Community bid for the empty British Legion building - more information inside.
Mid-February to Mid-June 2017

This Newsletter is published by your Parish Council to pass on news and the views of the people of Leigh Woods and Long Ashton. It is non-political and the members of the Parish Council do not necessarily share those views.

The Editorial Group reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any material submitted for publication.

Editorial Group for this issue – Liz Lansley, Janet Turp and Mary Uppington

By submitting articles for publication you are also giving approval that they will also be used on the Parish Council website.

Future copy should be clearly labelled ‘NEWSLETTER’. Include your name and contact details and send to

Long Ashton Parish Council,
PO Box 3102 Long Ashton, Bristol
or e-mail to clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com
or dropped into the PC office on a Tuesday morning

The CLOSING DATE for copy for the next edition covering the four months mid-June to mid-October 2017 is

10:00am 1st June 2017

© Editorial Group

CHAIRMAN’S LETTER

Dear Residents,

2017 is here and with it the South Bristol Link Road (SBLR) has finally been opened. Because of the closures of Hartcliffe Way in Bristol and the road through Barrow Gurney its true impact on the traffic around the village will be difficult to assess for a while. The two vehicle activated speed signs in the village gather both speed and volume of traffic data. We will be monitoring the data over the next few months, during and after the closures, to establish what effect the SBLR has had.

In addition to traffic, the SBLR has also impacted surface water drainage in the valley. The flooding of the new pedestrian/cattle SBLR underpass is not a good sign as the path was supposedly designed to be above a one in one-hundred-year rain event. Whilst this winter has been wet, I am sure we have experienced far wetter winters in recent years.

It was good to see that we now have two cash machines back in the village and, almost at the same time, the perpetrators of the Post Office incident were sentenced for the crime. The security measures now built in to the new machines should hopefully make this type of crime a lot less likely in the future.

We have learnt that despite North Somerset Council stating in its Joint Spatial Plan that development in the Green Belt would not be necessary to meet housing needs for the next 20 years, Taylor Wimpey will still be pressing ahead and submitting a planning application for “The Vale”. This not only contradicts what North Somerset has stated, but goes against our village Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This is quite clearly not what the residents of Long Ashton wanted when they voted for the NDP and, as a council, we will be opposing this and any other development that contradicts it.

Andrew Wilkinson
The Parish Council office in the Jubilee Pavilion is open to the public most Tuesday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon (allowing for the odd time when it will not be possible to open due to staff sickness, holidays or similar). You are very welcome to contact the clerk at other times by phone or email. The office is usually staffed from 9 am to 4 pm Monday to Thursday. There is an answer machine so you can leave a message if the office is empty and the clerk will endeavour to respond to any messages the next working day.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. Agendas are displayed in the library and on the noticeboard near the Post Office about a week before the meeting date and the draft minutes are available in the library soon after the meeting. Agendas, draft minutes and approved minutes can all be found on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council approved its budget at its January meeting. It sets a precept each year and this is included in your Council Tax demand for the year. In 2017/18 people living in a Band D property will pay a Parish Council charge of £58.13 a year - a 1.98% or £1.13 increase on last year. The amount you pay will be shown on the Council Tax letter you receive from North Somerset Council in March. The full budget will be available on the website.

We are still waiting for the external auditors to confirm their approval of the Council’s accounts. They will be posted on the website as soon as this is received.

**Community Grant**

There are two grants being awarded this year – one of up to £1500 and the other up to £500. If you have an idea which you think might be of interest to the community, see the article later in the newsletter for details of how to apply. The decision meeting will be in October.

**Annual Parish Meeting**

Where else would you want to be on April 24th at 7:30 pm other than in the Village Hall? Not only will you be able to hear the reports about what the Parish Council has been doing for the past year but also have the opportunity to ask Councillors those questions you’ve been longing to ask. As always there will also be an interesting talk - see the noticeboards or website for details.

**Hedges and pavements**

One of the most common complaints received in the PC office is about the consequences of overgrown hedges. Please have a look at your hedge - it should overhang the pavement no lower than a HEIGHT of 2.5 metres and the WIDTH of the pavement should be no less than 1.2 metres. Any work needs to be done soon as birds will start nesting and no work should be done that will disturb nesting birds.

**Dogs and sheep**

Please remember to keep your dog under proper control (on a lead) when walking it in fields where sheep are grazing - farmers are reporting a number of lost lambs due to pregnant ewes being worried by dogs. Even normally well behaved dogs can react unpredictably when they see livestock. Farmers have rights when their animals are being put at risk which can include, in some circumstances, shooting the offending dog.

**New Councillor and a vacancy**

Welcome to James Thomas who has been co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Ben Burrows. Due to the resignations of councillors there are now two casual vacancies in Long Ashton ward. If anyone is interested in putting their name forward, they should send a letter (email is fine) explaining why they wish to be a Parish Councillor to the clerk by March 1st. There is more information about the vacancies and being a parish councillor on the PC website.

**Highways problems**

Potholes, drain problems, fly tipping and a lot of other Highways issues can be reported directly to North Somerset Council – either on the ‘report it’ part of the website or by calling Council Connect on 01934 888 802. Gregg Brake, the North Somerset Council Area Highways engineer for our area, holds a surgery in Long Ashton Library on the last Thursday morning of the month.

**How to contact the Clerk:**

Telephone (01275) 393 551 | Email: clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com
PO BOX 3102, Long Ashton, Bristol, BS41 9XA

Don’t forget you can follow the PC on twitter Long Ashton PC @ClerkLAPC.
Meetings are normally held at 7:30 pm in the Jubilee Pavilion, Keedwell Hill. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting.

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COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN LONG ASHTON:

It’s been a dynamic start to 2017 for a group of villagers who have kicked off a campaign to buy the vacant British Legion building and turn it into a vibrant community hub. If successful, the plan is to modernise the building to provide much needed additional facilities for the expanding local community.

The building has been in community use since 1878 when it was built for the village by the Smyths of Ashton Court. We want to make it a warm inviting place, open long hours with functions for everyone – ideas include a café/bar, venue, hot desking space, cycle workshop, and space for classes and activities. We welcome more ideas.

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

So what’s needed to make it happen?
We’re working with the Parish Council, and are pulling together as a team, but we need more help:

Participation and energy – there’s a lot to be done:
• establish a non-profit Community Interest Company
• fundraising, publicity and communications
• work with architects and developers to plan alterations
• decide on potential uses and develop a business plan
• negotiate with Royal British Legion

Money – to buy the building and modernise it.

Quick action – we have only until 11th April to submit a bid to buy it. This six-month window is because it was identified as a Community Asset in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Leaflets have been delivered to all residents of Long Ashton in order to gauge support for the project. If you didn’t get one, get in touch or visit the SurveyMonkey site (see below).

Bill Roberts, who set up the first public meeting, said:

“This is a great chance for the village to be in charge of what facilities we have – the chance to dream a little and then work hard to make it happen.”

“However, the project needs more people to get involved if it is to become a reality”.

Please get in touch if you have enthusiasm, skills or money to offer, or to share your ideas, or to find out more:

Have your say: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/278H3YF
Crowdfunding: spacehive.com/buy-our-legion
Facebook: "Lets Buy The Legion!”
Twitter: @buyLAligion
Email: buyLAligion@gmail.com
Good News! Following the Community Access Review, which took place in the autumn, we were delighted to hear that our library and Children’s Centre are to remain at their present locations. There will be some alterations to staff hours at the library but plans are being made to bring in a self-service system later in the year. This will mean the library will be accessible for more hours for those who hold a library card. This should be of real benefit to many people and we wait to hear details of the scheme. Help from the community, however little, is still required in the library so if you are able to give just a few hours each week, please contact the library staff.

Auto Scuderia Site
The development, at the junction of Glebe Road and Long Ashton Road, where eight properties are being built, has brought many headaches. Soon after work started, it was apparent that the position of the wall and footpath, which was being erected on the east side, would make the width of Glebe Road too narrow and very difficult for the large vehicles that regularly use this road. The Parish Council quickly contacted North Somerset Council (NSC) and, after some weeks, four councillors and a resident from Glebe Road met a representative from NSC on the site with a view to sorting out the situation. Some very constructive suggestions were forthcoming. It is hoped that the road width will be retained at no less than 6.2m with the path on the east side being abandoned so that the width can be maintained. Other walls fronting on to Long Ashton Road should be no higher than 600mm and double yellow lines will be extended around the bend in Glebe Road and along Long Ashton Road to aid exit vision.

Care Home
In November, an application was received for an 82 bedroom care home on the Estune Business Park site in Wild Country Lane. Although the Parish Council has no objection in principle to a care home, we could not support this application as it was presented, because the plans showed a larger footprint that the office block allowed by an existing permission and the development would be built much closer to existing houses in Blackcurrant Drive. We stated, if a care home is built, it should be erected on the footprint of the permitted office building and should include some on-site medical facilities. Attention should also be given to parking which is already very difficult and overcrowded in this area.

Mary Uppington - Chairman, Planning Committee
WASH IT! SQUASH IT! SORT IT!

The Parish Council is working with North Somerset Council (NSC) to improve and increase our recycling rates. Other parish councils locally are also doing this. The less waste sent to landfill, the less landfill tax the Council will have to pay.

Progress so far
THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE REUSE EVENT! Recycling officers reported that this was the most successful event they had held!

Three van loads full of electrical equipment, furniture, TVs and lawn mowers were filled up and donated to ‘Changing Lives’ – a re-use social enterprise which supports low income families, creating work experience and employment opportunities. From 1st March, broken or unwanted small electrical appliances will be collected along with the rest of your recycling.

We still have more work to do to improve our recycling so please take note of the tips below and help us reap rewards for Long Ashton and the environment. Sorting your recycling allows crews to complete the job more quickly. It also helps reduce the amount of litter that can be left behind after a collection.

- Wash and squash all containers.
- Rinse all jars and bottles.
- Use UNTIED carrier bags to separate materials, except glass, which should be placed directly in your box so it can be seen.
- Remember: NO broken or dirty glass or plastic containers!
- Your recycling is collected by hand!
- Break down cardboard boxes
- Place all clothes and shoes in a plastic bag to keep them dry (even if damaged)
- Place batteries in a clear plastic bag before putting them in your box
- Put cardboard, brown paper and wrapping paper together
- Metal lids from your glass jars or bottles should be removed and placed with your tins, cans and foil
- White paper, newspaper and magazines go together

Please remember black plastic cannot be recycled; other coloured plastic is OK. North Somerset Council can provide you with a low cost compost bin and can replace a broken recycling box.

THE PLEDGE FORM

The Pledge Form overleaf is your chance to make a pledge to recycle more and reduce the amount you put in your landfill waste bin. The more pledge forms returned, along with other efforts we make to improving our recycling rates, the more funding towards community projects in Long Ashton we will receive.

Please return by cutting out the completed form and:

Scan it and email it to clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com

Or

Put it in the box in LA Café at the community centre (the café is open weekdays 10 am – 1:30 pm)

Or

Drop it into the PC Office in the Jubilee Pavilion on a Tuesday morning between 10am and noon

Or

Post it to LAPC, PO Box 3102, Long Ashton, Bristol, BS41 9XA.
Parish Recycling Scheme
Long Ashton

Name: .................................................................

Location: ...........................................................

I pledge to:
☐ Reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste that I produce
☐ Increase the amount that I recycle
☐ Start using / increase my use of the food waste service
☐ Start using / increase my use of my composter
☐ Other (please specify)

...........................................................................................................................

I will do this by:
☐ Buying food/goods with less packaging/no black plastic
☐ Ordering a new recycling container
☐ Buying a compost bin
☐ Other (please specify)

...........................................................................................................................

Signed........................................... Date...............................

Please return your completed pledge forms to LA Café at the Community Centre where there will be a box for you to put them in. The café is open weekdays 10-1.30pm

Or send to:

The Parish Office
PO Box 3102
Long Ashton

Or you can complete on line at www.longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Out to LUNCH!

Come to our monthly lunch club in Church House and enjoy a delicious freshly cooked three course meal with tea or coffee for just £5.50

Bring a friend or two and enjoy making new ones.

You can expect a warm welcome, friendship and delicious food.

Everyone is welcome

5th May & 2nd June

at 12.30pm

Ring to book a place on 01275 393109 or 01275 392642

If transport is a problem we may be able to help you so please ask when you ring to book
Health Walks in Long Ashton
Starting from the café at the Community Centre
Keedwell Hill at 10.30am.
(Please come along a little earlier if it is your first health walk)
A gentle stroll around Long Ashton. Meet new people, check out the
community café and socialise afterwards
(Tea and cake offer for walkers)

  16, 23 and 30 January
  6, 13, 20 and 27 February
  6, 13, 20 and 27 March

If you are currently not exercising or are not able to do anything too
physically challenging please come along and give it a go.
Walks will be between 40 and 60 minutes
PLEASE WEAR SUITABLE CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR
We regret that no dogs are allowed except guide dogs
For more information call Sport & Active Lifestyles on 01275 882 730

COMMUNITY GRANT up to £1,500

WILL YOUR PROJECT BE THE ONE TO WIN THIS YEAR?

The Community Grants enable residents of Long Ashton and Leigh
Woods to have a direct say in how some of the Parish Council’s money
is spent. There is a total of £2,000 set aside for two grants to benefit
the community and residents of Long Ashton and Leigh Woods will be
able to vote at a public meeting in October on which projects should
be funded.

If you have an idea to make the village happier or healthier and other
residents agree, you could get a maximum of £1,500 to support your
proposal. A small amount can make a huge difference to local groups,
so this is your chance to put your idea to the test of public opinion.

This time there will be two grants: one of £1,500 and the other of
£500. Groups or individuals from the parish can apply for both but
cannot win both grants. The process is:

Stage 1. Complete an application form explaining how the community
will benefit from your idea. Submit it by midday, Tuesday, 2nd May
2017.

Stage 2. The Parish Council will check applications to ensure they are
practical, appropriate and achievable; and most importantly within the
Council’s spending powers.

Stage 3. Come to the decision event in October; present your idea;
persuade residents to vote for your project.

For further information look at www.longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
or contact the Parish Clerk for an application form: 01275 393551.

Projects might make our lives more sustainable such as developing a
nature reserve, improving knowledge of the footpaths or improving
biodiversity; or more healthy such as tackling loneliness; or increase
our appreciation of our heritage, perhaps recording our local history.

These are just a few examples and we hope innovative ideas will be
put forward to improve community life.
In December LA café artists held their 4th exhibition at Christmas with lots of people calling in, purchasing beautiful hand crafted gifts.

FOR THE NEW YEAR:

Regular groups and activities – to which all are welcome to join:
- Monday: Knit and natter – all levels
- Tuesday: home workers network could be starting soon (see below)
- Wednesday: Bridge, also Long Ashton Mums and Babies (LAMBS)
- Thursday: Mamma breast feeding support group
- Friday: a regular friendship group meets

About our food and drinks
- We are offering a variety of soups – eg Thai spiced vegetable with creamy coconut
- All kinds of coffee, including freshly ground, using organic milk from the Co-op
- Regular tea as well as herbal and fruit teas
- Cheese toasties
- Toasted tea cakes
- Sandwich lunches
- Homemade cakes – our triple chocolate brownies remain the favourite

New Health Walks Group
Monday 16th January our new North Somerset ‘Health Walk’ group met at the café for the first time (see further details in this newsletter).

New Vegan Supper Club
Our first three course vegan meal will take place in February. Look out for posters and further info on Facebook. Alice, our vegan chef who cooks our delicious soups is dishing up this evening treat. The first one sold out in no time; the next one is planned for April.
Over many years, residents have been painfully aware of the decrepit state of the Ashton Gatehouse. In recent years, it has been covered by scaffolding and plastic sheeting, whilst undergoing restoration. At last, however, this has been cleared away to reveal a most attractive building which was formally reopened on Wednesday, 18th January. The Gatehouse was built in 1805 and is now accessed not from the A370 but round the back. A car park leads from an entrance in Blackmoors Lane.

Viewed from the back, the left hand side of the Gatehouse houses a toilet and a lift, which ascends through one of the towers. The right hand side includes one room now used as an office and the stairs. The stairs consist of three flights incorporating about 30 steps. The first floor covers the whole of the Gatehouse and is a most attractive room with windows overlooking the A370. It is beautifully restored and is a wonderful resource for the school, which is keen to make it available to members of the public, subject to prior arrangement. The Gatehouse is open to the public every Monday (except Bank Holidays) from 12:00 to 1:00pm and Saturdays 25th February (2:00 to 6:00pm), 13th May (10:00 - 4:00pm), 12th August (10:00 - 4:00pm) and 9th September (10:00 - 4:00pm). All enquiries 0117 3772773.

Our Local History Society has been approached by a researcher for BBC social and living series (Who Do You Think You Are, Back in Time, etc.). They are keen to hear from local residents for a new series looking at hidden histories of the Blitz by tracing the butterfly effect of bombs that fell in cities, exploring the initial impact of one bomb, the damage it caused and the immediate effect on that bomb site. The stories of tragedy, survival and heroism in the aftermath will be told, charting the effects on the wider community. Ultimately they look at how the Blitz changed Britain’s social, political and geographical landscape, marking the lives of British families for generations to come.

Each episode would tell the story of a specific locality like Bristol with emphasis on the Broadmead residential and retail area or the devastation of the old city centre, High Street, Wine Street, Castle Street, St-Mary-Le-Port Street, St Peters Church - the personal story of families or individuals who were caught up in this one life-changing moment; those who lived and or worked in buildings that were obliterated during the Bristol Blitz, and the people who were called upon to save, heal, or rally them. How British communities survived and changed as a result of these bombs. The researcher is currently looking to make contact with as many survivors or descendants of those who might have incredible memories or stories connected to Bristol’s blitz.

Do you have a story of a specific locality and the personal stories of those caught up in that one life-changing moment?

If you would like to be involved you can contact Rosie direct by email or phone 0207 472419318: Rosanna.Potter@walltowall.co.uk. Web: www.walltowall.co.uk, or, locally, Mary Magro tel: 392643 email memagro@btinternet.com or Jean Pullin tel: 393617 email jeannullin1@gmail.com
Since the last edition we have enjoyed our annual Autumn Talk, held at the Visitors’ Centre, when Clive Brain, a volunteer at M Shed and one of the skippers of the boats told us about the history of the tug boats and the fire boat, Pyronaut. The Pyronaut was invited to take part in the pageant down the Thames to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

We also held our Christmas Party which was once again hosted by Jonny and Anna Boss. It was attended by well over a hundred adults and a very large handful of children. It was great fun as always with lots of chat, wine and canapes. Many thanks to Anna and Jonny for being such wonderful hosts.

We are now looking forward to 2017. Hopefully it will be less extraordinary than last year. The weather has been so benign that roses in tubs are still flowering although frost has just arrived with a vengeance so maybe all is about to change. One thing is certain there is no certainty regarding the weather any more.

Our Open Forum and AGM are to be held on Tuesday 28th March. The Open Forum has become a popular event when residents and society members alike can ask questions of our Councillors, the Bridge Master, the Police and a representative from the National Trust on a variety of subjects. This will be followed as usual by the Society’s AGM to which we hope a lot of members will come as there are some important issues to discuss. The evening will begin at 7pm with refreshments.

The next Brackenhill Open Day is scheduled for Saturday 6th May between 2 and 4pm. Please note that this is a month later than usual. The gardeners suggested that it would be more enjoyable with warmer weather and more to see in the Gardens. This visit is open to Leigh Woods residents and members of the Botanic Gardens in Bristol.

North Somerset Council painted yellow lines down Bridge Road and North Road but failed to move the parked cars. Hence the gaps which have yet to be filled in despite repeated requests from residents and assurances from the Council that this ‘will be done shortly’. We will continue to try and get some action on this.

Clifton Suspension Bridge Update: the latest news is that the Visitors’ Centre is planning to instal a mobile catering unit. Laura Hilton, the Visitor Services Manager at the Centre, came to the last meeting of the LWS to outline their plans. They have invited tenders which had to be submitted by 30th January. Thereafter there will be evaluations, interviews and a decision prior to the proposed start date of 3rd April 2017.

The planned site is on the area of the old Visitors Centre. They are looking at some kind of vintage van or bicycle and that only tea, coffee and a drink option for children will be served possibly with biscuits or something similar. It is not intended that they will serve meals or wrapped snacks. Opening Times possibly 10-5 (the same as the Centre) but this has not yet been decided. It is proposed that this is an experiment for Summer 2017 April - October ONLY. They will then consider whether to continue in 2018. There will be no generator as electricity will come from the Leigh Woods tower. There will be no running water so it is planned to have paper cups. They will have ample waste bins and the caterer will be expected to clean up completely each day and remove the van.

The committee was unanimous in its opposition to this proposal and as time was short a sub-committee has been formed to continue the discussion with Laura. If anyone wishes to comment...
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
LONG ASHTON BRANCH

Following my letter entitled ‘The plight of the Long Ashton Branch RBL’, in the last edition of this newsletter, I am pleased to report that the response has been exceptional. We have two ex-military people to fill the roles of Secretary and Treasurer and two more volunteers, one as Membership Secretary and the other as Events Secretary. The new committee has got off to a dynamic start with a page of facebook, a new website under preparation and a full 2017 programme of activities as follows:

February 10th 7:30pm  Branch Anniversary social event at Bowls Club (to introduce the programme of activities and introduce the new committee)
April 22nd 7:30pm  St. Georges Day dinner at the Greedy Goose, Gatcombe Farm
May 20th  Trip to Bletchley Park
June 24th  Armed Forces Day. 8 pm Jazz Night at Church House
Sept 10th  Trip to the Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire
October 6th  Red, White & Blue Day. (Details to be announced)
Nov 10th 7:30pm  Annual Remembrance Concert at All Saints Church. (Caldicot Male Voice Choir supported by the Downs School Music Ensemble.)
Nov 11th 11:00am  Armistice Day service at the Memorial in the cemetery at the rear of All Saints.
Nov 12th 09:50am  Annual Remembrance Parade from Keedwell. 10:50am Remembrance Service at All Saints Church. 12:30pm Reminiscing and socialising at the Bowls Club.
Nov 16th 7:30pm  Branch Annual General Meeting

Please note: These activities are open to all, whether a serviceman, an ex-serviceman or not, and whether a Legion member or not. For details of times and costs, please contact our Secretary, Jenny Naylor on 07568 388494 or me on 01275 392714. Alternatively, please check on our website or on facebook.

Thank you.

Clifford Moss  Branch Chairman
LONG ASHTON BOWLING CLUB

COFFEE MORNING in the Jubilee Pavilion
Saturday 8th April 2017 10am - 1pm

Long Ashton Bowling Club are holding an open COFFEE MORNING on Saturday 8th April. Please feel free to come along if you would like to find out more about bowling and to meet our members.

The Bowling Club is located at the Community Centre, Keedwell Hill and our outdoor season starts during April. We are a friendly club and would welcome anyone to come along on a Friday evening (commencing Friday 5th May 6pm) to ‘have a go’. No previous experience is necessary and we can supply everything you need to give it a try. Weather permitting there will be tuition available during the summer months.

If you are interested in playing bowls or would like more information please contact Malcolm Pemble on 01275 853885.

Long Ashton Cricket Club

Why not come and join us for another fun season of cricket at one of Long Ashton's oldest sports clubs? We'll be celebrating 150 years soon.

We have lots of cricket planned in 2017 for young and old, whatever your experience and would love to have more members from the local community.

We have two Saturday league teams playing in the Bristol & District League and a popular friendly side, the ‘Occasionalists’, playing 20/20 evening matches. For younger cricketers we have junior matches for U9, U11, U13 and U15 age groups and this summer we will also be participating in the new ‘All Stars’ cricket program for 5-8yr olds.

Pre-season training starts at our Yanley Lane ground in early April with the league season starting in May. For more information on becoming a player, supporter, social member or if you are interested in hiring our facilities including a fully licensed bar please call Andy Forsyth (Mob: 077185 837768), email longashtonec@blueyonder.co.uk or visit our website www.longashton.etsy-cricket.com

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @LongAshtonCC.
LONG ASHTON YOUTH CLUB

Youth Club Years 7 to 9
New Youth Club Session, Mondays 6.15pm-8.15pm. A youth club session for everyone in school years 7-9... meet with your friends and get involved in fun activities, for £3 per session.... Sports, cooking, arts and crafts, youth café, games and competitions. For more information contact kimberley.epicyouth@gmail.com.

Youth Club 500 Club Administrator
The Youth Club Management Committee is seeking a volunteer to take on the role of 500 Club Administrator. The role is a key one to promoting and organising the 500 Club which is a monthly draw designed to raise funding for the youth club. For further information please contact Noel on 07968 195529. The management committee is also looking for members and a Secretary to help oversee the provision of positive activities for young people – about 5 meetings a year. For further information please contact Phil on 07764 324000

Our annual Apple Day will be held on Sunday 8th October 2017 2pm-5pm in the village hall and we are looking for local performers to showcase their talent to the villagers. If you want more details, please contact Sam or Al on 01275 544138 or by email appleday@obtuse.org.uk

Village Picnic and Fun Run

Sunday, 25th June 12pm onwards
On the Recreation ground.

Inflatables, stalls, entertainer, bar, bbq, and live music.
LA Cafe will be serving lunches and afternoon teas.

Our first ever Fun Run will take place at 2pm. Suitable for primary aged children upwards and their parents if they would like to run too. There will be a choice of one, two or three circuits covering the main recreation ground and Peel Park.

For an entry form please contact Sarah Leong on 01275 393570 or email laca@btconnect.com. £2.50 per advance entry, £3 on the day.

LACA is looking into the possibility of providing a bar for privately run parties in order to raise funds for the Community Centre. We are therefore seeking volunteers to run a bar on the occasional Friday and Saturday evenings in the village hall. This would involve serving drinks and running glasses through the commercial dishwasher. If anyone feels able to help us in this way, please contact Sarah Leong in the first instance on 01275 393570 or email: laca@btconnect.com

‘APPLE DAY’ PLANNING GROUP REQUEST!

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

LACA
Come and enjoy homemade cakes with your Afternoon Tea at The Angel Inn on
21st February, 21st March, 18th April, & 16th May
(3rd Tuesday every month)
2.30 pm to 4 pm
All proceeds donated to All Saints Church Access & Heating Project

LONG ASHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Days are getting longer, bulbs have popped out of the ground and with spring around the corner (we hope) we start to think about our gardens and what we will be doing there in the coming months. The Society hopes to organise some events during the year for members where we can get together and perhaps exchange a few ideas. In March we will be given a tour and a talk at Riverside Garden Centre. We will also be having a stall at the April village market so do come along and meet us there. In May we will be holding a plant sale to raise funds for our annual flower show, which this year will be held on 2nd September at the Village Hall. Members will all receive information about all our future events.

To find out more about the flower show or how to become a member go to www.lahortsoc.co.uk

The Long Ashton chicken share has two vacancies...

If you’ve always wanted to keep chickens but don’t have the space then maybe our group is for you. 14 of us share the care and responsibility of 24 chickens. We take turns (once a fortnight) to feed them, muck out, check they’re all safe and of course pick up eggs.

We also all take responsibility for maintaining the chicken house and site. There is a joining fee and we all contribute to feed costs. Currently our free range hens live on Bridge Farm, Yanley Lane, close to the railway bridge.

For further information contact elambert49@btinternet.com
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN KEEDS WOOD?

Keeds Wood and The Brake were bought 5 years ago by a local family. Last year the owners commissioned Avon Wild life Trust to formulate a management plan for the wood, and to kick-start community involvement in the subsequent delivery of the plan. After a year of AWT activities the Friends of Keeds Wood and The Brake has been formed to implement and amend the plan.

The Friends are a group of villagers who are working to support wildlife, manage invasive species, and reintroduce coppicing. They will be looking at ways the wood can be used for the benefit of the whole village, and particularly to involve groups such as the guides, scouts and the schools. Bat, bird and dormouse boxes have been made and installed.

We don’t know yet whether dormice are present, although they are around in nearby woodlands. There are some invasive species, such as winter heliotrope, so there will be an on-going programme to reduce these. Note that both brambles and ivy are actually beneficial, so will not be cut back. Coppicing is the ancient practice of cutting trees down to the ground to regrow on a 7-10 year cycle.

In Keeds Wood we will cut the hazel in different areas each winter, which will mean that at any given time the woodland has habitats of different heights, which will in turn support greater biodiversity. This winter we have begun the process, and because the woods are short on fallen timber we have left everything we have cut as habitat for wildlife. Please don’t take firewood from any of the stacks left there. We welcome more people to get involved.

Find us on Facebook, search for ‘Keeds Wood’.

For further information contact the Secretary: Bridget Caird  
e mail: seagullview@blueyonder.co.uk

APPEAL FOR UNWANTED GARDEN TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

If you are clearing out your shed and find you have no use for any of the following: Wheelbarrow (with pneumatic tyre), Trugs or buckets, watering cans, Weed matting, garden forks, spades, secateurs, trowels, beanpoles, pea sticks…. etc we would love to hear from you. There are sometimes more than 20 adults and children at work on our communal plot – by the stream near Dawsons Walk so if you can spare anything that is useful for growing fruit and veg that you no longer want do let us know.

This year we received a grant from Low carbon Gordano to extend our polytunnel, buy some fruit bushes and put in extra solar panels. At the time of writing our membership is almost full. However, things change so do let us have your contact details if you want to go on the waiting list.

For further information contact the Secretary: Bridget Caird  
e mail: seagullview@blueyonder.co.uk
Holy Week at All Saints

**9 April**
- **Palm Sunday**
  - 10.00 am Family Service with Procession of Palms

**11 April**
- **Tuesday in Holy Week**
  - 8.00 pm Stainer’s Crucifixion
    - A time of musical reflection

**12 April**
- **Wednesday in Holy Week**
  - 8.00 pm Compline
    - A quiet service to end the day

**13 April**
- **Maundy Thursday**
  - 7.30 pm Informal Holy Communion
    - A service recalling the Last Supper

**14 April**
- **Good Friday**
  - 10.00 am Walking the Way of the Cross
    - A reflective walk with readings suitable for all ages

**15 April**
- **Holy Saturday**
  - 9.00 pm The light of Easter
    - The Easter candle is lit from the Easter fire and we renew our baptismal vows

**16 April**
- **Easter Sunday**
  - 6.00 am Holy Communion at Dawn
    - A simple celebration of Holy Communion in the Churchyard

**12-3 pm**
- Silence at the Foot of the Cross
  - Church open for quiet reflection

**2-3 pm**
- Last Hour at the Cross
  - A led meditation with long periods of silence
The Probus Club of Long Ashton

Nationally, Probus is the association of retired and Semi-retired men and women who join together in autonomous clubs throughout Britain, Ireland and the rest of the world.

The basic purpose of a Probus Club is to provide regular gatherings of people who in retirement appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of a similar level of interest.

Here in Long Ashton we do not have a women’s club but a men’s section meet twice a month on the first and third Monday morning for coffee and a talk from an invited speaker. The subjects for the talks are wide ranging and create interesting and informative discussion. Meetings are held 1030–1200 in the Jubilee Pavilion behind the Village Hall.

In addition we have a summer and Christmas lunch with our invited partners and also some organized visits to places of National importance which are always very interesting.

If you are interested to learn more about your local Probus Club and feel you would like to meet more local people then please contact our secretary.

David Addis
Tel:- 01275 394523 e-mail:- david@addis.me.uk

Forthcoming meetings and attractions in 2017.

Monday 6th March
Talk: ‘Two farmers and a Lancaster Bomber’

Monday 20th March
TBA

Monday 3rd April
Talk: ‘Your holiday flight – behind the Scenes’

Monday 24th April
AGM

Monday 8th May
Talk: ‘Three Channels Price’
(Swimming)

Monday 15th May
Outing – Full or half day

Monday 5th June
Talk: ‘From off stage to on stage’

Monday 19th June
Summer Lunch

Programme continues.....

LONG ASHTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The current season of the Long Ashton Local History Society comes to an end after two more meetings. The speaker on 2nd March will be John Page, who will be talking on ‘The History of Cheddar Cheese’.

On 6th April, we had originally intended to welcome Pat Hase but due to illness, it was necessary to change the programme around so that Pat spoke in February and Mike Hooper will now take her place. His subject is ‘Bristol in the 30s and 40s’. We hope you have enjoyed all our talks this season.

If you have not been to our meetings before, you are very welcome to come. We meet in the Jubilee Pavilion at 7:30pm and charge visitors just £2 per head.

Roy Pullin
Do you have a couple of hours a month to help us improve the quality of health care for North Somerset?

We are your consumer champion in Health and Social Care. We need your support to collect comments about the public’s experiences in e.g. dentists, pharmacists, GPs, hospitals, and care homes.

Our volunteers:

- Run information sessions in libraries, leisure centres and hospitals.
- Talk to friends, family and neighbours
- Visit community groups (e.g. W.I., stroke support, toddlers groups)

They chat to people, collect information and pass it back to us. Everything we hear is recorded anonymously.

The Healthwatch North Somerset team analyses all comments to see if there are common concerns or trends (e.g. discharge from hospital delays, or difficulty getting a GP appointment). This information is shared with health and social care service providers, local commissioners and all other relevant bodies. Healthwatch North Somerset’s mission is to improve the quality of local health and social care by sharing your opinions.

To find out more or to offer your time, contact Healthwatch North Somerset directly

www.healthwatchnorthsomerset.co.uk
contact@healthwatchnorthsomerset.co.uk
01275 851400

Registered charity No: 1158487

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**LEN LUNCHES**

Fridays
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March
7 April 2017

Keedwell Church
Between 12.30 and 1.30 pm

Frugal Lunch: Choice of homemade soups with bread, cheese & biscuits, fresh fruit.
Minimum donation of £4.50

All proceeds for the Delhi Brotherhood
Upcoming events @ the Community Centre

Theatre:
All tickets are £10. Please book by emailing laca@btconnect.com or calling 01275 393570.

Yorgjin Oxo- 3rd March, 19:30
Farnham Maltings presents ‘a winter’s saga of courage and love’. Written by Thomas Crowe, and directed by Gavin Stride and Kevin Dyer.
An evening of story and song from the lands of the far, far north. Yorgjin Oxo is a marshlander who can tell a person by the sound of their squelch and is unlike any hero we might actually need. Thomas Crowe’s script fizzes with humour, larger than life characters and explores a place quite unlike our own. Join us for a tale of soggy nights, brave mice and the joys of being alive.

The Odyssey (Greek stuff!) – 31st March, 19:30
From the makers of ‘Great Expectations’ and ‘Dracula’ comes a tale more exciting than excitement itself: The Odyssey! Experience Gods and Monsters from the comfort of your seat as you join us on an epic journey to HELL and back! Thrill to Odysseus’s battle with a simple-minded, one-eyed Cyclops... Gasp, with amazement, at Scylla the six-headed monster... Shake with terror as the Sea God Poseidon conjures up a mighty storm... Once again, David Mynne brings you a ‘cast of thousands’ in this slightly bonkers, one-man adaptation of the mighty epic that is ‘The ODYSSEY’. Tremble. Gasp. Cry. Laugh... If ever a show was designed for the smallest venues, this is it; a compact piece of theatre magic. David Mynne’s skill with just a few simple props, a rubber face and clear and concise storytelling will fill your hall with drama and delight! There will be a ‘cast of thousands’. There may be a bit of water. And there will certainly be a laugh or two! Based on the epic poem by Homer. Age: 12+

Our June’s Wedding – 29th April, 15:00
It’s June’s big day! Time to crack open the bubbly, overly large hats, and grandma’s pearls for a proper wedding, the happiest day of any woman’s life... However, what with an overly joyous father of the bride, nervous groom, lost best man, disgruntled mother-in-law-to-be, and a... well, where is June? Things could turn our very differently to the fairy-tale wedding everyone was hoping for.
Through the story of soon-to-be newlyweds Richard and June, the play explores how families adapt and change to accommodate old and new traditions. Our June’s Wedding’ is for all the family – a warm, gentle, and funny show authentically spread over two locations and where the audience become guests at a wedding where all the drama happens to someone else’s family! Starts at Keedwell Church and finishes at Long Ashton Village Hall.
Age: suitable for all ages

Tortoise vs. Hare – 12th May, 19:30
The race is set, the heat is on... join Living Spit at the starting blocks for another adrenaline fuelled theatrical lap.
Hare, Wrington running champ. Fit, popular and, above all, fast. Toby “Tortoise” Gollop, eater of doughnuts. Look up ‘relaxed’ in the dictionary and you’ll see his picture.
Two very different men. One running club, and the race to end all races. Told entirely in rhyme and song, this promises to be an epic tale of romance, redemption and rural running rivalry that you’ll never forget...

Other upcoming events
Vegan Supper club- 7th April, 19:30
After selling out our first vegan supper club in just over a week, we have set a date for the next one! Join us for another evening of seasonal, healthy and delicious plant-based food, which focuses on 'comfort food with a twist'.
Tickets £20: to book, please email laca@btconnect.com or call 01275 393570
Age: suitable for all ages
Birds
Hope springs eternal but as winter comes to an end, this is the time when many species are at their most vulnerable. Remember, though, that is also the time when birds must find the energy to sing and stake out their territories to prepare for breeding. Berries are depleted now and insects few and far between so supplementary feeding with mixed seeds, peanuts and mealworms is vital to bird survival now. So make sure you keep the bird feeders topped up, away from local cats and ensure a supply of fresh, unfrozen water.

Be extra careful tidying up since it’s easy to disturb a hibernating hedgehog, a group of ladybirds inside a seedpod or the larvae of moths just below the soil surface.

Most wildlife gardens have at least one Buddleia and its annual maintenance is due now. At the end of the month, cut back last year’s shoots really hard – down to within 15 cms of the soil surface. These useful shrubs flower on the current year’s wood, so the vigorous new shoots that will appear in the spring will bear large panicles of nectar rich flowers for butterflies and bees. If you have more than one Buddleia, stagger this pruning technique over March and into April. This will mean a succession of flowers well into September.

Plan for summer colour with annuals - Make a real impact this summer with a splash of native colour. There’s plenty of help on websites to find a list of annuals with a good supply of nectar – the seeds of these easy-going plants may be scattered around in existing borders or sown in rows between vegetables to attract beneficial insects. Choose a selection of simple open flowers such as California poppies, nasturtiums and baby blue eyes and combine them with Echium and borage for bees, and coloured cornflowers for butterflies to give a bright, long lasting display. Corn poppies will bring hoverflies and bees to their pollen and corn marigold attracts a range of insects. If you’ve not got a garden, try a selection of these plants in a pot outside the front door.

Every little helps!
YOU'RE UNLUCKY.
Someone called for help, but they thought doing CPR might make things worse. You didn’t make it.
Less than 1 in 10 people in the UK survive out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.
We want to change that.
Help us create a nation of lifesavers.

We are running free* courses for Long Ashton residents, teaching basic life saving skills including CPR.

The next course will be:
7–9pm on Thursday 23rd March 2017
in the Pavilion at the Community Centre

Book your place by email: longashton.cpr@gmail.com
Please visit our website for more dates and information

http://longashtoncpr.wixsite.com/home

*courses are free but we do ask for a cash donation to the BHF (suggested amount £5)