

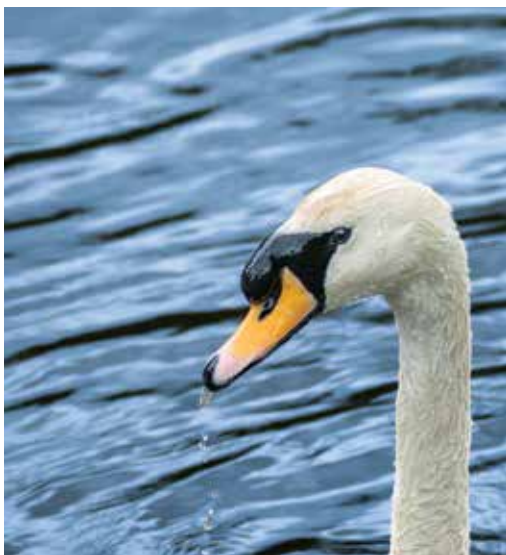
The LANGFORD Diary

The Parish Council Publication for YOU the Residents of Langford

SPRING 2025

Editor: Trudy Emery
Contact: trudylangforddiary@gmail.com

Edition 227



With thanks to Mark Ishkaru for these photos of Langford Birdlife

A Letter from the Editor

The popularity of Stella Hill was so evident at her funeral today. I have never attended a service with so many mourners. Stella was certainly loved. As my predecessor as editor of The Langford Diary, Stella Hill gave me great support and encouragement when I took over.

She was editor from 2004 to 2014. I feel as I have known Stella for a very long time. She was always a friendly face whenever I met her. She lightened any meeting with her anecdotes and positive outlook on life. It was a very sad day when I heard about her sudden death. My sincere condolences go out to all her well-loved family. She will be missed by so many. Thank you, Colette for writing such a fitting and loving contribution for our village magazine. Please see page 27.

Looking forward, and on a lighter note, there are so many organisations in our village. Take a look at pages 3,4 and 5 for a summary of the clubs and organisations. I attend the exercise class for the over 50's on Wednesdays at the village Hall. It is run by Conor Inskip who targets the exercises so well for our age group. Although he is young (and very fit), he always welcomes newcomers with a friendly chat and remembers so much about each of us oldies! The first session is free, so you can give it a try without any commitment. Then we pay each time we attend. See page 4 for details.

For the much, much younger there is Lollipops Toddlers Group which has changed its time from afternoons to mornings on Tuesdays at the Village Hall. It is now from 9:30am to 11am. That's a great time to meet other mums, dads, grandparents and carers while the children play happily. See page 4 for details or Lollipops Facebook page.

The community Litter Pick has been set for Saturday 15th March at 9:30am to 11:30am at St. Andrews Church. Litter picking tools will be provided. Why not come along and make our village a more pleasant place to live, and children usually love being involved.

Finally, please see page 33 for details of how to volunteer to help with the Village Fete. This is planned for July 12th. Your help is so definitely needed.

Enjoy the spring! I'm looking forward to the daffodils and crocuses which will soon be in bloom around the village.

Trudy Emery

trudylangforddiary@gmail.com

What's On in Langford in the Spring!

March

- 4 Pancake Party** - 10am - 12 noon - Church Hall
- 4 Gardening Club** - 'Wildlife Gardening by the Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust' - Village Hall - 7.45pm
- 5 History Society** - Mystery and Magic of Egyptian Hieroglyphs - Nick Da Costa - Church Hall - 8.00pm
- 6 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 14 WI** - Verse and Worse - Sarah Harrison - Village Hall - 7.15pm
- 15 Tidy Up Langford Community Litter Pick**
- 27 Langford Space to Talk** - Church Hall - 7.15pm - 8.45pm
- see page 39 for details

April

- 1 Gardening Club** - 'Getting to Grips with Pruning by Nigel Start' - Church Hall - 7.45pm
- 2 History Society** - It's a Hole - A big, big hole - The Extraction Industry and Bedfordshire Landscape - Brian Kerr - Church Hall - 8.00pm
- 6 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 11 WI** - Village Hall - 7.15pm
- 24 Langford Space to Talk** - Church Hall - 7.15pm - 8.45pm
- see page 39 for details

May

- 1 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 6 Gardening Club** - 'A Garden Bug': Cohabit - Conserve or Control? - Ian Bedford - **Village Hall Small Hall** - 7.45pm
- 7 History Society** - Out of Africa and West with the Night - Roy Smart - Church Hall - 8.00pm
- 9 WI** - AGM - Village Hall - 7.15pm
- 18 Garage Sale Trail** - 10.00am - 2.00pm - see facebook Event to book - Use QR Code
- 29 Langford Space to Talk** - Church Hall - 7.15pm - 8.45pm
- see page 39 for details

Book Swap - St. Andrew's Church Porch - 10.00am-4.00pm everyday
Church Open every day

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

Methodist Services Mission Group on the Second Sunday of the month.

Please see page 26 for Service Times and Forthcoming Events –

Contact Jenny Broadbridge 01462 701127

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

1st Langford Squirrels 5.00pm–6.00pm Scout Hut Ages 4–6

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 – term 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

Langford Lollipops Toddler Group 9.30am–11.00am Village Hall –

See Facebook page Langford Lollipops Toddler Group

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 £6.00 PAYG including tea/coffee at St. Andrew's Church Hall – Contact Hannah info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com or 07394 93411

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

2nd Langford Brownies – 6.15pm – 7.30pm, Church Hall except 1st Tuesday of Month 6.00pm – 7.00pm – 07976 534423 following Rainbows

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

Langford Gardening Club First Tuesday of the month. See What's on in Langford in the Winter 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 26 for details of Winter
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

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 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 <http://clubspark.ita.org.uk/langfordtennisclub>

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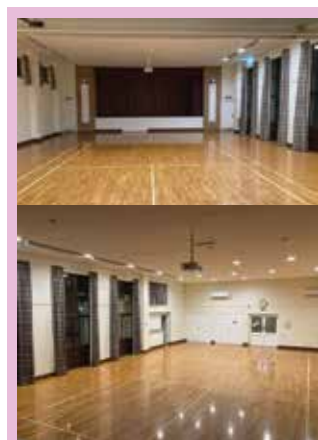
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langfordvillagehall@gmail.com

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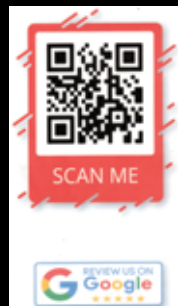
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1st Langford Scout Group

I open my Diary entry every time by saying we've had a busy few months – perhaps I should stick to saying the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and all the leaders are as busy as ever doing fun activities and learning new skills.

The Scout Association asks us to do a census every January detailing how many young people we have taking part in our weekly meetings. This year it is 105 – an increase of 25 from this time last year. This is in part due to increasing spaces in our Squirrel Drey from 12 to 18, but also due to the success of splitting our cubs across two packs and increasing retention in all sections. Our longer term plans include opening a new Beaver Colony but this requires a new team of volunteers able to make the commitment. I am frequently asked if offering to help out will increase someone's chances of being offered a space but we already expect parents to help when they can – what we really need is adults willing to commit to helping to run a section as part of the leadership team. The criteria we use for offering spaces to those on the waiting list are those who have been on the list longest are considered first, and having a sibling already in the Group also gives you priority.

All the sections took part in the village Act of Remembrance and the leaders were all so proud of how well they behaved, even the Squirrels stood still and listened respectfully during what must seem a really long, solemn event for them! That had a calming influence on the Beavers too as they must have felt if the younger ones could behave, then so could they!





In October all our Chief Scout Award winners from the year were invited to a ceremony held by Bedfordshire Scouts to celebrate their achievement. So much of what we do is to encourage our scouts – from 4 year old Squirrels to 16 year old young leaders – to recognise what they've done that they can be proud of. Whether that's going up a climbing wall that they find scary, to trying a food they've never tasted before!

Some of the activities we've been doing include chip shop visits for the Squirrels and Llama cubs (actually a trip to the Langford 'Luminations' but such a trek needed hot food for sustenance), fire station visits and a session on Confidence Building for the Falcon Cubs, the Beavers had an indoor sleepover at Wymondley Woods and the Scouts designed an ingenious mini golf course from recyclables.

Most recently 83 of us took a trip to the Panto in Stevenage (oh yes we did!) which was great fun, and both less cold and less incident prone than our Group ice skating trip last January (definitely chalked that one up to experience!)

Coming up we have the legendary sleep over for the older cubs and scouts when the Scout Hut is turned into a pleasure palace of gaming, movies and scalextric for 24 hours. Sleep is a minor feature! We are also taking the cubs and scouts to Phasels Wood scout site in March for Activity Weekend – a two night indoor residential where we pack the programme with activities such as climbing, indoor caving, high ropes, abseiling and so on.

We have some space for young people age 14+ to volunteer with us through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme with Falcon Cubs on Tuesdays.

Squirrels are age 4–6 and meet Mondays 5–6, Beavers are age 6–8 and meet on Tuesdays 5.45–6.45, Cubs are 8–10.5 and meet Tuesdays 7–8.15 or Wednesdays 6.30–8 and Scouts are 10–14 and meet Monday 7.30–9.00.

All are term time only and all are open to boys and girls.

Squirrels is full, Beavers is full, Cubs will have spaces later in the year, 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 – contact me for more information.

Jo Smith, Group Lead Volunteer jo.smith@langfordscouts.org.uk

Our annual fundraiser - the Garage Sale Trail - will take place on Sunday 18th May 10am-2pm - details are in a Facebook Event - please contact me to book your stall or scan the QR code



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

All our units have been very busy completing skill builder badges in the unit meetings and working towards some big awards. We recently had Hallie from 2nd Langford Rainbows achieve her Rainbow Bronze Award, and Abigail and Ivy from 1st Langford Rainbows achieve their Rainbow Gold Awards.

All units attended the Remembrance Service in Langford and we put on our annual Christmas Show, this time at the Village Hall. 1st Langford Rainbows acted out their own version of the Gingerbread Man, 2nd Langford

Rainbows and 2nd Langford Brownies did some singing and dancing and 1st Langford Brownies made their own story about travelling around the world. We managed to raise



£400 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 Mead Open Farm where we saw lots of different animals! All the units went to the cinema to see Moana 2. We are all looking forward to attending our Thinking Day event this year where we will be having a pyjama party disco.

This term at meetings, we are decorating pancakes, learning some first aid, celebrating Easter and having some special animal visitors in to see us, to name a few! We are hoping to hold our usual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter



Sunday for the children of Langford so keep an eye out for more details!

Our units are all very busy and we prioritise those already in Guiding with moving up to the next section. 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 Brownies 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.



Provide an Accessible Route to Langford Garden Centre

Sign the petition!



The garden centre is a vital amenity for the village of Langford and should be safely accessible to everyone. The current pedestrian route to the garden centre is not suitable for pedestrians or wheelchair users, who have to attempt to negotiate a narrow, uneven and often muddy path.

However, Central Bedfordshire Council are refusing to improve this footway.

Scan the QR code below to get a link to the petition demanding that Central Bedfordshire Council changes its mind. The petition is open until 27th May.



Supported by Langford Parish Council.



Over the winter period there was not so much gardening going on at the club, but we had a lot of fun.

We had a great time at our Christmas Quiz, held in the Village Hall this year. This year's quiz saw a record attendance with over fifty people making up nine teams. Each and everyone made it a very enjoyable night. As before we welcomed a few of our

friends and neighbours who made up guest teams, but it was great that a 'home grown' team of club members won this year!

Everyone in the club contributed home-made flower decorations for the church's Christmas Tree Festival and a group of members decorated the tree. We're already planning next year's entry!

Our Spring programme will hopefully inspire us as we get back outside into our gardens and the countryside.



In March, Janet from the Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust will be giving a talk on 'wildlife gardening' and how to include the four things wildlife needs in your garden; food, water, shelter and a place to breed. With an estimated 24 million gardens in the UK, the way they are managed can make a real difference for wildlife.

Nigel Start will be giving a talk 'Getting to grips with Pruning' in April. It will cover the topics of 'Why and when to prune' and will also give us some pointers on the best tools to use. There will also be tool maintenance tips to keep them in top condition, which is very important to your pruning regime.

What are the good and bad garden bugs that we often find in our gardens and what should we do with them? Should we control them or should we look after them? What do we do when foreign pests such as the Spanish slug invade our gardens? In May, Dr Ian Bedford will answer all of these in his talk 'A Garden Bug': Cohabit - Conserve or Control?

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 Winter**' 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.

Spring Craft Fair

at

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Langford History Society

Are you interested in history? Would you like to find out more about the area? We are a small, friendly village society that regularly holds fairly informal meetings – if you are not already a member, you are very welcome to attend our meetings as a visitor. 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, we have a Christmas Social in December; plus our June and July meetings take the form of visits to local places of interest. 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.

Our 2025 programme kicked off with the AGM on 5th February. For our first ‘speaker meeting’ of the year, on Wednesday 5th March, we have Nick Da Costa’s illustrated presentation “The Mystery & Magic of Egyptian Hieroglyphs”. Nick will be telling us about the world’s first form of writing that cleverly used pictures of everyday objects, birds, animals, tools, buildings etc to construct words thus making it surprisingly easy to learn with a ‘key’. He then describes how this key was lost for 2,000 years after the fall of the Ancient Egyptians and only rediscovered by the work of an Englishman called Thomas Young and a Frenchman called Jean-Francois Champollion.

On Wednesday 2nd April, we look forward to Brian Kerr’s talk entitled “It’s a Hole – A big, big Hole: The Extraction Industry and the Bedfordshire Landscape”. Brian will be explaining how the geology of Bedfordshire has provided resources for a variety of extraction industries over a long period, the best known being the brick clay workings of the Marston Vale. In addition, there is the hard rock quarrying of chalk and sandstone, the sand and quarrying industry based in Leighton Buzzard, as well as other less well-known mining and quarry operations winning coprolites and Fullers Earth from the landscape. This has left Bedfordshire with a residue of abandoned mining sites which are now important as brown field development areas, nature reserves, and leisure facilities.

On 7th May, Roy Smart will give his presentation “Out of Africa and West with the Night” which had to be postponed previously due to ill-health. We look forward to welcoming back this popular speaker to tell us about a Rutland born woman, who ran wild in Kenya and then was the first person to fly the Atlantic east to west.

Please look on our website if you would like to find out more about the history society:

www.langfordhistorysociety.org.uk

The website is updated regularly and you should look there for details of our meetings and events. 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.

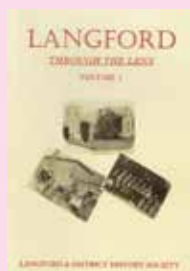
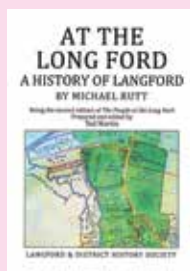
The Society has also produced / updated some books about Langford's history – most of which contain lots of photographs preserving the knowledge of the families, homes and businesses of old Langford. Our books are available from John Shipman (01462 700650). Email: j.m.shipman@ntlworld.com and you can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

At the Long Ford: A History of Langford – by Michael Rutt (1st published 1976, 2nd edition revised and expanded 2021): 172 pages describing Langford's history from Saxon times to the present day. £7.50 or by post at £10.

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 amendments and discoveries made since original publication by means of an errata list 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 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 Women's Institute

At the time of writing it's a freezing, frosty day in January, but hopefully by the time you read this update it will be a beautiful Spring Day in March – let's hope so!

The talk at our November meeting was by Robert Brewer who shared some amusing and interesting anecdotes from his life in the army to working as an extra on TV and films.



Robert also judged our collage competition, which was won by the talented June McDonald. As demonstrated in the photograph, a happy group of members shared a mini-bus to John Lewis' where we were greeted with a glass of bubbly and a mince pie; a welcome start to the festive season!

December was full-on, commencing with a festive singalong at Great Barford with Biggleswade WI Choir and a funny three-minute Panto performed by Board members of Bedfordshire Federation.

We were pleased to donate to and take part in the Village Christmas Tree Festival again. Our members worked hard crafting various snowmen for our 'walking in the air' theme, so we were delighted to be voted into joint



third place – well done to our Tree Dressers, Marion, Beryl and Brenda. Our thanks also to the team at St Andrew's church who arranged the event and congratulations to the winners at Langford Village Academy.

A delicious Christmas lunch was served to 28 of our members by the wonderful staff at The Five Bells, Henlow. A three-course meal with all the



trimmings, hats and Christmas crackers with silly jokes resulted in a very enjoyable and fun event.

Langford's last WI meeting of the year was an enjoyable and festive evening; our potluck supper, generously provided by members, ensured there was an abundance of festive food.



'The Firebirds' acapella group entertained us with a wonderful variety of songs, including Carols and a fun Christmas ditty sung in rounds by us all.



'The Firebirds' were great fun and we have no hesitation in recommending them to our fellow WIs.

Langford Women's Institute is not just about 'jam and Jerusalem, although we are of course rather good at baking cakes!' We enjoy meeting socially, hearing from a variety of speakers and entertainers, going on outings, playing board games, supporting each other and much more. Why not come along and see for yourself?

Visitors of all ages are welcome to our monthly meetings held at Langford Village Hall at 7.15 pm. £5.00 for first three visits including refreshments, thereafter a pro-rata subscription.

For more information please telephone me 01767 223849.

Iris Beazley



Langford Neighbourhood Plan

What is a neighbourhood plan? Neighbourhood planning is a process that allows communities to shape the development of their neighbourhoods by working with planners.

It gives communities the power to:

- Create a shared vision for their neighbourhood
 - Influence where new homes, should be built
 - Influence the appearance of new buildings
- Encourage appropriate infrastructure provision
- Participate in the planning approval process
 - Protect local green spaces
- Address land use and development issues

Neighbourhood plans are documents that outline planning policies for a specific area. They are written by the local community and help ensure that the right types of development occur in the right locations.

Langford's Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the internet at
<https://langfordpc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

This was approved in 2021 and is due for review and revision before 2035. Currently there are vacancies on the Steering Group which monitors progress and effectiveness and conducts the review. Interested residents should contact the parish clerk or the chairman for further details. clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk

Ivy Leaf Club

Happy New Year from all of us at The Ivy Leaf!

A reminder that memberships are now due and new members are always welcome. We have started booking entertainment for the year which will be advertised outside the Club, around the village and on our Facebook page.

We have the following dates already confirmed:

Saturday 26th April - Fishing for Robots

Saturday 17th May - 'Absolutely Tine' Tina Turner Tribute Act

Saturday 28th June - Hot Mess

Remember all football, and other sports fixtures, are shown on our large HD TV screens. We also offer the cheapest pints around!

We also continue to run our Lunch Club/Warm Space for our residents over 55. This runs every Thursday from 1pm - a hot meal and unlimited tea and coffee are available for a donation.

Our lounge bar can also be booked for most private functions for a nominal charge.

If you are new to the village, pop in and say hello!

Julie Devereux - Chairperson

Langford Village Academy

What a busy year 2025 has turned out to be!

KS1 enjoyed a WOW day, to prepare for their new history unit on Toys from the Past. Children brought in their cuddly toys from home and discussed why they are special to us. We made a cup and ball game and then finished the day with a teddy bear picnic.



In LKS2 the children have been focussing on improving their painting techniques, and in Science we have been learning all about the science of Sound. The children have been getting hands on with lots of experiments to help them visualise vibrations and waves. You may have seen the children participating in their Geography River walk, they have been putting their learning on Rivers into practice, following the path of the River Ivel, observing the human and manmade features along their local river, and adding features they spot to a map. We even saw a sleeping water vole!

The year 6 children attended the O2 young voices concert in January, where they sang songs such as Bob Marley Medley, Hairspray Medley, Lean on Me and Try Everything.

This event is always a memorable experience for our children as they showcase their talent and hard work alongside other schools in a grand musical performance. Young Voices enables students to come together to perform a fantastic array of songs in front of a live audience. This event will not only allow them to express their creativity but also to build their confidence and team spirit. Their mission is to ignite a love for music, empower children to discover their voices, and build their confidence.

We invited our parents into school to take part in an Internet safety talk. Our Director of Safeguarding from the Trust gave a presentation on the risks, what we do as a school and what parents can do at home.

As a whole school, we celebrated Number day and Children's Mental Health Week and we all enjoyed a Valentines disco.

We have many more exciting things planned for the year such as our Book fair, Red Nose Day, Big Walk & Wheel week, Our year 5 Easter Experience to St Johns & St Leonards Church and the Year 6 trip to Warner Brothers Studios for the ultimate Harry Potter experience.

We currently have space for in year admissions, for more information or to book a tour please visit our website or contact Miss Meller in the office 01462 629000.



Langford Parish Council

Is 2025 the year of the volunteer? With more growth in houses, likely cut backs in services, and less support in the community the role of the village volunteer becomes more important. At the time of writing the parish council has four vacancies. Can you spare some time to help with making decisions and formulating policies on where to spend funds and how to lobby CBC and other agencies to improve the village?

Volunteers are also needed to join the Langford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which is independent of the Parish Council but is supported by the LPC. See the Parish Council website for more details.

There are other opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in Langford: Langford Fete, Speedwatch, youth groups, sports clubs, Langford Friends. Langford Welfare Trust are just a few. If the village wants more activities such as Streetwatch or a youth club, a raft race, etc, then volunteers with new ideas, new skills, more energy, must be the way forward. Such things don't grow on trees. Support is available but the lead must come from the community who must demonstrate the need.

The planning inspector has ruled in favour of the developer who now has outline consent to build 170 houses to the north of Langford. The Parish Council objected. We await the detailed plans on layout, infrastructure and S106 financial contributions to the community. We know this will put the village infrastructure under more pressure.

The Cambridge Road development is still giving adjacent residents problems with noise from water pumps and excess ground water threatening gardens and houses. CBC enforcement actions have had little effect on Crest Nicholson's poor behaviour. Parish Council continues to lobby CBC on this matter.

Support from residents is still needed for the campaign to improve accessibility to the garden centre with upgrades to pavements etc. An on line petition exists. Access via Facebook or CBC website. Please look at it and sign it.

Sadly parents are still parking in hazardous and congested locations near the school and some are leaving engines running far too long. Please park safely. There is space at the village hall.

The next community litter picking event will be on Saturday 15th March. See poster in this Diary. Volunteer litter pickers can pick litter at any time. pick up tools can be provided.

Visit the parish council website for more details about village organisations or contact the clerk. See list of council members and contact details in this and every Diary.

John Shipman
Chairman.

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

Mick Beazley

01767 223849

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

James Van Hinsbergh

jamesvanhinsbergh@langford-pc.gov.uk

David Williams

01462 700474

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

Barb Hammond

07890 153155

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

Jane Wright

01767 601789

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

Julian Vaughan

07593 091378

7 Cambridge Way, Langford SG18 9SG
julianvaughan@langford-pc.gov.uk

Lorraine Kalaher

0767 227869

79 East Road, Langford SG18 9QP
lorrainekalaher@langford-pc.gov.uk

**With 4 Vacancies for Langford
Parish Council contact the Clerk of
the Council for information**

**Clerk of the Council
Sarah Gallagher**

clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk **07842 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 in The Village Hall

Thursday, 6th March, 2025 - 7.30pm

Thursday, 3rd April, 2025 - 7.30pm

Thursday, 1st May, 2025 - 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 07958 599308

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 PARISH COUNCIL

LITTER PICK

SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2025

MEETING AT ST ANDREWS CHURCH

9.30AM-11.30AM



For more information please contact the
clerk on
tel: 07482276173
email: clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk

St. Andrew's Church

Christmas is probably a distant memory by now, and our thoughts are moving toward Spring and Easter. That's certainly been the case with the supermarkets who are quick off the mark, usually loading the shelves with Easter eggs and chocolate almost before the Christmas decorations are down. Nothing wrong with that – chocolate is somewhere near the top of my list of essentials for life (although Lent is around the corner!)

But if we move too quickly from one thing to another, we risk missing out on the space inbetween. And that space can be significant for us. It allows us time to think, reflect and prepare ourselves for the next thing or destination.

Last spring I was away from the parish on extended study leave. One of the things I did was to walk the St Cuthberts Way from Melrose in the Scottish Borders to Holy Island (Lindisfarne), off the coast of Northumberland. You can drive it in a couple of hours if all you want to do is get to the destination. And the destination is worth it, with its ancient castle and abbey. But if you walk it (apart from realising that you're not as young as you once were!) you see and experience things that otherwise you would have missed: the smell of wild garlic by the banks of the River Tweed, the sight of contrasting colour in the undulating landscape of the Cheviot Hills, and a barefoot crossing of the tidal mudflats and sands of the Pilgrims' Path as you approach Holy Island. The end is even more spectacular when it comes into view because of the journey.

In order to get to Easter we need a season of preparation – Lent. The season of Lent provides us with a period of time to journey, reflect and learn. It is the opportunity to recognise things in our lives which need to be noticed, but also addressed, to recognise the joy of Easter: when Jesus who journeyed to Jerusalem died on the cross, but rose again, for you and for me.

When it comes, have a joyous Easter.



St. Andrew's Church News

December 2024 saw our annual Christmas Tree Festival. A massive thank you to everyone who took part and to everyone who sponsored the event. The Church looked magical all lit up with 19 Christmas trees beautifully decorated. Everyone looked a winner but the one with the most votes was Langford Academy's Key Stage 1.

Sung carols accompanied by The Bedford Brass Band at 4pm on the Sunday saw a packed church. A lovely start to Christmas.

All 19 trees once undressed were purchased at cost by Langford people for their own homes. Note for your diary – PANCAKE PARTY on Tuesday 4th March after school in St Andrew's Church. Everyone welcome.

COFFEE MORNING every Friday 10.30 am till 12 noon in St Andrew's Church Hall. Tea, coffee and a selection of homemade cakes at a very reasonable price. Always someone to talk to. You will be made very welcome.

Sheila Vidler

St Andrew's Church Hall

**Please ring Bob Vidler on 07958 599308 or email Sheila Vidler on vidlersheila@gmail.com to enquire about booking St. Andrew's Church Hall.
Sheila Vidler 07887368077**

Langford Methodist Church

Our minister, Leslie Noon, led the Sunday service before Christmas and compared the modern expectations of Christmas and consumerism to the real meaning of Christmas; the birth of Jesus in humble beginnings and the amazing events that took place. In our busy lives rushing around at Christmas it is easy to get caught up in the commercialism and forget why we are celebrating. The Chapel also held some fun social events. The Beetle Drive was enjoyable and the Saturday lunchtime Christmas Get Together was a lovely event. The home-made soups were delicious..



There was also the annual Carol Singing at The Leys which was well attended, despite the cold, drizzly weather.

It has seemed like a long winter and many of us are looking forward to the lighter days and more sunshine. Spring is a time of hope and as we see the first shoots of spring appear we can rejoice in the amazing cycle of nature and the continuity and reassurance that it brings. In a world where there seems to be so much change, which at times can be worrying, frustrating and daunting, we can put our faith in God to help us navigate through and know that his steadfast love surrounds us and strengthens us. There are so many beautiful things to be thankful for and to make us smile. Listening to the birds singing, seeing the first snowdrop or crocus, sunnier, warmer days and good friendships are such a blessing. Many of us find that going to the Chapel on Sunday mornings is a constant we need in our lives as we share in faith, fellowship, worship, prayer, appreciation and thoughtfulness. Friendship abounds and it is good to care about each other and the environment around us. If you would like to attend one of our services you would be very welcome.

Service Times

1st, 3rd, 4th or 5th Sundays in the month - 10.30 am - Langford Chapel.

The second Sunday of the month will sometimes be a Mission Group Service - led by our Minister Leslie Noon. 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.

Chapel Oasis Coffee Mornings - Wednesdays - 10.30 am - Langford Chapel.

Forthcoming Events/Special Services

09/03/25 - Chapel Anniversary. The service is a Mission Group Service taken by our minister Leslie Noon and will be followed by lunch in the Schoolroom

30/03/25 - Mothering Sunday - Flowers will be presented to all the ladies in the congregation.

17/04/25 - Maundy Thursday - Communion Service - 7pm - Chapel

11/05/25 to 18/05/25 - Christian Aid Week.

(The Service on Sunday 18th will be using material from Christian Aid).



There are also Faith & Fellowship, Bible Study groups and charity coffee mornings and events held at partner Methodist Churches in the North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit Eastern Section - which all are welcome to attend.

If you would like further information about our Sunday Services or any of the events listed, or to receive a copy of the Methodist Church newsletter, or if you have a prayer request, then please contact Jenny Broadbridge - Senior Steward - Contact telephone 01462 701127.

In Memorium Stella Hill

13 May 1938 - 18 December 2024

We sadly lost Stella Hill, a true friend of our village, just before Christmas. Stella was a former editor of the Diary, long-time volunteer with Langford Friends and ran the Welcome Club for many years until COVID-19 put a stop to it. She was also a committed member of the Langford Bowls Club, and many years ago was a founding member of the badminton club which met at the village hall each week.

The Welcome Club offered our older community members a place to meet each week to socialise. As a member of the Welcome Club committee, along with Molly Tindall and Joan Wareing, Stella enjoyed organising the weekly activities, as well as many excursions. Some of the days out she enjoyed the most were to Thurston Christmas show, the mystery coach tours and trips to various garden centres.

Stella was well known for her love of baking and used this skill to raise money for Marie Curie and The Alzheimer's Society by putting on some coffee mornings.



Having moved to the village in 1970, Stella spent over 54 years enjoying being part of a small community. She had moved around a lot in her youth and was happy to put down solid roots with her husband Allan and three daughters, Ann-Marie, Ursula and Collette.

Stella and Allan were regulars in the Ivy Leaf Club and Wrestlers, with Stella often working behind the bar whilst Allan propped it up! They were a sociable couple and were fortunate to make so many good friends in the village.

We will remember Stella as a cheerful, friendly and active member of our community, who loved to get involved and help others. She will be sadly missed, and our thoughts are with her family and friends at this time.



We are your local Community Energy group.

We are here to empower you to take control of your energy bills and the comfort of your own home. We also have ways for you to invest in your community.

What is Community Energy?

Community Energy focuses on: **Powering Down** and **Powering Up**.

Powering Down We provide free advice to help you stay warm whilst saving money. Our service is independent of any suppliers. Our qualified Energy Champions can assist with:

- Efficient home heating using existing systems
- Reducing draughts
- Insulation improvements
- Managing damp issues
- Understanding energy bills
- Support for those at risk of fuel poverty
- Exploring renewable technologies
- Information on available grants for tenants, landlords, and homeowners
- And more!

Powering Up We now have several community solar projects in the early stages of investigation. Hopefully there will be news of a Community Energy project going live in Shefford soon. More on that in future editions.

If you are interested in any of the above, would like more information, or wish to join us, please contact us at:

info@riverivelcommunityenergy.com

<https://riverivelcommunityenergy.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563347417656>

Ro Jackson



Ro Jackson

Langford Businesses Opening Times

PHARMACY

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

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

THE PLOUGH

12.00am - 11.00pm
3.00pm - 11.00pm
3.00pm - 11.00pm
3.00pm - 11.00pm
3.00pm - 11.00pm
12.00pm - 1.00am
12.00pm - 2.00am

POST OFFICE STORES

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

SUNDAY	CLOSED
MONDAY	9.00am - 6.00pm
TUESDAY	9.00am - 6.00pm
WEDNESDAY	9.00am - 6.00pm
THURSDAY	9.00am - 6.00pm
FRIDAY	9.00am - 6.00pm
SATURDAY	9.00am - 1.30pm

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

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

Christopher
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www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk

Advertising in The Langford Diary

For more information - please contact
Sarah Gallagher
Clerk for Langford Parish Council
07482 276173
clerk@langford-pc.gov.uk



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This will be my final article for the Langford Diary on behalf of Langford Friends as my term of office as Chairperson comes to an end at our A.G.M. on 22.05.25. I have enjoyed the past two years as chair and look forward to continuing as a phone holder and committee member.

We currently have 91 clients using the services of Langford Friends and between October and December. 45 of our volunteers have supported 23 of our clients with 69 different tasks.

The main request from our clients is for transport, mainly to medical appointments. We are seeking to recruit some more volunteer drivers to support our valuable service. I am including an article written by two of our volunteers to explain how they are used. I think it's hard to volunteer when you are unsure what the role entails, or the commitment required. I hope the following will help explain the role and encourage others to volunteer.

We have been helping out at Langford Friends for some time now, since moving here in 2021 and we both thoroughly enjoy it. We have been able to meet some wonderful people, who have told us some wonderful stories about the history of Langford.

The whole process for joining the group was quick and easy, and the fact that we can pick and choose what we want to do also allows us to fit client requests around our other commitments with our family and friends.

The majority of the requests are for driving people to and from appointments in and around Bedford, Biggleswade, Letchworth, and Baldock and occasionally to hospital appointments in Cambridge and Stevenage.

Langford Friends run a WhatsApp group where client requests are posted and we choose which jobs we wish to carry out. Upon accepting a job, the client's contact details are sent to us and we contact the client to make the final arrangements. Any contribution by the client is passed on together with details of mileage, which we are fully reimbursed for.

We really enjoy the social events that are run throughout the year, in particular helping out at The Langford Summer Fair where, for the last two years, we have been part of the "Human Fruit Machine" which was great fun!

We are both so glad that we joined Langford Friends, as it has made us feel a part of the Langford community, and at the same time make a positive contribution to the wellbeing of Langford residents.

We both hope that Langford Friends are still around when we may need a little help in the not-too-distant future!

Annie & Dave Berry

If you are interested and want to find out more, please contact the Langford Friends telephone for an informal chat.





We took part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrews Church. Many thanks to Diane Pearce and Richard Wood for decorating our tree.

Our volunteers got together for a meal at the Spice Lounge in Langford in December. Thanks to Ali and his team for a great meal and excellent service. It was an opportunity for our volunteers to chat to one another and for us to be able to thank them for all the work they have done over the year.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Stella Hill. She had been a valued volunteer for Langford Friends for many years, both as a driver and a phone holder. Our thoughts are with her family.

Thank you to all the committee and volunteers for the support I have received over the two years I have been in post as Chairperson.

Remember if you need help from the service phone us on 07884 046741.

All welcome to the A.G.M. on Thursday May 22nd, 2.00p.m. (for a 2-30 start) at Langford Village Hall.

Pauline Williams (Chairperson)



Become a
**VOLUNTEER
CAR DRIVER**



for Langford Friends

***Do you enjoy driving and want to work with people?
Do you want to help your local community?***

About the role:

Volunteers use their own cars to transport our
Langford adult clients
including older residents of the village to appointments
at local GP surgeries and hospitals.
Volunteers are reimbursed a mileage rate
and will be asked to complete a
Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Requirements:

- Clean driving licence and your own car
- Enjoy working with people
- Good communication and listening skills
- Availability during some weekdays.

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.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION CALL
07884 046741

Find us on  Or email: secretary.langfriends@outlook.com

Langford Lollipops baby and toddler group

Every Tuesday

9.30 - 11am

Langford village hall

Birth to school age



Everyone welcome



Tea and snacks included



Ends with rhyme time



under 6 months

50p

1 Adult & 1 child

£3.50

Extra Adult/Child

£1.00



Join Us for the Langford Fete 2025!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, 12th July 2025**, as Langford's much-loved annual event returns! This cherished tradition is set to bring a day of fun, community spirit, and celebration for all ages. From games and live music to delicious food stalls and craft displays, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

But, as always, **we need your help** to make this event a success!

A Call for Volunteers

The Langford Village Fete thrives on the energy and dedication of our local volunteers. Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit more time, we'd love your support.

We're looking for:

- Help on the run up to the event (can be as little as one hour a week); bring new ideas and contribute to the organising.
- Help the evening before to set up and move things around
- Help on the day (from setting up, to manning the raffle stall, being a parking steward and helping tidy up at the end).

Your time and effort, no matter how small, will make a huge difference! It's a fabulous local event for local people, businesses and groups.

Seeking Sponsors

Hosting an event of this scale wouldn't be possible without the generosity of local businesses and individuals. Sponsorship helps cover costs and ensures the fete remains affordable and accessible to all. Sponsors will be featured in our promotional materials and will have the opportunity to showcase their businesses at the event.

Get in Touch

If you'd like to volunteer, sponsor the fete, or simply learn more, please email Zoe at eventslangford@gmail.com

***Let's come together to make this year's fete the best yet.
We can't wait to see you there!"***

John R Ford

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Protected
- ✓ New & Used Cars
- ✓ Competitive finance rates
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- ✓ Take a look at the range of
vehicles on our website



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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



Central Bedfordshire Council VCS Grant in 2023 and 2024



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We all need community support, you're not alone.

Scan to join the email list
or join the "Langford Space to Talk" Facebook Group.



Scan me!



Langford Cricket Club



Happy New Year to everyone!

**An exciting year for Langford
as we celebrate our 150th Year!**

Preparations are gathering momentum at the Cricket Club with the 2025 season looming large. Indoor net training starts on Thursday 27th February for 5 weeks at Stratton Upper School. 7-8pm for Youths and 8-9pm for Adults.

In 2025 Langford CC will have two Adult teams, one on a Saturday and one on Sunday. Playing on one of the best cricket pitches in the area!

The Sunday XI will be testing themselves in Div 3 after promotion at the end of last year.

The Club has again entered a Saturday team in to the Beds Invitational Saturday league, this development team aims to be a fun and learning experience and the Club hope that the team will be a mix of youngsters, legends, ladies and anyone else interested in playing cricket. The Sunday fixtures have been issued, and we are sure that the Saturday fixtures will be released soon. You can check out the fixtures on langfordcc.play-cricket.com

The AllStars Saturday morning cricket sessions will be back in 2025. The 8 week ECB sponsored introduction to cricket course, not only offers places for 5 to 8 year old boys and girls, but comes with all the equipment a young cricketer needs. Registration starts in the Spring via the ECB registration pages.

Older girls and boys are invited and welcome to attend the weekly fun Thursday evening coaching sessions 6pm to 7pm, this is a great introduction to the many youth teams the Club run, from U9's through 11's, 13's and 15's right up to Adult Cricket. These sessions start after Easter.

The Club has players representing Bedfordshire at both youth and senior level, up to and including over 70's.

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

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

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

www.facebook.com/LangfordCC

Andy Watson, Chair. Langford Cricket Club.



Langford Tennis Club

The Tennis Club was established in 1952 and has been a popular local facility since then. We undertook major refurbishments in 2023 to resurface the courts and install a new floodlighting system. The clubhouse, or “little blue house” as one of our junior members called it, is now in need of refurbishment. The Committee submitted a planning application in December to Central Beds for which we are now awaiting approval. The proposed new clubhouse will incorporate a fully accessible toilet facility and will be insulated with a new roof, new glazing and external cladding. Watch this space for more news!



The cold weather has resulted in a number of matches being postponed nevertheless all our winter league fixtures are well underway.

Just before Christmas, our Wednesday Social tennis group enjoyed their annual Christmas tournament. This was a friendly competition where 8 pairs were picked at random, and each pair played every other pair with points for each game won. This was very ably and efficiently organised by Alison Huckle. The winning pair were Vicky Chung and Andrew Thiedeman. A Christmas buffet lunch followed which was kindly hosted by Clare Warren with everyone bringing something to share.

Our Active Communities Enterprise (ACE) coaching programme has resumed for the school term from January to March. 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

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 <https://.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LangfordTennisClub>

Facebook page

Instagram page ([Langfordtennisclub](https://www.instagram.com/Langfordtennisclub))

Vicky Chung (Membership Secretary)





The Club ended 2024 season with its internal competition awards presentation, held again in the village hall on the 9th of November. The awards were presented by our Club Chairman, Jim Rix. Photos of the worthy winners are below.

Our green keeping team are busy tending the green with top dressing and fertilizer.

Though very much weather dependant, we plan to open the green for practice roll ups on the 14th of April, the confirmed date will be listed on our website.

We hope to again hold a "Let's Play Bowls Promotion" open day in May, the confirmed date will be posted on our website.

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.

The Club has entered one team this year into the Men's East Bedfordshire Triples League, they will be playing in Division 3.

The Club will also be represented in the Bedfordshire County 2 Woods, four Woods, Triples and mixed pairs, we wish them every success.

Our Ladies have entered 2 teams into the Beds County Triples and a team in the County Fours, we wish them every success.

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

Short mat bowls commenced in November and is played on a Wednesday at 1.30 pm, this will continue until the outdoor seasons starts.

We are also playing Table Tennis and Darts in the Club house on Monday afternoons at 1.30, all are welcome.

Best wishes for a successful and healthy 2025.

James Rix - Chairperson



Don King Triples Winners
Taff Roberts, Bob King,
Richard Blossom

Drawn Pairs Winners Derek
Harding & Barrie Crane



Drawn Pairs League Winners
Geoff Bell & Barrie Crane



Milton Cup Winners
Eileen Ede & Keeley Appleby

Farewell to
Robert Leonard

Mixed Four Woods Winner
Peter Holmes.



Partner Pairs Winners
Jim Rix & Dave Laight



Mixed Two Woods & Four
Woods Handicap Winner
Steve Bilcock



Langford Football Club

As we start the New Year, unfortunately the weather hasn't played ball, we missed two games due to frozen pitches. Our First Team have been signing a few new players ready for the challenge of the 2nd half of the season, at present we stand mid table. The First Team are also in the Semi-Final of the League Cup due to be played in February, away at Wellingborough Whitworth.

Langford Football Club are working hard after our Christmas event, it was good to see old and new faces enjoying the evening. It would be great to see extra people at our home games showing support for Langford FC.

Our Ladies Team have been in transition this year as we introduced a number of young players from youth football to adjust to playing adult football, they will get there with effort and confidence. Langford Ivel are having their most successful season, played 11 won 11, sitting top of their table and looking good to go on and win the League. They are also doing well in the League Cup.

We look forward to seeing you supporting any of the Langford Teams and enjoy the hospitality of Langford FC.

Paul Vince - Chair Langford Football Club



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Clerk for Langford Parish Council

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

Submission Dates 2025

Autumn Edition - 22nd July 2025

Winter Edition - 22nd October 2025

IMPORTANT

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

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

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