



THE LONG ITCHINGTON DIARY

May – July 2021

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bi-monthly by the
Long Itchington
Parish Council
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*Contact details for
LIPC*

DIARY DATES

**The next LI Diary
will run from:**

**Sat 17 July
to
Sat 18 September**

Residents will
appreciate that, due
to the present
Covid-19 situation,
dates may be liable
to change.

Contact:
lipcdiary@gmail.com

If you want to keep in touch.....

We send regular
updates of news,
flood warnings etc,
via email to
residents. If you
would like to receive
them please let us
know by emailing the
parish office on:

[parishcouncil@
longitchington.com](mailto:parishcouncil@longitchington.com)

The Annual Parish Meeting

On Saturday April 24th the Parish Council held its first ever virtual Parish Assembly via Zoom. Our normal face to face event had to be changed because of Covid, but we very much hope to be able to hold another event at the Community Centre later in the year where we can mingle more freely and enjoy coffee and cakes with you all.

Thank you to those who attended; if anyone would like to view our presentations from the day please visit https://www.longitchington.org.uk/.../LIPC-APA21_RA-1.pptx and click "slide show". To view Finance slides go to :
<https://www.longitchington.org.uk/.../APM-Finance-Slides...> Both presentations are available on our website.

Parish Council AGM

At the Annual General Meeting of the parish council on May 5th Barbara Atkins was elected to serve for the next year as Chairman and Jon Venn was elected to serve as Vice-Chair.

Local election results

At the election on Thursday May 6th the following candidates were elected:

County Councillor for Feldon: Cllr. Chris Kettle, Conservative

Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire: Still to be announced.

Congratulations to Cllr. Chris Kettle.

Climate Change

Long Itchington Parish Council has started work on a Climate Change Strategy. There are two broad strands to the work, first to identify ways in which the parish council as an organisation can reduce its carbon footprint, and second to identify a range of potential ideas and schemes to help support the community respond to the challenges we face from the climate crisis. We are currently exploring options for funding and research support to assist us to do this work. If you have any thoughts or ideas or would like to get involved please contact the parish office, Nick Solman –
nicksolman@icloud.com or Jon Venn
venn.jon@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meetings

Until May 6th remote PC meetings were allowed under the Coronavirus Emergency Regulations. This facility is now no longer permitted, meaning that Parish Councils must now meet face to face and in public. Until Covid restrictions end (currently predicted for 21st June according to the Government Roadmap), Parish Councils meeting in public will have to take all necessary precautions to keep participants safe.

Long Itchington Parish Council has agreed that it will hold a short face to face meeting on June 2nd to complete the important business of the Council, including ratifying and agreeing the annual accounts. The law governing parish council meetings requires that they must be open to the public. However the Community Centre has an absolute limit of 20 people (including councillors) in order to maintain social distancing and keep participants safe.

If you wish to attend this meeting we would ask that you inform us in advance. If you are willing to take a lateral flow test and provide a negative result before attending, this would be appreciated. All parish councillors have agreed to do this in order to protect each other.

If you have a question which does not require attendance at the meeting, please advise us by email or telephone.

A Village Sign for Long Itchington

One of the key features of many villages in this area is a traditional village sign. You may be aware that plans are now advanced for Long Itchington to have its own. It is important that any such sign is a clear reflection of the traditions and characteristics of the area and we are pleased to announce that already locally sourced timber is being prepared and designs are taking shape.

It will take some months for the timber to be prepared so it is able to withstand the rigours of the weather so in the meantime the Parish Council is asking local groups and societies to think about what best illustrates our village and wider parish. Already there is a suggestion that, as we are the birthplace of St Wulfstan, an early Bishop of Worcester, he might be included, but there are many other important features. We would like as many ideas as possible.

No decision has been made as to the exact location for the village sign and it will almost certainly be determined by a range of factors including planning conditions and road safety but whilst this project is in its early stages we wanted to make the community aware that this project is now underway. In the coming months we will engage with as many local and community groups to gather their ideas and thoughts.

Re-opening of Community Centre

The Community Centre is gradually opening up in line with the Covid-19 roadmap and new regulations. We are delighted to welcome three new caretakers who will share the role. We also welcome our new cleaner to the team. For enquiries or new bookings please email – parishcouncil@longitchington.com

In memory of people we've lost

Gladys Chittenden passed away peacefully on 30th August 2020 aged 89. She was a much loved and very active member of our community, having served as a parish councillor, worked in the Post Office on Church Road, a regular at WI and Young Wives and a lifelong supporter of Guide Dogs. We give our commiserations to Tony and the family.

Paul Shepherd passed away on 19th August 2020. He was an active supporter of the village including helping to refurbish and keep the pond "island" afloat, helping to run and photograph the Community Centre Spring and Autumn Shows and being a source of great fun and amusement at many Community Centre show committee meetings! He was a close friend of many of us. We send our commiserations to Helen and the family.

Holy Trinity Church is exploring the idea of formally commemorating all those we have lost in the last 18 months and will be communicating their ideas very soon.

Motorbikes on the Railway Line

Recently there have been many sightings and close encounters with motorbikes illegally riding on the old railway line. The Rural Crime team have had some success in apprehending the culprits.

We encourage our residents who encounter motorcycles or quad bikes along the track to ensure they report it to the police through 101 or through 999 if any criminal damage is witnessed.

Footpaths

Please do not stray from official footpaths in the parish or allow dogs to worry livestock.

There is a very useful guide to all footpaths in the village at www.longitchington.org.uk/footpaths

Speeding on the Leamington Road

The parish council has written to Warwickshire County Council Highways department requesting them to consider a range of measures to address the issue of vehicles speeding along the Leamington Road. We have asked WCC Highways to consider the following: flashing "radar" signs to alert drivers of their speed, a series of 30MPH "roundels" to be painted on the road surface to remind drivers of the speed limit, speed cameras, an additional "chicane" to be sited in the area where the 30MPH "countdown" signs are located.

Some of these measures (for example speed cameras) may not be possible due to the nature and designation of the road. However, the parish council will be requesting a detailed explanation from the County Council of their reasons in the event that any of the suggested measures are rejected.

The speed gun checks that have previously been carried out on the Leamington Road by the village speed gun group cannot currently be undertaken due to police regulations that prevent local speed checks being conducted within 2 miles of an official police speed check. The police are currently undertaking regular speed checks on the A423. The parish council is liaising with the police to establish when the speed gun group may be able to restart checks (Covid security also has to be taken into account).

Film Nights

News of Film Nights will follow once the rules are clear on holding such events.

Long Itchington WI News

The WI continues to meet every month on-line until the Covid regulations allow us to meet together in person as a group again. There is also a weekly WI on-line coffee morning every Monday morning for an hour from 10.30am. As restrictions relax and the weather warms up the WI will be organising some outdoor activities. Meanwhile every Long Itchington WI member has been given a single "Charlotte" seed potato to grow. These will be harvested later this year and the one with the heaviest yield will be the winner; we hope there will be a lot of home-grown potatoes being eaten in the village this summer!

At the next WI meeting on Wednesday 15 May 2021 members will be considering the national WI resolution and there will also be a gardening theme. The WI meeting on 16 June will hear from speaker Margo McCleary on "The Velvet Glove", while Pam Sutton will be talking about "Troop Aid" at the WI meeting on 21 July. The WI always welcomes new members, please contact WI Secretary, Ali Williams, for more information aliwilliams1908@hotmail.co.uk

LONG ITCHINGTON CRICKET CLUB

Full details of club fixtures are available at <https://longitchington.play-cricket.com/home>

Junior practice has started and will take place on Friday evening. All welcome (you do not need whites or cricket kit to attend). For further details on each age group please contact Tom Perks on 07792 006382.

Don't forget the Party on the Pitch on Saturday 4th September, full details in the last LIPC Diary, or e-mail Steve & Jo Crosthwaite at sandjcrosthwaite@btinternet.com

Long Itchington Tennis Courts

We have two full tennis courts adjacent to the primary school. New Members are very welcome. subscriptions rates are low with a single Adult at £48 pa. Family and Junior membership are also available. Unlimited access with no court fees for Members.

Please contact; Christine Williams - 01926 811143

Long Itchington Chapel

The chapel is currently closed. We would like to pay tribute to the very many years of service Marion Hartwell has given to our parish. Not only in conducting services, but organising social events, Pilots and giving to charity. She will be very much missed and we wish her well with her move.

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Great news from Holy Trinity - we are now open for Sunday services with Holy Communion at 09.30 hours. The format will be different as we have to abide by the strict Covid rules, numbers limited to allow for 2m social distancing and all present to wear masks. The Rev Bob Clucas is kindly helping us out with these services. We are very grateful to him as this will continue whilst we once again start to prepare for the appointment of a new vicar.

Please book a seat and confirm your contact details by contacting Sue on 01926 814050, or psmyhill@btinternet.com as early as possible in the week before the service you wish to attend. This will enable us to keep within permitted numbers and conform to Track and Trace requirements to ensure your safety.

One more positive report - the rewiring essential to the safety of the whole building is now under way, is progressing well and should be complete by the end of May.

Over the last year, we have had to cancel all of our regular events which are so much a part of church life within our parish. These also help to raise the much-needed funds necessary to maintain and run our beautiful but very old church building. Whilst we have cut our costs wherever we can, and with much thanks to those who have continued to donate, we have still experienced a significant financial deficit which we must recover as soon as we can.

We hope to be able to resume many of our regular activities and fundraising events in the near future.

Any suggestions or offers of help in any way would be very welcome.

Sue Myhill Churchwarden

Richard Jackson Treasurer

Long Itchington CE Academy

"The school is seen by many as going the extra mile" (SIAMS Inspector)

Open mornings for the September 2022 intake into our Reception Class: Monday 28th June and Thursday 1st July 2021, 9.30 am - 12.00 midday.

Further open mornings are scheduled for 11th and 19th October 2021. Other dates are available, if required.

Please call the school office on 01926 814819 to book a slot. All visitors are expected to comply with COVID safety regulations.

Long Itchington CE Academy, Stockton Road, Long Itchington, CV47 9QP Tel: 01926 814819 Email: school.office@longitchington.covmat.org

Wildlife News.

Though the pandemic has disrupted nature conservation activities this past year, where possible work has continued.

Village pond. Earlier this year an area of reeds was removed from the banks of the village pond, to help prevent the reeds from taking over too much of the pond. A native wildflower seed mix was sown over the cleared area. By creating a small strip of meadow we can help nature. We hope by summer to have a good display of wild flowers and grasses (fingers crossed) for wildlife and everyone else to enjoy.

Bascote Road Scrubs Community Nature Reserve. After a lot of effort by many in our community over the last couple of years, a short section of the nature trail at the Bascote Road nature reserve is now open! The path leads from the northern entrance down to a small secret woodland clearing. We hope visitors will be better able, through quiet enjoyment, to appreciate our natural environment. As work progresses, further lengths of the trail will be opened. The reserve is home to wildlife, so we ask visitors to act as guests and respect nature. Please follow the guidance on the noticeboard at the reserve entrance before entering. If you wish to know more then please visit the parish wildlife website www.longitchingtonwildlife.org.uk and the nature reserves dedicated Facebook page.

Help a Hedgehog!

Our prickly friend is in need of your help, as populations across the country are falling to worrying levels. There are estimates that they will be vulnerable to extinction in the British Isles within 10 years.

To prevent the loss of this important animal, the Help a Hedgehog campaign has been launched by the parish council. The campaign hopes to encourage everyone to help save our local hedgehogs by making the parish hedgehog friendly! Hedgehogs are struggling due to loss of habitat and high mortality from road traffic, so they need your assistance. More information and factsheets on how you can help, are available from the parish wildlife website: www.longitchingtonwildlife.org.uk See also: www.HedgehogStreet.org, www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk, and www.sttiqqywinkles.org.uk.

Photographs needed for the 2022 Calendar

Yes, it's that time again! All residents are reminded to send pictures of the parish for consideration in the 2022 calendar. Every year since 2009 we have included photos from new contributors. It can be a view, a special place in the parish, some wildlife or simply something which shows what the parish means to you. Please send to batkins5691@googlemail.com.

Lillington Bowling Club

After lockdown, break out and try a new, healthy outdoor sport - BOWLS.

Come and enjoy FREE coaching sessions every Monday 6pm - dusk, commencing 17th May. Just bring flat shoes and we will do rest; strict protocols will apply. For more information contact Chris on 01926 881229

Long Itchington Baby and Toddler Group

We are so pleased that we have been able to reopen the Baby and Toddler group after not being able to run for over a year and welcome faces old and new.

We have adapted what we offer slightly to ensure that everybody gets an opportunity to come along. Our sessions are now Wednesday 9.15 – 10.15 and 10.30 – 11.30 am. Booking is essential. Find the link on our Facebook page or on our Whatsapp group.

We are also on the look out for volunteers who would be willing to support the running of this long established group so if you are interested, please do get in touch with Jo on 07568571428.

Jo and Kirsty

Thanks to Peter Allen

A huge thank you to Peter Allen, who collects supplies for the Leamington Night Shelter every week. If you would like to contribute please find Peter Allen on the Real Long Itchington News Facebook page.

Carnival

It is once again with regret that we have had to cancel this year's spring carnival. As you can imagine, attempting to plan an event is nigh on impossible in the current climate, and whilst we discussed it as a committee, we felt it was the only option. We will endeavour to plan next year's and make it the best carnival to make up for two lost years. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

The Carnival Committee.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR LONG ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL:

The address for Long Itchington Parish Council is Community Centre, Stockton Road, Long Itchington, Southam CV47 9QP. The office is manned on **Thursday & Friday between 9.30am – 11.30am**. No face-to-face visits can take place at the moment. Parish clerks continue to work from home.

Phone: ~ 815216 or in emergency: ~ 814921

Email: parishcouncil@longitchington.com Website: www.longitchington.org.uk