

The **LANGFORD** *Diary*

The Parish Council Publication for YOU the Residents of Langford

SUMMER 2024

Editor: Trudy Emery
Contact: trudylangforddiary@gmail.com

Edition 224

LANGFORD VILLAGE FETE

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Langford Fete 2024

When my family and I moved to the village a year and a half ago, I saw a Facebook post about helping with the fete and it seemed a great way to get assimilated into village life. I love that the village has an annual event to bring people together and celebrate the local groups and businesses whilst supporting them and providing a fun day out for the whole family.

2023 was my first year organising the fete, with Taya Cleghorn, who has done so for years; a big thank you to her and her family for their involvement for so long, as she deservedly steps back from it. I've learned some lessons and will no doubt learn some more this year, and I'm also hoping to try some new things and offer some free bits for the children. We have a classic car collection, we will have an artisan coffee cart, surprise guest appearance, the kids zone again as well as a tug of war and plenty more for people of all ages to get involved in.

The Langford Village Fete is for the village and it needs your support in whatever way you can. Volunteers are integral to the success of the fete and it is a rewarding way to contribute to Langford Village and our community. If you are free in the morning before the fete starts we would love pairs of hands to help set up, put tables out, direct stall holders. You'd still get the rest of the day to enjoy the fete. If you're more of a night owl than a morning person, we need help the night before putting cones out and moving the interior around or even litter picking at the end of the day. We really do need volunteers to offer any time they have.

A huge thank you to Leah Baker and Elizabeth Kane who have been invaluable contacting local businesses regarding the raffle. Also thanks to the wonderful businesses which have supported the Fete by way of raffle prizes.

Unfortunately, once I go back to work later this year, I won't have the time next year to organise it unless more people can join me. A committee of three more people would secure our village fete for years to come and it's fun to organise and not difficult thanks to the organisers of years gone by. It's a well-respected and prepared event which brings people back year after year. The preparatory work is just a case of contacting local businesses and emailing previous stall holders; which can be done from the comfort of your home on a mobile phone or laptop. I would love to be able to commit to organising next years' fete, but unless people come forward to join me, its future hangs in the balance. I would love to talk to any of you who are interested; there will be a meeting on Tuesday 4th June at 7.30pm at the Village Hall for anyone wanting to help this year or next.

Langford Speed Watch volunteer their time to run the car park, the WI provide tea and cakes inside the main hall raising money for charity, the cricket club run the BBQ to raise funds for their club, local artists and clubs perform for free throughout the day, Colin and Christine Carroll will be hosting the outdoor arena for us. It really does take a contribution from everyone to make the day what it is; but there is still lots to do behind the scenes in the run up to the day.

Then of course, there is everyone who attends and brings friends and family to enjoy the food and drink stalls, play the games, support the stall holders, try to win prizes and ultimately enjoy the day and what it has to offer to make it worthwhile for all. Please do put the date in your diary and come along; all the money raised supports local people and will enable us to do even more next year! If you have any ideas or suggestions we would love to hear them!

If you want to get involved; to volunteer, to have a stall, to perform, to support financially, if you have an idea, please ***email Zoe at eventslangford@gmail.com***

A Letter from the Editor

With the summer ahead of us let's hope we enjoy some good weather for the two fetes being organised.

The Village Fete will be held at the Playing Field on Saturday 6th July.

The St. Andrew's Church Fete will be at the Church on Saturday July 13th.

Volunteers are always welcome so please read the piece on page 2 and 27. The newly renovated small hall will be available to see. So many thanks must go to Gill Clarke, John Shipman and Colin Carroll for the unenviable task of planning and overseeing the building of this brilliant asset.

As one of the regular walkers I am pleased to say the Tuesday morning group goes from strength to strength. The group has managed to walk every week throughout the winter and inclement spring, even though a few walks have been rather wet and muddy. We do try to choose the least muddy routes. Walking within a group is a very social and healthy hobby, so if you enjoy walking there is undoubtedly opportunity for another walking group in Langford. A good starting place would be Facebook or contact me and I will include the information in the next Langford Diary.

Unfortunately, there are still dog owners who continue to leave their dog's poo for others to encounter. I wonder if it's dog owners who secretly let their dogs foul under the cover of darkness. Be ashamed!

There were quite a few volunteers for the regular litter pick in March, let's hope we can keep our village clean, (including those few dog owners).

Have a great summer and have fun at the fetes!

Trudy Emery trudylangforddiary@gmail.com

What's On in Langford in the Summer!

June

- 4 **Gardening Club** - Visit to Cambridge Botanical Garden - 1.15pm
- 4 **Langford Fete Meeting** - All Welcome - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 5 **History Society** - Guided Tour of Jordans Mill - 7.00pm
- 6 **Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 14 **WI** - Vicar's Son to TV - Charles Garland - Church Hall - 7.15pm

July

- 2 **Gardening Club** - Hostas - Colin Wood - Nursery Plants for Sale Church Hall - 7.45pm
- 3 **History Society** - Guided Tour of Shuttleworth House (to be confirmed)
- 6 **LANGFORD VILLAGE FETE - 11.00am to 4.00pm**
- 11 **Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 12 **WI** - Kalico Slaves - Kay Goddard - Church Hall - 7.15pm
- 13 **ST. ANDREWS CHURCH FETE 2.00-4.00pm** - contact Sheila Vidler 07887 368077

August

- 6 **Gardening Club** - Visit to Church Farm Pulloxhill

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 16 for details of regular services

Methodist Services: Minister: Rev. Lorna Valentine – Sunday Services from 10.30 – 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

1st Langford Rainbows – Mterm time from 4.30pm – 5.30pm, Church Hall contact Danielle on 07866 3957

1st Langford Brownies – term time from 5.45pm – 7.00pm, Church Hall, contact Danielle on 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

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

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

2nd Langford Rainbows – term time from 5.00pm – 6.00pm, Church Hall, contact Danielle on 07866 395739 **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

Toddler Dance Classes - term time from 9.15am - 10.30am, Village Hall, contact Danielle on 07866 395739

Oasis Coffee Morning Chapel from 10.30am - see page 15 for details of Summer arrangements

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

Children's Dance Classes - term time from 4.15pm - 6.30pm, Village Hall, contact Danielle on 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

Children's Dance & Drama Classes - term time from 4.30pm - 6.45pm, Village Hall, contact Danielle on 07866 395739

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 4.00pm to 6.00pm 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

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 Melanie Andrews 628912 - James Rix 01462 701663

WI Second Friday of Month. See What's On in Spring 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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1st Langford Scout Group

1st Langford Scout Group

As always, the Group has had a busy few months, and are looking forward to the summer months when we can (hopefully) get outside and let off steam. We have a visit to Whipsnade Zoo planned for the Cubs, a coach trip to a FunDay at Gilwell for the Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs, water days at Grafham for the Cubs and Scouts and a Group Camp for everyone in July.

The Cubs and Scouts had a very muddy weekend at Leslie Sell Campsite in Bromham in March having fun with archery, rifle shooting, indoor caving and lots of muddy running about.



Several of our young people took part in the community event to plant a new Tiny Forest and we're looking forward to visiting this to see how it grows.

Squirrels

This term we have been learning lots for our badges: navigation, first aid and road safety to name a few. We have learnt how to read a map and use a compass as well as writing our own maps. We have built forts to read stories in, learnt some French and visited a fire station.

We awarded our first set of Chief Scout Acorn awards to three of our older squirrels, before they moved up to Beavers in February. This is the highest award they can achieve in the squirrels section so we are incredibly proud of them and hope they enjoy continuing their scouting journey in Beavers. We had 4 new squirrels join us who have settled well and been invested.

Next term we welcome 6 more squirrels to our Drey as we expand our numbers further. We have plans to go climbing in Hitchin, have a police officer visit to continue our work on road safety as well as joining the group on camp for the day and participating in a national scout event at Gilwell, scout headquarters UK. We will also be making much use of the lighter evenings and nicer weather, honing our navigation skills and getting more hikes under our belts.

We are always looking for more adult help so that we can expand further. Please get in contact if you would like to get involved. It really is very rewarding.

Squirrels are 4-6 years old and meet Mondays 5-6pm

Louise

squirrels@langfordscouts.org.uk



Beavers

The Beavers have been making lots of noise as usual and doing various fun activities including a visit to the Fire Station.

Beavers are 6-8 years old and meet Tuesdays 6-7pm

beavers@langfordscouts.org.uk

Cubs

Both Cub Packs have been having lots of adventures at Activity Weekend and climbing. They have been hiking, making pancakes and planting trees in the Community tiny forest. The Llama Cubs have been making music on Boomwhackers and the Falcons have been growing sunflowers.

Cubs are 8-10.5. Llama Pack meets on Weds 6.30-8pm, Falcons meet Tues 7-8.15pm

cubs@langfordscouts.org.uk



Scouts

The scouts have been working towards their Chief Scout's Gold Award with 3 being awarded in June.

The scouts helped plan last term with lots of fantastic ideas. They went for a hike around Broom lakes, and decided to do a glow stick dance the Scouts were eager to go swimming, so we took them to Hitchin Swimming Pool where they worked towards swimming badges. Pancake day also fell during the spring half term, so they all made tasty pancakes, always a winner.

This term, we are again full of fun activities. Most of this summer term, we are setting up for Group Camp. As well as taking them to boyd to have a go at tomahawk throwing and enjoying the cave bus. And we are heading to Rowney Warren to build bivouacs, which is always enjoyed.

Scouts are 10-14 and meet on Mondays 7.30-9pm

Becky

scouts@langfordscouts.org.uk

More help for all sections 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 is full, Beavers is currently full, Cubs now has a few spaces on Wednesday and Scouts is welcoming new members.

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



Girlguiding
Langford
Biggleswade District

Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

All four units have been very busy completing skill builder badges in the unit meetings and working towards some big awards. We recently had Bella and Millie from 1st Langford Rainbows achieve their Rainbow Bronze Awards, Aurora from 1st Langford Brownies achieve her Brownie Bronze Award, Abigail from 1st Langford Rainbows achieve her Bronze and Silver, and Alice from 1st Langford Rainbows achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold!

Before Christmas, all units attended the Remembrance Service in Langford and we put on our annual Christmas Show at the Methodist Church. 1st Langford Rainbows acted out their own story of animals who saved Christmas, 2nd Langford Rainbows did a song and a dance, 1st Langford Brownies acted out their own version of 'Elf' and 1st Langford Guides ran their own fundraising stall. We managed to raise £300 towards the units so thank you to the parents who supported and the local businesses who donated raffle prizes.



Rainbows from both units went on a trip to Gulliver's Land where we met Santa and went on lots of rides! Brownies did a post-Christmas trip to bowling in Stevenage. Guides have been on a residential at Molliver's in Bromham with a space theme and also did some

axe throwing. We all attended our Thinking Day event this year at the RSPB Lodge in Sandy where we completed the Girlguiding Anglia Nature Badge.

This term at meetings, we are going for walks, celebrating Father's Day and doing some outdoor cooking, to name a few! We held our usual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday for the children of Langford which raised over £100 so thank you to those who joined us! We will be attending our District Sports Day, doing a cinema trip to see Inside Out 2 and the Brownies are going to London.





We have had an influx of new girls wanting to join Brownies so our Monday unit is now full – we are opening a new unit, 2nd Langford Brownies, after the Easter holidays which will run on a Tuesday. Spaces for Mondays won't be available until at least next year as we are prioritising existing Rainbows who will move up from a Monday meeting. You can register your daughter to join Rainbows from birth – the earlier the better as there is more of a chance of them being able to join when they come of age. Rainbows are aged 4-7, Brownies are 7-10, Guides are 10-14 and Rangers are 14-18 – our local Ranger unit is in Biggleswade.

We are looking for new adult volunteers on Tuesday Rainbows, Tuesday Brownies and Thursday Guides so please get in touch if you can help on 07866 395739. We have lots of fun and help girls to know that they can do anything.

Danielle Ellis



Langford Methodist Church

How wonderful it has been to see the gardens and greenery come alive as the months have progressed into warmer weather and sunshine. The birds sing, the skies are blue and the sun warms the air and brightens our days. It is good and glorious and we rejoice in the greatness of nature and creation. We are blessed to have open countryside around us and nice walks. And it is lovely to share in appreciating all these things. We look forward to our Sunday worship and the fellowship we share with one another. Our Sunday services are relaxed and friendly. You are very welcome to join us on a Sunday morning, or attend any of our special events.



Our Chapel Anniversary in March was a lovely event. The service was taken by Rev Leslie Noon from Biggleswade and we had lunch afterwards, which was kindly prepared by members of the Chapel. It was most enjoyable and we were delighted that our Minister Rev Lorna Valentine was able to join us for the lunch.



On the 24th April we held our annual Gift Day alongside our regular Wednesday coffee morning. Thank you to all those who have kindly made a donation. This year we are trying to raise funds to improve the heating in the church and carry out some building repairs. Any donations are very much appreciated as we have to raise a significant sum. The building is in regular use; for our Sunday services, weekly coffee mornings, special events and by the Owlets on weekdays. We are keen to maintain and run it for many years to come. So, the Gift Day and our fund-raising events are important in helping towards all the costs.

And with special events in mind, we were delighted to welcome back the Sandy Ukulele Band on the 16 May. We had such a great evening last time they visited that we were keen to invite them back. What a fun evening. Great entertainment for all.

Looking ahead, we know that changes are afoot and it won't be long before our Minister the Rev Lorna Valentine will be moving to a new Circuit. It will be a great loss for us as we have very much enjoyed Lorna's time with us and the fellowship with Lorna and her husband Mark. We have very much enjoyed your sermons Lorna and your amazing voice. We hope you and Mark settle in well in your new Circuit and that you are very happy. We know that your enthusiasm, charisma, thoughtfulness and empathy will put you in good stead on your new path and your light will shine in your sermons and with those you meet.

The Circuit for Langford will be changing and additional churches joining it. It will be a busy time for the Rev Leslie Noon as she adjusts to the changes and overseeing the larger Circuit. We look forward to supporting and helping where we can and attending her services, as well as those by other preachers.

Some of our members have moved in the last few months and we wish Sarah and Diane well as they adjust to the changes. We still keep in touch with many of our members after that have moved away and they like to receive our regular newsletter by email or hard copy. So, the fellowship and love, which started from Langford now spreads out to the South West and up to Scotland - how great is that.

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.

2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th Sundays in the month - 10.30 am - Service at Langford Chapel. (One of the services to be an informal service on the 4th or 5th Sunday).

Chapel Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays - 10.30 am - at Langford Chapel (until the end of May), and then kindly hosted by Joan and Chris Rutt from June onwards.

Monthly Prayer Group

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

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 2 June - Mission Group Service - 10.30 am - Henlow Methodist Church
Saturday 22 June - Langford Church market stall - Biggleswade town centre - morning
Sunday 7 July - Mission Group Service - 10.30 am - Langford Methodist Church
Sunday 14 July - 'Farewell' event for our Minister Lorna Valentine - 3 pm - Shefford Methodist Church
Sunday 11 August - Cream Teas at Joan and Chris Rutt's.

If you would like further information about our Sunday Services or any of our events please contact

Jenny Broadbridge - Senior Steward.

St. Andrew's Church

I write this in mid-April, while our vicar Shaun is on extended study leave, as the Church is celebrating Easter-tide. If you come into the building, you will see the white and gold hangings on the side altar, pulpit and small lectern signifying celebration. However, you will read this in June when the church's year moves on from remembering the events of Jesus' life to 'Ordinary' time. The time measured in Sundays after Trinity; with an early Easter there will be many of them. At this time, we think about how God is in the every day, the routine existence of our lives as well as the moments of celebration. The hangings and the priest's robes change to green, the colour of nature to remind us of our creator but also our responsibility to the world we live in. The church is now open every day from 10 am to around 5 pm (during BST) so if you want a time of quiet, to sit and contemplate, or just come and look at the ancient building you are welcome.



We have a new service with some Makaton signing on the third Friday of each month. We arrive from 10 am and meet at the side altar for singing, a Bible story and a time of prayer with the opportunity to light a candle. We end by joining everyone in the Church Hall for hot drinks and cake. Do come along. More information from Sarah Riches (01462 700891).

We have a different date for our fete this year, Saturday July 13th from 2-4 pm. If you would like to have a stall or organise a game, please contact Sheila Vidler (07887368077).

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 Tuesday 13th February we had our Pancake Party in the Church. The Church was filled with very excited children accompanied by parents or grandparents.

A very lively and fun occasion.

Friday morning Coffee/Tea and Cake in the Church Hall from 10.30 till 12 noon is getting very popular with new faces joining us each week. £1 each for coffee/cappuccino or homemade cake and 50p for a cup of tea. Bargain and delicious!!!

Finally please make a note on your calendar St Andrew's Church Fete is going to be on Saturday 13th July this year.

We welcome local small businesses who might like to sell their products there for a small donation to St Andrew's Church.

Please contact me on 07887 368077.

Sheila Vidler

Langford Village Academy

The Summer Term is now in full swing and our Year 4's have been on their residential trip to Grafham Water, where they had the opportunity to take part in a variety of exciting activities. The children have improved their team skills, communication skills and have had a thoroughly amazing time.



We have also held another successful annual Summer Fayre run by the PTFA, there were lots of stalls for everybody to join in with, including hook a duck, envelope game, bottle spin, lucky dip and loads more.

Big congratulations go to our Year 6's who have completed their SATS tests, we are very proud of how hard they have all worked, we are now all looking forward to our planned trip to Harry Potter Studios. They will also be taking part in transfer events as they start to look forward to moving onto their secondary schools.

Planning is well underway for our annual sports day, we will be having a carousel of events in the classrooms and outside, weather permitting. Families will be invited to watch.

Key Stage 1 are also planning a trip to Shuttleworth museum, this will link to the learning they will be doing in History lessons on "How did we learn to fly?".

Our Year 4's are also taking part in The Queen's Park Faith Tour, as part of this the children will visit the Gurdwara, the Mosque and All Saints Parish Church. The children will learn about all aspects of their religious beliefs and how they worship.

We are very pleased to be able to update you about plans for September 2024-25. We have received plans for our new Year 5 Classroom, which includes a small SEND room, cloakroom and toilets. Work will start on the 1st July with a view to the building being completed for September 2024.

BEST Nursery Langford receives Good Ofsted Rating

BEST Nursery (Langford) has been rated Good in all areas in its latest Ofsted inspection. The report, which followed a visit in February, made special mention of the hard work by the nursery's experienced manager and her team. It also highlighted the positive impact on all children's learning and development brought about by good interaction with staff and a clear and purposeful curriculum.

Nursery Hub Manager Rachel Howarth said: "We are incredibly proud to be awarded a Good rating by Ofsted and are so pleased the hard work of all our staff is recognised within the final report. All the staff at the nursery and across the Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) have worked tirelessly to create and deliver a curriculum which meets the needs of the children in our local community.

"At the heart of this is our focus on improving children's communication and language. To do this, we have involved specialists from Pen Green and the local speech and language therapists to provide an excellent professional development offer for our staff. This has translated into high quality teaching and a successful education offer for all our children.

"Additionally, we have worked closely with the wider team at BEST and the local Early Years Special Educational Needs Advisory Team to ensure our offer for our SEND pupils is comprehensive. Any child with an additional need is provided with a package of support which ensures they make rapid progress in their development.

"The developments we have made as a team have been tremendous and each individual has had a huge part to play in the Ofsted rating we have received. We are also very grateful for the strong working relationships we have with Langford Village Academy and for the ongoing support from our families, without whom none of this would have been possible."

BEST Director of Education Alison Wilshaw said: "The teamwork of staff at Langford Nursery has been duly recognised in their latest Ofsted. The strengths and purposeful actions of all involved were spoken of highly in the full feedback session.

"We see a single-mindedness amongst the staff to give the very best provision possible to the children in their care, and we are so proud of all that has been achieved in this past year. The children and staff are a happy bunch, engaging minds and nurturing creativity so that all grow and learn alongside each other."

BEST Chief Executive Officer Dr Alan Lee said: "I am very pleased with this report. It describes both the significant improvements and excellent quality of nursery provision on offer at Langford.

"I thank and congratulate all staff for their professionalism, dedication and hard work, and extend this thanks to our parents and wider community for their support and enthusiasm. Langford Nursery continues to go from strength to strength. I am a very proud CEO."

For further information, please contact:

***BEST Communications Manager Chris Lennon – 07494 263720
or clennon@bestacademies.org.uk***



***Some of the staff members at BEST Nursery (Langford)
whose hard work has been recognised in the latest Ofsted report.***

Langford Village Hall

I am delighted to report that, with the assistance of Langford Parish Council, and especially the Chairman John Shipman, works on renovating the Small Hall have been completed.

Several years ago, due to safeguarding, it was proving difficult to let the main and small halls together, as the toilet areas and foyer are shared. Discussions took place at the VH Management Committee meetings, and a plan arose to convert the Small Hall to a “standalone” letting facility.

With the assistance of a Langford businessman, who kindly donated his firm’s time to help put together ideas on how this venture would work, and from these early ideas came forth a plan. Initially it was understood that just building regulations would be sufficient, but it was quickly established that full planning permission was required. A local architect was appointed along with a local building company.

Grants from Section 106 monies and The Wind Farm were obtained, together with monies put aside by the Village Hall Committee. Langford Parish Council also contributed and were there to help financially if necessary.

It was originally thought there would be insufficient funds to include toilet facilities, but after receiving quotes for the work, it was found that this was viable.

Works commenced once planning permission was received in January 2024 and today the works was completed – 15 April 2024 and we are very pleased with the result.

The Small Hall is no longer a conglomeration of small rooms, with a bar, cellar, and kitchen – it is now one very large bright, room with new access from opposite the tennis courts, small area to make refreshments, two toilets which can be sourced from outside when the Small Hall is let.

This is a wonderful space for all sorts of activities and can be booked through the **Village Hall Booking Officer** langfordvillagehall@gmail.com 07724 120951



Langford Parish Council

This time last year I said “We cannot expect a quiet year ahead. There could be more significant planning applications and we must “up our game” and respond accordingly. We need to be efficient in dealing with all our community interests” Have we achieved this? It has turned out to be the busiest year for the parish council that I can remember.

Reviewing the past year one looks at both the positive and negative aspects.

On the positive side we can see a significant investment in trees on the playing field, by the river and in the Cemetery. Further investment and improvements in the cemetery have been approved.

The renovation of the village small hall is nearly complete and this building is an important community asset and must be maintained and improved.

On the negative side we have been unable to find land for allotments.

We have had our revised and approved Langford Neighbourhood Plan overturned by CBC following their decision to re-examine their approval process. So we now rely on our earlier version – published and approved in 2021. Thank you to the volunteers who will be working on another revised draft.

Planning issues have taken a significant amount of effort and time and we were unable to persuade CBC to reject or modify the Phase 2 Cambridge Road site. This was despite a good representation at the CBC planning meeting with supporting residents. Thank you to them. The independent Inspector ruled that it should be rejected a few days after CBC approved it! Many man hours have been spent dealing with the potential flooding and drainage issues on the Phase 2 site. This is still not resolved to our satisfaction. We have tried to get all agencies (AW, EA IDB, CBC) working together to ensure the developers follow the rules.

We hold our breath on the prospect of further large planning applications despite a large one from Gladman at the north of the village being rejected by CBC. Will the Space Homes proposal with their prefab house scheme be back?

The population of Langford now includes many younger people and we would like a few more young people on the parish council. If this appeals to you contact the clerk or myself.

Want to know more? Look at the Parish council website where you will find minutes of meetings and a lot of useful information.

John Shipman
Chairman Langford Parish Council

Langford Parish Council

Please see our Parish Council Chairman Letter on page 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

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Lorraine Kalaher

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barbhammond@langford-pc.gov.uk

David Williams

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davewilliams@langford-pc.gov.uk

Henry Hewitt

07747 532002

7 Ewbank Corner, Langford SG18 9FS
henryhewitt45@gmail

Jane Wright

01767 601789

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

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, 6th June, 2024 - 7.30pm

Thursday, 11th July, 2024 - 7.30pm

No Meeting in August

*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

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



In the Spring the Club had a varied programme, not just for avid gardeners, but also for those interested in crafts and history.

George Lockwood paid another visit to the club and this time he gave us an illustrated talk on his favourites Acers. He focussed on those suitable for smaller gardens and companion plants.

David and Lesley Gould from 'TISIT Crafts' told us all about how they make resin ornaments, using sentimental flowers, to make a memory keepsake.

Helen Ackroyd presented a fascinating talk about the history of Anglesey Abbey in Cambridge, including the design and development of its famous gardens.

Members of the Club and a number of guests also got out and about to enjoy the Spring weather. A fantastic day out was had at the 'Thriplow Daffodil Weekend and Country Fair'. We enjoyed over 100 stalls and attractions such as the blacksmith's smithy, merry morris dancers and a vintage car display. We also enjoyed street food and homemade cake at the Village Tearooms.

For our Summer programme, we usually get out and about rather than our normal meeting in the Church Hall.

In June, we will be paying an afternoon visit to Cambridge University Botanic Gardens. The gardens hold a collection of over 8,000 plant species from all over the world to facilitate teaching and research. It's also a beautiful place for everybody to enjoy, including a bog garden, a woodland, scented garden and Mediterranean beds. We are travelling by Wanderbus and will have a guided tour of the gardens.

Cambridge University Botanic Gardens



Church Farm, Pulloxhill

In August, we'll be paying an evening visit to Church Farm, in Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire. It's part of the National Garden Scheme and featured on Gardener's World in 2020. Owned by Keith and Sue Miles, it is a small secluded kitchen garden with a wildflower orchard. We'll organise car sharing from the Church Hall.

In July, we will be having a meeting in the Church Hall. Colin Ward from Swinesmeadow Farm Nursery in Market Deeping will be paying the club another visit to give a talk on his favourite Hostas. You'll also be able to purchase plants on the night.

The 'Club usually meets at St Andrew's Church Hall in Langford on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.45 pm.

For further details on our programme see the 'What's On In Summer' section of the Langford Diary, or the following:

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

Details are also on the noticeboard near Pound Close in Langford.



Langford Art Classes

I have been painting now for over 30 years, and a few years ago undertook a teaching qualification in adult education. As a result of this I decided what nicer way to earn a living than sharing my love passion and experience of art with others. I now run various workshops and classes locally.

I currently run a watercolour class at Langford at St Andrews Church Hall. We are a really friendly group, very welcoming of all abilities and cover a wide variety of subjects, so there is always something for everyone.

If you want to know more about the classes please don't hesitate to contact me on **07521 978169**.

Karen Mangold

www.karenmangold.art

Facebook and instagram: [karenmangold.art](https://www.facebook.com/karenmangold.art)





Langford Friends Annual General Meeting was held at The Village Hall on Thursday 23rd May at 2:00p.m. All clients and volunteers were invited to attend.

We are also pleased to be holding our summer afternoon tea at 'The Watering Can Café (Cherry Lane Garden Centre) again this year. The date for this event is Tuesday 20th August. Invitations will be sent to clients and volunteers nearer the time.

We also hope to have a stall at the Village Fete again this year and would encourage you all to visit us and give us your support.

Our volunteers continue to be busy transporting clients to medical appointments and social events. We are very grateful for all that they do in providing this service to Langford residents. If any Langford resident requires our services (transport to medical appointments, social events, and other appointments, collecting prescriptions and help with form filling) or are interested in volunteering please contact us on 07884 046741.

Pauline Williams (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

Advertising in The Langford Diary

For more information - please contact

Sarah Gallagher

Clerk for Langford Parish Council

07482 276173

clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk

Become a
**VOLUNTEER
CAR DRIVER**



If you feel you could spare
just a few hours a month,
you'll be made very welcome
to join us in
what is very worthwhile
and rewarding work.

Find us on



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION CALL**

07884 046741

Or email: secretary.langfriends@outlook.com

Volunteers for Langford Fete 2024

I'm reaching out to you as a volunteer for Langford Village Fete, to ask if you could donate a 'prize' for our raffle. Any form or value of donation from your organisation would be greatly appreciated.

The Village Fete is on Saturday 6th July (11am-4pm) and is a free annual event which has been running for nearly three decades. It's a local event to support local businesses, charities and groups as well as provide a fun day out for the whole family. It is run by volunteers and the money raised from the raffle goes to the community Village Hall. The raffle is held on the day of the event, tickets are sold and will be called towards the end of the day.

The event is promoted on Facebook, your business will be 'Thanked' on that social platform.

If you wish to help this worthy cause please can you respond to myself either by email: **enak.elizabeth236@gmail.com** or by mobile phone: **07923 592092**
Thank you in advance

Elizabeth Kane
On behalf of Langford Village Fete.

The Ivy Leaf Club

We are now looking forward to the Summer months and hopefully some better weather. A reminder to renew your membership if not already done.

Upcoming Events are:

Saturday 29th June - Charity Cocktail evening in aid of LASR - Little Angels Staffie Rescue - Disco and raffle on the night. Voluntary donation to the charity of £1 per person on the door. **Everyone welcome.**

Saturday 27th July - Fishing for Robots - come and dance the night away to some incredible 80's Electro Pop . Non-members £4 on the door.

Saturday 25th August - The Atomics - the much requested return of this brilliant band! 70's, 80's and New Wave floor fillers. Non-members £4 on the door.

Please also see a photo below showing all events for 2024.

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.

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

2024 GIG GUIDE

THE IVY LEAF CLUB

LANGFORD SG18 9PE
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

JUNE 29th	Charity Cocktail Evening With Disco!	
JULY 27th	Fishing for ROBOTS	Non-Members £4 80's Electro Pop
AUGUST 25th	TBC	
SEPTEMBER 14th	Grange Charity Cocktail Evening	
OCTOBER 19th	Covers/Party Band	Non-Members £4
NOVEMBER 2nd	Uche Eke	Soul & Swing Singer
DECEMBER 21st	Fishing for ROBOTS	Non-Members £4 80's Electro Pop
DECEMBER 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE DISCO!	ALL WELCOME

Langford Clown Band 1908



The following has been deduced from the photograph so far:-

The people are quite young, possibly teenagers. The instruments are mainly home made mock ups although the violin looks real.



With the photo caption (Langford Clown Band 1908) and the placard held on the left (close up left) it is thought that they could be poking fun at the village band. Satire in Langford! Maybe the village band was a bit too aloof for some new blood? Who knows.

We think we might have found the answer after looking at the 1908 copies of the local newspaper. The 16th Annual Show of the Langford and District Horticultural Society was reported in the Biggleswade Chronicle of 4th September 1908. The newspaper article says, "The locals put on a novel item which created a good deal of amusement and between three and four o'clock until the rain set in in earnest the

Langford Clown Band gave a ludicrous performance which caused much merriment." The Clown Band of Langford was also mentioned in another issue after they appeared at the Langford Band of Hope Fete in 1908.

More information about the participants and photograph would welcome, so if you have any please email it to:

Langford History Society's Secretary :- Secretarylangfordhistory@mail.com.

Langford History Society

Would you like to find out more about the area? Are you interested in local and/or family history? You are very welcome to attend our meetings as a visitor if you are not already a member. We usually meet in the Church Hall on the first Wednesday of each month (with breaks in January and August) – free tea/coffee and biscuits are served from 7.45, with the speaker beginning at 8pm. By way of variety, our June and July meetings take the form of visits to local places of interest; with a Christmas Social in December. Visitors pay £4 at the door; our annual membership fee (February to December) is £5, plus £2 at the door – however, prices for visits or other special events may vary.

At our meetings so far this year – Celebratory cakes were enjoyed at our 40th AGM in February; in March, John Shipman gave a very interesting talk about the “History of Shuttleworth House” (where he is a guide, amongst his many other roles) which he illustrated by photographs contrasting the rooms today with how they would have appeared when the Shuttleworth family was in residence – this will hopefully be followed up in July by a guided tour of the House. At our April meeting, Nick Peace gave a moving presentation entitled “Two Ordinary Men” – the story of the lives of two close relatives, including their extraordinary survival as prisoners of war, which he had discovered whilst researching his family history. The Family History theme continues in May, when Ian Waller’s presentation “Everyone has Roots” is about what is needed to research family history and what records are available.

Looking forward, on 5th June, the first of our summer visits will be a guided tour of Jordans Mill; followed on 3rd July (to be confirmed) with a visit to Shuttleworth House. Places for the visits will be limited and will need to be booked in advance.

After a holiday break in August, on 4th September our meetings resume with popular speaker Roy Smart coming to tell us of a Rutland-born woman who ran wild in Kenya and then became the first person to fly the Atlantic east to west – this talk “Out of Africa and West with the night” was postponed from 2023.

The County Archivist, Pamela Birch, will be our guest in October telling us about the fun and games of her work in the archives; followed in November by “Tales of Old Bedfordshire” – when Stuart Fairclough will recount some stories from the history of the county.

If you would like more information, our website is updated regularly and you should look there for details of our meetings and visits:

www.langfordhistorysociety.org.uk

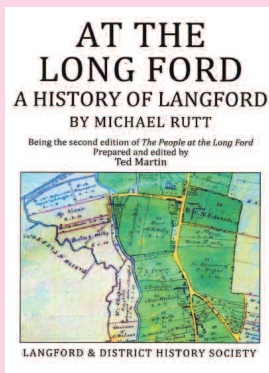
As well as more general Society information, the website includes a brief history of the village; open field names and enclosure; historical information about St Andrew’s Church, the Methodist Chapel, the Poorhouse and Langford Mill; the River Ivel; the Saxon coin hoard; details about a few Langford incidents (aviation and early vehicle accidents, the Black Death); as well as some past residents’ recollections and biographical details.

In addition, a useful source for family historians, the “Langford Index of Names” can be downloaded from the website – this 16-page index lists the names on the two village war memorials, plus those people referred to in volumes 1 & 2 of “Langford through the Lens”, “Langford: A Village Walk”, and “Langford Then and Now”.

The “We Love Langford” Facebook page also provides some historical information and a local quiz.

The Society has also produced / updated some books about Langford’s history – most of which contain lots of photographs preserving the knowledge of the families, homes and businesses of old Langford. Our books are available from John Shipman (01462 700650). Email: j.m.shipman@ntlworld.com and you can collect the books in the village:

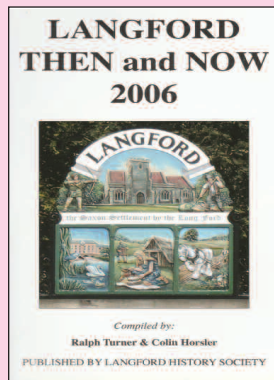
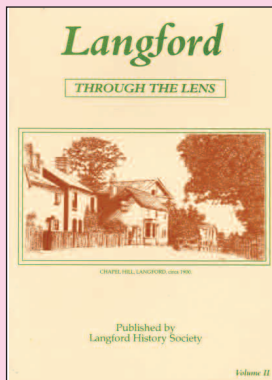
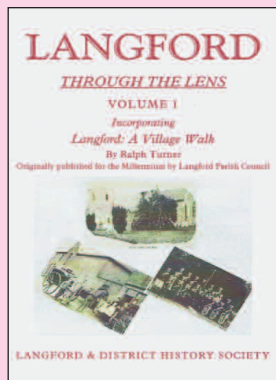
At the Long Ford: A History of Langford, by Michael Rutt: 172 pages describing Langford’s history from Saxon times to the present day. £7 or by post at £10.



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.



Langford Women's Institute

Hello Folks here I am, like the proverbial bad penny back to catch up with all that has gone on and things to come. There will be plenty, we do not stand still for long.

Of course Christmas came and went, as it does, then the singers, followed in February by an open evening when we just meet, chat, do puzzles play scrabble etc, but that evening the weather was not good which resulted in poor attendance.



However, there was no problem with attendance at the end of February when we enjoyed a 'banquet night' at our local Spice Lounge. A happy social evening supporting a local business where they always look after us so well. The profits from the raffle were donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Numbers were back to normal for our March meeting for the Kurling, which proved very popular. A new experience for many of us; all members were given the chance to 'have a go', sitting, standing or bending, no-one was excluded. The winning team were presented with a bar of chocolate each.

My first attendance on returning was with the group going to Milton Keynes Theatre to see the musical 'Pretty Woman'; it was very loud, but very uplifting - so were the ice-creams at nearly £5 each! Seriously though a very enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to Zoe and Brenda for arranging our various outings; they make a good team.

These wonderful teddies, knitted by our member Beryl Piper, were sent to the children of Ukraine along with many others from WIs across Bedfordshire - well done and thank you Beryl.





Next came our Annual Meeting when we vote for the committee of 24/25. This year we saw change and have two new faces at the table; we wish them luck. Following the proceedings we had refreshments and were entertained by Irene Gibson who brought along her game of 'Play Your Cards Right.' How many of you remember him I wonder (Bruce Forsyth)! Oh what a hoot. Thanks to Irene and Eloise for making it a fun evening.

Our Easter Bonnet competition was won by Brenda and she was also awarded the Competition Cup by our visitor, Diane Sanbrook, from Bedfordshire Federation (BCFWI) – well done Brenda.

Next on the list is the WI Annual Council Meeting in Bedford. The Guest Speaker this time is Esme Young of the Sewing Bee fame, should be good. Apparently, she was born in Bedford so may have more than sewing to debate on. At this time of our year there is a lot going on and it will soon be our members' evening. This is when a few non-committee ladies take the evening on and run it themselves. We have no idea what to expect, which is rather nice I think. Jenny is in charge so feel we are in for a treat. Coming up we have the Greensands Group evening in



Shefford. The Langford Fete on 6 July at which we are running the refreshments and the Church have their Fete on 13 July. Also in the pipe line is the Quiz at Biggleswade Football Club, tenpin Bowling in Henlow, but for now that is about it folks. Do get in touch with Iris (01767 223849) if you are interested in any of the above. Till next time.

Olive Ravenall

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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
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Langford Owlets pre-school



Langford Tennis Club

We held our AGM in February which was very well attended. We have had a few changes on the Committee with several members stepping down or changing roles. John Doe stepped down as Membership Secretary and Vicky Chung has moved from Secretary to take on this role. Kevin Howell is the new Secretary (and Complaints Officer), while Shelly Drakes and Jo Jaggard have stepped down as general Committee members. Gareth Dowrick and Nicole Chen have joined the Committee. On behalf of the members, the Committee would like to thank John, Jo and Shelly for their valuable contributions to the running of the club over several years.

Our competitive play in the Bedfordshire Summer Leagues started in April. We currently have three ladies', two mens' and three mixed teams, along with one veterans' team. We hope they all play well and, more importantly, hope the weather is kind as it has been very wet and windy so far!

Our Active Communities Enterprise (ACE) coaching programme has resumed for the summer term from April to July. There are still 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**

If you fancy serving against our radar gun or bringing your little ones to have their first go at hitting a ball, we will be holding our open day at the Langford fete on Saturday 9th July. Several members of the Committee will be there along with our ACE coaching team, so come along and meet them and find out more about the club and coaching program. It proved very popular last year!

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 would like to join in, and become 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))

Langford Football Club



The season has finished, Langford First Team have had the best season for many years. We finished on 68 points, scoring 91 goals along the way as we finished the league in 7th place, just missing out on the playoffs. With our Managers feeling a little disappointed especially when you end the season unbeaten in their last 8 games. Stuart and Graham along with Omar and Matt have done a fantastic job, galvanising the team, .The players have all played their part and those who have come to watch often comment about the lovely football played. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supports for their continued support and look forward to seeing you when the season starts again.

Langford Ladies have had a tough second half of the season in the Premier Division. On the plus side we won our very first FA Cup game and beat our closest rivals Stotfold Ladies twice. As we move into the close season we are looking for more players, If you fancy playing you are more than welcome to join us at our training sessions which will start again soon. Dates will be released on social media.

Langford Ivel are our Cup Finalists and sponsored by the Ivy Leaf Club. The Ivel are our Sunday team playing Sunday mornings at the park. It's good to see so many Langford players old and new, they always play with a smile on their faces, working hard for each other and looking forward to next season.

If you are interested in getting involved with Langford Football Club and would like more information you can contact us via our website.

Paul Vince - Langford FC Chairman



Langford Cricket Club



Rain, Rain, go away.... The start of the 2024 cricket season is a wet one, following on from a wet winter and a wet autumn. We would have a better chance of starting the water polo season on the Playing fields. At the time of writing, Langford CC, along with most other cricket clubs in the county, if not in the country, are struggling to play due to the sodden ground.

Once we get the season underway, we are again in the very fortunate position of again being very generously sponsored by Harrison's Accountancy, and we thank them once again for their fantastic support.

This year we will again have 2 Adult teams one on Saturdays and one on Sundays.

The Sunday team are aiming to secure promotion from Beds Division 4.

The Saturday team are getting more established, and are again ready to offer more cricket to many more people in the village. If you fancy trying cricket, or getting back in to the game, please contact us and you will be given a warm welcome.

We are again planning for Ladies Softball Cricket evenings (with Prosecco obviously) and also a Presidents day on the Bank Holiday in August.

All Stars Cricket is again ready to start in May for 5 to 8 year olds. Children from 8 years old upwards are coached on a Thursday evening where fun and enjoyment are the priority. Girls and boys are invited and welcome to attend each week from 6pm to 7pm from late April right through until August, this is a great introduction to the youth teams the Club run, from U9's through 11's, 13's and 15's right up to Adult Cricket via the Saturday team.

If your child wants to try something new, then you and your child are most welcome. There will be lots of cricket this summer.

The Cricket Club has an excellent set of dedicated volunteers; however we always are looking for more help and assistance. If you would like to play, or get involved with the Club in any way be it with coaching or scoring or umpiring, you would be most welcome.

Have a great summer.

As things progress through the summer please ensure you keep up to date on what is happening via the Langford Cricket Clubs Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LangfordCC) and team fixtures, results and player statistics on the Langford Play Cricket Website (langfordcc.play-cricket.com), and our Instagram page ([langfordcricketclub](https://www.instagram.com/langfordcricketclub))

Andy Watson, Chairman
Langford Cricket Club.



Langford Bowls Club

Our green keeping team have been working hard despite the wet weather preparing the Green for the coming season. The arrival of the new mower and its attachments has been of great benefit to the Club and is in regular use (weather permitting).



Sandy Con Club Division 4 Runners up Presentation

The green was open for play on the 8th of April and some hardy souls have been out practicing already.

The Club will be holding an open day in the summer, so any newcomers to the village who fancy trying their hand at bowls will be more than welcome. The confirmed date will be posted on our website.

Following a very generous bequest from the estate of Hubert Taylor the Club has purchased some additional seating which enhances the exterior of the Club house, photo of which is attached.



The additional seating will have plaques attached in memory of Dorothy and Hubert Taylor

Hubert's son Derek has summarised his Mum and Dads association with the Bowls Club from 1966.

Dorothy and Hubert Taylor Bowling History Written by Derek Taylor

When I was at primary school my mum was very keen to play bowls, but my dad never showed any interest in playing. Mums' parents, Ida and Hugh Brown were very keen members of Langford Bowls Club, Hugh was a vice president. Ida was a very good bowler and won many competitions and played for the County.

In about 1966, when I was about 12 years old, my mum decided to join Langford Bowls Club. My dad loved family life, he worked on the land and during summer months he worked long hours, often working in the evening irrigating the fields. Mum soon caught the bowls bug and was busy playing most evenings. My dad said "I hardly ever see you now, the only way I will see you is if I start playing bowls". Dad went down the bowls

green and tried his hand at bowling, he enjoyed it and joined Langford Bowls Club in 1967. He also caught the bowling bug. He won the club drawn pairs in 1969 when he played with Don King, his first competition win.

My Dad represented Langford in many competitions winning the Pell Shield in 1999, Harmsworth Cup in 2003 and won different divisions of the East Beds League from 1971 to 1992.

My mum played in the Bedfordshire pairs with Marg Whelan, winning the competition in 1980 and going on to play in the All-England Women's Finals at Royal Leamington Spa. There they lost to 2 England Internationals. She also played with Iris Roberts and Yvonne Bacon on other occasions. My dad played in the Bedfordshire pairs with Percy Bacon, they were reasonably successful and had some enjoyable evenings out. They also went on Bowls tours with Henlow BC.

My parents entered most of the Langford BC and some County competitions. Both enjoyed the sociability of bowling; the result was always of secondary importance. My dad would come home some nights and say, "I have had a lovely evening, but we were absolutely stuffed!"

My parents loved playing together, they played mixed rinks at Riverain Bowls Club in Hitchin, Stevenage Leisure Centre, St Neots Bowling Club, and Bedford Borough Indoor Bowling Club. After my mum's death in 2009, dad continued to play for Langford BC and indoors at Bedford Borough.

Dad attended a Langford BC AGM, and the old match secretary Wilf Dilley was retiring from the post, and no-one would volunteer, eventually my dad said he would do it. When he came home and told mum and me, we were stunned, he had never done any clerical work in his whole life. The first year was a struggle for him but he soon got confident and was match secretary for over 20 years. He even arranged an away fixture at Frinton on Sea, I believe it was the first time Langford had played at the seaside on a Sunday. He organised the coach and a stop on the way, dropping non-bowlers off at Clacton- on -Sea.

After dad retired in 1992, he was a regular helper down the bowls club and assisted Tony Hills and others cutting and treating the green, looking after the surrounds and ground.

Dad was also Vice President of Langford Bowls Club. ***Derek Taylor***

The mixed friendly matches against other local village clubs will again be played on Wednesdays and Saturdays with the occasional Sunday, the schedule of arranged fixtures will be posted on our website.

We have again entered two teams into the East Beds Triples League and knockout cup. Following on from their success as runners up in Division four, the B team now join the A team in division 3.

Representatives of the B team Robert Leonard and Bob King collected the teams award at the annual EBL dinner in December. Photo attached.

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

Best wishes for a successful and healthy 2024.

James Rix - Chairperson

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