

LONG ASHTON & LEIGH WOODS NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2007

MARCH, APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2007

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, Jean Pullin and Mary Uppington

*By submitting articles for publication
you are also giving approval that they can also be used
on the parish council website:
www.longashtonparishcouncil.com*

DISTRIBUTION

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Vicarage Road, Leigh Woods
Tel: 0117 973 9876

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 to October 2007 is

midday 1st June 2007

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*The cover photograph is the shelter on the Recreation Ground
which was painted by Long Ashton Youth Club members.*

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

to be held on

Monday 23rd April 2007

at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

All residents are welcome to attend

Speaker: Mr. David Hutchings

will talk about the link between Avon Fire Service and the Gambia

Look for agenda on the notice boards closer to date

The budget has been agreed and a precept of £120,000 made to the District Council for the 2007/08 financial year.

Grants will be paid to:

Youth Provision (LA)	£7,500	MS Therapy Centre	£ 50
Nailsea Community Transport	£ 600	Cricket Club	£ 250
NS CAB	£ 50	Village Festival	£ 200
St. Johns Ambulance, Nailsea	£ 30	Victim Support	£ 100
N W Central Co-ord	£ 100	Nailsea Drop In Centre	£ 50
Drug Misuse	£ 100		

To find out more about your democratic representatives and what they do, who makes laws and how, how to vote and why it matters - log onto the website www.dopolitics.org.uk and click on ingredients. It is produced in the form of a recipe book and whilst it is designed for young people it is interesting reading for everyone.

LANDOWNERS - Do you have land available on a long lease or for sale? The Long Ashton Scouts need land on which to build a new HQ and land is wanted to satisfy the need for allotments.

Meetings are open to the public, and press, to attend with the annual list of dates, and minutes, in the local library. They can be made available in large print or taped for poorly sighted, registered blind.

Mrs. M. Addis, Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council. Telephone 393551
45 Long Ashton Road, Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9HW
clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com

NEW SUB-POSTMISTRESS FOR LONG ASHTON

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Hazel and Neville Stephens to the village, following their acquisition of Long Ashton Post Office and Newsagents on 17th November 2006.

Hazel is the new Sub-Postmistress, having previously run a similar Post Office in Wareham, Dorset for over 14 years.

Neville oversees the newsagency side of the business, as well as running another commercial venture in Wells. He has already instigated the home delivery of morning newspapers to the village and this service is expanding very quickly. Other improvements to the outlet are in the planning stage.

The Post Office now opens all day on Wednesdays, whereas their predecessors Roy and Beryl Jelfs, tended to close half of the day. Also the shop and Post Office now remains open during the lunch hours, to offer another service to the Village.

Can we also please remind everyone, that you can tax your car at the Post Office. We have been quite amazed at the number of customers who were not aware of this facility.

Neville and Hazel have been made to feel very welcome to Long Ashton and wish to thank everyone for their kind wishes. They would also wish to thank the Hebron Evangelical Church in Providence Lane, who have given them a very warm reception to their new life in the Village.



NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

The village newsletter is distributed by volunteers. If you sometimes find that you receive yours too late for an event, it may be that your deliverer has a very long round. It would therefore be helpful if there were more volunteers. Also some of our distributors are no longer able to help and this has left a shortfall.

Newsletter distributors don't always deliver in their own road, some roam far and wide throughout the village. The Newsletter is delivered only 3 times a year.

Would you like to help and at the same time, keep fit at no expense! We would also be glad of some reserves in case of illness and for the new houses in the future.

Please ring the Parish Clerk on 393551 and let her know where you would be able to deliver.

GOOD COMPANIONS

<i>WHO?</i>	Older residents of the Village
<i>WHEN?</i>	Every Wednesday from 2-4 pm
<i>WHERE?</i>	Jubilee Pavilion, Community Centre, Keedwell Hill
<i>WHY?</i>	For agreeable company and a cup of tea To hear occasional speakers and entertainers To receive treatment from a visiting chiropodist To play Bingo, Whist, Scrabble and Dominoes To join occasional lunch outings To join coach outings during the summer
<i>INTERESTED?</i>	Telephone Jean Pullin 393617 for further details or come along on any Wednesday afternoon.

LONG ASHTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are proud to have been awarded Hallmark I Quality Standard for good management of the Community Centre.

Plans are going ahead for some of the refurbishment of the Main Hall, particularly the work to upgrade the kitchen. We are hopeful that this will take place this summer but we are still looking for help to manage this important project. If anyone is interested in joining the group please contact the secretary Jane Colman on 392102 or e-mail

lacommunityassociation@yahoo.co.uk

The Café is held every Friday during term time in the Club Room, Long Ashton Community Centre, Keedwell Hill. Open 10.30 am to 12 noon. Do come along for a chat and a cuppa, meet old friends and make new ones. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

We are looking to employ someone on a casual basis (£6-£7 per hour) to carry out general maintenance and decorating work on the complex, should anyone be interested in this position please contact the Secretary (details above).

Recently we have had two new user groups at the Community Centre: “Mucky-Pups” - a childrens’ pre-school Arts and Crafts activity, meets on Tuesday mornings and an after school Cookery Class meets on Thursday afternoons. To obtain contact details or to hire any of the facilities at the complex please contact Jane Colman on 392102 or email

lacommunityassociation@yahoo.co.uk



LONG ASHTON MILLENNIUM PROJECT *Redevelopment of the Community Centre*

The LAMPRO Steering Group and LACA are now working hard on the projects made possible by the money received from the Planning Agreement for the Research Station.

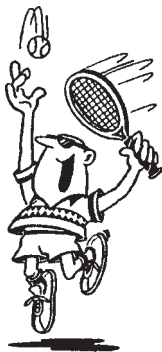
Work will be starting soon on a new Tennis Pavilion alongside the tennis courts and a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) on the present tarmac hard play area. Planning is continuing for safety surfacing on the Toddlers' play area and pitched roofs over the existing flat roofs of the Village Hall. Inevitably these things are never as straightforward as we would wish.

Most of LAMPRO's work is overseen by volunteers. But we have reached the conclusion that the many different parts of the internal refurbishment of the Village Hall will require professional design and management. We are intending the new kitchen to be installed this summer, but the remaining work may have to be scheduled some time later. This does mean that the Village Hall will be available for bookings most of this summer.

When you are next in the Jubilee Pavilion, you will see some improvements already, with new lighting and curtains. Some tree work is also being done on site. If you have any skills that could help with any of these projects, please get in touch.

Dave Addis 393551.

LONG ASHTON TENNIS CLUB



**2007 season starts
Monday 1st April
at the Community Centre,
Keedwell Hill.**

Then regular sessions Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. We would like to hear what interest there might be in a weekday session during school hours - if you think this could suit you, please let us know.

Your local tennis club offers a convenient and attractive setting in which to enjoy the game and make new friends in the village.

**New or prospective members warmly welcomed -
no "play-in" necessary!**

**Current facilities include floodlights
and a modern purpose-built pavilion
(courtesy of LAMPRO) will open this season.**

**Winter season sessions (adults)
on Monday nights and Saturday afternoons
plus children's coaching on Tuesdays.**

Adult and Junior sessions: April - September (incl).

**Detail of times, subscriptions, coaching etc from
Mike Preston 392825**

LONG ASHTON BOWLS CLUB

Long Ashton Bowls Club meet in the Jubilee Pavilion of the Community Centre, Keedwell Hill. You are invited to join us on Friday evenings during the month of May (4th, 11th, 18th and 25th) at 5.45 pm onwards for a friendly game of bowls (we can provide shoes and bowls) and find out more about our Club. Bowls is an outdoor activity during the summer. Social evenings are held during the winter months. Come along and meet us on any of the above Friday evenings for a game of bowls or just for a chat to see how we run our club or contact Alan Lewis - telephone number 01275 462030 for further information.

We are also holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th April from 10am - 12 noon in the pavilion to which you would be most welcome.

Janet Lock, Public Relations Officer
01275 393484



Avon Wildlife Trust

Long Ashton Group

Thursday 15th March

Yellowstone National Park by Phil Mugridge
Royal British Legion at 7.30 pm

Thursday 19th April

The Wonderful World of Insects by Andrew Town
Royal British Legion at 7.30 pm

Mrs. J. Williams, Secretary - Tel 392690.



LONG ASHTON W.I.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.15 pm
on the 3rd Wednesday in the month.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| March 21st | BRITISH OWLS AND THE WORK OF
THE HAWK AND OWL TRUST - Ian McGuire
Competition: Owl in any medium |
| April 18th | BOSOM BUDDIES - Lynette Hopkins
Competition: Handmade Get Well Card |
| May 16th | THEME EVENINGS
Competition: To be announced |
| June 20th | THE HISTORY AND MAKING OF BATH AQUA,
BRISTOL BLUE AND STAINED GLASS
- Adrian Dolan
Competition: Favourite piece of coloured glass |

WESTLEAZE W.I.

Meetings are held in the Church House at 7.15 pm
on the 1st Wednesday in the month

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| March 7th | ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES OF A
BY GONE AGE - Peter Lamb
Competition: Antique appliance |
| April 4th | BIRTHDAY MEETING |
| May 2nd | RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES
Competition: Flower arrangement in a wine glass |
| June 6th | VISIT TO THE ZOO |



MOTHERS' UNION

*Meetings are usually held at Keedwell Church
on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm*

- | | |
|------------|--|
| March 2nd | Women's World Day of Prayer |
| March 13th | Rev'd Ann Sargent |
| March 18th | Mothering Sunday - see Church Notices |
| April 10th | 7.30pm "Easter" Celebration |
| May 8th | Marlene Phillips - "Away from it all" Holidays |
| June 5th | Quiet Day at Cleeve |

Visitors always welcome to come to any of our meetings.

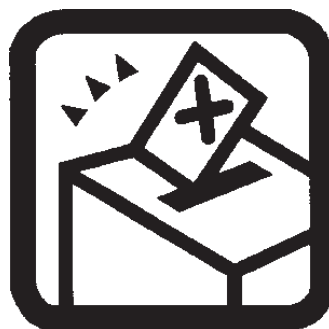
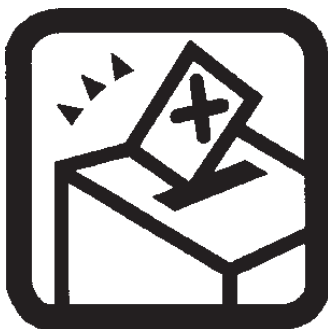
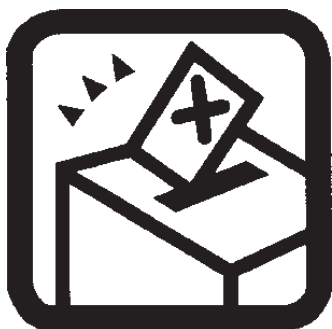
For more information contact Barbara Hillcox 543124

LONG ASHTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

After a break of three years a new edition of "**Estune**" has just been published. This edition, Number 9, is the largest yet, and covers a diverse range of subjects from the story of life on Tyntesfield Park Estate to the Savings campaign in 1942 to buy a Corvette for the War effort. Priced just £2.50 each, copies are available from the Post Office, the Little Tipple, the Library and 1 Lovelinch Gardens.

Our last two meetings in the series of Winter talks are by Anton Bantock on the 1st March when the subject will be "Long Ashton" and on the 5th April when Andre Coutanche will be talking on "History in the Wind - in a flap about flags". As usual we meet in the Pavilion at 7.30 pm. Visitors (£1) are most welcome.

Roy Pullin (393617)



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

THURSDAY MAY 3RD 2007

**FOR THE FIRST TIME 18 YEAR OLDS
WILL BE ELIGIBLE**

*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 14th May.**

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE VOTES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS?

Did you know that your local councillors are consulted on nearly everything that happens in your area? They take an active part in deciding what services are and are not provided and that affects you and your family!

Parish and Town Councils are responsible for many things like: bus shelters, litter bins, local halls and community centres, parks, public clocks and footpaths to name but a few. They are also consulted on planning applications, highway improvements, street signs, grant funding and projects that affect where you live and what facilities your community has or receives.

Local councils are delivering more services for residents than ever before and with changes to legislation and funding opportunities becoming available, Parish and Town Councils will be in a position to do even more in the future.

Everything we come into contact with on a daily basis affects how we feel and what we do, so how much effort do you actually make to get your opinions known? Voting in local parish and town council elections takes so little time, but will have a daily impact on you for the next four years, because councillors remain in office for a four year term and their decisions affect the future for your whole community. If you leave voting to others your opinions and wishes will not be heard and simply by voting for a candidate you feel will reflect your view sends a clear message of your opinion to the decision makers.

It is said 'people get the local council they deserve'. Do you know who in your community is standing for election and what they hope to achieve? This information should be on your parish notice boards, in local post offices or displayed around your community. If you cannot find this information locally your District/Unitary Council may be able to advise you.

Councillors live side by side with you in your community; they are the most local level of government, being easily contacted and directly answerable to the community every time they walk out of their front doors. They raise money primarily through your council tax to administer their decisions and you need to be sure that you have voted for the right people to look after your community.

If you do not vote, others will and their views may change your life.

HAVE A VOICE - VOTE IN THE LOCAL ELECTIONS ON 3 MAY 2007.

What does a councillor do?

Most people's impression of what a councillor does is that they just attend council meetings and nothing could be further from the truth. The duties and pleasure, of being a local councillor are many and varied, however it is the ordinary day to day contact with local people in their own community that is the most important part of being a councillor.

A Parish or Town Councillor signs a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thereby undertakes to observe an ethical Code of Conduct when dealing with matters on behalf of the community.

Listening: One of the most important tasks of a Parish or Town Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people in their community. Many public bodies or organisations acknowledge this is the hardest information for them to capture and they in turn use the skills and local knowledge of the parish or town council for advice to assist and inform their services.

Meetings: A councillor agrees to attend all meetings (reasonably possible) that he or she is summoned to. In a smaller council this may only require one meeting of full council a month (there are however a few small councils that still only meet once every two months). In medium and larger councils however, along with full council meetings, there are further committee meetings or working groups. Most meetings are held in the evening but some committees and group representation may be during the day. Some of these committees may include planning, finance and staffing, properties or policy. Where committees are used however the council usually consists of a larger number of councillors and therefore each councillor is only expected to serve on one or two committees.

Representation: Parish councils also need representation at other local government meetings or on local bodies/organisations and councillors may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the parish council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on District/Unitary, County and regional changes.

Councillors represent the voice of their community as a whole, whilst being aware of and considerate to, specific minority needs.

Ceremonial Duties: In some larger councils there will be times when councillors are asked to attend civic functions as part of their duty to the community. This may entail Remembrance Parades, civic dinners or attendance at public functions to name but a few.

Extra Skills: Through all of these functions Councillors will draw on their own skills and experiences and it is the sharing of these skills that makes a strong team. Parish and Town Councils provide a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavour to solve them locally themselves. Councillors working as a team will need to deal with employment issues, budgeting, asset management, staff management, project management or grant funding and probably lots more if they are creative and involved. All councils must be aware and owe a duty to their community to manage staff considerately, whether it is employing one parish clerk or a whole host of office and grounds maintenance staff. Accounts must be kept and whilst the Clerk (or Responsible Financial Officer) will be employed to carry out this duty, councillors together as a team are responsible for the financial decisions made and implemented. A clerk is employed to advise and seek advice on behalf of councillors to assist them in their decisions. Councillors are there to consider the information gathered and make a group decision on all matters. No individual councillor is responsible for any single decision. This is democracy at its best.

Training and Support: Training is available to any council, large or small. Legislation allows for councils to pay for training and ongoing training for councillors is sound business management. The County Secretary for the Association of Local Councils in your area will be able to provide details of professional training programmes designed specifically for councillors, see the useful contacts section in this pack for contact information

Responsibility: All councillors are expected to abide by the Parish Council's (model code of conduct) Order 2001. This document is available to download free of charge from

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2001/20013576.htm> or is priced at £6 from The Stationery Office (formerly HMSO) by quoting ISBN 011 0387813. The responsibilities detailed in the code of conduct are designed to protect councillors as well as the people they serve and give clear guidance so that councillors may undertake their duties with confidence.

SO, *You Want To Be A Councillor?*

**LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
is hosting an information evening
on Monday 19th March 7.30pm to 9.00pm
in the Pavilion, Keedwell Hill
when people will have the opportunity
to find out more about councils
and have their questions answered.**

**If you would like to come
please register your interest by phoning
01275 393551**

LONG ASHTON SURGERY NEWS

Our web site is now “live”. The address is: www.longashtonsurgery.co.uk

You can go on line to find out lots of useful information about the practice. It has the facility to order repeat prescriptions, cancel appointments or contact the surgery, plus links to other health related sites. The site will be updated regularly, together with the Practice Booklet. The latest edition of the booklet has blue/green cover and was updated in January 2007 (the previous one was yellow). Our patient group suggested changing the colour of the cover, so that the latest edition could be recognised easily.

The Patient Group has requested that the surgery has a clear charging policy for all non-NHS work. Currently there are notices in both waiting rooms with a list of items and the cost. We are reviewing this and there will be an amended list available at the end of February 2007. There will also be a list in the next village newsletter and on our web site. If you are in any doubt of the cost for a particular item please enquire in advance and always allow at least 10 working days before the document or form is needed. We will try to respond quicker in an emergency, but often there are external factors which may prevent this.

One of the questions our patients ask is: "What has the Surgery done to improve services with the increase in population?" We have been addressing this problem for several years and the expansion of the premises was the beginning of the process. Once we had additional space: we provided additional GP surgeries on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, employed a health care assistant to offer more appointments for nurse-led procedures and host visiting specialist clinics for our patients. In April, Dr. Mike Jenkins is joining the practice for a year. He is a fully qualified doctor, who has worked in various hospitals in the area and now wishes to specialise as a GP. He will be seeing patients and this will increase the number of appointments offered by the practice.

Another of the comments is that patients can't get an appointment with their own doctor. In order to comply with government guidelines, anyone must be able to see a doctor within 48 hours. This means offering less pre-booked appointments and more available on the day. We understand the frustration at not always being able to see "your GP" but since April 2004, patients are registered with the Practice and not an individual GP. You can express a preference and choose to see the same doctor each time, but this may mean a longer wait, especially if the GP is part time and only available 2 days a week. We audit the appointments demand regularly to improve our service and will make changes if we can. We have installed new appointments software onto our system, which should help us monitor the demand easier. We apologise to all the people, who were inconvenienced at the end of January, because appointments were not able to be booked in advance. Thank you for your tolerance and understanding.

Eileen Butterworth Practice Manager

Remember when?????????



The photograph taken in the early months of 1973 shows the members of the Women's Institute leaning on the felled oak at the eastern entrance to the village.

The ladies had staged a sit-in in the old tree as a protest at its destruction for a road widening scheme.



The accompanying two photographs are of the road prior to the work being carried out. The cameraman is thought to be from a television company who covered the event.

The photographs are from a collection of slides, by Ruth Poole and Peggy Evans, held by the Local History Society. Perhaps for some residents, they call to mind the gateway to the village as it was 34 years ago.

THEN AND NOW

Three photographs by Sheila Baker and Roy Pullin to illustrate the more recent past and the present situation.



One shows the three storey Laboratories, the other is of the Library and Refectory situated almost opposite them at the Research Station, taken just before closure of the station in June 2003.



The third photograph is of the new houses and part of the commercial building which replaces the Library and Refectory. Apartments (not shown) are now in the place of the laboratories.





Got a Computer?



**Catch up with things
going on at the Club**

Log onto

www.longashtonroyalbritishlegion.org.uk

**News - branch news - entertainment
committee information - special events**

? *CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS*

**at Long Ashton Royal British Legion
on the first Sunday each month
8pm for 8.30 pm**

**Win one month and as well as cash prizes
you choose the charity to benefit the following month
To date we have raised over £4,000 for charity.**

FOOTPATH WALKS

Sundays - 4th March / 1st April / 6th May / 3rd June



Walks start at 2.30 pm at Humberts Estate Agents.
Walks last for 1½ - 2 hours
and we walk at a comfortable pace so that everyone can
enjoy it.

Harry Williams Tel: 392690

FOOTPATH LEAFLETS

Five leaflets describing footpath walks are on sale in the library.

The latest describes a pleasant walk over the golf course and on the Dawson Walk; there is only one stile. It takes me about an hour and a half but those younger and fitter will take less.

For those wishing to walk further, footnotes have been included describing ways to join the new Village Circular Walk.

The other four leaflets describe walks “with a pub - or café - halfway”. They need updating in that some stiles have been replaced with gates but the routes are unchanged. Also, the café in the stable yard at Ashton Court is now The Coach House.

The leaflets cost 30p each and all proceeds go to the local library fund for the purchase of maps and books of local interest.

Tony Hibbirtt



Help shape the future

Community Survey

The questionnaire received an enthusiastic response: thanks to all who helped in any way. The response rate overall was 60%, which is great, considering the number of new houses here. Many of you have added lots of useful comments, showing how interested in and concerned about the village you are. There are some gems such as a drawing of how the shops should look. I also have to say to the few of you who made negative comments: why didn't you get involved in the process earlier? It's not as if we've been shy asking for participation!

Just under 1300 responses have been received in Long Ashton. Leigh Woods carried out their own survey and also received a response rate of 60%.

The next task is to collate the replies. A web-based system is being put in place and we will have some inputting sessions in March, possibly 12th and 22nd March. We are finding the best venues in the village where there are banks of computers. As we have so many questionnaires to review, as much help as possible is needed. So if you can spare an evening or two to input data or to collate the many fascinating comments made, please come along. We may also arrange some daytime sessions. If you can help, you will be able to see for yourselves the terrific response we have had.

Please either contact me as below for details of the dates or look out on the Parish Council website: www.longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

A good number of you gave contact details for follow up. We will be in touch as soon as time allows. There are 12 of us actively working on the process now, so please don't wait for us to contact you if you can spare some time to help. Remember the essence of Parish Plans is that all residents can get involved in drawing up a strategy for our community, so don't just leave it to someone else and then blame them!

Sheila Hardingham, on behalf of the Parish Plan Steering Group
Tel: 01275 393690 or e-mail: smh.la@tiscali.co.uk

WASTE COLLECTION DATES

Kerbside Recycling Collections January – December 2007

Thursday Week 2

This sheet refers to the green box kerbside recycling collections and does not apply to refuse collections.

Where a normal collection date falls on a bank holiday, it has been moved to a new day (shown in **red***) for that collection only.

Any changes to these dates are advertised in the local press and on our website:
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recycling



January	12 (Fri) *	25	
February	8	22	
March	8	22	
April	5	20 (Fri) *	
May	3	17	
June	1 (Fri) *	14	28
July	12	26	
August	9	23	
September	6	20	
October	4	18	
November	1	15	29
December	13	29 (Sat) *	

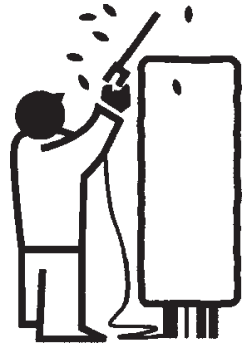
Overgrowing Hedges

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.



LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN.



Come and give the Village a tidy up!

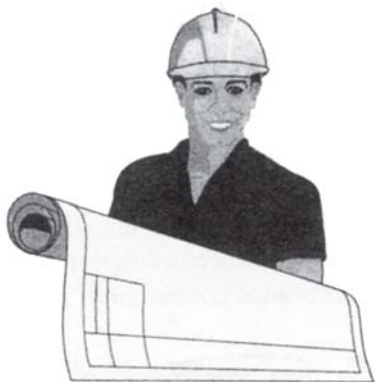


Saturday 21st April

Meet outside Chestnuts Dentists at 10am - 10.30am

Where do you think is the scruffiest spot?

PLANNING



Development on the Research Station site has again been in the news! Following North Somerset Council's refusal of the detailed plans for dwellings at the eastern end of the southern site we were informed in November that George Wimpey had appealed against the decision. The appeal was being dealt with by written representations, to the Inspector, so the

Parish Council sent further detailed reasons for their objection to the scheme which did not include single storey properties on the eastern boundary.

Meanwhile, in December, reserved matters details were received for 24 residential units on part of the area which was previously refused. This has been agreed by North Somerset but does not include the land immediately to the rear of Lampton Road and Fenshurst Gardens which is still the subject of an appeal.

Although we had been notified an appeal had been made by Sunrise Senior Living Ltd against North Somerset's decision to refuse their application to erect a home for frail old people at Bracken Hill, Leigh Woods, this has been withdrawn and there will be no public inquiry.

No doubt a further application, for some development on this land, will be forthcoming at some stage.

From time to time application is made for the erection of masts. The latest request was for a 22.5m monopole on land at Ashton Hill Farm, Failand which was opposed very strongly by both Long Ashton and Failand Parish Councils. We are delighted North Somerset were of the same opinion and not prepared to grant permission.

Mary Uppington, Chairman, Planning Committee.

GOOD NEWS - JUST RECEIVED

The Inspector has dismissed Wimpey's appeal for Plots 1 - 26 - the area immediately behind Lampton Road and Fenshurst Gardens.

ALLOTMENT NEWS - LONG ASHTON

Thank you to all who signed the petition in the summer expressing an interest in working an allotment. There were over fifty signatures. I sent the petition to the Parish Council and have been in consultation with them over the last few months.

The first consideration is to find land; I am hoping the land donated to Long Ashton by Bristol University next to the Recreation Ground will become available for allotments.

This in our opinion would be an ideal site for horticultural reasons and for security of tenure. Other possibilities are leasing land from a local land owner.

Another consideration is finance; I was hoping there would be money left from a previous allotment budget (as there were allotments in the past) but unfortunately the Parish Council has none available and has already set its budget for the next financial year. There are grants available which will be applied for soon and other fundraising means will be looked into.

If anyone would like to become actively involved in anyway then please contact Louise or Barbara. For all those who would like to start digging in Long Ashton please be patient, a site will be set up as councils have a legal obligation to provide them when there is a demand, but it may take a while. To go on a waiting list contact Barbara.

Louise Sinclair - LA Allotment Co-ordinator - Telephone 394628 or email louisesinclair@hotmail.co.uk

Barbara Fowler - Waiting List - Telephone 394211 or letter/note through door - 29 Birdwell Road BS41 9BB.

[The allotments referred to were never statutory allotments. They were leased from developers who refused to renew the lease in the 1980s and Bourton Mead was built on the top part of these allotments. There was never money available for future allotments from selling a capital asset. The Parish Council has acted like a marriage broker in the past in linking the people with large redundant gardens with people wanting allotments.

Under the Small Holdings and Allotment Act 1908 s25 (1) as long as the allotments, provided to satisfy the obligation, are reasonably accessible to users, it is not essential that they should be within the locality. In the past villagers have used the allotments in Bower Ashton run by the Hotwells and District Allotment Association.

Marilyn Addis, Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council]

LONG ASHTON LIBRARY

North Somerset Council

Lovelinch Gardens, Long Ashton, BS41 9AH. Tel: 01275 392358

E-mail: longashton.library@n.somerset.gov.uk

Enquire

A free reference service in your own home! Enquire is a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week real-time reference service, which works like instant messaging or a chat session. When you ask a question there will be a librarian on-line (in UK or internationally) who can respond to it in real-time. Just log on to www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/enquire

Family History Research

The popular on-line family history database - ancestry.com - is now available free to all library users at their local library. All you need is your library card and a PIN number which enables you to use the computers.

The main family history collection is in the Family History Area and North Somerset studies Library, based at Weston Library, although other North Somerset libraries hold smaller collections. Anyone wanting to trace their family tree can attend an advice session held by the Weston Family History Society on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 2-4 pm at Weston Library.

Magazine Swap Box

There has been a decision to withdraw donated magazine boxes from all North Somerset libraries. The number of people using these boxes no longer justifies the amount of space and staff time involved.

We are also no longer able to receive other donated items, such as used stamps, etc.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated items in the past.

Opening Times

Tues and Thurs 10 - 1 and 2.30 - 5.30

Fri 10 - 1

Sat 9.30 - 12.30

Please remember to bring your library card with you when you visit the library.

Liz Youngs / Jackie Troth (Library Assistants)

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE 500 CLUB?

Well, it is run on behalf of the Long Ashton Community Association (LACA) to raise money towards maintaining and improving our Community Centre.

For only £12 a year your name will go into a monthly draw and there are 4 prizes each month. The values of the prizes vary according to how many members we have but you could win more than £50 if your name is drawn out first. The winning cheques are sent by post.

Over the past 5 years we have raised £15,020 and paid out 288 prizes totalling £8645.

Please think about becoming a member as the money raised all goes towards the benefit of everyone living in the village. If you are interested please fill in the form below.



To: Mr. G. Arnold, 6 Lyvedon Way, Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9ND.

I would be interested in joining the 500 Club

Name

Address

Telephone No: