

LONG SUTTON AND LONG LOAD NEWSLETTER –

February 2021

Visit the official Website: www.longsutton.org.uk

Email: lsnewsletter@btinternet.com

BENEFICE OF LEVELS ARC

Due to the prevalence of Covid-19 in South Somerset the churchwardens of the Levels Arc Benefice agreed that until further notice no religious services would be held in the parish churches of Long Sutton with Long Load, Drayton, Muchelney and Pitney. This agreement was made in an online meeting with the Area Dean who then formally wrote to the Bishop of Taunton who issued a dispensation that the '... *reading of Morning and Evening Prayer ... and the celebration of the Holy Communion ... is hereby dispensed with ... until no later than 30th day of September 2021.*' Please note that although the act of communal worship is not banned under current Government guidance it was felt that it was in the best interests of church members and others attending public worship not to be at risk of infecting or being infected with the coronavirus.

Although there is no current communal worship in Holy Trinity church at present, the building is being opened on Sundays and Wednesdays between the hours of midday and 4.00pm for private prayer. Anyone entering the church must follow the guidance rules as set out and posted in the church.

The churchwardens of Holy Trinity and the other parishes in the benefice are hoping that, if circumstances allow, the buildings may be open in time for Easter. As you will be aware events can affect present arrangements so if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the churchwardens (Tim Creegan 241-554 or Heather Pomeroy 241-737).

In the meantime, services are available via Zoom – please contact Sue Creegan 241 554 if you would like further details.

Marmalade update

Thank you to everyone who bought marmalade from Judy Thomas since March. So far these sales have raised £115 for church funds. Judy still has marmalade available as well as damson jam.. All purchases can be made in a covid secure way. Contact Judy on 01458 241039 or jdt@icsmconnect.co.uk

Christmas Cart 2020

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce a staggering amount of **£3066.70** was collected with our Christmas cart in December. This amount is superb considering the current pandemic facing us all.

We would like to thank our sponsors for the float, the very kind residents on Knole, Long Load, Long Sutton and Upton and all collectors, road crew, the elves and not forgetting the main man himself "Father Christmas".

We very much hope to see you all again this year.

Our sponsors for the float include Chubb Bulleid Solicitors, Bradfords Building Supplies, CRS Building Supplies, George James Properties, Crendon Timber Engineering, Long Sutton Golf Club, Sun Traffic Signals, Howdens - Bridgwater, S Morris and Tesco.

Long Sutton C of E (VA) Primary School and Toybox pre-school

The new year started with a bang that none of us expected! We entered lockdown number three with our four classes and preschool open, with a larger number of vulnerable children and children of keyworkers. The staff have worked quickly, tirelessly and successfully to ensure that the children at home have received online learning, whilst teaching the children attending school. It is still very much a place where children 'Learn to love and love to learn'. The children have thrown themselves into their learning and are working very hard, whether from home or in school. As we live through an historical and scary time we must remember to share funny

moments, such as when the children giggled as the teacher tried to blow out the worship candle wearing a face mask!

We are fortunate to have the support of the PTFA who raise funds to enable the children to take part in a range of activities throughout the year and buy extra resources. We are especially grateful to the Christmas cart team who raised a substantial amount of money for the school and would like to thank all of you who made donations.

If you would like to find out more about our fantastic school do get in contact on 01458 241434 Email: enquiries@LongSuttonPrimary.co.uk

Website: <http://www.longsuttonprimaryschool.co.uk>

Facebook: @LongSuttonPrimarySchool

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Long Sutton WI

Long Sutton WI Committee are still working hard behind the scenes to keep some semblance of normality going at our monthly meetings. Technology is part of our lives now and each month we wave virtually at each other from our screen framed faces, like a scene from Blankety Blank. It brings comfort to know friends and neighbours are still there.

We are ploughing ahead with our winter & spring programme:-

- 21-Jan. We were joined by Anne who talked to us about living alongside people on the margins (such as those in the occupied Palestinian Territories) - to share in their joys and struggles." Her talk was both interesting and inspirational.
- 18- Feb. Pancake Party. Be prepared to toss your pancakes, join in with fun quiz and games.
- 18-Mar. Lena will be guiding us through a face, shoulder and back massage.
- April - tbc

If there are any women in the local area who would like to 'Try the WI' for the princely sum of £10.75, the offer is still running until end of March. Time to join us for the February and March events as well as access the virtual members group, 'WI Wanderers'.

The WI Wanderers offer a smorgasbord of daily events - from art, craft, exercise sessions, tours of museums, cities, theatre, music as well as talks on history, art, literature etc. The majority of sessions are free or nominal payment.

WI Denman House also offer a regular programme of workshops and courses on cooking, craft, exercise etc. for a small fee. As a WI member you can also claim a free £5.00 workshop.

We have experienced and enjoyed WI Wanderers sessions over the last few months and had great fun learning new things - calligraphy, massage, yoga, gong baths, origami, art & craft sessions and authors talks.

If you would like to know more or would like to have a chat about WI please email: longsuttonwipresident@gmail.com or ring Jane on **07823559175**.

As we plan WI events for 2021-2022 we hope existing members will continue to join us at our monthly meetings and encourage new members too.

Here's hoping that the vaccine is THE light at the end of the tunnel and our celebration picnic is not too far away.

Long Sutton WI Committee

Long Sutton Village Hall

Sadly the COVID-19 restrictions remain in force and preclude the Hall opening until further notice. There is however much going on behind the scenes.

We have applied for a grant from Viridor Credit to renovate the roof in the Hall. This will include bringing the insulation up to modern standards whilst also replacing the ineffective but costly heaters with air source heat pumps that allow both heating **and cooling** at a fraction of the cost by using the solar energy from the roof panel. A further grant has been applied for to provide a battery storage facility in the Hall to allow the solar generated electricity to be used when the sun doesn't shine! When all this going on the opportunity will be taken to install new dimmable LED lighting to give a more flexible environment.

Already the Hall has had the floor sanded and re-sealed and that allows our latest piece of technology to do its work. After a six week trial we have bought a robot that not only vacuums the floors throughout the Hall but it can also mop them at the same time! It is timed to do this every night and only needs the dust receptacle to be emptied periodically. Interestingly the school and the church have borrowed Robert the Robot during lockdown! Our bit of technology is the acquisition of a 'fogging' machine that allows the whole Hall to be sanitised very quickly and effectively (to COVID-19 secure standard) between hirers.

For the outside we have applied for a grant to install four charging points for electric vehicles to take advantage of the solar electricity for parishioners to use at a cheap rate. Also outside we are working to get the tennis courts back in action; the Lengthsman, Craig, has been asked to spray off the moss and lichen and get rid of the detritus that has accumulated.

The committee are also evaluating a refurbishment of the children's play area and an application for a grant is being prepared.

Financially the Government have been very supportive with South Somerset District Council distributing payments in lieu of income. However we are fortunate to have the Frying Machine fish and chips and the long standing Pizza man, Alessandro Renna, who contribute to the finances. **Please continue to support them and, equally importantly, the wonderful Village Shop.**

LONG LOAD

On Saturday 10th January I was told that there were a lot of doggy bags at the entrance to f Fore Moor Allotments in Church Lane, Long Load.

As I am a plot holder and a Parish Councillor I went to the allotment to be faced with what I can only describe as a sickening amount of doggy poo bags. Some in a heap and some spread along the short distance between the allotment entrance and the garage entrance to College Close. I picked up in excess of 70 bags. There were even more bags strewn further down the lane.

Some despicable and totally irresponsible person had forgotten that as a dog owner he or she owns *ALL* of the dog *and* its bowel contents.

At this time of a virus ridden world why this person cannot comprehend that the faeces is not only a danger to humans but also to wild life, domestic pets and other dogs whose owners are much more responsible for their pets. It can cause

blindness to humans and other dogs and cats as well as fatal damage to cattle in some cases.

Therefore I am asking everyone regardless where you live, to police this activity and report anyone seen behaving in this thoughtless and disgusting way when walking their dogs without picking up after them.

PICK IT UP, BAG IT and BIN IT in your own wheelie bin.

we have enough virus`s without you adding to it.

Thank you, Marsha White

Many Thanks

On a personal and behalf of the Parish Council I would like to offer a big thank you to the people in the village who volunteered to help with shopping prescriptions, medicines and importantly telephone chats that have helped to keep some people from feeling alone and frightened.

This has been and still is, a huge help to those who have to isolate.

We still have a way to go yet before all of the vaccines have been dealt with but at least there is that to hold on to so thank you all.

Stay Safe and keep up the Mask wearing as well as all of the other protective measures that have been suggested

Marsha White LLPC Chair

Long Load Village Hall

Unfortunately the hall has to be kept closed for all social activities while restrictions are still in place. Hopefully it will be possible to open it later in the year when it is safe to do so.

However, we will try to have the Village Show in early September, even if it has to be virtual. Craft entries would be suited to either a real or virtual Show, so working on them would make good use of lockdown time!

Broadband

Dear Neighbour,

In December Open Reach sent out mailers to all the addresses listed for Long load asking us to pledge for government funding in order to install fibre optic broadband into our Village.

Thank you to those of us who have already done this, but we have more to do as currently there is only a 44% uptake for this but we need to get more. The important thing to stress is it will not cost us anything, in that if you pledge the voucher for your address there is no expectation on you to take out any service from BT or Openreach, all you agree is that it will be on their network, which is exactly the same as we do now.

The government will grant an amount per property and BT will make the application, but you need to go onto the website and pledge.

We have been let down by companies such as GigaClear and Truespeed, but Openreach are committed to providing FTTP (Fibre to Premise), but only if we get enough funding that can only be achieved if you pledge your voucher.

Even it does not affect you, we need to act as a community, please pledge your voucher so those of that need it can have it, if we do not act now as a community we will be left with what we have for at least another 4 years.

Please can you go to

www.openreach.co.uk/connectmycommunitycard

On the next page click 'yes', enter your postcode in this format TA10 9LD, click the magnifier and then click pledge for Long Load community project. Fill in your address and contact details and that is all you have to do.

Thank you for your time and stay safe

During lockdown we will still try to publish a monthly newsletter. Please send your contributions to lsnewsletter@btinternet.com by the 20th of the month. For more information call 01458 241450