

# **LONG ASHTON & LEIGH WOODS NEWSLETTER**



**SPRING 2011**

# MARCH, APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2011

Please note that this Newsletter, whilst preserving strictly a non-political nature, provides a forum for the views of the people of Leigh Woods and Long Ashton. The members of the Parish Council do not necessarily share those views.

Un-attributed articles however are meant in general to be for the information and entertainment of the public and are largely authoritative.

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

Editorial Group for this issue - Marilyn Addis MBE, Jean Pullin and Mary Uppington

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

## DISTRIBUTION

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Future copy should be clearly labelled 'NEWSLETTER' and sent to

**45 Long Ashton Road, Bristol BS41 9HW.**

The CLOSING DATE for copy for the next edition covering the 4 months  
July, August, September and October 2011 is

**midday 1st June**

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# CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

As Chairman one can only guess at the events that will unfold in the parish over the year, few would have guessed at the horror that would manifest itself during the Christmas period of last year. I am speaking of the horrific discovery of the body of poor unfortunate Joanna Yeates being found in Longwood Lane.

I am sure that I speak for everyone in Long Ashton in extending our heartfelt sympathy and sorrow to Joanna's parents, brother, boyfriend and friends, Christmas for them will simply remind them of their grief and loss. We can only hope that the perpetrator of this crime has been detained and that justice will swiftly follow.

Bristol City Football Club's new ground continues to meander its way into the headlines. At the moment of writing this report Bristol City Council is attempting to mediate between the Stadium developers and the Ashton residents, who have gained such a significant advance with the Town Green status being awarded by The Planning Inspectorate to the very area of ground on which the developers wish to build this stadium, associated hotel and a newly proposed arena. One can only speculate on the outcome but as the Parish Council we hope that the Ashton residents prevail and hold their nerve.

As a Parish Council we are watching the current Coalition Government with interest in its policy development of "The Big Society". It may mean more responsibility for the Council in this parish especially in regard to services and facilities, but please remember that unlike other councillors and MPs the Parish Councillors do their parish duties for FREE and we are always looking for more volunteers to give their time to the community. So if you feel you can help in anyway please submit your name address and telephone numbers to the Parish Clerk, Marilyn Addis - email [clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com)

Would you also consider coming to our Police PACT meetings so you can air your opinions and queries to our local Police Force, the dates and venues can be found elsewhere in this magazine. This year as a priority the local police have promised to target speeding offenders throughout our parish.

Finally could we please ask all residents with drives to use them, and to park their vehicles off road? It would assist other Drivers, Cyclists and Pedestrians especially in icy or inclement conditions.

Hurry up Spring!

Best wishes to you all.

Nigel Moorcroft.

## *Second Polish Memorial*

*installed in remembrance of the Polish airman Halifax LL126  
(In the Garden of Remembrance, Long Ashton Burial Ground)*

On 21st November 1944, Halifax LL126 of 1662 Conversion Unit Squadron of Bomber Command, with a Polish aircrew of seven, took off from its base at RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire, destined for yet another bombing raid mission.

At 19.30 hours the plane, having passed over a built up area went into a steep dive and crashed in a field alongside the All Saints Churchyard in Long Ashton. Regrettably all seven airmen perished. Remarkably there were no civilian casualties.

Local residents made repeated and gallant attempts to reach the crew of the burning aircraft, but the flames were too intense and any rescue impossible. Mrs. Wilcocks who was one of the first to arrive at the scene, recalled that Mr. Hodges, who was himself visiting friends in Long Ashton, had to be pulled away from the flames. Although he managed to reach the burning plane he was forced back by a sheet of flame which was so intense it forced him to the ground. Not deterred by its intensity, Mr. Hodges returned to the burning aircraft and with the help of another rescuer managed to drag the body of the pilot out of the cockpit.

All those who witnessed the incident were unanimous in their agreement that the reason why there were no civilian casualties was entirely due to the skilful flying by the Polish aircrew who in the face of impending death still managed to steer the aircraft away from local houses, school and shops.

The aircrew were buried at the Polish Air Force Cemetery at Newark, and in memory of these seven brave airmen, a plaque, arranged by the Severnside Aviation Society, was installed on the wall of the Long Ashton Parish Council Cemetery abutting the Churchyard at All Saints.

The Polish Veterans Association have provided a second memorial which has been installed on the same wall by the Royal British Legion which was dedicated on Sunday 21st November 2010 by Reverend Ann Sargent in front of Distinguished Guests, Polish Veterans, friends and villagers.



## WESTLEAZE W.I.

*Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the 1st Wednesday  
in the month in The Jubilee Pavilion.*

- April 6th      BIRTHDAY MEETING  
MUSICAL PRODUCTION  
with Tim Lewis and Sheila Furneaux.  
Competition: A homemade Easter Card.
- May 4th        RESOLUTIONS followed by  
THE HISTORY & MAKING OF CHOCOLATE  
- John Gingell (with demonstration)  
No competition.
- June 1st        VISIT - to be arranged.
- July 6th        TALK ON BEES  
Competition: A Honey Recipe.
- 



## LAILA (LONG ASHTON INDEPENDENT LADIES ASSOCIATION)

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month  
at 7.15pm in the Village Hall

- March 16th      SHIATSU with Romina.
- April 20th      THE HAT STUDIO.  
Talk by Glynis Tyrell.
- May 18th        THE JESSIE MAY TRUST.  
Talk on Bristol Children's Charity.
- June 15th        CRAFTY MONKEY.  
Pottery with Michelle.
- July 20th        QUIZ EVENING with Cheese and Wine.

# Tyntesfield Unwrapped



**Tyntesfield** will reopen to the public on 28th February 2011 and for the first time in nearly two years visitors will be able to see the spectacular Victorian house and chapel unobscured by scaffolding.

Visitors will be able, at last, to admire the spectacular Gothic architecture of the house and chapel in all its glory. For over 18 months the roof has been hidden behind one of the largest temporary free standing scaffolding structures in Europe whilst repairs and restoration work were taking place. Now we can reveal the romantic vista of turrets and pinnacles, chimneys and gables that make up the Tyntesfield skyline. Watertight and weatherproof the newly restored black and red tiles display the complex geometric pattern that had been unseen for generations; its bold colour scheme a striking contrast to the golden tones of the Bath stone of the house itself.

The multitude of contractors that worked in all of the 106 rooms in the house have gone, leaving behind new plumbing, wiring and thermostatically controlled heating. Last rewired in the 1950s the whole house had to be refitted and now every room boasts electricity. This is, of course, entirely in keeping with the history of the house which was one of the first in the country to have electric lighting installed in 1890.

Rooms that had been stripped of their contents, covered in dust sheets or used as storage during the renovation works have been unwrapped, deep cleaned and reinstated. Objects that were carefully packed away and moved into storage by trained staff and

specialists have returned. As Meghan Wilton, House Manager explains “It’s been a bit like moving house, albeit a house with over 100 rooms and more than 40,000 objects, but it’s been incredibly satisfying putting everything back where it belongs, and I can’t wait to see the visitor’s reactions”.

For all of last year, the magnificent Dining Room was home to giant floor to ceiling storage units, which obscured the intricate wooden carved ceiling, the beautiful marble fireplace and leather-look wall paper. Equally impressive is the restored Drawing Room where every surface now seems to be covered in luxuriant red fabric from the velvet curtains and damask wallpaper to the beautiful upholstery of the furniture; a total transformation from previous years when paintings were propped up on the floor, the carpet was rolled up, and the furniture was hidden beneath dust sheets.

It’s not just the historic building that is returning to its former self. Sections of turf and soil that were dug up in front of the house and re-homed, to make sure delicate orchids were protected from damage under the scaffolding footings, have been replanted too.

Linda Coode, Operations Manager said: “This is going to be a fantastic year for visitors, whether they are returning to see the amazing progress we’ve made on the ground breaking conservation project or are completely new to Tyntesfield. It’s a remarkable place that captures like no other, the rise and decline of one family over four generations and reveals just what it takes to bring a Victorian country house back to life”.

Tyntesfield House and Chapel opens on Monday 28th February 10.30am - 5.00pm (Saturday - Wednesday).

The garden and estate are open every day from Monday 28th February from 10.00am - 6.00pm.

Home Farm, visitor centre’s restaurant, shop and cafe are free to visit and open every day from Monday 28th February from 10.30am - 4.30pm

For more information about Tyntesfield visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield) or call Tyntesfield on 01275 461900

Keep up to date by visiting Tyntesfield’s blog [www.tyntesfieldhouse.blogspot.com](http://www.tyntesfieldhouse.blogspot.com)

# March Events at Tyntesfield

## **Top Floor Tours, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed in March 11.30am**

Scale the narrow stairs and discover the servant's bedrooms and nurseries high up in the mansion, with our knowledgeable tour guides. Areas of the house previously unseen on any tour!

Normal admission plus £10. Booking essential please call 0844 249 1895

## **Garden Tours, every day in March 12.30pm & 1.30pm**

Enjoy a free guided tour of the formal gardens or kitchen garden. Meet by the aviary. Duration approximately an hour.

Normal admission. Booking is not required for this event.

For more information please call 01275 461900

## **Smiler's Secret Trail, throughout March 10am - 6pm**

See Tyntesfield through the eyes of our friendly estate cat! Prowl around the grounds and discover Smiler's secret hideouts and all the best places to curl up and have a nap.

Normal admission plus £1 per trail. Booking is not required for this event.

For more information please call 01275 461900

## **Orangery Workshop 17th March all day.**

Experience the conservation and restoration of Tyntesfield's beautiful Grade II\* Orangery first hand. Under the watchful eye of the Nimbus Conservation stone masons and conservators take part in day long stone masonry workshop.

Normal Garden admission plus event charges

Booking essential please call 0844 249 1895

## **Hidden Treasure Tour 30th March 2011 2-3pm**

Join our Inventory Officer for a behind the scenes tour of some of the often missed treasures around the houses. Never seen before items from the National Trust's largest recorded collection!

Normal admission plus £10 Booking essential please call 0844 249 1895



## Senior Care

*Looking after loved ones with care and compassion.*

Specialising in non-medical care of older people in their own homes a full care service for a few hours a day up to 24 hours 7 days a week is provided and can be found at the rear of Church House, 74 Long Ashton Road.

The service given will match the needs of the individual and will include:

Companionship, Home Help and Personal Care.

In order that such a service can be provided they are wishing to recruit caring individuals and particularly want to hear from people who are interested in part-time, week-end and evening work.

Training, flexible hours and a competitive rate of pay are offered and applicants from all ages are welcome.

More information can be found on  
[www.homeinstead.co.uk](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk)  
or telephone 01275 391300

# FOOTPATH MATTERS



*The Monthly Village Footpath Walks* continue to take place every first Sunday in the month at 2.30pm starting from Ashton Rose Estate Agents. Our numbers grow, and we are pleased to have attracted walkers from other Parishes, who find our friendly group and gentle ambles through our lovely countryside, very appealing.

The wet weather has unfortunately made some of our footpaths very muddy and some areas are experiencing flooding which has made access difficult at the present time. The Parish Council is currently negotiating with North Somerset and the Land Owner of one particular section of footpath, whereby urgent maintenance of drainage ditches and a culvert is sought. There has been some robust and energetic work carried out by several public spirited people in endeavouring to alleviate some of the problems with surface water being unable to drain away. I wish to publicly thank them for their efforts in trying to keep the footpath accessible for the general public.

There has been a good response from the last request for a “Village Task Force” of volunteers prepared to offer a few hours of light work in keeping our footpaths up to scratch. At sometime in the next few months I will be in the process of contacting those who have pledged their willingness to help. If there are others who feel they would enjoy helping then please e-mail me at [suzannecmorgan@hotmail.com](mailto:suzannecmorgan@hotmail.com) or contact Mrs. Addis, the Clerk to the Council.

There are however, two issues which are causing some footpath users and pedestrians consternation and that is dog fouling, and over hanging foliage. The overgrowth of vegetation along rural footpaths can be dealt with by a volunteer group prepared to cut back nettles and brambles but the sensitive issue of ornamental hedges or bushes from a private garden becomes more problematic. May I kindly and respectfully ask that householders, whose gardens are adjacent to public footpaths/pavements, regularly trim back material which may impede the use of the full width of a path.

The second problem which we have encountered on walks, especially on certain areas of pavements is dog fouling. It is acknowledged the vast majority of dog walkers are responsible in attending to their pet, and using and numerous dog litter bins. Unfortunately

the one or two who are not, are making our footpaths/pavements somewhat unpleasant at times.

As a community we would all like our pavements, footpaths and public places to be safe and hazard free and the Parish Council are committed to ensuring that they can continue to be so.

Suzanne Morgan  
Vice Chair of Highways

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## ***Managing flood risk on the Severn Estuary - an Environmental Agency Consultation.***

The Severn has the second highest tidal range in the world and has been the focus for human activities for centuries. Records of tides and water levels of the river have been kept for over 100 years and these show that the average sea level is gradually rising. The Environment Agency is planning for a 1 metre rise in sea level and a 20% increase in river flow over the next 100 years. Without defences this will cause extensive flooding west of the motorway and so the EA are consulting on their ideas for improving the sea defences.

The consultation document can be found at [consult.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk)

The closing date for comments is 18th March.

# 2011 - Long Ashton Year of the Apple

*Long Ashton has a long history of involvement with apple growing, and to honour this and share knowledge and skills, we are making 2011 the year of the apple.*

The Long Ashton Research Station - grew and developed many new varieties of apples (many of which were named after wives and daughters of the people who worked there) and we are planning an evening of memories of Long Ashton Research Station. Did you or any member of your family work there? Do you have a story to tell or photos we could display? Please see below for date and time.

**Apple Map:** During this special year we would like to ‘map’ as many of the apple trees growing in our village as we can. Please come along to the Village Market (first Saturday of every month) and put your apple tree(s) on the map. If you are unsure of the variety we are also planning an “Evening with the Experts”, when you can ask the panel to help identify any un-named apples or get some advice on planting, pruning and keeping your trees ‘blight-free’.

**Apple Recipes:** We would also like to hear from you if you have a favourite apple recipe - share it with everyone in our regular ‘Apple Column’. In addition we will be organising some cookery demonstrations for anyone who wants to learn more about cooking, storing and preserving their fruit.

**Artwork, poetry, stories and songs:** Perhaps you could design a logo for the ‘Year of the Apple’ - we can use it on posters and advertising for our forthcoming events. Or you may like to write a poem, paint a picture, tell a story or sing a song (your own or traditional). It would be good to show how the common apple can inspire the many talents in our village.

**The apples themselves:** Finally the main aim for our celebratory year is to ensure apples grown in Long Ashton are not left to rot on trees and on the ground - un-used

and ignored. We are hoping to organise a scheme whereby anyone who has apples they cannot use is able to leave them at their gate for people without apples to pick up and enjoy. This is already happening in some streets and has been well received. We will be advertising special pick-up days when boxes of apples can be put outside the gate for collection by others who want to sample and share. Those that are surplus at the end of these days will be collected by Transition volunteers to make into apple juice and Long Ashton Cider - keeping the old traditions alive (in time we may be able to offer an apple picking service for anyone who is unable to do it). There'll be a celebration day in October with food and music.

**Apple Column:** look out for our 'apple column' in the Parish magazine and Long Ashton paper, with information, reminiscences, ideas and recipes each month throughout the year.

**Memories and stories:** Our first 'Year of the Apple' event is Memories and Stories on Monday 4th April at 7.30 in the Jubilee Pavilion, come along and hear all about the Long Ashton Research Station from some of those who worked there. Bring your stories and memories too. If you have any photos or anything at all we could use in our display we'd be very grateful, you can e-mail, or drop them off at the Long Ashton library and we will collect them.

**Apple experts:** The next event will be an evening to ask the experts, on Thursday 19th May at 7.30 in the Jubilee Pavilion. Bring along any leaves, blossom, fruit or photos of your apple trees for a panel of experts to identify the variety.

*Other events will be planned along the way, so keep watching - or get in touch, with your own ideas. Hope to see you there and please tell anyone you know who may have left the village.*

E-mail: [elambert49@btinternet.com](mailto:elambert49@btinternet.com)

Go to [www.transitionlongashton.co.uk](http://www.transitionlongashton.co.uk)

or Phone Bill on 07932 623672

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

to be held on

**Monday 18th April 2011**  
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

All residents are welcome to attend  
Look for the agenda on the noticeboards closer to the date



## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Thursday 6th May 2011



The last date for registering to vote in these elections is 14th April.  
The last date for registering for a postal vote is 14th April.

The District Council will publish the notice of the election on 23rd March..  
Nominations must be received by noon on Monday 4th April.

## *LANDOWNERS*

Do you have land available on a long lease or for sale?  
Land is needed to satisfy the need for allotments.

Mrs. M. Addis MBE, Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council, 01275 393551  
45 Long Ashton Road, Bristol, BS41 9HW  
clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com  
Website: [www.longashtonparishcouncil.com](http://www.longashtonparishcouncil.com)

# **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

**THURSDAY MAY 6th 2011**

Why not put your name forward to serve your community?

The Council meets on a Monday evening and the first meeting following the election will be held on Monday 16th May.

## **SO YOU WANT TO BE A COUNCILLOR?**

We are holding an “Open Evening”  
on Monday 7th March 7.30 -8.30pm  
in the Jubilee Pavilion

when residents will have the opportunity to find out more about local councils and have their questions answered.

If you would like to come  
please register your interest by phoning 01275 393551  
or e-mailing [clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com)



# Avon Wildlife Trust

## Long Ashton Group

*All meetings are held at the Royal British Legion Club, Long Ashton unless otherwise stated.*

Thursday 17th March  
7.30pm

Neil Seymour - Education Officer,  
Bristol Beekeepers  
A Brief History of Bees and Beekeeping

Thursday 21st April  
7.30pm

Helen Mugridge - Photographer  
My Favourite Places to Photograph.  
Helen will show us pictures of many places she has enjoyed visiting in England to photograph wildlife.

# Charity Quiz Night

## Long Ashton Royal British Legion

7.30pm for 8.00pm

First Sunday in the month (except January and May)

You don't have to be a member to join us.

£8 per team of four includes nibbles

Entry forms can be collected from the Legion  
and are to be returned by the Tuesday prior to the Quiz to:

Dave Addis, 45 Long Ashton Road. 01275 393551

# North Somerset Arts Week

**ACTIVE ART** is a group of painters who meet every week, with our tutor Andy Price to guide us in our endeavours with whichever medium we choose to work with.

The class is relaxed and informal and, hopefully, this reflects in the work we produce. Approximately 20 artists will be exhibiting and selling their work at this event.

We will be situated in the Hayloft Room above the shop at Ashton Court Visitor Centre from 4th - 8th May 10.30am - 4.00pm each day. This is a perfect setting for an exhibition which we are sure you would enjoy - do call in and see us!

Contact telephone - 0117 973 8050      [www.andrew-price.co.uk](http://www.andrew-price.co.uk)

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## Earth Hour

**What will you be doing at 8.30pm on 26th March 2011.**

Nothing planned? - then why not stay at home and do something for the planet ..... switch your lights off. Why? Because thousands of people across the country will be doing just that to show their support for sustainability issues in an event called "Earth Hour".



Organised by the World Wildlife Fund, Earth Hour started in 2007 and is supported across the globe with the number of those participating increasing year on year. In 2010, Earth Hour was celebrated in 128 countries and territories with many iconic builds taking part.

Of course, the important thing is that we all think about our planet and how we live to identify some small ways we can change that individually make little differences to us but when added up across the globe make a significant impact on the things that contribute to climate change. Perhaps you could walk to the shops for the Sunday papers (what's the rush?). Perhaps turn down the thermostat by a degree or set the heating times to come on a little later and go off a little earlier (think of the gas bill). As the advert says .... every little helps.

# All Saints Church Long Ashton

## Flower Festival

with music and readings

**Saturday 18 June 10.30am to 5.00pm**

**Sunday 19 June 11.30am to 5.00pm**

Admission £2.50; Children under 12 free  
Refreshments all day

**Saturday 18 June 5.30pm**

Concert by the  
**Bristol Chamber Choir**  
Tickets £7.50; under 12 £2.50

**Sunday 19 June**

Parish Communion 10.00am  
Songs of Praise 6.00pm

Look out for more details nearer the time  
or contact Penny Young on 393164 e-mail:  
[crispenyoung@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:crispenyoung@blueyonder.co.uk)

***The Flower Festival in All Saints Church  
on 18/19 June  
is for the whole community.***

Groups and societies in the parish are being asked if they would like to do floral arrangements, and there will be refreshments and a programme of music and readings throughout the weekend. Some of the readings will be from the King James Bible to celebrate its 400th anniversary.

There are lots of talented people in the parish and you might like to share your talent - whatever your age - alone or in a group. For instance, you could be involved in:

- Singing
- Playing music
- Reading poetry
- Reading from the King James Bible
- Distributing publicity
- Selling Festival programmes in advance
- Providing refreshments
- Serving refreshments
- Helping with a display of Bibles
- Selling concert tickets in advance

To offer to do any of these things please contact Penny Young - Tel 393164 or e-mail [crispenyoung@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:crispenyoung@blueyonder.co.uk) before 10th March please.

You may prefer to:

- Come to look at the displays, and listen to others performing
- Come to the concert on Saturday afternoon
- Come to one of the Sunday Services
- Choose a hymn for Songs of Praise

*However you choose to take part,  
put the date in your diary now and make this a weekend to remember.*



# PLANNING

It was too much to hope that refusal of the applications for 9 Warren Lane and 14 Long Ashton Road would be accepted! Both applicants have appealed against the decisions. 9

Warren Lane is being dealt with by written representations from objectors, including the Parish Council, and 14 Long Ashton Road by a “Hearing” which is to take place at Weston on April 15th. This will be a meeting of all the interested parties who will put forward their views, about the proposal, before a final decision is made by an Inspector.

We are still waiting anxiously for the green area, at the junction of Pear Tree Avenue and Perry Road, to be laid out as a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAPS) and for the Sports Field, off Keeds Lane, to be completed.

Wimpey are well aware of their responsibilities and the work they have to do in both these areas. It is not through lack of constant reminders, from the Parish Council and North Somerset, that the work has not been done. It is because Wimpey have not made the necessary efforts to do the work. The Parish Council are just as frustrated as many residents are but, rest assured, we shall keep up pressure on Wimpey until all the work is completed.

North Somerset’s Core Strategy publication version, which will once adopted become their primary planning policy document, is out for consultation from 9 February to 23 March.

It will set out broadly where and what sort of development will take place and how communities can develop up to 2026. We are told it is not a detailed document but provides an overall context to guide more detailed planning policies. This Publication version is the last stage before submitting the Core Strategy to the government for examination by an independent inspector and you can be sure our Parish Council will be looking closely at its contents.

Mary Uppington - Chairman - Planning Committee.

# LONG ASHTON'S GOT TALENT!

*'LA's Got Talent' ran last year for ages 11 - 18 and proved to be a big success.*

This year we want to run an all village-wide competition to include three age groups - primary school, 11-18s and 18+. We need to generate funding for all groups and at this stage wish to ascertain interest from the 18+ group.

You can enter any sort of act from a band or singing group to a drama sketch.

The competition final is likely to be in early July with heats in May.

This event is being co-ordinated by a number of village groups in conjunction with the local police.

To express an interest or enquire further please contact Sarah Leong on 01275 393570 (Tue - Fri am , answer machine at other times) or email [laca@btconnect.com](mailto:laca@btconnect.com)

## *The Long Ashton Pantomime 2011*

### *The Further Adventures of Puss in Boots*

*Friday 4 March 7.30pm  
Saturday 5 March  
2.30pm and 7.30pm*

*Long Ashton Village Hall, Keedwell Hill*

*Adults £6, Children 2-16 £3, under 2 - free  
For tickets please contact Val Bond 392148*





# LONG ASHTON ROYAL PICNIC

The Long Ashton Community Association  
formally requests your presence at a Royal Picnic  
at the Recreation Ground  
to celebrate the wedding of  
HRH Prince William to Kate Middleton  
on Friday 29th April.



Join us at the park area behind the Community Centre from 1.00pm onwards, after the wedding ceremony. The festivities, including live music, will begin from 2.00pm.

Bring your picnic, friends and something to sit on. The children's play areas will be open as usual.

Please look out for further information on notice boards  
or on the Community Centre website nearer the time:  
[www.longashtoncommunitycentre.org](http://www.longashtoncommunitycentre.org)

# Long Ashton/Leigh Woods Newsletter

It is not surprising that animals hibernate in the winter, and there are many of us who would like to have done just that. The snow in December caused all the usual problems with none of our side roads gritted and some residents being unable to get out. The cold weather continues as I write this in January.

However, undaunted the Christmas Party was held with an excellent attendance and many new residents who are always welcome. A few weeks earlier John Sparks gave an excellent talk on “The Jewels of the Forest” looking at the rainforests of Ecuador and the colourful birds that live there.

Devonshire Homes, the new owners of Brackenhill (formerly the Botanical Gardens), are now preparing to start the new development and a meeting with Leigh Woods Society has been arranged with them to hear and discuss their plans.

Many of us are being plagued by the increasing numbers of roe deer. Gardens have been decimated and precious plants and vegetables ruined. This is leading to more gates being installed and in some cases a deer-proof fence which inevitably spoils the open feeling that Leigh Woods has always enjoyed.

There is great concern in Leigh Woods about the possible doubling of the Suspension Bridge toll to £1 each way. This cannot be implemented without sanction from Parliament who will discuss it sometime in the next few months. It will mean that many of us will try to use the bridge less thus defeating the objective of more revenue, but it will be hard on those who have no other means of avoiding the crossings. Perhaps there’s a case of reducing the toll, so we would all use it more!

The Annual General Meeting of the Leigh Woods Society will be held on 22nd March at 7pm for 7.30pm at Burwalls, and we hope that as many residents as possible will come to discuss local matters. Our District Councillor, Carl Francis-Pester will be the speaker and it will be a chance to ask him questions on refuse collections, the grass verges and other issues.

Prior to the AGM there will be a Neighbourhood Watch meeting for all members when our policing team will up date us on “activities” and answer questions. The success of the scheme depends on us all being good neighbours and reporting any unusual activity we see. This meeting is a good opportunity to meet and for new residents to join when they can receive news and any warnings that have been given.

*Sally Sparks.*

# **Message from our beat policeman PC Trevor Byford**

There has been a great deal of metal theft recently, both in the village and in surrounding areas.

Lead from roofs and any metal, including iron, lying around in gardens has been removed both during the day and over night.

Pavement parking is becoming regarded as the norm, beware some illegally parked vehicles have been ticketed.

## **POLICE PACT OPEN MEETING**

Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at 7.30 pm  
Royal British Legion Club,  
1 Providence Lane, Long Ashton



**Avon and Somerset Constabulary**

**Parking and Speeding are PACT  
priorities set by YOU the  
residents.**

**As such any Parking or Speeding  
offences will be dealt with  
robustly!**

**YOU HAVE BEEN  
WARNED!**

**From The Long Ashton Beat Team.**

# Long Ashton Local History Society

With just two speakers still to give their talks before the Winter programme ends the opportunity arises to look back at the range of subjects covered. Our AGM in October in which the previous years activities were reviewed was well received especially with the opportunity to socialise with cheese and wine after the official business was covered. Membership was agreed at £5 per member.

In November Kirsten Elliott spoke on “The Frail Sisterhood”, explaining the activities of 18th Century Bath women, who unlike Bristol, which had no season, were attracted by the opportunities to take part in social activities without their husbands. It was known that many London women made a point of coming down to Bath regularly at this time to join the season.

In December Yvonne Bell looked at “The Edwardian Christmas”, highlighting differences between then and now. For example Christmas decorations in the early years of the 20th Century made more use of evergreens like holly and mistletoe compared with today.

John Penny gave us a detailed history of Whitchurch Airport in January which opened in 1930 and was replaced by Bristol Airport after the Second World War. The need to move was triggered by the fact that Dundry Hill made it impossible to provide a level runway for the larger planes then coming into use.

Cyril Routley came to our meeting in February to talk on “A Life on the Ocean Wave”. He gave an account of a typical journey on the SS Great Britain to Australia made more realistic by his knowledge of cabin sizes, typical menus and everyday activities on board. Needless to say this varied according to the Class of ticket purchased.

Our final two meetings take place on the 3rd March and the 7th April. The first of these bears the title “Wandering and Begging” and is given by Shirley Hodgson who last came to us in November 2008 when she spoke on “Missing, presumed Emigrated”, a moving story of children, many with parents, who were sent to Canada late 19th/early 20th Century mostly never to return home. In the April meeting David Cheesley will take us figuratively “Up the Feeder and Floating Harbour”.

As many of you know, over the years the Local History Society has produced an A5 booklet “Estune” to highlight various events that have occurred over the years. We are hopeful that a tenth edition will be published within the next month or so. Look out for a copy from the usual outlets.



Are you over the age of 50 years  
and looking for a different type of group to  
join?

### **Senior Community Links**

has been set up in  
North Somerset by the  
Council and Age U.K. (Concern).

We hold monthly meetings where we invite speakers from the local services such as the older peoples strategy service, pavement repairs and health issues plus much more.

This provides us with up-to-date information that can be passed on to the local community. Here we can also raise our concerns and ideas to help improve services for the elderly.

As a Group Member we also represent the views of the older population at quarterly meetings with the Council ensuring that services are developed to meet the needs of the older population.

*If you would like to join us or would like more information please  
telephone 0845 643 4706 (local rate).*

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## **ATTENTION!**

### **CLUB & ORGANISATION SECRETARIES**

Do you remember to enter your organisations' events in the Diary in the Library?

To do so could mean that your event does not clash with another and could well bring in more visitors and possible future members.

The Diary is prominently displayed near the door to catch the attention of callers.

TAKE THE 5-MILE CHALLENGE TODAY  
SO NO-ONE FACES BREAST CANCER ALONE TOMORROW.

**Bristol 5-mile challenge, Ashton Court Estate - 27th March 2011.**

Join us for a Sunday morning walk, run or jog in the heart of Bristol to help raise vital funds to support people living with breast cancer in your local area.

Our 5-Mile Challenges are fun and family friendly new fundraising events taking place in city parks. You could run with your family, walk with work colleagues or push buggies with your friends - however you choose to take the challenge, you'll be helping us to make a genuine difference to the lives of people affected by breast cancer.

Every year 46,000 people hear the devastating news that they have this life-threatening illness. By taking part in the 5-mile challenge you can help us be there for every single one of them when they need us most.

Visit : [www.breastcancercare.org.uk/5mile](http://www.breastcancercare.org.uk/5mile) for more info or to enter.

Quote Friend 50 at registration for a chance to be entered into a free prize draw.

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## BIRDWELL SCHOOL

Birdwell School has welcomed a new Head Teacher, Mr. Paul Sainsbury, who joined the school in January from Tickenham Primary School.

Good wishes are extended to him, especially during this difficult period until the opening of the new extension in the autumn.

Ruth Poole's book on  
The History of Long Ashton  
has been re-printed and is available at £5.00 per copy.



Please contact the Church Office on  
01275 393109 or  
[allsaintschurch.la@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:allsaintschurch.la@tiscali.co.uk)  
to reserve your copy.

## **LACA SPORTS PITCH and DOG MESS**



The incidences of dog mess on the sports pitch in recent months have much increased.

Football games have frequently had to be stopped in order for it to be cleared.

Please be considerate and tidy up after your dog and occasionally others people's - as we all miss some!

Thank you.

# LACCA CHARITY NEEDS SOME STORAGE

*LACCA was formed in 1990* by a group of five Long Ashton residents, led by Miss Mary Adams, who was the District Nurse at that time. Since then LACCA has grown from strength to strength, due to the kind donations given by the villagers of Long Ashton.

At present, almost 100 people are being supplied with equipment, free of charge, for the period of their disability. Upon the return of the equipment it is sanitized, checked and kept in one of our “Stores”. The “Stores” are garages loaned to us by several residents in Long Ashton. We unfortunately do not have a general building to store the equipment, we therefore have to keep tight records as to the whereabouts of each item, in order that they are easily accessible, should an urgent request be made, which is usually the case.

Following the loss of a couple of stores recently, we urgently need more storage. If you have a suitable empty garage or other building, which we could use to store equipment, please contact Ron Chorley.

For more information contact the Chairman, Ron Chorley. Tel: 01275 392777.



The next census for England and Wales  
takes place on  
SUNDAY 27th MARCH.

The census matters to everyone who lives in your area. Census population estimates inform the allocation of resources to policy making and service planning at national and local level.

Census information is strictly confidential:  
personal information is protected by law.

# LACA SPORTING FACILITIES



You may not be aware of the range of sporting facilities available at the Community Centre and on the Recreation Ground, much of which has recently been improved.

Would you like a game of table tennis? There are now 3 table tennis tables available for use in the sports hall at the Community Centre and you can hire space from £6 per hour during the daytime in the week or at weekends.



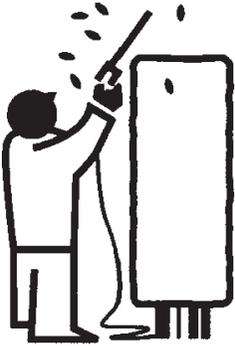
The lines in the sports hall have recently been remarked for badminton and basketball and the broken hoop has been replaced. A badminton net is provided. Bring your own rackets. Availability and costs as above.



The outdoor Bowling Green is available for use by the public at a cost of £3 per rink for 2 hours, between mid-April and the end of September. The Bowling Club has bowls and shoes available to hire out at a small extra charge and some of their members would be happy to be on hand to get you started.

And finally, the 2 Tennis Courts have proved very popular since they were re-surfaced last year. To book a game here, please call Maud Escott on 392915.

Please phone the Manager on 01275 393570 if you would like to book or enquire about any of the above. E-mail: [laca@btconnect.com](mailto:laca@btconnect.com)



## OVERGROWING HEDGES

Will all residents please look at their hedges which abut pavements and roads and imagine two tall people walking side by side?

Can they?

Often these hedges can cause real difficulties for pedestrians.

*Think about the comment from a blind lady, her dog is two foot high and walks under the branches, she is six foot and they hit her straight in the face.*

*Please cut them back.*



## HEAR THIS !

Please note -  
Hearing Aid Batteries  
are available from the  
Reception Desk at Long Ashton Surgery.

# Long Ashton Surgery News

*Happy New Year to all our patients!*

We would like to welcome our new Practice Manager, Mrs. Gabby Prowse, who took over the reins from Eileen Butterworth in November 2010 when she retired. Gabby is preparing for the next Patients Participation Group (PPG) Meeting on Tuesday 8th March, 7.15pm. We welcome newcomers and if anyone is interested in joining then please contact the surgery and we will put you in contact with a member of the group.

Clinics - Just a reminder that we offer a full range of clinics to our patients which include the following:

Diabetes - Tuesday afternoons

Pulmonary obstruction - Monday afternoons

Asthma - Thursday afternoons

Women & Men's Health - Smears; coil fitting; prostate - by appointment

Stop Smoking - Thursday afternoons

Hypertension & Coronary Care - Tuesday afternoons

Warfarin - by appointment

Travel vaccines - by appointment

Child Immunisation - by appointment

Blood tests - by appointment

Dressings - by appointment

Contact details: Telephone: 01275 392134 or 392281

or for more information plus opening hours visit our website at:

[www.longashtonsurgery.co.uk](http://www.longashtonsurgery.co.uk) where you can order prescriptions,

cancel appointments and leave messages.

For anything urgent it is better to speak to us.

**Footnote:** Are you a carer? Do you care for anyone who cannot care for themselves? If you would like to know more then please contact your surgery.

# IN MEMORIAM

*Since the publication of the last Newsletter 3 well known active members of the community have died.*

*Those who knew them and shared in their activities will wish to pay tribute to them and the service they gave. They will all be missed.*

**NORMAN YEO** was born in 1907 in a house behind the Bird in Hand in what is now known as Yeo Lane. After leaving the village school he worked for many years in his father's Market Garden which extended left of Yeo Lane down the hillside to the current Yeomeads.

The Church played a large part in his life, in his youth as a choirboy and then for more than 50 years as a bell ringer.

He was a member of the Parish Council and during his time as Chairman, cut the ribbon to open the By-Pass in 1968.

He was a founder member of the Local History Society and his knowledge of 20th Century life in Long Ashton was incomparable and a great source to tap on any aspect.

As a member of the Churchyard Trust he, together with two other friends, undertook much manual work in the Churchyard including lifting and resetting table top tombs and crosses, sometimes with block and tackle but often without - at the age of 85-90 years.

A true villager and a remarkable man he died in November aged 103 years.

**KATHLEEN KINGSTON** - died a few days before Christmas having spent the majority of her life in Long Ashton.

She came to the village with her first husband in the 1950s and immediately became involved in various organisations among them Westleaze WI where she later became President.

Many former Girl Guides will remember her for the encouragement, knowledge and practical skills they gained from her as their Guide Leader.

When resident at Northleaze and latterly at Fenswood Court she looked out for and helped many fellow residents when the need arose.

During the 1980s she and her second husband were instrumental in founding the Long Ashton Bowls Club and although diminishing sight meant she could no longer play she remained a member.

Also at this time, for several years, she organised coach holidays for the older members of the community.

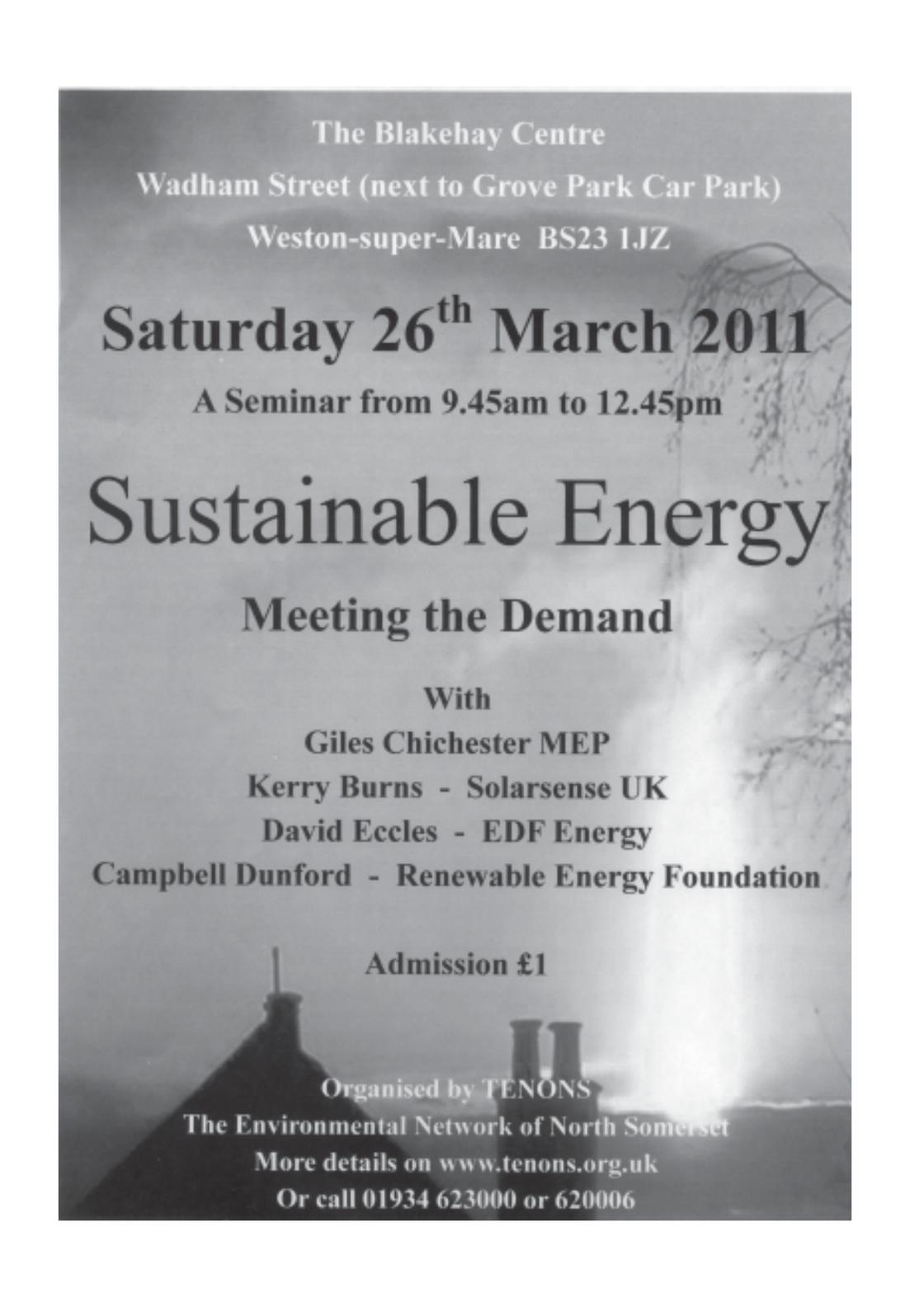
Always busy she and a friend started a Quilters Group and as a keen gardener she was a valued committee member of the Horticultural Society during the last few years.

**MIKE PRESTON** - who died at the end of January was a founder member of the Tennis Club and for more than 30 years worked tirelessly to ensure its success. He was especially interested to advance the progress of young players and spent many hours coaching and supervising them.

His dedication was recognised when the Club committee named the new tennis pavilion "The Preston Room" in his honour.

He was also a long standing Trustee of the Long Ashton Community Association where his wisdom and advice was appreciated by his fellow trustees involved with the management of the Village Hall complex.

A man who put others before himself, nothing was too much trouble for Mike and he gave willingly and generously whatever and whenever he was able



The Blakehay Centre  
Wadham Street (next to Grove Park Car Park)  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1JZ

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

A Seminar from 9.45am to 12.45pm

# Sustainable Energy

## Meeting the Demand

With

Giles Chichester MEP

Kerry Burns - Solarsense UK

David Eccles - EDF Energy

Campbell Dunford - Renewable Energy Foundation

Admission £1

Organised by TENONS

The Environmental Network of North Somerset

More details on [www.tenons.org.uk](http://www.tenons.org.uk)

Or call 01934 623000 or 620006