



THE LONG ITCHINGTON DIARY

September – November 2021

Published
bi-monthly by the
Long Itchington
Parish Council
(Phone: ~
815216)
[parishcouncil@
longitchington.com](mailto:parishcouncil@longitchington.com)

Editor
Barbara Purser

Front page

LIPC News

Pages 2/3/4

LIPC News

Local News

*Church & Chapel
News*

Local Groups

Contact details LIPC

DIARY DATES

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

**Sat 20 Nov 2021
to**

Sat 15 January 2022

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)

District Council Ward Boundary Review - Consultation

A review of electoral boundaries and numbers of councillors within Stratford District is being undertaken. Reviews happen when population numbers change in order to ensure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors. It has been decided to increase the number of councillors within the Stratford District to 41 and, therefore, wards are due to be changed. Initial draft plans have Long Itchington combined with Southam North in one ward with one councillor. Long Itchington is currently represented by one councillor within a ward containing Long Itchington, Stockton and Ufton.

Initial thoughts are that this newly formed ward seems inappropriate, combining one village with half a town. Villages and towns have very different needs as do their residents. You are invited to take part in the consultation which can be found at [Local Government Boundary Commission for England Consultation Portal \(lgbce.org.uk\)](https://www.local.gov.uk)

The Parish Council will be publishing its response via email and on the website.

The Platinum Jubilee

Next June (2022) the country will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We are starting to gather ideas. Please let us know the sorts of things which seem appropriate for the occasion. Tree-planting is an obvious one, but we wondered if you would welcome other events. We're not promising to run with all of them but at this stage we are asking for ideas. There is to be an extended Bank Holiday weekend running from Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June. The Carnival is taking place on the 3rd. As well as ideas, we would very much welcome offers of practical help.

Stonebridge Lane

We need your views.....

We will be the recipients of some funds from the HS2 Road Safety Fund. This will be used by Warwickshire County Council to make improvements to the safety and tranquillity of Stonebridge Lane, amongst other key roads.

We will be asking everyone to respond to a short questionnaire regarding how you use Stonebridge Lane - by car or by foot, for example. There will be some suggestions for ways in which to make it safer for all users and deter large vehicles and motorists using it as a rat run. Watch out for further announcements.

If you would like to take part in this survey but need a paper copy, please contact us on 815216. Otherwise we will put the survey on our website and send it via email.

The LILAC Field

Many residents are surprised to learn that we have a unique wildlife resource in the middle of our village; LILAC Field, just north of Green End, has been nurtured over the years to create a haven of calm with over ten different features including a wildflower meadow, picnic area, wetland, woodland, hibernaculum and pond. It is an ideal place for a walk or private contemplation. We also have a memorial garden there where residents can plant a tree in memory of a loved one - www.longitchington.org.uk/long-itichington-memorial-garden

Village Sign

One of the key features of many villages in the area is a traditional village sign.

Locally sourced timber is being prepared and designs are in preparation.

The Parish Council would love to hear from you about ideas for the illustrations on the sign about what best describes our village and wider parish.

Please send us your ideas, using historical references and local features to guide your creativity.

Getting ready for the winter – emergencies and general preparations

It definitely pays to be prepared, so here are some useful tips as well as some key contacts for you. Firstly, with regards to **flooding** – the Parish Council does have a small stock of emergency equipment and, given our persistent flooding issues, we have access to our own pump. If you need the pump, please call the PC on 815216 (office hours) or at any other time on 814921 or 812248 or 811613.

There is a small team of volunteers who can help but as the pump is easy to operate, we rely on residents to operate it themselves. If your property is in potential danger of flooding, we recommend monitoring the situation via <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk>. We also send out warnings via Facebook and our email alert system.

With regard to **power outages** - a torch and a small supply of batteries can be useful. If you intend to rely on candles, please place them thoughtfully; it's not unusual for the emergency services to have to deal with curtains that have caught fire! The National Grid recommend the following during a power cut:

- Switch off all electrical appliances
- Leave one light on to see when power returns
- Check on neighbours
- Wrap up warmly – layers are recommended

For people who rarely use their mobile phones, encouragement to keep them charged up could be very helpful.

It is worth reminding residents that the Parish Council is not an emergency service and in any type of emergency the appropriate action is to call 999. But we can advise.

All other useful numbers are contained in the Information Sheet sent out in July.

Open Mornings at Long Itchington CE Academy

As we start a new academic year at our wonderful village school, Long Itchington C of E Academy, staff and pupils would like to invite parents of children due to start school in September 2022 to come along to our Open Mornings on 11th October and 19th October. If you are unable to make these days, we are happy to show you around at a more convenient time.

We are so proud of our whole school community and what they achieve - even during the more recent challenges - and we cannot wait to show you what makes our school the wonderful place it is.

Please call the school office on 01926 814819 to make an appointment.

Long Itchington Educational Foundation

Going to university or taking higher/vocational education this year? Please read on...

If you or a member of your family (who is under 25 on October 1st) will be taking up or continuing higher or vocational education/training in the coming year, there's still time to apply for help with expenses from the Long Itchington Educational Foundation. Trustees are inviting applications for grants to help local young people.

Visit www.longitchington.org.uk/L.I.E.F for details including eligibility and a downloadable application form. It's definitely worth applying.

Completed application forms must be returned to Andy Jack at 1 Brakeley Cottages, The Green, Long Itchington CV47 9QJ by 30th September 2020. For help or further information contact Andy Jack on 01926 815522.

Order your calendars now

The Long Itch 2022 calendar will be on sale before December. Last year we sold out and some were disappointed. We are taking pre-orders, so please send your order to batkins5691@googlemail.com, or ring 814921. Calendars are still £6 and large envelopes are 50p.

Lias Line Project

Sustrans is pleased to announce that work continues on the Lias Line project to convert the disused railway line between the Fosse Way and Southam into a high-quality Greenway for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to enjoy. In the coming weeks, ecological works will be taking place to prepare the site for path construction later in the year. The project is being phased in sections due to constraints in funding. The first section that will be completed is between the Fosse Way and the River Itchen Viaduct. A preferred contractor has been selected for the works and we look forward to opening this section of the Greenway at the end of 2022. Sustrans is working with our partners to secure funding to complete the future sections of the Greenway towards Birdingbury.

In the meantime, Sustrans is inviting locals to join us on wildlife walks along the Lias line in September. There are three walks planned – 14th, 19th and 21st September 11.00am – 1.00pm. Meet at the Two Boats Inn car park to set off at 11.00am. If you are interested in joining, please contact tom.aplin@sustrans.org.uk or phone 07799 796486.

Long Itchington Chapel

From Revd Marion Hartwell:

Many of you will already know that I am retiring as Minister of Long Itchington Chapel to live closer to my daughters in Swindon.

Thirty-two years ago, I, a mother of five children, felt a call from God to become the ordained Minister of Long Itchington Congregational Church, often called the Chapel.

At my induction, I was asked what my intentions were for the future of the church. My answer was that I would follow the Congregational way of church, care for the people and that I would not have a church without children. One of the members asked, "How are you going to do all that?" and I answered saying, "I don't know but I will do it," and for most of those 32 years, with the help of many other child-loving people, Pilots club could be heard by passers-by as children had lots of fun learning about the love of Jesus.

I pray that the Chapel will thrive again following its reopening after the pandemic and that all those reading this will feel welcomed there to take part in future services and events.

Coffee morning in memory of Gladys Chittenden

The family of Gladys Chittenden are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 20th November from 10.30 - 12.30, at the Community Centre. They hope to raise funds for the Guide Dogs to name a puppy after her.

As many will be aware, Gladys touched the lives of many people, having been a parish councillor and being part of many other committees and organisations, as well as being a lovely person.

To ensure this is a COVID safe event, please email chitts.fundraiser@gmail.com or call Susie on 07748 712043 to let the family know you will be attending.

Look out for posters around the village nearer the date; there will be a tombola, bric a brac stall, children's games, etc.

Walk Correction

The Harvest Moon Walk takes place on **Monday 20th September** (and not as previously advertised!). Meet at the pond at 8.00pm.

To report faulty street lights - phone (815216) or email the Parish Council with name of the road, nearest property address and the lamp number to parishcouncil@longitchington.com

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH LONG ITCHINGTON

We have now been open for several months, being cautious and careful but thankful to be slowly returning to normal. We do maintain social distancing and wear masks plus keep a track and trace list to ensure people's safety and well-being.

Looking forward we are hopeful that some small events may take place before Christmas especially the Charity Christmas Card Sale which is normally early November but the dates are not yet finalised.

Please keep a look out on social media and the village noticeboards for the details of any events we may try to organise.

In the meantime, everyone is welcome to come and join us on Sunday mornings at 09.30am. Many thanks to all those who supported the two recent open gardens with teas in aid of the church. Our grateful thanks to Andy and Rosie Skilbeck plus Erica and Martyn Smith for hosting these events.

Long Itchington WI

It's been a busy summer for Long Itchington WI, including a WI walk, treasure hunt and a special picnic held on the Green on 18 August. At the WI picnic, members celebrated finally getting back together again and also Long Itchington WI's 90th birthday year, as our village WI first met in 1931.

The WI lockdown potato competition has resulted in plenty of tasty potatoes being eaten in the village this summer. In February, Long Itchington WI members were each given a single Charlotte seed potato to grow and harvest by the end of July. WI potatoes have been growing across the village in a wide variety of pots, bags and containers as well as in the ground. Thirty-six members submitted their results which added up to a total of 606 potatoes weighing an amazing 23 kilos (50lbs). The overall winners were Rhona Berry, who grew a magnificent 1898 grams (4lb 3 oz) and Angie Woodhouse, who grew 35 potatoes – all from one seed potato.

The WI will now be meeting together at the Community Centre again. The next WI meeting on Wednesday 15 September 2021 includes speaker Dave Moylan and his "Funny Turns" and the WI meeting on Wednesday 20 October 2021 has jewellery makers Pam and Andy Kallender from "The Glass Barge".

This year's Annual WI Meeting is on Wednesday 17 November 2021 and will continue Long Itchington WI's 90th birthday celebrations.

The WI welcomes new members – for more information please contact Ali Williams aliwilliams1908@hotmail.co.uk

Long Itchington History Group

Long Itchington History Group are pleased to offer a full Autumn programme and welcome new and existing members to all meetings. The 2022 January to May programme will be announced later in the year.

8th Sept - Remembering Old Southam
13th Oct - Family History and DNA
10th Nov - The St Paul's Watch – Defence & Defiance
8th Dec - Bring & Tell - Members invited to bring an object and give a brief talk
Next meeting 12th Jan 2022

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month Sept – April, starting at 7.30pm and are held at Long Itchington Community Centre, 7.30pm. Admission £2 per meeting.

If you require a lift or information: Chairman David Williams 812573/Secretary Gillian Phillips 812215

Meetings will fully adhere to Covid regulations/protocols in place at the time as well as the requirements of the Community Centre.

Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 24th September

8.45-11.30am Community Centre, Stockton Road.

Call in for coffee and cake (takeaway available). COVID guidelines will be followed.

Donations of cake gratefully received - contact Sally 813423 or Richard 814306

Cream Teas for Cancer Research raises over £700

On a sunny day in August, Jenny Allen opened her gardens for afternoon cream teas to raise money for Cancer Research.

With the help of some of the ladies from the Long Itchington WI (as tea helpers and for many of the fabulous cakes) and the generosity of all of those from the village who supported the event, £700.90 was raised.

As well as supporting such a worthwhile cause, the sunny day and convivial atmosphere helped re-cement friendships after such a long lockdown.

Wildlife News

With climate change becoming more apparent, our wildlife needs assistance to cope with its negative effects. The Parish Council is keen to develop a programme that encourages greater biodiversity and support for our wildlife, plants and trees. There are several examples across the UK where parishes have launched such projects - you may have seen the Countryfile feature on the village of Risby in Suffolk who, by working together, achieved some very exciting results from their programme.

As a start, to help reverse the decline in wildflower meadows which is so important, particularly to insects, the parish maintenance team have changed the grass cutting in the Lilac field to allow the grasses and wildflowers to grow. Compared to previous years the number of insects and bird life has increased noticeably. Also, by allowing the grass to grow longer, it can act as a carbon sink reducing CO2 emissions.

A big thank you must be given to a group of young adults who have been volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. For 3 months across spring and summer, every Saturday morning they have been helping the wildlife warden with a number of tasks to improve the Bascote Road Community Nature Reserve for both visitors and wildlife. Along with their parents, they have made a great contribution towards wildlife conservation efforts within the parish. Photographs of some of their achievements can be seen on the nature reserve's Facebook page.

The health of our rivers nationally is getting worse, so to help ensure the health of the River Itchen, the wildlife warden will be undertaking monitoring of the water quality for one year. If anyone would like to help with this then please get in touch via the email address below.

Looking ahead, there are many conservation tasks to be undertaken this autumn and winter. Depending on the pandemic, there will be opportunities for everyone to get involved. If you have a garden, an area of land or even a window box, you can also make a difference. Further updates will be advertised on the parish email alerts, the wildlife website www.longitchingtonwildlife.org.uk, and the nature reserve Facebook page. If you would like to be involved, please email: phillip.claydon@btinternet.com or contact the Parish Office.

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 **Monday – Thursday between 9.30am – 12.00pm.**

Phone: ~ 815216 or in emergency: ~ 814921

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