# The LANGFORD Diary

*The Parish Council Publication for YOU the Residents of Langford*

WINTER 2026

*Editor: Trudy Emery*
*Contact: trudylangforddiary@gmail.com*

Edition 234



*Photo:* Common Road Lakes

# A Letter from the Editor

Thank you to all those organisations which contribute to our quarterly publication of The Langford Diary. They keep us up to date with news and events and hopefully encourage new membership to keep our village a sociable and friendly place to live.

Thank you also to the local businesses that continue to support our village magazine. Their advertising helps us with the cost so that every resident and business receives a free copy. Please have a look at their adverts when looking for a service or product. Let's try and support local businesses.

Personal thanks must go to Janet Bradford who proof reads the Langford Diary before it goes to print. It's a comfort knowing that she is a whizz at spotting any errors. Thanks must go to Steve Hills, our graphic designer and printer. Together I hope we produce a magazine that is attractive and useful and one that you enjoy reading.

There are many events in the approach to Christmas that I'm sure we are looking forward to including the Christmas lights switch on (which probably has already happened by the time this reaches you), The Christmas Tree festival, Carol singing and organisations own celebrations.

Whatever you are doing over the festivities may I wish you a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Trudy Emery trudylangforddiary@gmail.com



# What's On in Langford in the Winter!

## November

**24 Acorn Brass Band** - Christmas Carols - 7.00pm - Methodist Chapel
Tickets in advance or at the door

## December

**1 Gardening Club** - Quiz Night - Village Hall - 7.00pm
**2 Christmas Music and Coffee Morning** - Chapel - 10.30pm
**2 History Society** - Christmas Social - Church Hall - 7.45pm
**3 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
**11 WI** - Christmas Evening with Julia Scott - Authors New and Old - Village Hall - 7.15pm
**11, 12, 13 St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival** - St. Andrews Church
**13 Bedford Brass Band** - Carol Service - 4.00pm - Hot Chocolate and Mince Pies from 3.30pm
**20 Christmas Carols on The Leys Green** - In aid of Action for Children Carol Sheets provided - All Welcome - 2.30-3.30pm

## January

**5 Gardening Club** -Growing Dahlias - Peta Frost - Church Hall - 7.45pm
**7 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
**8 WI** - Social Evening - Village Hall - 7.15pm - Sales Table
**28 Space to Talk** - St. Andrews Church - 7.15pm - 8.45pm
**29 Langford Mosiac Project** - Langford Village Hall - 5.30pm
See page 25

## February

**2 Gardening Club** - Intersectional Peonies - Alec White - Church Hall 7.45pm
**3 History Society** - AGM - Church Hall - 8.00pm - Refreshments from 7.45pm
**4 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
**26 Space to Talk** - St. Andrews Church - 7.15pm - 8.45pm

**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.***

## *Monday-Friday*

***Owlets Pre-School*** 9.00am-12.00 morning session & 9.00-3.00pm full day - 07935 784567 - www.owletspreschool.co.uk

## *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 20 Forthcoming Events -
***Contact Jenny Broadbridge 01462 701127***
***Dog Training*** 9.00am-1.30pm Langford Village Hall - Contact Gary 07738 683854

## *Monday*

***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
***Squirrel Scouts*** - 5.00pm-6.00pm (boys and girls aged 4-6 years)
***1st Langford Scouts*** (boys and girls aged 10-14 years) 7.30pm-9.00pm (term time only)
***Move with Hannah*** 6.45pm - 7.30pm Beatzdance - 7.30pm-8.15pm Pilates 07575 393997 hannah@wellbeing-room.co.uk

## *Tuesday*

***Langford Lollipops Toddler Group*** 9.30am-11.00am Village Hall - See Facebook page Langford LollipopsToddler 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 934911
***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 Beaver Scouts*** - 5.45pm-6.45pm (boys and girls aged 6-8 years)
***Langford Falcon Cubs*** - 7.00-8.15pm (boys and girls aged 8-10 years)
***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 on page 3 for details

## *Wednesday*

***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
***Gentle Fitness Classes*** - Village Hall - 11.15am-12.15pm - Conor Inskip Ci.fitness@icloud.com - 07580 002552
***Create and Connect Group*** - St. Andrews's Church - 2.00pm-4.00pm
***Children's Dance Classes*** - term time from 4.15pm - 6.30pm,Village Hall, contact Danielle on 07866 395739
***Langford Llama Cub Scouts*** - (boys and girls aged 8-10 years) 6.30pm-8.00pm - (term time only)
***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 - LangfordVillage Hall - Esme Castle 01767 601604

## *Thursday*

***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
***Kingfisher Beaver Scouts*** - 5.00pm-6.00pm (boys and girls aged 6-8 years)
***1st Langford Guides*** 7.00pm Langford Scout Hut
***Tennis Coaching Groups*** 4.30pm-8.00pm
***Langford Cricket Club*** All Stars Cricket Club 6-7pm - www.facebook.com/LangfordCC
***Langford Bowls Club*** 6.00pm to 8.00pm Summertime only - Training/Practice/ Coaching

## *Friday*

***Move with Hannah*** Body Sculpture 9.45am-10.30am Pilates 10.30am-11.15am 07575 393997 hannah@wellbeing-room.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 LangfordVillage Hall - Esme Castle 01767 601604
***Bowls Club*** - James Rix 01462 701663
***Langford WI*** - Every second Friday of the month - more information Maureen Deftereos 07847 553263

## *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.lta.org.uk/LangfordTennisClub***

***For all Scouting please contact jo.smith@langfordscouts.org.uk***

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# 1st Langford Scout Group



After a refreshing summer break, it was lovely to welcome back our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.




We're currently only a few weeks into term and have already done so much. The Cubs had District Camp at Boyd Field, Henlow with over 300 local cubs to celebrate 110 years of Cub Scouts. They took part in lots of different activities with the most unusual being a campfire without an actual fire due to the ongoing ban on open fires!

The Beavers took to the water at Stewartby for a day packed with canoeing, rafting and paddleboarding.



The Squirrels joined the Beavers for a day of fun and adventures at Boyd Field to celebrate the 5th birthday of Squirrels and 40th for Beavers.

The Scouts had a really informative session with trainers from St John ambulance and a wide game in the woods.

Scouts have their turn at birthday celebrations in 2027 - celebrating 120 years, and also in 2027, 1st Langford Scout Group will celebrate 70 years! We have lots of ideas how to celebrate and hope to involve our former members living in the village.

We are looking forward to taking part in the village Act of Remembrance and lots of Christmas fun to come.

We will be at the Village Christmas celebrations on 20th November with a bar, barbecue and our very popular activity from last year - DIY S'mores. We are fundraising for every exciting overseas trip in 2028.



We now have over 150 young people taking part in Scouting in the village. Huge thanks to all the amazing volunteers who make it all happen.

We plan to start a new Scout Troop early in the New Year so are actively looking for leaders to help with that - please get in touch.

More help is always welcome for all age groups, whether that is occasional or regular. We also welcome young people age 14+ to volunteer with us through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme - Squirrels and Beavers in particular have spaces for young leaders.



Squirrels are age 4-6 and meet Mondays 5-6, Beavers are age 6-8 and the Woodpeckers meet on Tuesdays 5.45-6.45, the Kingfishers on Thursday 5-6, Cubs are 8-10.5 and meet Tuesdays 7-8.15 (Falcons) or Wednesdays 6.30-8 (Llamas) and Scouts are 10-14 and meet Monday 7.30-9. All are term time only and all are open to boys and girls.

All of our sections are currently full. Our Waiting List covers all sections so please get your child on the list as early as possible - contact me for more information.

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

HPS
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
Gardening with hardy perennials

Cambs and Beds HPS is a friendly local group of the Hardy Plant Society. We meet usually on the first Saturday of the month from September to May at The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Rd, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH. We have a programme of excellent speakers planned.

The speakers for Winter 2026 - 2027are as follows:

5th December 2026
Steve Edney - Drought tolerant Plants
Steve is owner of 'No Name Nursery' and a well known speaker - Plants for sale.

6th February 2027
Steve Bustin - 'Ellen Wilmott- Guns, Ghosts and Guerillas'
Steve is the National Chair of the HPS and former pupil of Stratton School, Biggleswade.

6th March 2027
Twigs Way - 'History of Women in the Garden'
Twigs is a professional garden historian and author

In the summer, we organise coach trips to gardens and nurseries of interest as well as a Plant Sale.

Visitors are always warmly welcome to our meetings. For more information about our group and the programme, please go to our website www.hpscambsandbeds.co.uk

# Langford Speedwatch

Langford Speed Watch would appreciate your help. We have need for another volunteer to join our roadside sessions, but also to co-ordinate our small group and send the recorded data to Kempston Police.

As you may be aware, we do 3 or 4 one hour-long sessions each month, in daylight hours. Ahead of every month the co-ordinator sets the schedule to suit our volunteers, communicating this to Kempston Police. At the roadside with the team, the co-ordinator records the details of the vehicles witnessed speeding, then enters them on an Excel spreadsheet and emails this to the police within 24 hours. Kempston Police arrange a DBS check and provide training in advance of taking up the post.

If you think you can spare an hour or so a week to help your community in this way, please do get in touch with me by email.

We wish everyone all the best for the season and for 2027.

Heidi Pegrum pegrums@btinternet.com

# Langford Village Academy

The children have settled in wonderfully this academic year and have already been extremely busy.
They have enjoyed helping to raise money for Jeans for Genes, participated in Wear Yellow Day for mental health awareness, and attended a spooky disco. KS1 enjoyed their first WOW Day with a Teddy Bears' Picnic, and everyone took part in a Fun Run wearing crazy costumes!
We held our annual Harvest Festival at the church and were delighted to welcome parents to join us. We were also incredibly grateful for the generous donations received for The Need Project.
The residential trip for Years 5 and 6 to PGL Marchants Hill was a tremendous success, providing valuable opportunities for personal growth, team building and the creation of lasting memories.
In November, parents and carers took part in mindfulness training. We have developed a programme of sessions that offers an introduction to mindfulness, explores key themes and practices, and demonstrates how these can be applied to everyday life. This forms part of the BEST vision to include and support the wider community.
As always, we have enjoyed welcoming parents into school for events such as our Upper Key Stage 2 Information Evening and Reception Open Morning. These events provided an opportunity to hear from our teachers about the topics the children will be covering and to take a tour of our classrooms.
Grandparents of our Reception children were invited into school to join the children for playtime and crafts in their classrooms. It is always a pleasure to see the smiles on the children's faces during these special events.
Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 28 November from 12.00pm to 2.30pm, and we would be delighted for you to join us.
The Year 6 children are now looking forward to taking part in Young Voices at the O2. We look forward to sharing their experience with you in the next edition!
We still have a small number of places available for in-year admissions in the upper key stages. If you would like more information or would like to arrange a tour of the school, please do get in touch.



# Archaeological Discoveries at Langford

## & mosaic project

Langford Mosaic Project




Hidden beneath the fields at Langford, archaeologists from Cambridge University have uncovered the remains of a Roman farming settlement that formed part of a much larger community extending along the River Ivel. Discoveries include a Roman trackway, field systems, enclosures and evidence for livestock farming, alongside traces of earlier prehistoric activity. The findings offer a glimpse into the area's long history and the people who lived here over thousands of years.

## Find out more & get involved

**Fri 29th Jan 2027**
**Langford Village Hall**

**5.30pm Displays**
**6pm Talk (adults) & parallel children's workshop**
**7pm Contribute to mosaic designs on the story of Langford**

FREE EVENT!

Bring all the family

QUERCUS HERITAGE

# Iris Roberts:
## Some of her Memories of before the War

Does this logo make you smile? It is an unforgettable memory for Iris. Before World War 2, Langford was a very different place from what it is now. There were far fewer people, where everyone knew everyone else within the village, there were more pubs, less traffic and a few shops, but none selling certain goods. An enterprising Mr Whitby saw a niche in the market and provided many villages in the area with a lifeline. Iris was reminded of Mr Whitby when she saw the van with the logo The Man with the Van! I'm sure we have all seen it. Mr Whitby would visit Langford every Friday afternoon with a van full of necessities. EVERYTHING, from a pin to a pan and bedsheets! We are certainly much better off when we can order just about anything and have it delivered with the use of today's technology.






**Trojan Van Similar to Mr. Whitbys**

I recently visited Iris Roberts. Many of us will know her from Langford Nurseries, as it was before Cherry Lane became our Garden Centre. Iris is an amazing lady, born a week before the first meeting of Langford WI (Langford WI celebrates its centenary in May 2027). She reminisced to me about life before the war when she was a child. Iris went to school in Langford but at 11 years old went to school in Biggleswade, being taken in a school bus. When war broke out schooling was back in Langford for a time, but later to be returned to Biggleswade. This happened so many times Iris can't remember how many time her education was disrupted toing and froing from Biggleswade and Langford! Iris recalls two kind teachers who married, they were Mr and Mrs McPherson. Mr McPherson joined the navy at the beginning of the war, but was regrettably killed at sea early on. So sad after a short marriage.

Iris lived in the cottages in Church Street (almost opposite the entrance to East Road). The residents shared one standpipe for water, but had their own barn where, every Monday the washing was done in a copper, the water was heated by a fire. There was one toilet behind each barn. Iris laughed to tell the story of Thursday evenings! As a teenager she and her friends went to the Ivy Leaf club on Thursday evenings when there was a whist drive and a dance. On their way home they always made sure they didn't come across a certain man with a horse and cart – because it was his job to empty all the toilets from the houses and cottages in the village! When I asked where all the effluent went Iris laughed even more and told me it was emptied somewhere in the rough ground where Garfield is now! Enough Said!!

Thank you, Iris, for an amusing afternoon.

# St. Andrew's Church



Do you ever find yourself wondering if you can really trust the news?
Social Media has brought many benefits, but one of the unfortunate effects of Social Media is the speed with which so called 'fake news' is spread. Fake news consists of false, fabricated, or misleading stories that are presented to look like legitimate news.
If we look at the Christmas story, as it has been passed down, what are we to make of it? Is it legitimate?
Our festive retelling of the Christmas story sometimes comes with a generous helping of creative license. If you have been to a school nativity for example, you will find teachers desperate to find roles for as many of their pupils as possible, as they retell the story of the birth of Jesus. The various 'cameo's' are of course delightful. But I wonder how much of what we think we know about Christmas comes from the Bible, tradition or our recollection of the nativity play? How many kings visited from the east? Were they actually kings? Did they arrive on the same night as the shepherds? Did the inn-keeper point the expectant couple to a stable? And should we really believe 'Away in a manger' when it says 'no crying he makes'? Some think that it's all a myth anyway so who cares about what really happened. The Gospel of Luke however claims to be a piece of investigative journalism based on the testimony of eyewitnesses. He writes at the beginning that 'With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I decided to write an orderly account for you'. However creatively we try to embellish the story, let's be reminded that there is an original true story underneath it all: At Christmas God came in human form that we might know and love him. Join us as we celebrate that truth this Christmas.

Rev. Shaun Speller

# St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival

## This year's Festival starts the weekend of Friday 11th and ends at 4.00pm on Sunday 13th December.

Please come along and vote for your favourite dressed tree and help support this community event. The St. Andrews Christmas Tree Festival Cup will be awarded to the best dressed tree voted for by YOU.
Bedford Brass Band will be playing at the Carol Service which starts at 4pm on the Sunday.
Hot chocolate and mince pies will be served from 3.30pm ahead of the Carol Service.
**If you or your organisation or business would like to sponsor a tree,** please contact **Bob Vidler on 07958 599308 or via email at vidlersheila@gmail.com.** This helps us to cover the cost of buying the Christmas trees.
The bare Christmas trees less the exhibitor's decorations and lights will be available for sale after the festival at a very reasonable price.

Sheila Vidler

# The Create and Connect Group

## Poppy Project

The Create and Connect group continues to create anything arty or crafty every Wednesday afternoon at the Church or the Church Hall. Many wonderful drawings, watercolours, knitted and crocheted garments amongst others have been created. Thousands of poppies are also being created by most of our group members for St Andrew's Church tower waterfall. At the time of writing 5500 out of our 12000 target (for November 2027) poppies have been made! This is a tremendous effort from our Create and Connect group, people in the village, people from out of the village, and children from the Brownies and Cubs. A few of us from our industrious Create and Connect group have also been going to Langford Village Academy and making poppy pom poms with children from years 5 and 6, which has been fun for all and great to include the children in this community project. As you can see from our photos we are also hard at work tying and sewing the poppies onto the netting now.






A huge thank you to everyone who is involved in this project however big or small. Do come along on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4pm or if you wish to join in or find out more or text me on 07799430150 or Sheila Vidler on 07887368077 or look out for our posts on Facebook in We Love Langford

Jo Wraight



# Langford Methodist Church



As I said last time, there's been a lot of change at the Methodist Chapel recently. We said Goodbye to our minister, Rev. Leslie Noon, who retired to Oakham at the end of July. She has since been replaced by Rev. Zena Smith who comes to us from Benfleet in Essex. Zena is living in the Manse at Biggleswade. She is a single lady who has been in the ministry since 2018; prior to that she was a Solicitor. Like her predecessor she has 7 congregations to care for, although Upper Caldecote, Sandy and Beeston Methodist churches have joined together to become Beacon Church, and we at Langford have joined with Henlow to become Ivelside Methodist Church. This gives Zena far less administration, and means that some of the jobs, such as Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer can be shared. Services and activities in each chapel will remain as they always have been, but we will join together for business meetings and hopefully support each other's spiritual and social activities.

Our Coffee Mornings are now being held back in the Chapel, after our summer meetings in the Rutt's garden. A very warm welcome is extended to anyone to drop in any Wednesday from 10.30 am. There is no charge for coffee or tea and biscuits - and occasionally cakes.

Our annual Prayer Week took place at the end of October when many people and situations were prayed for each day. At the end of the week all those prayed for received a note of encouragement - that is if we knew who they were. Confidentiality and privacy is important.

We are no longer able to have Christmas Music with the Salvation Army Band, but instead on Tuesday 24th November at 7 pm we have the Acorn Brass Band coming to entertain us with music, including Christmas Carols. Tickets which include refreshments are £8. Available in advance from any member of the Chapel or at the Door on the night. This band is well recommended and should be a most enjoyable evening.

Other Christmas dates are as follows:

**Saturday 28th November: Christmas Get-Together**
**Lunches and Raffle 12 noon- 2 pm**

**Wednesday 2nd December: Christmas Music at Coffee Morning from 10.30**

**Sunday 20th December: Traditional Carol Service 10.30 am**

**Sunday 20th December: 2.30 - 3.15 Christmas Carols on the Leys Green, in aid of Action for Children. Come and listen. Come and sing. Carol sheets provided.**

Jenny Broadbridge
(Senior Steward)




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None of us are meant to carry life's harder seasons alone, so let's share in good company.

To be kept informed, join the Facebook group (Good company: A women's community) or sign up for email reminders here:

**https://rookatme.com/langford-mental-health-support-group/**

For our Autumn programme we returned to the Church Hall for some enlightening presentations, to broaden our horticultural knowledge. We also picked up lots of inspiration and advice on our last day trip of 2026 to the BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair at Audley End.

In September Jordan Larkins gave an engaging talk "Thriving indoors: A Guide to houseplants". His advice will enable us to choose the right plants for the various situations in our home and how to manage watering, pests and other items to keep them healthy.


BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair – Photo By Liz Walkling

In November, David Hinkley from 'Growmad', gave us a fascinating presentation about Soil Science. It reflected on the composition, formation and health of something that we perhaps take for granted.

Unfortunately, our planned talk after our AGM in October had to be postponed due to illness, but the committee organised an impromptu quiz. It gave us a chance to have a bit of fun and time to have some refreshments and chat with our friends at the Club.

We'll be kicking off our winter programme with our Christmas Social. In December, We will again be having a quiz hosted by Lyn and Steve Hayes in the small Village Hall in Langford.

For our January meeting, Peta Frost from Saxon Gate Flowers, will be giving us a talk on growing Dahlias. Flowers grown by Saxon Gate are produced with the environment and nature in mind and specialises in growing dahlias for cut flowers and grows over 500 plants in a wide range of types and colours.


BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair

In February, Alec White from Primrose Hall Peonies will be talking to us about Intersectional Peonies. Alec and his dedicated team of nurserymen and women have spent years cultivating a diverse collections of peonies in Westoning, Bedfordshire. Intersectional Peonies are a cross of herbaceous and tree peonies and are relatively rare and very interesting.

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:

**Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1043776940696454**
**Email: Langford.gardening.club@gmail.com**
**Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.co.uk/g/6sfdcv4qc/?is=nav_bar**
**Details are also on the noticeboard near Pound Close in Langford.**

# Langford Parish Council

As summer moves into Autumn, I want to thank everyone who has worked hard to make sure the community of Langford could enjoy the summer and the facilities that the village has to offer. To mention a few, the Playing Field and Village Hall Committees for making sure the areas they cover are kept in good condition and safe for residents, thus enabling the various groups and sporting events to take place,

Zoe and her team for organising and running the village fete again, another outstanding success. I'm sure we all look forward to future events. The Langford Speed watch team continue their work and that helps to keep our roads through the village safer. Work continues in the cemetery which looks really lovely and is a peaceful place for remembrance. The community litter pick was very successful once again, a big thank you for those who took part , it is wonderful to see our village looking neat and tidy.

There was no Parish Council Meeting in August but work still went on behind the scenes. A number of councillors have taken the opportunity to either undertake training during the summer months or book onto training in the future. All councillors are volunteers , but we try our best to gain the knowledge we need to carry out the roles effectively. The new speed devices continue to be monitored and they are reducing the speed people travel through our village. Councillors continue to raise issues with the appropriate authorities on behalf of residents and chase replies if these are not forth coming in good time. As usual I would like to remind everyone that all residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings or to send questions or suggestions to the council via the Clerk. Our website has the minutes of all our meetings so you can see what is discussed throughout the year.

Looking to the winter I would like to remind residents that we do have some limited resources to assist home owners who are threatened with flooding during very heavy rain. Please contact the Clerk or one of your councillors to access these.

Some limited funds are also available to help local groups and enquiries should be made to the Clerk who can provide further details.

As the evenings draw in, please remember that anyone can report road or street light defects to Central Bedfordshire Council via the website **fixmystreet.com**. Likewise, anti social behaviour can be reported to the police.

This years Christmas Light switch on and Christmas event will take place on 20th November from 5.30 to 9 pm. Santa will be there as well as food venders and craft stalls. The Village will be lit up through the main streets and the new Christmas tree in the playing field.

All residents are very welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and find out what is happening, we would encourage all residents to attend. Dates of future meetings are published on the Parish Council notice boards and in this Diary. You can find out what's happening, the work that the Parish Council is undertaking and raise any issues that you have regarding the village. See list of council members and contact details in this and every Diary.

Lorraine Kalaher - Langford Parish Council Chair

# Langford Parish Council

*Please see our Parish Council Chairman Letter on page 21*

## Chairman

***Lorraine Kalaher*** — 79 East Road, Langford SG18 9QP — ***01767 227869***
lorrainekalaher@langford-pc.gov.uk

## Vice Chairman

***David Williams*** — 34 Cambridge Road, Langford SG18 9PS — ***01462 700474***
davewilliams@langford-pc.gov.uk

## Parish Councillors

***John Shipman*** ***01462 700650***
3 Old Mill Close, Langford SG18 9QY
johnshipman@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Mick Beazley*** ***01767 223849***
20 Tithe Farm Close, Langford SG18 9NE
mickbeazley@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Barb Hammond*** ***07890 153155***
2 Manor Close, Langford SG18 9PU
barbhammond@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Julian Vaughan*** ***07593 091378***
7 Cambridge Way, Langford SG18 9SG
julianvaughan@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Paul Slack*** ***07590 024811***
4 The Fields, Langford SG18 9QX
paulslack@langford-pc.gov.uk

***James Van Hinsbergh***
jamesvanhinsbergh@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Darren Rawlings*** ***07961 882346***
4 Gurneys Lane, Langford SG18 9QZ
darrenrawlings@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Jane Wright*** ***01767 601789***
1 Running Water Cottages, Langford Road SG18 9RA
janewright@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Henry Hewitt*** ***07747 532002***
7 Ewbank Corner, Langford SG18 9FF
henryhewitt@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Andrew McArthur*** ***01462 700124***
andrewmcarthur@langford-pc.gov.uk

***Drew Richardson*** ***0300 3008550***
8 Blackbird Gardens SG18 9RD
drew.richardson@langford-pc.gov.uk

## *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 answwerphone 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, 3rd December, 2026 - 7.30pm*
## *Thursday, 7th January, 2027 - 7.30pm*
## *Thursday, 4th February,2027 - 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* |
| *IvelMedical 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* | |
|---|---|
| *Housing Repairs and Noise* | *0300 300 8098* |
| *Highways* | *0300 300 8049* |
| *Dangerous Structures* | *0300 300 8098* |
| *Social Services* | *0300 300 8123* |
| *Customer Services* | *0300 300 8000* |
| *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* |
| *SHOUT* | *85258 Text Messaging* |
| *Service for mental health crisis* | |
| *Food Bank at Biggleswade Baptist Church* | |
| *www.bbchurch.org.uk* | *01767 312667* |
| *LangfordWelfare trust* | *01462 700650* |

# Langford History Society

**About us:**

Are you interested in history? Would you like to find out more about the area? Although initially founded as a Langford group, we now have members from the surrounding area - including Biggleswade, Upper Caldecote, Clifton, Henlow, Sandy and Stotfold. 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 will have a Christmas Social in December and this year had a Guided Walk around parts of Sandy in June as well as a Summer Social in July. For our 'speaker meetings' visitors pay £5 at the door; our annual membership fee (February to December) is currently £5, plus £3 at the door - however, prices for our summer visit or other special events may vary and are detailed on our website.

**Our recent meetings:**

Following our annual summer break in August, our September meeting was a very interesting and personal talk by Ruth and Tony Lock entitled "A Langford Family at War" about several generations of her family - including settling in Langford, First and Second World War involvement in the Somme, the Middle and Far East; and the Home Guard - illustrated by photographs plus an extensive collection of memorabilia.

We had a change of speaker for our October meeting, with Stuart Fairclough kindly stepping in at the last minute with "Was it an Accident or Was it Murder?" - a presentation about a fatal accident investigation with which he had been involved during his career in the Metropolitan Police. Stuart showed a number of images, explained the steps he had taken to try to ascertain what had happened and then invited the audience to ask questions about what further details would be relevant in forming conclusions as to potential culpability.

On Wednesday 4th November, for our last Speaker meeting before Christmas, Richard Luscombe will be telling us about the Yuletide food, festivities and one of the oldest Christmas trees in his talk "Christmas at Wrest Park". Richard has been a volunteer at the English Heritage site for a number of years and is part of the History Research Team.

**Our next meeting(s):**

On Wednesday 2nd December we will be holding our Christmas Social – please see our website for details.

As we have a winter break in January, our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 3rd February 2027.

**Find out more:**

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 there you should find details of our meetings and events, news items and membership. 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.

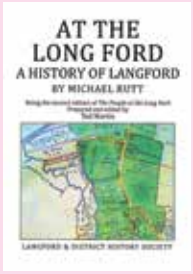
Perhaps you have recently moved here and would like to discover a bit more about the village? The Society has also produced / updated some books about Langford's history – most of which contain lots of photographs preserving the knowledge of the families, homes and businesses of old Langford. Our books 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.

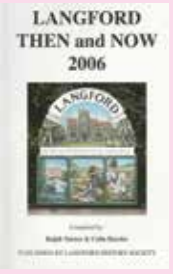
***Langford Then and Now 2006*** - This book of 40 pages plus cover has two photographs on nearly every page of well-known places in the village showing how they looked then and how they look now. Some of the old photographs were taken from 80 to over 100 years ago. Price £4.









# Langford Women's Institute



On a warm summer's day in early August, a group of WI members and friends embarked on a leisurely boat trip along the River Ouse from Bedford Marina. Aboard the John Bunyan, we cruised to the Anchor Inn in Great Barford, where an abundant buffet awaited us, followed by a tempting selection of desserts. After lunch, a coach returned us to the marina where our cars were parked. A great day out!

The Ivy Leaf Club was the venue for a fun quiz hosted by the WI, the proceeds from the raffle were donated to the Keech Hospice for their children's services - a worthy cause. Six teams competed, wit Irene Gibson, our Vice President, acting as quizmaster for the evening.



At the August WI monthly meeting, Lorna Tidbury gave an interesting talk about what it is like to be a newly published author and her journey from the start of a book to publication. Writing under the pen name of Lorna Marlow, her novels are inspired by the dramatic landscapes of Cornwall, which she vividly brings to life in her stories. To date she has published two books and is in the early stages of a third novel.



We celebrated Harvest at our September meeting with a buffet of sandwiches and cakes. Funds were raised towards our Centenary Party next year from a sales table, which was well supported by our generous members.

The speaker, Maryaye Whelan, shared her inspiring journey from volunteering at craft sessions for prisoners to becoming a Prison Service Chaplain. She spoke movingly about supporting prisoners' families, particularly their children when a parent is arrested and detained. A thought-provoking talk. For security reasons, every person entering the prison has to be searched – as demonstrated in the photo with our new member Nikki.



Several members enjoyed a lively and tasty Banquet meal at the Spice Lounge on an evening in early October. We're so lucky to have this facility in our Village so please support it.

At the end of the same week, we were delighted to welcome back Alison, Tosh and Mike (representatives of Canine Partners) to our Monthly Meeting. Members were able to try their hand at Curling; the Village Hall became an Olympic Stadium for the evening with serious, but friendly rivalry. This has become an annual event of much fun and laughter. Congratulations to our winners, Sharon Creighton, Cyndy Lomer and Teri Robinson, who each received a miniature cup, and to our runners-up, Janice Holben-Smith, Ruby Thrussell and Janet Bradford. We were also pleased to make a donation to Canine Partners, whose incredible work breeds, trains and supports assistance dogs to create life-changing partnerships with disabled people.



For our November meeting we will be hearing about the work of Magpas Air Ambulance; more about that in the next Diary! Plans are also in hand for dressing the Christmas tree at St Andrew's Church and for our Christmas lunch at The Five Bells.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Again, we will be taking part in the Service of Remembrance at the Village Memorial on Sunday, 8th November which is always well supported by the many organisations based in Langford. Let's hope the weather is fine that day.

In the meantime, Langford WI wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2027!

If you would like to sample an evening at our Monthly Meeting you are very welcome to come along as a Visitor and maybe become a member if you like what we do.
For further information please contact me, Maureen Deftereos on 07847 553263. You will receive a very warm welcome!

# Ivy Leaf Club

I can't quite believe it is nearly the end of 2026 but here we are. Memberships are now due for 2027 - please pop in any time. **New members always welcome.**

We would like to thank all members for your support this year and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have started booking entertainment for 2027 and details will be available soon on our Facebook page and advertised around the village.

We will also have our Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations so, again, watch out for these being advertised.

All football fixtures, and other sporting events, are shown in our large HD televisions in both the bar and lounge.

Our lunch club/warm space for the over 55's continues to be popular each Thursday from 1pm. It is a very welcoming friendly space so do pop down - a hot meal and unlimited tea and coffee are available for a donation.

Our lounge bar can also be hired for most private functions for a nominal fee.

**We still offer the cheapest "pint" around - please pop in and say hello!**

Julie Devereux
Chairperson

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Twenty-five years ago, a group of community-minded people in Langford decided to found Langford Friends. Their aim was to provide short term help to the residents of Langford and to encourage sustainability, self-help and friendship within the local community. Our aim today remains exactly as these founders conceived.

To celebrate this anniversary Langford Friends held a Tea Party in August. We were honoured to have two of the far-sighted, founding members with us on that day - Jean Williams and Val Henley. Without their desire to help this community, we would not be where we are today.

I would also like to formally thank Central Bedfordshire Council - in particular Councillors Drew Richardson and Richard Wenham - for their financial support to the anniversary under the Ward Councillor Community Grant scheme.

We have been very busy recently, supporting more than 100 clients from the Langford community. Most of their requests are for driving to and from appointments in and around Bedford, Biggleswade, Letchworth, and Baldock and occasionally to hospital appointments in Cambridge or Stevenage. Shopping trips and haircuts also appear regularly. We consider any request for help from our clients and will assist if we can.

Langford Friends runs a WhatsApp group where client requests are posted and volunteers choose which jobs they wish to carry out. Upon accepting a job, the client's contact details are sent to the volunteer and they contact the client to make the final arrangements. Any contribution by the client is passed to the treasurer and mileage is reimbursed. Volunteers tell us that being able to pick and choose what they want to do allows them to fit client requests around their other commitments with family and friends. Volunteers use their own cars to transport our adult clients and will be asked to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.



Recently, we have had some difficulties finding drivers to support our clients. If a volunteer driver role appeals to you, or you are an adult resident of Langford wishing to become a client, please call the Langford Friends phone on 07884 046741 or email our secretary on

**secretary.langfriends@outlook.com**

Martin Littlehales


Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

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## 1 WHAT DO WE DO

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We also run local and larger-scale energy generation projects, with all profits reinvested into community benefit projects.

## 2 HOW CAN WE HELP YOU

We can help you understand your energy bills and suggest ways to save energy and money.
We provide easy-to-follow advice, helpful leaflets, and expert guidance on a wide range of energy topics.
You can borrow our thermal imaging camera (winter only) and damp meters to carry out your own home survey. We'll show you how to use the equipment and discuss any improvements you could make.
Our experienced volunteers can advise on living with solar panels, heat pumps, and electric vehicles (EVs).
All of our Energy Champions hold current DBS certificates.

## 3 HOW CAN YOU HELP US

We are always looking for volunteers, whatever your skills, experience, or availability.
There is free training for anyone interested in becoming an Energy Champion.
Ways to get involved, including accounting, organising meetings, taking minutes, project management, desktop surveys, community share offers and, of course, investing.
Some of our volunteers simply share expertise from their day jobs which helps us develop ideas and solve problems without needing them to commit a lot of time.

## 4 OUR PARTNERS

BEDFORDSHIRE ENERGY TOGETHER

Greensand Community Energy

Buzz COMMUNITY ENERGY

## 5 CONTACT US

info@riverivelcommunityenergy.com

Facebook - Search "River Ivel Community Energy"

Linkedin - Search "River Ivel Community Energy"

Find Us Here

RIVERIVELCOMMUNITYENERGY.COM

NHS
East of England Ambulance Service
NHS Trust

# Biggleswade, Potton and Sandy Community First Responders.

**Biggleswade, Potton and Sandy Community First Responders** (CFRs) are a charitable organisation covering Biggleswade, Sandy, Potton, Langford and surrounding areas. Working in conjunction with the **East of England Ambulance Service** providing an emergency care response to 999 calls within minutes to our community.

**In the first Nine months of 2026 our group volunteered 3648 hours, attended 659 patients including 33 cardiac arrests – of those 9 achieved Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)**




We want to do even more!

**NEWS! After some very generous donations from Langford businesses, Langford individuals, local authorities and local grants, we now have a kit based in Langford itself, as well as a new training defibrillator.**

**PLUS, a new CFR based in Langford is now qualified and will be on the road soon!**

The Plough, through its quiz and poker nights, raised an amazing £1,300 for your responders. Thank You to Andy, Sophie and all the patrons that contributed. The donation will go towards new kit, and the maintenance of our current provision.

**Can you help?**

If you can spare just a little, it would go a long way to help us do more and would be very much appreciated. Below is a QR code for our Just Giving page.

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS
NHS East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Biggleswade, Potton and Sandy

If you have been inspired and would like to know more about becoming a lifesaving volunteer CFR for East of England Ambulance Service then please contact CFR@eastamb.nhs.uk or visit www.eastamb.nhs.uk

Thank you...

# Langford Wanderbus

Wanderbus, the local Community Bus Service, really needs extra volunteer drivers!




Could you volunteer 1 or 2 mornings a month and help us maintain our services to the residents of the villages around Shefford & Stotfold who rely totally on our bus services to get out and about.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO VOLUNTEER?

1.The D1 classification on your driving license.

2. A spare 1 or 2 weekday mornings a month.
3. A desire to help your local community.



WHAT DO WE PROVIDE?

1. Full training on our 16-seater buses
2. As many trips with one of our regular drivers as you want, until you feel comfortable to drive with passengers.
3. Support from a regular driver until you are happy to 'go solo'.

Please get in touch if you would like to help/find out more.

Email: Your contact details to thewanderbus@gmail.com or

Call on 0300 123 3023 and we will call you back.

**FCA Registered Mutual Society:**
**Company No.: IP27881R CAF Bank Ltd. Registered address:**
**16 Brookmead, Meppershall, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5SA**
**Tel: 0300-123-3023 Email: *thewanderbus@gmail.com***
**www.wanderbus.org.uk V.A.T. Registered:**
**650747823**

LANGFORD WELFARE TRUST
est1899

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

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

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

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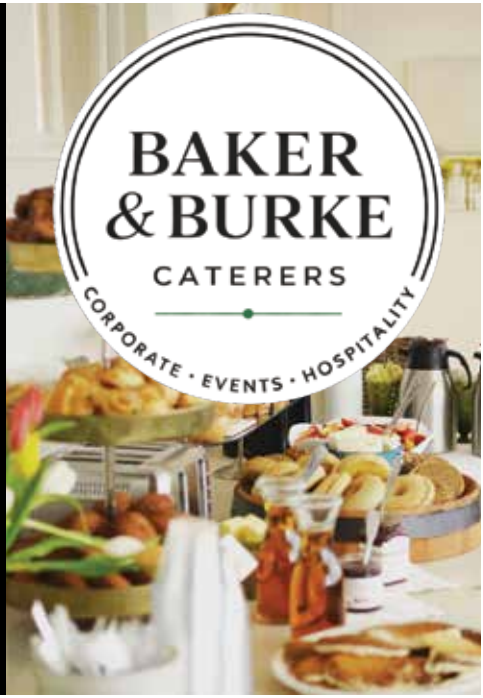
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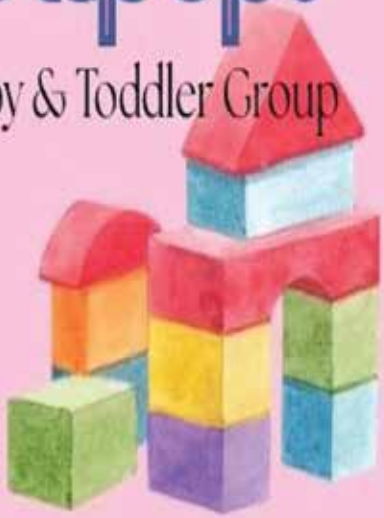
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# Langford Lollipops

## Baby & Toddler Group

Adult and baby £1
Adult and child £3.50
Extra child / adult £1 each

Cash only please



Snacks and tea/coffee included



Langford Village Hall
Every Tuesday 9.30am - 11am (term time)
No need to book just turn up!

# 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 |

### THE PLOUGH

| | |
|---|---|
| SUNDAY | 12.00 noon - 11.00pm |
| MONDAY | 3.00pm - 11.00pm |
| TUESDAY | 3.00pm - 11.00pm |
| WEDNESDAY | 3.00pm - 11.00pm |
| THURSDAY | 3.00pm - 11.00pm |
| FRIDAY | 3.00pm - 1.00am |
| SATURDAY | 12.00 noon - 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 - 9.00pm |
| TUESDAY | 11.30am - 9.00pm |
| WEDNESDAY | 11.30am - 9.00pm |
| THURSDAY | 11.30am - 9.00pm |
| FRIDAY | 11.30am - 9.00pm |
| SATURDAY | 11.30am - 9.00pm |

# Langford Tennis Club

The sun shone on Langford Club Finals Day on Saturday 26th September - a fitting end to a summer season which was the hottest in recent memory.

The day began with defending Champion Matt Willis facing Lee Shambrook in the men's singles in a repeat of last year's final. Matt had edged to victory against Lee in the round robin stages, winning a tight match tie-break. This time the result was slightly more straightforward, with Matt retaining his title 6-4 6-3 in a high-quality match.

In the Ladies' Doubles Final, mother and daughter pairing Lisa and Kira Oestreicher beat Shelly Drakes and Jo Jaggard 6-2 6-3 for their first Langford title together.

Next it was on to the Men's Doubles Final, with defending Champions Andrew Fox and Ed Wright facing off against Rob Jones and Johnny Massie. Andrew and Ed couldn't quite find the inspiration of last year, with Rob and Johnny winning an entertaining match 6-2 6-4 to take the 2026 title.

In the last match of the day, Matt Willis & Jo Jaggard beat David Davies and Lisa Oestreicher 6-1 6-2 to retain their Mixed Doubles title.

Langford Tennis Club would like to thank all members who competed in the championships throughout the summer, with special thanks to Andrew Fox, Jo Jaggard and Kevin Howell for organising the tournament.

Langford Tennis Club runs a full tennis programme at our venue encompassing coaching, Bedfordshire league competition, club events and regular social play. Anyone interested in joining us can find out more via our website at

**https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LangfordTennisClub**



Men's Singles Champion Matt Willis (r) with finalist Lee Sharnbrook (l)

Men's Doubles Finalists Ed Wright and Andrew Fox.





Men's Doubles Champions Rob Jones and Johnny Massie

Ladies' Doubles Champions Lisa and Kira Oestreicher (r), with Finalists Jo Jaggard and Shelly Drakes (l)





Mixed Doubles Champions Matt Willis and Jo Jaggard (l), with finalists Lisa Oestreicher and David Davies

# Langford Football Club

Now last time I gave you an insight to the club, Langford FC formed in 1908. At various times Langford has had a fantastic youth set up, but unfortunately at this moment we have none. Again, this is based on volunteers to run teams, this is a big commitment, having been part of this set up for the last 20 years I know how hard it is and how time consuming it can be.

We have 2 teams at this moment, the 1st who play in the SSMFL Division 1, they train on Tuesday and Thursday nights. We have started the season strong winning our opening game for the first time in years. This has carried us through as we've won 5, drawn 1 and lost 3 of our first 9 games which is our best start for 8 years. Our management team are very proud of the lads and the progress they have made. It's great to see our supporters grow too as we constantly have a good crowd.

We are lucky to have 3 Sponsors for the First Team. These are ElectrAssure, Simmons Bakery and Border Engineering. We are as always very grateful for all the financial support from our sponsors, this helps us to promote both the club and the sponsors. You will find these on social media. Keep up to date with fixtures on twitter and instagram.

We have a social side, Langford Ivel who play Sunday morning on the playing field. They are in division 2 of the Beds Sunday League, and have started the season positively winning 5 of their 7 games even beating the league leaders.

If you enjoy football it's worth watching. So if you're at a loose end on a Saturday or Sunday pop down and watch some football.

We are also having work done at Forde Park with the perimeter wall coming down and being replaced, this will be done in 2 Phases with dugouts being changed in phase two. We are hoping this will be completed by the end of November.

We are holding a Christmas Raffle with tickets being available from early November. First prize £100.00. This will be drawn in the evening at our home game on Saturday 19th December.

Paul Vince - Langford FC Chairman

# Langford Cricket Club

## End of Season Update

The summer seems a while away, the football season is well under way, Halloween has gone, and the Christmas lights are being switched on. In October the rain finally arrived, after a very dry summer….the second in a row. Is this the norm?

Anyway, back to cricket. Autumn is a good time to both review last season, and look forward to next summer.

The dry weather meant that we could play lots of cricket, we saw the youth section do well, with games for the U9's, and U11's.
Youth coaching continued a pace; taking over the playing fields on a Thursday evening with often over 30 youngsters aged between 7 and 11 years old. The future of Cricket in Langford looks in good hands!

The Sunday Langford 1st XI started their campaign in division 2, after being promoted from division 3 last year is a second successive promotion. The season started okay, but a run of losses made things tense, meaning everything came down to the last match of the season, winner takes all match, away at Preston CC. Preston won the toss and put Langford in to bat. After some good bowling and some 'interesting' shots from Langford batters, Preston skittled Langford out for only 85 with extras top scoring on 22! It was going to be an early finish, and as the Langford fielders contemplated being in the pub by 5pm, Davy Shippey and Phil Ord set about bowling Preston out. Supported by some great fielding and even better catching, had Preston 25/6 in under 12 overs. Luke Peters and Owen Crouch replaced the opening bowlers and within 1.4 overs had cleaned up the remaining 3 wickets, resulting in a 17 run win and Div 2 cricket secured for 2027.

The Saturday Development team strengthened again this season, and welcomed progressing youths, more new arrivals getting back into cricket and some new starters trying cricket for the first time.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Allstars will run again this year for 8 sessions on Saturday mornings from May onwards. Registration for the Allstars begins in March via the ECB portal.

Indoor nets starts on the 25th Feb at Stratton Leisure, Youth training starts at 7pm (this is hard ball training, so for U11 and upwards) Adult training at 8pm.

Thank you to our main Sponsor Harrisons Accountancy for their continued support.

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

Andy Watson,
Chairman, Langford Cricket Club.






As our bowls season draws to a close, we can reflect on what has certainly been an interesting few months. The extreme weather brought its challenges, with a number of matches cancelled, but despite this we still enjoyed a good season overall. Although our Wednesday friendly games didn't produce the results we usually see, the atmosphere remained positive and it's clear that members have enjoyed their time on the green.

This year saw several players entering County competitions for the first time, and our inter-club matches were strongly contested. It has been especially encouraging to see many of our newer members performing so well and embracing competitive play.

In the East Bedfordshire League, both of our teams had a solid season. The A Team finished 4th, while the B Team achieved an impressive 5th place in their first year in the league. A huge well done to everyone who represented the club across all competitions.



We were also proud to have three of our new members - **Scott, Neil and Jon** - take part in the Henlow Bowls Gala. Unfortunately, the weather made conditions difficult, but they rose to the challenge, finishing **3rd overall** and **achieving the highest winning score of the day,** a superb 14–0 victory. Congratulations to **Scott Quince, Neil Claxton and Jon Kempson** - you did the club proud.



Our annual family BBQ was held in honour of our former Club Secretary, **Melanie Andrews,** who sadly passed away earlier this year. Around 70 people attended, enjoying a lovely sunny day, great food, and the chance to have a go at bowling. It was wonderful to see families together, sharing in the spirit of the club.

We wrapped up the outdoor season on 26th September with the Don King Shield and what an afternoon it was. Great weather, plenty of laughs and a really competitive game right to the end. A huge well done to Scott Quince, Alan Hough and Terry Banks who took home the shield after a tough contest.

We now look forward to our winter programme of **Table Tennis, Bridge, Short Mat Bowls and indoor bowling.** There is plenty to keep us active and connected through the colder months."

Please contact myself for any more information Kim Smith, Club Secretary 07421132900.

# Advertising in The Langford Diary

## Advertise your Business or Services in The Langford Diary

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

## *PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT*

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

***Submission Dates 2027***
***Summer Edition - 22nd April 2027***
***Autumn Edition - 22nd July 2027***

***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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