

Langdon Parish Council

February 2020

PARISH UPDATE

“A lot going on with the weather at the moment...” was the introduction to a recent BBC forecast.

Rather an understatement as the start to 2020 has seen exceptional rainfalls, flooding, two storms, snow and high winds—and yet early signs of Spring are visible in hedges and gardens.



KENT TOADS ON THE ROADS

The annual migration of toads to East Langdon pond from the nearby countryside has begun!

You can help these love-sick amphibians safely reach the pond to spawn by picking them up off the road. For the next few weeks when the temperature is above 10°C, toads and frogs are on the move after dark until about 8pm.

The site is one of eight across Kent being actively monitored by KRAG volunteers and assisted by local Langdon residents. In 2017, 2003 toads were helped; as of 23rd February this year about 250 have been moved.

If you would like to help, give Chris Shaw a ring on 07971 579096 to check for a toad update!

Car drivers, please slow down and pass with care.



Langdon Night-Life 2020

THE END OF AN ERA



In a corner of West Langdon green is a small United Reformed Chapel, which until the final service on 1st December 2019, had been used regularly since 1866. Before that date the local congregation worshipped in the nearby Chapel Cottages but they soon ran out of space. So the story goes, a local benefactor called Mr Mummery visited a service at the cottages and, concerned about the cramped conditions, offered to fund a new chapel. The first service was held on Sunday 23rd December 1866. and the congregation held regular Sunday services from 1899 until recent times.

As a boy, David Parfitt recalls the chapel being seriously damaged when two WW2 German aircraft strafed it with cannon and machine-gun fire, rendering the building unusable. A bible still exists with a bullet hole part-way through it as evidence! The chapel was soon rebuilt.

It is likely that the chapel building will be sold in the near future. My thanks to Joan Miller of West Langdon for the information.

COMMONWEALTH DAY 9th March

Commonwealth Day is an annual celebration observed by people all over the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific and Europe.

Each year local residents and Langdon Primary School gather at 10am at East Langdon village green to celebrate this event and witness year 6 pupils raising the Commonwealth Flag and reading the Affirmation.

Please come along and support us in our community event on Monday 9th March from 9.45am for this short and informal ceremony.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

East Langdon 20mph Speed Limit „20 is Plenty”

As we reported in the December newsletter, KCC Highways had reviewed the road signage in the 20mph area of East Langdon and decided that road roundels should be added. There has been some improvement in driver behaviour but not by all. The parish council continues to receive complaints from residents that cars are seen travelling too fast for the narrow road conditions and the safety of pedestrian, especially children.

For everyone's sake, please drive with consideration and remind others of their responsibilities before someone gets injured.



Not clear enough?

Road Safety within Langdon Parish

Langdon Parish Council is very concerned that the increase in vehicular traffic through the parish is raising the risk of road traffic incidents. We note the apparent excessive speeds for the given road conditions. We appreciate that the country lanes are becoming increasingly hazardous to all road users including vehicle drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders.

Furthermore, Langdon Parish Council is becoming increasingly aware of unrecorded road traffic incidents and near misses on the country lanes within the parish and in the surrounding area. In order to attempt to compile Road Traffic Incident statistics, the residents of Langdon Parish are invited to report any such road traffic incidents and/or near misses to the Langdon Parish Clerk clerk@langdonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk or to any Langdon Parish Councillor.

New Police Community Safety Officer appointed

We welcome PCSO Connor Fennessy who has been assigned to cover Whitfield, St Margaret's and Langdon areas. We look forward to seeing him at parish council meetings and the East Langdon Coffee mornings as his work patterns permit. He can be contacted by phone on 101 in the normal way.

East Langdon Green—road flooding and pond

Following a prolonged campaign to get the road drainage improved around East Langdon green, KCC Highways engineers met with the parish council to discuss various options. It appears that the existing soakaway at the green is beyond recovery and so the plan is to excavate one or two new soakaways on the green itself. Recently some test boreholes were made to identify suitable locations and sample the drainage quality of the underlying chalk. We now await KCC's proposal. As regards the village pond, KCC Highways plan to cleanse the silt trap in Church Lane but the condition of the pond itself remains the responsibility of the Church Farm Mews residents.

Enforcement Order for Parish Footpath ER44

If you have walked the footpath from East Langdon to Martin, (known as Beach Path?) you will know that a 120m section of important hedge and embankment had been ploughed out. This offence was reported to the DDC Enforcement Team back in August 2017 and a reinstatement order served on the landowner. In late 2019 replanting was done but the parish council and several local walkers are not satisfied with the result. One-third of the route remains void of any hedge marking or potential cover for wildlife and the DDC team are aware of our concerns. The historical imagery views on Google Earth are reference points.



Parish Council Budget and Precept for 2020-21

A budget of £18,200 had been set for the financial year 2020-21 at the December 2019 council meeting (Resolution 19-12/02). This budget was increased by £1520 on 2019-20 to reflect expected running costs, parish maintenance projects and new initiatives. Changes to legislation affecting the council's website compliancy and data protection are new expenditure areas as well as potential community works which may be required to supplement decreases in DDC and KCC funded services. Healthy parish council reserves will allow some unallocated funds to be used to supplement the proposed budget, balance income being derived from the precept and VAT expenditure refund.

The precept tax base (the number of Band "D" equivalent properties in Langdon) for 2020-21 is 242.8, compared to last year's figure of 236.07. This is partly due to the additional housing at Long Hill Lane in East Langdon. Using this increase has allowed the parish council to set the parish Band "D" council tax at £62.21, slightly lower than last year whilst raising a precept of £15,104. The shortfall in the £18,200 budget figure will be met from reserves (£2,085) and VAT refund (£1,000). A precept demand for £15,104.59 was agreed.

Parish Street Lighting Upgrade

Langdon's street lights are being upgraded to more efficient LED units under a rolling programme by DDC. Although some have already been upgraded, others requiring column or rewiring works will be done later.

CHURCH NEWS AND OTHER EVENTS

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 22 nd March	MOTHERING SUNDAY - Family Service	10.00 am	East Langdon
Sunday 5 th April	PALM SUNDAY (combined EL & WL)	9.30 am	West Langdon
Sunday 12 th April	EASTER DAY - Family Communion - (combined EL & WL)	10.00am	East Langdon

QUIZ NIGHT

Help with the upkeep of St Augustine's church and churchyard by joining us for a quiz and ploughman's supper in East Langdon parish hall at **7.30pm on Saturday 16 May**. Make up a table, maximum of eight people, or come along and form a team with other local wannabee cerebral geniuses! Entry is £5 a head and please bring your own drinks. There will be a raffle with the proceeds going to charity.

The caterers would like to know how much food to prepare so please let us know you hope to come by ringing Liz M^cMahon on 01304 274572 or emailing Jannine Hyde: hyde167@btinternet.com

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

How very fortunate we were to choose one of the few dry evenings in December for our annual Christmas gathering on the village green around the Christmas tree! Thanks to you we were able to send £100 to Demelza House. Thanks also to Peter Pound for the roast chestnuts and to the folk at Church Farm Mews for the very welcome seasonal fare.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Next Steps for NHS 111

Following an extensive review of the NHS 111 call facility, changes are due to be introduced with effect from 1st April 2020. Although it is unlikely that members of the public will be aware of these changes when calling "111", the changes are in the way your call may directed. For further information in advance of other hardcopy publications please visit:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/urgent-emergency-care/nhs-111/next-steps-for-nhs-111/>

The link will be provided on the Langdon Parish Council website.

Mental Health Support

Mental health problems can affect us at any time in our lives. If you experience mental health issues it is vital to talk to someone. Try contacting your doctor for help and referral to other professionals.

Springtime is often a time of high suicide rates and men are particularly vulnerable, often not able to share their worries with others. There are local support groups in our area and a men-only talk group "Talk It Out" was launched last August. Local organisations can be found by an Internet search "Mental Health in Kent". We can all be vigilant in our community and offer a friendly ear.

CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

For the latest advice and information on Coronavirus please see the guidance from Public Health England at the website link www.gov.uk/coronavirus

The Department of Health and Social Care will be publishing updated data on this website every day at 2pm until further notice. Information about the virus, its symptoms and risk assessments are also found here. The NHS website www.nhs.uk/coronavirus has more information about how you can reduce the possible spread of infection.

PUBLIC DEFIBRILLATOR

Located at The Reception Office, Hawthorn Farm Holiday Park, Martin Mill

The defibrillator is owned and managed by Langdon Parish Council, accessible 24/7.



In the event of an emergency FIRST DIAL 999 and ask for an ambulance.

This information is posted on all parish council notice boards.

DDC "GO PLACES IN 2020"



As White Cliffs Country looks forward to an exciting year ahead in 2020, including The 149th Open coming to Royal St George's in Sandwich, Dover District Council has published a striking new Visitor Guide.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAM'S MEMORIAL SEAT

As you can see from the photo, the circular ironwork memorial seat needs moving to avoid damage by the large Silver Birch tree on East Langdon green. The plan is to relocate the seat to West Langdon green, closer to Pam Macintyre's family home. The inscription around the top of the seat reads:-



"2009 - IN MEMORY OF PAM MACINTYRE - A CHAMPION OF OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1960 AND CHAIRWOMAN OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL FROM 1984 - 2009"

MARTIN MILL STATION PARKING



Taken at 10am on Monday 24th February, these photos show the on-street parking typically seen since southeastern introduced car parking charges at Martin Mill station in January 2018. The station had 31 parking bays, of which 16 were taken. A total of 33 vehicles were parked in the surrounding roads, leaving little room for through traffic or resident's parking. The parish council is determined to reach a solution with southeastern and car owners can help by displaying resident parking notices in their cars.



This Newsletter is funded and published by the parish council four times a year. It is distributed free to every household in Langdon to keep in touch with our residents. To contribute an article please email Chris Shaw on shawc01@hotmail.com

LANGDON PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Council

Cllr Chris Shaw (Chairman)	East Langdon	01304 852097
Cllr Tony Minns (Vice chair)	Martin	01304 852810
Cllr Shaun Craft	West Langdon	01304 820097
Cllr John Dyer	Martin	01304 852772
Cllr Barbara Price-Stephens	Martin Mill	07818 851180
Cllr Jane Watson	Martin Mill	07930 828635
Cllr Seb Willett	East Langdon	07530 189539

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Annual Parish Meeting Monday 20th April
At 7.30pm**

**Guest Speaker Kari McSherry
Toad Patrol Coordinator
Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group**

Each year every parish holds an annual meeting at which local residents can receive reports and ask questions of the parish council. This is an informal community event where local organisations are encouraged to make presentations and meet with other parishioners. A guest speaker from a Kent organisation is invited to talk about a local topic relevant to our area. See the parish council website or notice boards for more details.

Regular Activities at East Langdon Parish Hall

Activity	Days	Times
Langdon Post Office	Tuesday and Thursday Mornings	9 – 12noon
Coffee Mornings	Tuesday Mornings	10 – 11.30
Langdon Short Mat Bowls Club	Tuesday and Friday Evenings	7 – 9pm
Dog Training Classes	Wednesday (am) and Thursday Evenings	9 – 12noon 5.30 – 9pm
Dog Training Classes	Wednesday Evenings (not all year)	7.30-9.30pm
Parish Council	Third Monday in each Month	7.30-9.30pm
Langdon School Dance Class	Wednesday Afternoons (Term time)	1.30-3pm
Keep Fit Club	Saturday Mornings	9 – 10am
Village Meetings	Wednesday Evenings	7pm

USEFUL INFORMATION

Post Office: Tuesday and Thursday 9.00-12.00
East Langdon parish hall.

Coffee morning: Tuesday 10.00 - 11.30 EL parish hall.

Milk delivery: Dairy Crest 0845 606 3606

Community Warden: Steve Noddings 07977 982184

PCSO :- Connor Fennessey Call 101

Parish website: www.langdonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Vicar: To be announced: 01304 852179

East Langdon Parish Hall: 01304 852097

Langdon Playing Field: langdonpfa@gmail.com

The Lantern Inn, Martin: 01304 852276

Hawthorn Farm Campsite Shop: 01304 853001

Parish Council Meetings

Every 3rd Monday of the month

East Langdon Parish Hall

March 18th - 7.30pm

April 20th - 7.00 - 7.30pm

followed by the

Annual Parish Meeting

7.30pm onwards. Guest speaker at 8pm.

PARISH CLERK

Mr David Willett, Forge Cottage, The Street, East Langdon, CT15 5JH. Telephone 01304 853527

Email: clerk@langdonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk