

The Sexton's Wheel

The magazine for the villages of Long Stratton & Wacton



**2018
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NEW YEAR!**

**to everyone in
Long Stratton
and Wacton**

January 2018

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Church Contacts

St Mary's / St Michael's & All Saints'	Revd. Heather Wilcox	01508 530238
	rev.heather@btconnect.com	
Parish Administrator	Linda Mills	01508 530238
	linda.parishadmin@btconnect.com	
Methodist Church	Tony Coleman	01508 530699
Congregational Church	June Braddock	01508 470701

Church Parish Office

The Parish Office is open 8.30 - 12.30 Monday to Thursday, but you can still contact us at the Rectory outside these times. Callers are always welcome.

If you know of anyone who is unwell or would benefit from a visit from a member of our ministry team please contact the Parish Office (530238).

Long Stratton Parish Council, The Street, Long Stratton

Usual office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 1pm and by appointment at other times.

Tel: Clerk Becky Buck 01508 530524 E-mail: clerk@longstratton-pc.gov.uk

The Editors reserve the right to edit or decline any material submitted for publication. While every effort is made to ensure that the contents of the magazine are accurate, no responsibility can be taken for errors and omissions. The material printed does not necessarily represent the views of the magazine committee and no recommendation of products or services is implied. While the committee take reasonable care when accepting advertisements for publication, it cannot accept responsibility for any unsatisfactory transactions. Errors and omissions excepted.



Hello and welcome to 2018.

We hope you all had a good Christmas and now looking forward to 2018.

As usual January is a quiet month for events but if you would like an evening out why not go to the Beetle Drive & Pudding Party on the 20th January - see page 23 for more details.

If you organise an annual event why not let us have the date as soon as it is arranged then we can let people know well in advance and where possible avoid clashes of dates. For example we know that the Community May Day Fete is on Monday 7th May, the South Norfolk on Show is on Sunday 1st July and St Michael's Church have set the date for their fete for Saturday 16th June.

Also if you have an item you think our readers would be interested do send it in - it could be an adventure you have been on, a holiday experience or a poem you have written.

The Sexton's Wheel team

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LONG STRATTON HIGH SCHOOL

New for this month is English work from students at the High School. This will become a regular feature and each month we will reproduce some of their work covering a wide aspect of the curriculum.

The First Time

Crunch, crunch, crunch. The heavy footsteps of the old man in front, striding towards the opening. Not only was I a human icicle already, I was told to take my favourite green hat off. (This added to my grumpy mood, already having been dragged out of the house to an unknown location.) The first step I took into the building found me assailed by the mundane atmosphere created by the serious faces of the crowd that surrounded me and the dusty smell that lingered for days afterwards.

I was intoxicated by, infected by, the cold and dead atmosphere that pervaded the room. This was until I found out the name of the seat I was perched on. A pew. Obviously now this word is no longer as hilarious to me as it was then but it still makes me giggle when someone asks me to ‘take a pew’ This single occurrence has followed me since, meaning that I smile every time I enter a church now.

Bored by the booming voice of the preacher, I stared up as if searching for some distraction. What I saw was incredible. Beautiful creatures were carved into the roof of the church- their impact was only exacerbated by the perplexity of how people had ever got up there. My eyes locked on to these amazing carvings for what seemed an eternity until I was blinded by an ethereal light bursting through a coloured window.

Every inch of this window was sheer perfection: the window portrayed a mother cradling her baby and the baby’s eyes shone with a warm light that covered me and carried me to an invisible place that only I could see. It was magical. As if I had been laid down into a land of pure bliss momentarily until it was snatched violently away from me by the shuffling of feet and the flicking of wafer-thin pages, stealing me away from the happiness I had experienced.

Singing and praying followed. Then we left. Crossed a bridge back to the reality of the world through the doors.

Never to be forgotten.

Matthew, year 9



2017 SHOE BOX APPEAL

Maurice and Sylvia Manning would like to thank everyone who filled a shoe box for this year's annual Samaritan's Purse appeal.

Thanks to E.P.I.C. for their contribution.



Long Stratton Christmas Event

On the 1st December, between 6-8pm, Long Stratton got their Christmas Festivities off to a flying start, with the Lighting of the Christmas Tree. Alongside the grand switch on, several shops had late night opening, offering activities such as icing biscuits and having your photo taken with Elsa and Anna. The Fire Station played host to several stalls including a raffle, tombola, sweet stall and of course Santa's Grotto. Entertainment throughout the evening was provided by the Salvation Army Band, LSHS Choir, Rainbows and Brownies and the Stratton Singers.

None of this could have happened without the support of the local businesses who opened their doors on the night, and Whittley Parish, The Swan, Bekays, The Barber Shack, Homescape, Café Savannah, Past and Present Tea rooms, Chip Inn and Excel Mortgage Services who donated raffle prizes; the Co-op who supported us with purchasing the presents for Santa's Grotto, Excel Mortgage Services and Martin Smiths for sponsoring the advertising, notably the colour front cover on last month's Sexton's Wheel. Thanks also need to go to the Parish Council for another wonderful couple of trees in the village this year, added to by a couple of lamppost motifs, and Father Christmas and his Elves, not forgetting his wonderful reindeers! Thanks also to Judith & Graham Baker and Catrina for decorating the grotto, and the Fire Station for the use of the Fire station. And thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event.

The Christmas Tree colouring competition was a success and the winners were:

Under 5's	1st Jacob Welstead	2nd Dexter Phillips	3rd Jack Whithan-Talbot
5-7 years	1st Jessica Harrison	2nd Jessica Arterton	3rd Olly
8-11 years	1st Connie Melling	2nd Emily Horne	3rd Merryn Potter

As well as everyone having a great time money raised will be shared between The Harker House residents fund and Fire Fighter Charity – we will let you know in February how much was raised.

Decorate the Christmas Tree competition

Name: Jacob Welstead Age: 1+



Decorate the Christmas Tree competition

Name: Jessica Harrison Age: 7



Jacob Welstead- First in Under 5 age group

Jessica Harrison- First in 5-7 age group

Decorate the Christmas Tree competition

Name: Connie Melling

Age: 10



Connie Melling - First in 8-11 age group

see back page for pictures of the second and third place

LOCAL WALK DECEMBER

Another lovely day for the village walk. We seem to be very lucky with the weather.

Setting off from our meeting place in the car park behind the Co-op, we walked up Star Lane towards Morningthorpe, a large hare ran swiftly across a field in the sunshine, close to the village. We are lucky to have such things on our doorstep.



We continued by footpath and the quiet roads to St Michaels church, this part of the walk could well have been in Devon, winding steep sided lanes. Across the fields then back through the Churchfields state. Easy to get lost here without a map!



This was a short walk as the aim was to get back, have some hot soup and get the Walkers Christmas tree ready for the Church Tree festival. We made paper chains from old maps and decorations from and with walk related items.

Next walk is on **New Years Day**, please join us for a chance to walk off some of that Christmas indulgence. Meet at the usual place, in the car park by the toilets 10.00am.

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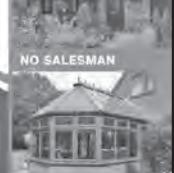
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This time next year, Rodders, we'll be millionaires

'This time next year, Rodders, we'll be millionaires' are words most people will remember, uttered by Del Boy, in most, if not all episodes, of the sitcom 'Only Fools and Horses'.

As we begin a New Year, like Del Boy, I am sure many of us have hopes and dreams; I suspect we don't all dream of being millionaires, our hopes and dreams I expect are more likely to revolve around family life, work or leisure.

Having been given a Clarinet a month or so ago, one of my dreams is that by the end of 2018 I will have taught myself to play it, hopefully it won't be too difficult to learn as I already play the saxophone.

It is good to have hopes and dreams, to aspire to something new, to desire to learn a new thing. New Year's Resolutions help us to strive for a new and better way.

But ultimately, as we begin a New Year, Proverbs 16:9 reminds us that we need to place the New Year into the hands of God. We plan, we hope and dream, but God establishes our steps. As 2018 begins we need to place into God's hands our hopes and dreams, and the God who loves us, will establish our steps. Sometimes our hopes and dreams are not realised in the way that we imagined, the reality is that we don't know what the future holds, we don't always know what is best for us, we know what we like, but the two don't always match up. God sees the big picture.

So as a New Year dawns, remember Proverbs 16:9 'In his heart a man plans his course; but the Lord determines his steps.' And wherever 2018 leads us, may we rejoice in the love God has for us.

Wishing you every blessing in 2018.

Heather

LONG STRATTON 'THEN' AND 'NOW' CALENDAR 2018

IF YOU DIDN'T GET A CALENDAR FOR CHRISTMAS THERE IS STILL TIME TO BUY ONE

Cost is only £4 and they are available from The Butcher's House, Bekays, Past & Present, Courthouse Occasions, Stratton Motor Company and Scissorhappy.



Or you can call in to the Church Parish Office, The Rectory, 8 Flowerpot Lane Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm.



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LONG STRATTON GUIDING



2nd Long Stratton Brownies

Last month the Brownies went and entertained the residents of Harker House by singing some favourite Brownie songs, Christmas carols and our special version of the 12 days of Christmas. At the end of the evening the Brownies gave each resident a hand-made Christmas card.

We hope you enjoyed seeing our 'Field of Trees' at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church.

The Brownies wish all readers a Happy New Year.

Brown Owl

Christingle Service

To finish the term we held a joint Girlguiding Christingle service in the Congregational Church for all the Long Stratton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Guides. We were joined by many parents and friends.



The highlight was when the girls all held their lighted Christingle oranges all around the edge of the church singing 'Away in a Manger'.

We thank Rev Heather for taking our Christingle service which raised £75 for the Children's Society



At the end of the service our District Commissioner [Rebecca] presented Jean [who is Mole at Rainbows] with her ten year Long Stratton badge. Well done from us all.

CREATIVE SINGERS

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IF YOU CAN SPEAK, YOU CAN SING

"Tuesday is now my favourite day of the week. My brain is alive again! We've learnt many new songs, breathing techniques and have lots of fun and laughter too." Rita Day

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"It's brilliant! It really is. We have so much fun. It's a great laugh and none of us can wait for the next session!" Bob Tingley

WACTON VILLAGE HALL

£5.00 per person, per session, pay as you go

Every Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:30pm

EVERYONE WELCOME!

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When I joined "Creative Singers" on Tuesday nights I could not sing. However, Thanks to our brilliant teacher Louise Barton, I have discovered that despite getting kicked out of the school choir sixty years ago I am able to sing and tuesday nights has become my favourite night of the week" Len Day

www.creativesingingstudios.co.uk

CREATIVE SINGERS



IF YOU CAN SPEAK, YOU CAN SING

In September 2017, Professional Singer, Voice Coach & Music Therapy Consultant Louise Barton launched a community singing project at Wacton Village Hall. From the very first session those who have joined in have left with a smile on their face and a song in their heart, eager for next Tuesday to come around quickly!

Putting 20 years teaching experience to good use, Louise's unique and proven teaching method supports her theory that if you can Speak, You Can Sing, starting each session with a lesson in healthy vocal development that varies from relaxation breathing techniques to pilates [of sort] for the voice.

"It's been so wonderful having so many married couples and families getting involved together", Louise says, "In this current day and age, there's such a strain on all forms of relationships, singing and/or music has a very unique way of bridging the gaps to promote communication and connection".

It seems that participants are not the only ones eager to embrace what is on offer with this group, with invitations received to perform at various events in 2018.

Passionate about putting back into the global community, all profits received through the Creative Singers group has gone to support a number of charities including SHELTER and BREAK among other registered charities such as [but not limited to] Destiny Rescue, Compassion, King's Ransom Foundation and of course, the Wacton Village Hall.

If you've heard about our community of Creative Singers in Wacton, but have not yet joined in, no booking is needed, we look forward to meeting you at:

WACTON VILLAGE HALL
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MANOR FIELD INFANT & NURSERY

We are looking forward to an exciting Spring term at Manor Field. Each class focuses on a Core Story each term or half term, as a starting point for their learning and investigation.



To begin with, the children in Nursery will be learning all about 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson. In Reception, the focus will be on the Polar Regions as the children are introduced to their new core story; 'How Big Is a Million?' by Anna Milbourne. 'Traction Man' by Mini Grey will be the Core Story for the children in Year 1 and in Year 2, 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl. Perhaps you could see if you could find these stories in the library to read at home?

The children really do seem to engage more when the learning is fun and meaningful and this is always a consideration for us. Teachers spent lots of time carefully selecting language rich stories that inspire and enthuse the children. We are sure the learning will be taken in lots of different directions by the children as the term progresses.

Nursery Open afternoon – Thursday 18th January 2018

We would like to invite any parents who have children aged 0-3 years to our Nursery Open Afternoon on Thursday 18th January 2018 from 3.30-4.30pm. This is a drop-in session that gives parents the opportunity to look around the Nursery and the rest of the school, meet our staff and ask any questions that you may have. Everyone is welcome. We encourage you to bring your child(ren) with you to visit so that they can see what we have to offer.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTINGLE SERVICE & The Children's Society

Every Christmas St Mary's Church supports The Children's Society through its collection at the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve and through people having collection boxes throughout the year. People also make a one-off donation at this time of year and if you wish to support the good work of the Children's Society it is not too late. All donations can be sent to Linda Mills at The Rectory, 8 Flowerpot Lane, Long Stratton [01508 530238]. There are some special envelopes available if you are a tax payer which will enable The Children's Society to claim Gift Aid on your donation. Church Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm.



We would once again like to thank Chris Austin from The Chip Inn for kindly donating the oranges for our Christingle Service in December, it was very much appreciated.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2018



*'That all may
be free'*

SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY - 3PM - METHODIST CHURCH

Join us as we gather to worship together,
celebrating our Christian Unity



Next film showing

Dunkirk

Long Stratton Village Hall

Monday 15th January

1pm

Acclaimed author Christopher Nolan, wrote and directed this historical thriller about the Dunkirk evacuation during the early days of World War II. When 400,000 British and Allied troops end up trapped on the beaches of Dunkirk, France, following a catastrophic defeat, a number of civilian boats set out to rescue them before they are decimated by the approaching Nazi forces.

Tickets £5 which includes refreshments

To pre-book ring Heather (01508) 530238 or rev.heather@btconnect.com

FILMS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE VILLAGE HALL THIS WINTER/SPRING

Monday 19th February – Victoria and Abdul

Monday 19th March – Goodbye Christopher Robin

Monday 16th April – Hampstead

WACTON VILLAGE NEWS

WACTON SOCIAL CLUB

The Wacton Social Club would like to thank all the members for their support during 2017. Thank you for the Firework night which was a fantastic success once again and we look forward to next year's event. To Johnny for being the resident chef and to the rest of the committee for all their hard work throughout the year. On behalf of the committee we wish all members and prospective members a happy and prosperous NEW YEAR.

The Wacton Social Club are looking for 'Cribb Players' to join the Monday Night Team as soon as possible. If you are interested can you contact Brian Beadle on 07960 714188

Regards Richard Moss - Chairman, Johnny Johnson - Vice Chairman, Mark Hardwick - Treasurer, Committee members - Brian Beadle and Joe & Carol Taylor

The Social Club is open on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month dates for January are the 5th and 19th. For more information contact Mark Hardwick on 01508 530815/
ronniehardwick@hotmail.co.uk.

SINGING IN WACTON

We now have a newly formed weekly singing group in Wacton village hall which is proving very popular and great fun. We are a mixed group of ladies, gents, teenagers and families who enjoy singing together with guidance from our qualified teacher, Louise Barton. If you would like to join us for a fun evening we meet in Wacton Village Hall - Tuesday evenings from 7 p m until 8.30 p m. Further details from Louise Barton [07765920390] or Rita Day [01508 218407].

COFFEE MORNINGS

These are held in the village hall on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10.30 am - everyone welcome. Dates for January are the 2nd and the 16th. For further information contact Caroline Squires on 01508 530111.

CHURCH NEWS

First of all we would like to wish everyone in Wacton a Happy and Healthy New Year and to thank you for your support during 2017.

We would like to thank everyone who helped decorate the Church for Christmas. The Candlelit Carol service was again very well supported. We look forward to seeing you during 2018 .

JANUARY CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7th and 28th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th and 21st	No service	

WACTON FOOTCARE

The first new year 2018 WACTON FOOTCARE session will take place **Monday 15th January** in the village hall as usual. For further information contact Rita Day (Parish Councillor) at ritaday.wacton@yahoo.com or telephone 01508 218407

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WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY ACTIVITIES	VENUE	TIME
Craft Group	Library	10.30 am to 12 noon
Tai-Chi	Wacton Village Hall	6.30 pm
Bell Ringing Practice	St Mary's Church	7.30 pm to 9 pm

TUESDAY ACTIVITIES	VENUE	TIME
Lunch & activities <i>not open 2nd January</i>	Day Centre	10 am to 3 pm
Stratton Community Choir	Mayfields Care Home	7.30 pm
Singing in Wacton	Wacton Village Hall	7 pm to 8.30 pm

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES	VENUE	TIME
123 Toddler Group	Methodist Church during term time	9.15 - 11.15 am
Breastfeeding Support Drop-In Group	Long Stratton Children's Centre, Manor Road	10 am to 12 noon
Short Mat Bowls	Coronation Hall, Great Moulton - Peter Grant 01508 536753	2 pm

THURSDAY ACTIVITIES	VENUE	TIME
Pilates	Wacton Village Hall Jo Douglas 01508 530261 greenacresfarm@tinyworld.co.uk	9.30 am Intermediate 10.30 am Beginners
Lunch & activities <i>not open 4th January</i>	Day Centre	10 am to 3 pm
Coffee morning	Methodist Church	10 am to 11.30 am
'Just a Cuppa'	Library	2 pm
Short Mat Bowls	Coronation Hall, Great Moulton - see above	2 pm
Knitters & Crafters evening	Library	5.15 pm to 7.15 pm

The Sexton's Wheel

M	T	W	T
1 - BANK HOLIDAY Local Walk - <i>see page 25</i>	2 Coffee Morning Wacton Village Hall 10.30am <i>see page 17</i>	3 Wacton Parish Council meeting 7pm Wacton Village Hall	4 Long Stratton Pa Group - Tudor Hous
8 Long Stratton Parish Council meeting 7pm Methodist Church	9 Sunflower Cafe, Mayfields 10am Diggers & Dibbles 7.30pm Forncett Village Hall <i>see page 27</i>	10 Long Stratton Lions 7.30pm contact Roy on 01508 531406 for venue	11 Tharston W Wacto <i>see pag</i>
15 Film Afternoon 'Dunkirk' - 1pm Long Stratton VH <i>see page 16</i>	16 Coffee Morning Wacton Village Hall 10.30am <i>see page 17</i>	17 Long Stratton & District WI 7.30pm Village Hall <i>see page 23</i>	18 Manor Field N Afternoon - <i>see pag</i>
22	23	24 Long Stratton Lions 7.30pm contact Roy on 01508 531406 for venue	25 Book Club 6.3 Library - <i>see</i> Harleston <i>see pag</i>
29	30 Long Stratton 'Friendship Circle' - 9.30am - LS Village Hall	31	1 FEBRUARY

January 2018

	F	S	S
parents Reading 9am Bakey	5 Wacton Social Club <i>see page 17</i>	6	7
'I 7.30pm n VH ge 27	12	13	14 Ten2Ten Service at St Mary's <i>see page 25</i>
ursery Open - 3.30pm ge 15	19 Wacton Social Club <i>see page 17</i>	20 Beetle Drive & Pudding Party St Mary's Church 6.30pm <i>see page 23</i>	21 Family breakfast at the Congregational Church 9.45am <i>see page 27</i> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service - Methodist Church - 3pm <i>see page 16</i>
0pm at the <i>see page 31</i> Cinema <i>see page 29</i>	26	27 Messy Church at the Junior School 9am - <i>see page 24</i>	28
	2	3	4



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LONG STRATTON & DISTRICT WI

Our November meeting reflected the very changeable autumn weather. Our AGM went well and members finalised decorations for our tree at the church's Christmas Tree Festival. However there was a lingering touch of summer in the flower competition with marigolds, primulas, honeysuckle, roses and outdoor fuschias on display.

The continuing President, Mrs. Diane Woodham, presented each member with a book to commemorate the 90th birthday of Long Stratton & District W.I. and this was a fitting end to our October birthday celebrations.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th January in Long Stratton Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. when the talk will be about New Scotland Yard. Members who wish to enter the monthly competition may like to bring anything relating to or depicting Sherlock Holmes.

Visitors are welcome so why not come along and see if you would enjoy joining us. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Shirley Housden on 01508 531154.



Beetle Drive & Pudding Party

Fun for all ages

**Saturday 20th January 6.30pm
Tickets £5 Adult £3 Child
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**Ticket includes a selection of puddings
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**To pre-book ring Heather 01508 530238
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LONG STRATTON VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all of our users for their support in 2017.
We wish you all a prosperous and happy new year!
Below are the hire charges for 2018 for information.



Long Stratton Village Hall

The Village Hall can be booked as follows:

- Via our Facebook page Long Stratton Village Hall
- Via our website www.longstrattonvillagehall.org.uk
- Email us at longstrattonvillagehall@outlook.com
- Call Kirsty Dye on 07986 942804 and leave a message



Hire Charges 2018

- £10 per hour for registered Charities
- £12 per hour for Business Users
- £7.50 per hour for 'Casual' Users (Tharston & Long Stratton Residents)
- £10 per hour for 'Casual' Users from outside of the local area

Come and join us for.....

The next **Messy Church** is on **Saturday 27th January**
from 9am until 10.45am and will be at **St Mary's Junior**



The morning begins with bacon butties and muffins before craft activities,
finishing with a time of worship.

All children must be accompanied by an adult
You can find out more by phoning Heather Wilcox at the The Rectory 530238

LONG STRATTON GUIDING

1st Long Stratton Guides Sleepover

Guides and leaders arrived at Dickleburgh Scout Hut on a cold frosty Friday evening for their space themed sleepover. We took advantage of the clear skies to star gaze and then made a human solar system with the guides wearing glow sticks acting as the planets, moons etc out on the field – chaotic but fun.



Inside for more space activities - creating craters by dropping marbles, stones etc into a bowl of flour from a metre above

and being challenged to make a Mars Rover Eggsplorer using balloons, card, wool, kitchen towel and sellotape to land an egg safely after dropping it from the balcony. One broke, one was cracked after landing safely but the third made it, amazingly it was inserted into balloons, put in a wool nest inside a card box and just dropped!



Not much sleep so guides reluctant to get up on Saturday – fire drill did help!



Expedition to Morrisons to buy ingredients for cookery competition after they'd sorted menus and shopping lists. Splash of red and blue as they shopped all within their budgets, and impressed the store manager who offered a bag packing session in the future.

Back at Dickleburgh they prepared really tasty, healthy lunches in patrols on the one cooker and camping stoves from pasta to chicken salad and desserts, the fruit kebabs were excellent.



All too soon time for parents to collect guides and leaders to give the HQ a quick clean before going home.

Ten 2 Ten

The next 'Ten 2 Ten' service at **St. Mary's church** will be on the **14th January**. 'Ten 2 Ten' service is an informal service suitable for all ages – to find out more come along and try it out! If you like Messy church, you'll like this too.



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THARSTON & DISTRICT WI

The year's end is always full of activities and as usual we have been out and about.

A visit to Acorns Fashions in Carleton Rode began with refreshments and ended with several purchases from the many members who attended. Eight of our members took the train to W.I. headquarters in London and had an informative and interesting visit, and also managed a little retail therapy.

We held an extra event in December to hear Jenny Gibbs talk about the customs and traditions of a rural village in Turkey. More shopping possibilities as she had a sales table of beautiful scarves, pashminas and embroidered cloths. Festive nibbles and a glass of sherry went down well.

We got the festivities off to an early start with a Christmas meal at the Jolly Farmers, much enjoyed by forty of our members with lovely food and a convivial atmosphere.

Our December meeting also involved food, of course, as well as entertainment and much laughter.



We meet in Wacton Village Hall on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm. Meetings normally have a speaker, a sales table, bookstall and of course cake. Come and visit for a friendly evening. Phone Gill on 01508 532468

DIGGERS & DIBBLERS GARDENING CLUB - 9TH JANUARY

Fornett Village Hall 7.30pm - The wonder of willow: Twyford Heritage Osier Bed

Graham Starkie will be sharing his experience of making and managing an osier bed – space dedicated to the growing of willow, to be harvested for basket-making and willow sculpture work. Established in 2016 to grow three species - triandra, viminalis and hybrid red - the bed aims to raise the profile of a once thriving village industry in Twyford (Buckinghamshire). Willow can be a great plant for winter colour and as living sculptures in our own gardens – not to mention providing raw materials for willow weaving. Non-members are very welcome.

For further information contact Ally Rae - 01953 788544 or allysonrae@btinternet.com

**Family Breakfast
at Long Stratton Congregational Church Hall
Sunday 21st January at 9.45 am**

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Followed by Family Christmas Service [optional]



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Long Stratton Parish Council

The Street, Long Stratton, Norwich NR15 2AH

Chairman: Mr Kevin Worsley Clerk: Mrs B Buck

Tel: 01508 530524 Email: clerk@longstratton-pc.gov.uk



Long Stratton Parish Council were saddened to discover that the pavilion on the playing fields at Manor Road had been broken into not once but twice and attempted a third time.

This was in addition to substantive damage that was caused in the under 10's playground at the playing fields.

The vandalism to the play area made some of the play equipment unsafe to use, which ruins the children's enjoyment.

The Parish Council are working corroboratively with the Police. If anyone has seen anything suspicious or has any information regarding either the pavilion break-ins or the damage to the play equipment then please contact 101.

The Christmas light switch-on was well attended on the 1st December, the lights were switched on by members of the Parish Council and it was a festive start to this joyous period. The Parish Council are already looking towards Christmas in Long Stratton 2018, if you would like to be involved or would like some more information then please contact the Parish Council Office.

Finally the next meeting will be the 8th January in the Methodist Church at 7pm.

EVENTS OUTSIDE LONG STRATTON & WACTON

Harleston Cinema - Thursday 25th January - Dunkirk - 7.30pm [doors open 7pm] - Masonic Rooms, Throughfare, Harleston - tickets £4 - ring 01379 851917

St George's Dementia Support Group - 8th and 22nd January

10am to 12noon - St George's Hall, Long Lane, Upper Stoke Holy Cross NR14 8ND - further details 01508 493661/492938 .

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY'S – Our Spring Term begins on **Monday 8 January 2018**, with a new venue in Harleston for Monday evening practices. Further information on the HCS website www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk or from Jo Curry jo.curry@sky.com, 01986 875494.

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NEWS FROM LONG STRATTON LIBRARY

Your library is thinking about getting fit in the New Year; we have a series of ‘wrap up and walk’ events every Thursday morning in January. Meet at the library at 10.30 for a short circular walk around Long Stratton followed by refreshments back at the library. We’ll have pedometers to borrow so you can see how many miles you clock up.

For younger customers we have a mini-mover session for families with children aged 2+ on Monday 29th January at 10.30. Come and get fit with your pre-schooler!

Maybe your New Year’s resolution is to improve your reading skills? You can be a ‘Better Reader’ with Norfolk libraries; Norfolk residents who find reading difficult are invited to join The Norfolk Reading Pathway, a new library service project helping people become more confident readers. The free reading support is one to one and delivered in local libraries by volunteer reading coaches. Learner readers work in a fun and engaging way to help boost their reading skills, building confidence and self-esteem as they progress. Learners will receive a certificate of achievement as well as support to access other reading or learning opportunities if they wish to do so. The project is open to anyone in Norfolk aged 8 or above (no upper age limit!) and is taking place in libraries across the county.

If you’d like to know more about the Norfolk Reading Pathway or want to talk to us about getting involved please get in touch by email to nrp@norfolk.gov.uk or call Angela on 07825 930 654 or Christian on 07920 831358.

We have extended the opening times at your library; you can now use the library even while the building is unstaffed, making it available at times that are more convenient. Please ask at the library for more details. The extra opening times are:

Monday: 8am- 10am and 1-2pm	Tuesday: 8am -10am and 12 – 2pm
Thursday: 8am- 10am and 1-2pm	Saturday: 8am-9am

We now have BBC Microbit mini computers available to loan. These are great for anyone learning how to code, you can find out more online at <http://microbit.org/>

Regular events:

Baby Bounce and Rhyme time will be on alternate Mondays, 10.30 -11.00am for toddlers and 11.15 – 11.45 for babies. New faces are welcome at these short friendly sessions of songs, rhymes and music.

Craft group is every Monday morning 10.30 – 12 noon

Book Group on the 4th Thursday at 6.30pm.

Young People’s Job Club every other Tuesday morning 10am – 12 noon.

For library opening times and more information on all our events and services visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries, or call Long Stratton library on 01508 530797

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Thursday: 10am – 1pm; 2pm – 7.30pm	Saturday: 9am –1.pm

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LONG STRATTON THURSDAY CLUB

There is no meeting in January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 8th February. We look forward to the return visit of Peter Davies in the Village Hall at 2pm.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For more information contact the secretary Margaret Coleman on 01508 530699.

WEA HEMPNALL - Spring Course 2018

Perspectives on Pakistan



Tutor: Graham Platts

Aim: To explore 5000 years of history in the ancient land now known as Pakistan through its diverse peoples and cultural influences; to follow the process of Partition and the aftermath; and to celebrate the achievements of notable individuals.

Venue: Nelson Suite, Hempnall VH, Bungay Road, Hempnall NR15 2NG

Date: Starts Wednesday **17th January 2.30pm to 4.30pm,**

Fee: £55.00 [fee waived for those on benefits]

Contact: On-line at wea.org.uk, by telephone at 0300 303 3464, or call Gill on 01508 499495

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LONG STRATTON METHODIST CHURCH

There will be no lunch in January.

Coffee mornings every Thursday - 10am to 11.30am - everyone welcome

Wacton Village Hall - Booking information

The new hall offers a meeting room seating 22, which is also suitable for small functions and a hall with semi-sprung wood floor with a capacity of 80 seated and 120 standing.

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CHURCH SERVICES - JANUARY

St Mary's Church

7th	11.00 am	All Age Worship
14th	9.50 am	Ten2Ten Service
14th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
21st	11.00 am	Morning Worship
28th	11.00 am	All Age Holy Communion

St Michael's Church

7th	No Service	
14th	8.30 am	Holy Communion
21st	No Service	
28th	8.30 am	Holy Communion

All Saints' Church

7th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
14th	No Service	
21st	9.30 am	Holy Communion
28th	No Service	

Congregational Church

7th	10.45 am	Family Service inc Holy Communion	Malcolm Simpkin
14th	10.45 am	Family Service	David Dodd
21st	9.45 am	Family Breakfast	
21st	10.45 am	Family Service	Joe Hart
28th	10.45 am	Family Service	Keith Scarff

Methodist Church

7th	10.30 am	Morning Service	Local arrangement
14th	3.00 pm	Communion Service	Revd M Olanrewaju
21st	10.30 am	Morning Service	Revd C Hutton
21st	3.00 pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service	
28th	10.30 am	Morning Service	Mr W Twist

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Editorial: - If possible all editorial to be sent by e-mail. This saves time putting the magazine together and more importantly this would ensure names of people etc are spelt correctly.

Deadline is the 11th of the month

Images: - Any pictures you may have to accompany editorial would be welcome. Please send these as jpgs not embedded in a word document.

Adverts: - Advertising rates per issue: -

Quarter page(6cm x 9cm) £19.20 Half page (13cm x 9cm) £33.60
Full page (13cm x 18cm) £60

Deadline is the 5th of the month

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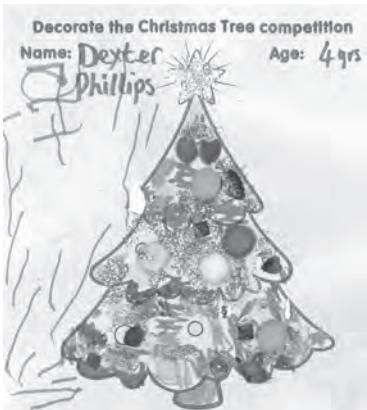
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TIME	_____
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BRIEF DETAILS	_____
CONTACT	_____

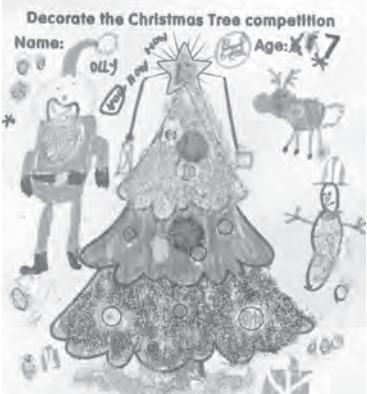
Here are the second and third place Christmas Tree decoration competition from the Community Christmas Event on the 1st December



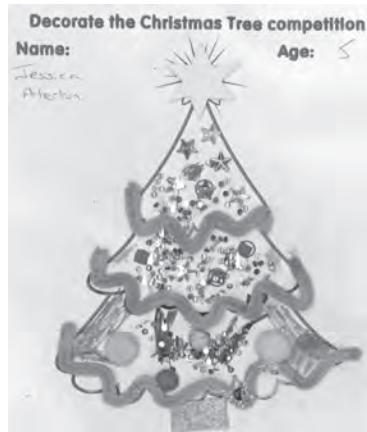
Emily Horne - Second in 8-11 age group



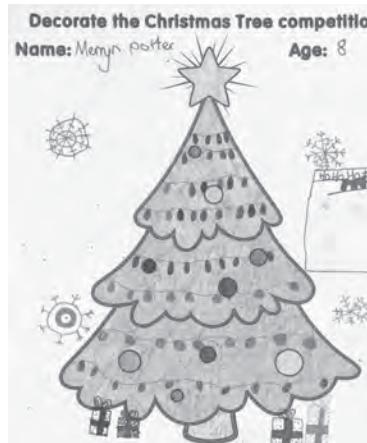
Dexter Phillips - Second in Under 5 age group



Olly - Third in 5-7 age group



Jessica Artertun - Second in 5-7 age group



Merryn Potter - Third in 8-11 age group



40 Jack Whitham-Talbot - Third in Under 5 age group