

Longford Parish Press



The WI village scarecrow competition took place in July. Here are the winning entries. The other prizewinners and entrants can be found on the Longford WI page of the village website: <https://www.longfordvillage.co.uk/longford-wi>

Newsletters are online at: www.longfordparishcouncil.co.uk under **News**, and at www.longfordvillage.co.uk

COKE'S EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS 2026

Coke's Educational Charity (Reg'd No 527028) is a local charity established in 1689 by Dame Katherine Coke to assist young persons living in **Longford, Hollington, Rodsley and Alkmonton** in connection with their education and training. The Charity nowadays does this in part by making grants of modest financial assistance to young persons under 25 years of age living in these villages who have left secondary school and are in, or are about to begin, university or college courses, apprenticeships or similar training. The grants are usually paid in December or January and limited to two grants per person.

Please spread the word that applications are now invited for grants for 2026. **Applications should be submitted by email to Paul Hudson at paulhudson67@icloud.com and applicants should ensure that they receive an acknowledgement of receipt from Paul to confirm that their application has been safely received.**

Applications should state (i) the applicant's name, home address & age; (ii) what course is being undertaken, their university/college/employer & what year of the course the applicant is currently in; (iii) any specific purposes for which the grant may be sought in order to help the Trustees in considering the application; (iv) whether this is your first or second application; (v) your bank details and sort code so that payment can be made online should you be successful in your application.

In addition, it will be necessary for applicants to provide written evidence that they have secured their place (or continuation of their study) at their university/college or provide a letter from their employer confirming that their apprenticeship or training is being undertaken.

The deadline for submitting applications is **31st October 2026** and we look forward to receiving your application.

Cookery Corner *by Longford WI*

Longford WI entered several items into the Ashbourne Show in August this year. One of the successes in the WI tent was a delicious bakewell tart made by Enid.

Enid's Bakewell Tart

Ingredients

Shortcrust pastry made with 8oz flour, 4oz butter & 4oz white vegetable fat.

2 tablespoons raspberry jam

4oz butter or margarine

4oz caster sugar

2oz ground almonds

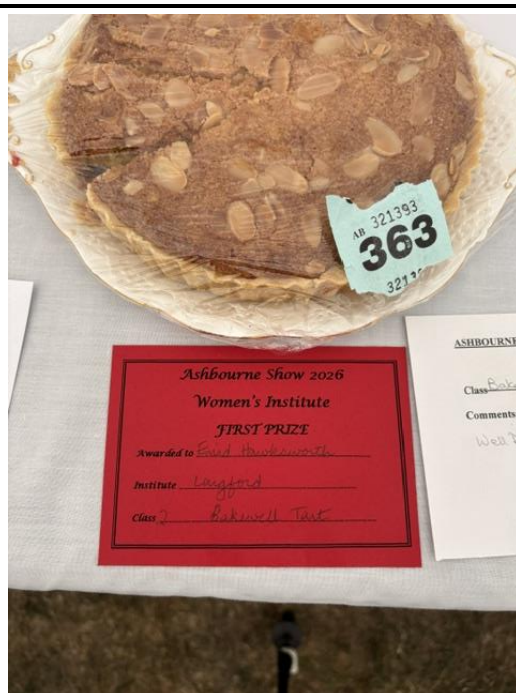
1oz ground rice

1oz self-raising flour

1 teaspoon almond essence

2 medium sized eggs, beaten

Flaked almonds (optional)



Method

Line an 8" (20cm) flan ring with the pastry.

Put butter & sugar in a large bowl & cream together until pale & fluffy.

Add eggs, ground almonds, ground rice, flour & almond essence.

Mix well until all combined.

Spread the jam on the pastry case & spread the almond mixture on top.

Sprinkle with flaked almonds (optional) & bake at 180°C for 30 – 45 mins, until golden brown & well risen.

W.I. Diary

It's been a busy & fun few months at Longford WI.

In June we ran the cake stall at Longford Village fete. It was a lovely event as always and were delighted to raise £656 this year.

Our June meeting was a joined one with Sutton in the Hill WI at their village hall. We welcomed Elonor Tivey, a peony farmer. It was a fascinating talk and the peonies were stunning!

Scarecrow competition

2026 marked 100 years of our treasured WI, and we wanted to celebrate! We had two events to mark the occasion. On July 11th we held the village scarecrow competition. As always, the village came together with wonderful community spirit and did us proud, cheered along by the sunshine and the ice cream van. We also put on an exhibition showing different aspects of the history of our WI in the Pump Room, accompanied in true WI fashion by a cake stall!

It was a fabulous village event. There were 30 imaginative scarecrow entries. It was certainly a challenge for our judges, John & Lisa. Each entry was a winner in its own right, but the judges gave winners rosettes for Individual scarecrows in 3 categories.

Best individual scarecrow prizes went to Matthew Montague at The Cheese Factory in 1st place, 2nd was Yeaveley WI/ Longford book group, and 3rd was Barbara, Claire and Lorna, both entries at The Pump Room.

For Group or Scene it was James Ashworth at Rosedene in 1st, Jacque Davis & Frances Critchley at Corner Field No 10 in 2nd & Katie Buckley, Kate Bateman & Rachel Jacques at Mammerton No 29 in 3rd.

For Humorous, 1st went to Don Millward at The Croft, 2nd Lucy McCann & family at 3, Longford Lane & 3rd was Andrea Murray at The Gables.

The people's vote winners, voted by 36 people were James Ashworth at Rosedene who came first with 7 votes & joint second were Barbara, Claire & Lorna and Caroline & Penny, with 5 votes each, both at The Pump Room.

A massive thank you to everyone who entered the competition and to those who and came along to help us celebrate!

Our second celebration was July when we raised a glass to celebrated our 100 years with a sunny evening of chat, cake, Prosecco & canapés at the gorgeous Callow Hall. A lovely evening was had by all.

Ashbourne show

This month we were again part of the WI tent at Ashbourne show. We were proud to have a Longford stand celebrating our 100 years. Our talented members had lots of entries in the baking, crafts, art, photography & floral arrangement categories. We came away with prizes in the baking and flower arrangement categories.

Coming up, in September we're looking forward to welcoming Ian Cawthra from Derby Mountain Rescue, and in October we'll have a craft session.

As always, if you'd like to come and join us, you'd be very welcome. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at The Pump Room.



Longford & District Pumpkin Club



The Great Pumpkin Gathering Returns!

The pumpkins are swelling, the carrots are stretching, the roses are blooming — and rumours suggest the cakes are already being taste-tested!

The *Longford & District Pumpkin Club* is delighted to announce that our Annual Presentation, Meal, Judging and generally *‘Jolly Good Time’* will take place on:

Saturday 3rd October 2026* *Wyaston Village Hall

Entries -5.30-6.30pm

Judging- 6.30-7.15pm

Meal served- 7.15pm

This year’s competitions are guaranteed to bring out the competitive spirit in even the mildest-mannered gardener.

PUMPKINS

Will yours be the one that makes everyone else quietly reconsider their gardening efforts?

Classes include:

- ❖ Heaviest
- ❖ Girth
- ❖ Colour
- ❖ Height
- ❖ Decorated
- ❖ Fettler
- ❖ Most Rounded
- ❖ Oddest

BEST CAKE

Any flavour.

Need we say more?

FOOD, FUN & FUNDRAISING

FLOWERS

For those whose gardening efforts are somewhat more delicate:

- ❖ Best Single Rose
- ❖ Best Single Flower
- ❖ Best Small Arrangement

FRUIT & VEG

And for those who believe vegetables should be measured, admired and possibly bragged about:

- ❖ Best Single Fruit or Veg
- ❖ Longest Runner Bean
- ❖ Longest Carrot
- ❖ Best Single Fruit or Veg (Home Grown)

DRAWING & COLOURING CONTEST

Our younger competitors can have a go on the night in the *U16 Drawing/Colouring Contest*. Paper and pencils will be provided — artistic talent, however, is entirely your own responsibility!

Tickets remain at the positively inflation-busting price of:

Adults £10 | Children £5 | Under 5s FREE

Please book in advance via www.longfordvillage.co.uk/pumpkin or speak to our distinguished **Growers Gaffer Without Portfolio (Mick)* or *The Overseer (James Frost)*.

This year, all proceeds will go to *Mee & Dee*, a local Derby charity supporting families after the loss of a parent.

Last year, thanks to your fantastic support, we raised an amazing *£1,200 for Cancer Research*.

So please come along, bring your competitive spirit, admire some enormous vegetables, eat some cake, enjoy the feast and generally have a splendid evening

And if you can donate something for the *raffle*, the organiser would be extremely grateful

After all, nothing says community spirit quite like arguing over the circumference of a pumpkin while eating someone else's Victoria sponge.

See you on 3rd October!

St Chad's News

Services

6 September 10.30am Holy Communion Long Lane
 13 September 9.15am Morning Prayer Longford
 27 September 11.15am Harvest Festival Longford
 4 October 10.30am Holy Communion Long Lane
 25 October 11.15am Holy Communion Longford
 1 November 10.30am Holy Communion Long Lane
 8 November TBA Remembrance Sunday Longford
 22 November 11.15am Holy Communion Longford



Margaret Foot

On Sunday 26th July we celebrated Margaret Foot's remarkable achievement of over 40 years of service on St Chad's PCC with a presentation of a gift voucher, flowers, a specially prepared card and delicious cake. We especially wanted to mark Margaret's tireless support of St Chad's Church Longford over the years.

Coffee morning

A Coffee morning was held on Wednesday 9th September at Glebe Close, Long Lane village in aid of Alzheimer's Research and Air Ambulance (Derbyshire). Thanks to all who came along.

Padley Harvest Foodbank collection

A village Harvest Foodbank collection for the Padley Centre will take place on Friday 25th September at the Pump Room, from 8.30am to midday, by kind permission of Longford WI.

Please give what you can of **non-perishable food items** and they also welcome donations of **basic toiletries** (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant etc).

Donations will also be accepted at the Harvest Festival at St Chad's on Sunday 27th September at 11.15am. Many thanks.

Churchyard autumn clear up

The annual tidy up of the churchyard will take place on **Saturday 10th October, 9.30am onwards**. Please come along if you can spare the time.

Parish Council News

Churchyard clear up

We are having our usual autumn tidy up of the churchyard on **Saturday 10th October from 9.30am onwards**. Volunteers to help would be most welcome. The work is general trimming, sweeping up etc. If you can help please bring your own tools.

Ginty Leedham

At our September meeting Ginty Leedham stepped down from the Parish Council. Ginty has been a stalwart of the council for over 30 years (our longest serving member) and we are very sad to see her leave. She leaves with our grateful thanks for her contributions to the council and to the village over her long service.

Longford Parish Press

This newsletter is published quarterly on the parish council and village websites. If you have something to add to the newsletter please submit it to parishpress63@btinternet.com

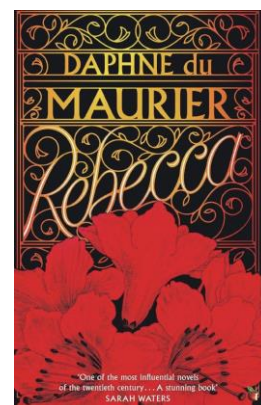
The Longford Book Group *by Angela Churchill*

Summer kicked off for Book Group with our second literary walk. This time the route was around Ellastone, then to the top of the Weaver Hills, exploring the life of George Eliot and her book *Adam Bede*. July took us to Renishaw Hall, erstwhile home of writers and patrons of the arts, Edith, Osbert and Sacheverel Sitwell, where we had lunch, a wine taste and a house tour, with inevitably a lot of chatting too. This year, one of our group read her poem to Roger McGough, as one of 10 runners-up in a national poetry competition, judged by the great poet himself. We haven't forgotten the theatre either - there have been visits to Toletorpe Theatre to see *Treasure Island* and *Callow Hall* for an open air performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. What fun! In between all this we have been reading:



Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier (Virago), Book Group Score 9

We all knew this story, some from the film, others from the book, but we loved returning to it. There was a lot of discussion. Those who'd read it years ago found a different perspective and noticed new details. Those who had seen the film changed their minds about Mrs Danvers being the clear culprit in setting light to Manderley. We talked about all the characters and whether any were any completely blameless. Max's motives in marrying the second Mrs de Winter were discussed, as were options available to him other than killing Rebecca. Could Max be forgiven and was Mrs Danvers as evil as she is often thought to be, was debated, as was the second Mrs de Winter's support of Max. We also discussed whether the de Winters were happy, when we meet them in the short section at the start of the book which is set in their present. Some of us went on to read more Daphne du Maurier. We recommend *My Cousin Rachel*.



The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne (Penguin), Book Group Score 9

This meeting included a celebration of a special birthday, so we had a lovely evening enjoying the garden at the Pear Tree Inn, Yeaveley, whilst talking about the book. This was our second John Boyne book and we all enjoyed it. It recounts the life story of Cyril Avery, beginning in 1945, when he is born out of wedlock, in Ireland. His feisty teenaged Mum is thrown out of church and home. With difficulty she builds a life in Dublin and has Cyril adopted. Cyril's adoptive parents are wildly eccentric, wealthy and distant. We follow him as he grows up, realises he is gay, falls in love, makes desperate mistakes and lives through both grief and happiness.

Again, we had lots to discuss including the many funny parts of the story and the many sad parts. We talked about the Catholic religion in Ireland at the time of the story, and today. We discussed whether the book was spoiled by the coincidences that occurred, (we thought not) and moved on to talk about Cyril's life choices, the influence of his sexuality and religion, his marriage and the death of his dear friend and how society changed over Cyril's lifetime and today. We also, unsuccessfully, tried to think of any Irish writers we had read, that wrote fondly of Ireland.

Further John Boyne reading was prompted after this and at least two of us would recommend *All the Broken Places*.

We are choosing poems to read and talk about for our next meeting. More next time.





Date for your Diaries....
Longford Village Fete
will be held on the evening of Friday 4th June 2027
in Four Acres Field
(same venue as the last fete)

Looking forward to seeing you all there but meanwhile here are some pictures from that lovely evening in June. See if you can spot yourselves.....



The 2026 fete raised an incredible £7157.50 for the upkeep of St Chad's so a massive thank you to anyone who contributed in any way



St Chad's Church Longford

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Please see the noticeboard outside Longford School and the village website for updates.

A note for your diary:-

The latest date for your contributions to the next Parish Press is **Sunday 22nd November 2026**. Please contact parishpress63@btinternet.com

Welcome to new residents

Longford Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to say 'hello' and 'welcome' to all new residents of Longford.

Your Parish Councillors can be contacted as follows:

<i>Robert Wakefield</i>	<i>330144</i>
<i>Kevin Johnson</i>	<i>330410</i>
<i>Lara Mosedale</i>	<i>330363</i>
<i>Alan Hall</i>	<i>216300</i>
<i>Darren Fox</i>	<i>07856 098536</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	

Clerk to the Council – *Sophie Goodwin 07530 310650*

District Councillor – *Geoff Bond, geoff.bond@derbyshiredales.gov.uk*

County Councillor - *Steve Bull 01629 535650*

Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 2nd September

Wednesday 7th October

Wednesday 4th November

Wednesday 2nd December

Meetings start at 7.30 pm and take place in the Pump Room.

Please note these meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Pump Room bookings

If anyone would like to book the Pump Room please call Kathryn Ferris.

Events for your Diary

Friday 25th September	8.30am to midday, Food Bank collection at the Pump Room.
Saturday 3rd October	Pumpkin extravaganza , Wyaston Village Hall
Saturday 10th October	9.30am, annual churchyard clear-up
Friday 4th June 2027	Village fete , Four Acres field

Regular meetings:

WI meetings – second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, Pump Room, Main Street.

Parish Council meetings – see above for the list.

Church services – see above for the list.

