting plots tidy and ready for the winter. It can be a satisfying process, if a little sad as it signifies the end of the growing season. Our Club members still had some time though to socialise and have fun.

Emma Lacy from the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity joined us in September to let us know about their projects on community gardens and gardening for wellbeing.

After our AGM in October, Dr Wilf Powell gave us a fabulous illustrated talk 'The beauty of butterflies'.

And in November award winning photographer Hemant Jariwala presented a photo-essay 'Flowers through my Viewfinder'. His beautiful pictures provided a great deal of inspiration and his tips will help us create our own masterpieces.

Now we have 'put our gardens to bed' for the winter, hopefully we have a little more time to meet our friends and plan for 2024.

Please join us for our Christmas social on the evening of 5th December. Last year's quiz was a great success and it was lovely to meet some of our neighbours for the first time. Many have since become members of the Club, so they must have had fun!

We'd love to see some new faces this year too. If you can't persuade enough of your friends to make a team of six, get in touch as we can pair you up with some neighbours or club members to make up a team.

If you 'know your onions' that's great, but not essential. It's a general knowledge quiz so you don't need to be green fingered to take part. You'll get a drink on arrival and some finger food will be served during the quiz, so please contact us to reserve a place to help us plan the event. In addition, you can also bring along your own refreshments if you wish.

Langford Gardening Club
CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT

Tuesday DEC 5

St Andrew's Church Hall
Langford, SG18 9QA
Doors open: 7:00pm
Quiz Starts: 7:15pm

£6: Non-Members
£3: Club Members
Max 6 people per team

General Knowledge Quiz
Refreshments
Prizes To Be Won
Raffle Prizes

To book a table or for more details:
langford.gardening.club@gmail.com
Also on Facebook and Nextdoor

On 2nd January, Peta Frost, Founder of Saxon Gate Flowers will be telling us her story. Peta has been growing flowers on her allotment in Biggleswade for over 15 years. Peta supplies bouquets of flowers if you like to arrange. They are grown locally, without chemicals or using peat and without air miles. All flowers are wrapped in paper with compostable fixings.

Continuing the environmental theme, Simon Smith (Simon Smith Garden and Landscape Design) will present 'Designing Gardens in A Changing Climate' on 6th February. Simon has been designing sustainable gardens and landscapes for 25 years and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

The club usually meets at St Andrew's Church Hall in Langford on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Our winter programme is 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 Village Academy

The children have all settled in very well since we have started the new academic year and it has been fantastic to see so many new faces joining us in Reception.

We started the year with a special visit from MP Richard Fuller, he had a look around our school and spent some time talking to the children and staff.

Langford Village Academy and PTFA is looking forward to hosting its annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd December, we look forward to seeing you there.

During December a selected group of children from Year 3 will be representing our school at a Redbourne sports festival, taking part in Boccia and Kurling. Good Luck!

On 5th December our Year 4's will be visiting St Johns Church, to see the Barn Nativity. The story of the first Christmas is acted out for the children to see, inside the church and in the church grounds. This is something we do every year and is a big hit! We will also be enjoying our Christmas Lunch and Jumper day and a visit from Chaplins Panto to perform Treasure Island to the school before we break up for the holidays, to help us get into that Christmas spirit.



Langford Women's Institute

As I write, we are still in September and I personally do not want Christmas to enter my head, but the shops are full and another few months would have suited me fine. The years seem to get shorter, there is never enough time, or is it me getting older. Whatever we feel, it's on its way, so had best tell you what we have been up to.

You may remember in the last diary I mentioned that we were looking forward to an evening of Tai Chi. Well it was very well received by the members and taking part got us finding all the creeks!! A good evening.



In August, we had a lovely afternoon tea at the Langford Bowls Club. It was a beautiful day; the tea went down very well and we were encouraged to 'have a go' on the green, which was most enjoyable. Our thanks to the Bowls people for allowing us to invade.

September was our western-style harvest celebration with a plentiful cheese supper. Our plates were full with fresh bread, cheese, pork pie, grapes, celery; oh you name it, we had it. After supper we were entertained by the 'Turf Tappers' who are gardeners by day and singers by night. They were brilliant and had us tapping our feet, dancing and singing in no time. We will certainly invite them again!





Local WIs are grouped together in 4/5 and we take it in turns to host an evening. This time it was Langford's turn to entertain. We made quite a large group but there was plenty of homemade cakes to go around, baked by members. For entertainment we arranged David Tomkins, a well-known local ventriloquist and magician who kept us laughing so much our sides ached, great fun.

We will again be serving refreshments at the next Antiques, Collectibles & Homemade Fare in November; fingers crossed it will be well supported.

On a more sombre note, we have David Duker coming soon to tell us the wartime story of a gentleman called Victor Ekins and in November we have Delphi Ellis teaching us on how to build a brilliant mindset – there will be more on them in the spring diary. Also in November we are off to the proms in Bedford and some members are booked to see a show at the Gordon Craig and of course we look forward to celebrating Christmas at our December meeting. AND finally a few of us attended a fund raiser of Crazy Bag Whist – never heard of it, well we will tell you more next time.

Our meetings are listed under 'What's on in Langford' in this diary – visitors are welcome at £5 which includes refreshments. Please get in touch with Iris our President if you would like more information 01767 223849

Olive Ravenall



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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

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

Judi Samuels Garden Design

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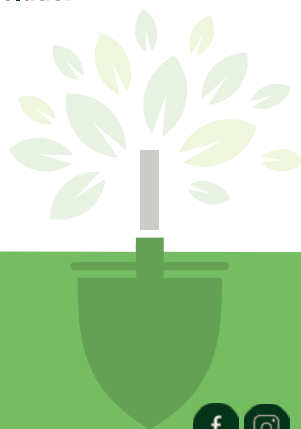
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Monday to Friday
9am – 3pm
Morning & Afternoon
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Breakfast club every
day of the week
8.15am-9am

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www.owletspreschool.co.uk

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www.owletspreschool.co.uk

Langford Owlets pre-school

Langford Cricket Club



End of Season Update

The Cricket Season is now well and truly over, and we are most certainly not mentioning the Cricket World Cup! Nor the Rugby World Cup..... Langford's 2023 season saw the youth section play out a full league program for all ages again, including a strong (and young) U9's, boosted by some AllStars stepping up to organised Cricket.

Youth coaching continued a pace; taking over the playing fields on a Thursday evening with often over 30 youngsters aged between 7 and 13 years old. The future of Cricket in Langford looks in good hands!

The Sunday Langford 1st XI finished the season strongly in Division 4, battling against 2 up and coming teams who are both on their way up to the higher divisions. Langford finished 3rd in the league, missed out on promotion by two points. Finishing with a record of Played 16, won 12, lost 3, Cancelled due to weather 1. Total Points 378. (A points total that would have secured 1st or second in the 6 other divisions of the Beds County League this year).

The Saturday Development team strengthened this season, and welcomed progressing youths from the U15's, more new arrivals getting back into cricket and some new starters trying cricket for the first time. The team won more than they lost and had some excellent victories.

Thank you to our main Sponsor Harrisons Accountancy for their continued support. The Club continue to welcome new players, so whether you are young, or a bit more mature, there is cricket at Langford Cricket Club for everyone, so please do come along and join us.

Please ensure you keep up to date on what is happening via the
Langford Cricket Club Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LangfordCC)
and team fixtures, results and player statistics on the
Langford Play Cricket Website (langfordcc.play-cricket.com).

Andy Watson, Chairman, Langford Cricket Club.

Langford Football Club



Our Season is well underway with all three teams putting in some great performances. The Men's First Team have played 15 games with 6 victories 2 draws and 7 losses. The losses have all been close games losing by the odd goal. Our wins however have been excellent, we had a 7-0 victory shortly followed by an 8-3 victory lifting us to the top half of the table. Unfortunately, we did lose in the FA Vase, again it was a close game just the one goal between us 4-3 to Sawbridgeworth. The games are coming thick and fast, you will find posters around the village and on social media, it would be great to see new and old faces at the games.

Our Ladies Team have started the season well, at this moment in time they are unbeaten from 5 games, joint top in the league and into the 3rd qualifying round to the Women's FA Cup away at Haringey Borough women who are 2 Leagues above. Sadly, the Ladies lost this game, it was a good experience first time in the Women's FA Cup, winning their first game, we look forward to next year.

Langford Ivel have started their season winning 2 drawing 1 and 2 losses, they are mid table and looking to progress as they work through the season.

All three teams are working hard, all with positive attitudes, lets hope the next diary will have good news for all of them.

Paul Vince – Chair
Football Club

Christmas Draw

It is that time of year again, the Christmas Draw for Langford Football Club will be on Friday 22nd December 2023, all welcome, start time 7.00 pm in the Club House.



Langford Tennis Club

It has been a relatively quiet few months for the tennis club now that our courts are fully refurbished, and the new floodlighting is in place.

Our teams have started play in the Bedfordshire County Winter League with all three Ladies' teams being in the same division this season which will make for some very competitive matches! Likewise, the Mixed teams A, B and C are all in the same division – the best thing about this is that most of our matches will therefore be “home” matches meaning that we don't have to travel too far!

Our Active Communities Enterprise (ACE) coaching programme has resumed for the school term from September to December and caters for juniors and adults whether they are beginners, those returning to play right through to advanced players. 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. You don't have to be a member of the club to participate in coaching, although members do enjoy a discount! There is also the possibility of one-to-one coaching for members. There are currently spaces on some 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

Paul Metcalfe is the Coaching & Tennis Development Officer at the Club, and he can be contacted at coaching@langfordtennisclub.org.uk

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](https://www.instagram.com/Langfordtennisclub))



A most enjoyable and successful outdoor season has passed. Although the summer weather was not particularly good, it didn't affect the mid-week playing schedule with the Club playing 15 friendly Wednesday matches during the summer, winning 13 out of the 15. So, congratulations to all those that played. Other friendly matches played throughout the summer also saw the Club successful in most matches.

In the East Beds League, the B team finished second in Division 4, thereby gaining promotion to Division 3.

Congratulations to Barrie Crane, Dave Jones, Eric Williams, Bob King, David Salby, Rob Leonard, Rob Etienne, Richard Blossom and Peter Holmes.

The A team had a bit of a struggle, however they managed to avoid relegation by winning their last match against Stotfold by one shot (phew).

The internal club competitions have been completed and the results are listed below. Congratulations to all.

Langford Internal Competitions Winners 2023

Mixed Singles 2 Woods
Mixed Singles 4 Woods
Mixed Singles 4 Woods Handicap
Drawn Pairs
Partner Pairs
Pairs League
Milton Cup

Peter Holmes
Steve Bilcock
Dale Parfitt
Eileen Ede and Jim Rix
Peter Holmes and Steve Bilcock
Eric Williams and Jim Rix
Gemma Bartram and Derek Harding

The Club will be holding its awards presentation evening in the Village Hall on Saturday, 4th of November.

Bowls now moves to the indoor season with most of the Club's players participating in various leagues. These are played at the Riverain indoor Club in Hitchin.

The Club will continue with indoor Short Mat Bowls over the winter period, this is played on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm, all are welcome, if you have never played bowls before this is a good introduction to this fun game, so just turn up, you will be made most welcome.

The Club's thanks go to all members and village supporters who have made 2023 a most enjoyable year.

Have a lovely Christmas, stay safe, and see you in 2024.

James Rix - Chairman

For further information please go to our web site

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/langford-bowls-club-8165/home>.

We have 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 01462 701663 (Club Chairman)

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



Langford Neighbourhood Plan

Autumn 2023 Update

The Langford Neighbourhood Plan was reviewed by the Langford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (LNPSG) and updated in May this year. This update can be found on the Langford Parish Council (LPC) and Central Beds. Council (CBC) websites.

The LNPSG, along with Langford Parish Council, will now be included in the list of consultees for larger planning applications.

All planning proposals for more than ten new houses will be evaluated by the LNPSG against the 86 individual policy strands in the LNP for compliance (using the very visual “traffic light” analysis) in any application consultation. This has been completed & submitted for the proposed development on the land behind 74 Station Road.

As we write we’ve just become aware of the new Gladman proposal for 170 houses on the east side of Langford Road going north towards Biggleswade. We assure all residents that as soon as their outline planning permission application goes into CBC, the Steering Group will subject their proposals to the same scrutiny as we have for 74 Station Road and Cambridge Road phase 2 and our comments and analysis will go to CBC. Residents may remember that the site on the opposite side of the road was refused permission by CBC and the developers lost on appeal.

In July, the application for Phase 2 of the Cambridge Road Development was refused on the following grounds against CBC Local Plan and LNP policies: being a substandard and poor-quality development; affordable housing not integrated with market housing; affordable rent 1-bed properties have no external amenity space. Only 9% of LNP policy strands were met. This application will now go to appeal in November. Going to appeal is a legal right for developers who are refused planning permission. The LNPSG are encouraged by the citing of many aspects of the LNP and its analysis in the Development Management meeting at CBC that refused the application.

The Steering Group and the Parish Council encourage all new residents to read the Neighbourhood Plan as it’s their village too now. Inputs, suggestions and participation in the Steering Group are all encouraged and welcomed so please see below for how to be involved.

If you wish to, you can review the Plan (and all the supporting documentation, if you want to delve deeper into any particular aspect) at the

website <https://langford-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

To contact us you can email us on langfordneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com or contact us via the Parish Council by phone on 07482 276173.