

Langdon Parish Council

November 2021

PARISH UPDATE

With just under 8 weeks before Christmas we would like to invite you to two community events which are held each year, Remembrance Sunday and Carols on the Green. Since the Covid-19 outbreak we have been unable to meet as a community so we hope you can join us at these events.

Each year we set a decorated Christmas Tree on the village green which is lit at night to give a reassuring symbol on these dark winter evenings. The tradition is to gather around the tree and sing carols before adjourning to Church Farm Mews where warm refreshments are provided.

Looking back across the year, each of us will have memories of how the pandemic has altered everyday life. Work patterns, travel and social mixing have all changed. If we can remain vigilant and continue to protect ourselves from Covid-19 infections then hopefully we can celebrate Christmas as we did in the past.

We wish you well and here's to a better 2022!



EAST LANGDON
VILLAGE GREEN
WAR MEMORIAL

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
14TH
10.45AM

ALL WELCOME



LAYING OF WREATHS

LAST POST

TWO MINUTE SILENCE

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

All eyes will be on the outcome of the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow when countries will be asked to reaffirm their commitment to the Paris Agreement in tackling climate change and reducing global emission to zero by 2050. But to be effective all of us could play a part in caring for our local environment. Some residents already do.

We need to share ideas and concerns, possibly forming a Langdon Environmental Group which can identify and co-ordinate projects around the parish. We should clarify our thoughts on renewable energy options and future land use which will impact on our younger generation; we should hear their voices too. Please email your ideas to Chris Shaw at shawc01@hotmail.com.

WINTER PREPARATIONS

During a particular cold spell last winter, residents commented upon the lack of provision of a road grit bin in Martin. As the standard size yellow salt bin occupied too big a footprint for any available space in Martin, Langdon Parish Council has purchased a yellow wheelie bin to provide road grit for public use. The bin will be stowed near the bus stop opposite The Lantern Inn during the winter months.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN
AT
EAST LANGDON
WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER
6.30 pm
followed by
seasonal refreshments at
Church Farm Mews.
There will be a collection for
Demelza House.
(Don't forget your torch!!)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

New District Local Plan: The parish council has responded to the recent consultation by DDC to review the Settlement Boundaries of the parish's village and hamlets. The responses will feed into the next stage of the new District Local Plan which should be published for further public comment at the end of the year.

Street Lighting: Most of Langdon's faulty street lights have been upgraded to LED units.

Traffic Calming: At the request of the parish council, KCC Highways installed two Automatic Traffic Counters to capture vehicle movements over a 7 day period in Martin Mill and East Langdon. The data will inform the council's traffic monitoring programme for the parish.

Broadband Services: Following the publication of the Government's **Project Gigabit Delivery Plan**, KCC has set out a strategy for its **Kent Broadband Programme** which aims to support better broadband, particularly in rural areas of the county. More information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/broadband.

Parish Council Grants: A modest allocation of funding is made available to parish organisations each year to help support community activities. Notices will be published on the parish noticeboard before the end of the year. Contact a parish councillor for more details.

East Langdon Village Pond: This is a regular agenda item at council meetings. See the article on page 4 of this newsletter for the background details.

Parish Phone Box Libraries: Our thanks go to Joan Miller (West Langdon) and Olive O'Dell (East Langdon) who have kept the libraries well-stocked with donated books. The Covid-19 lock-down prevented the libraries from opening until August when restrictions were lifted and visitors could browse through the books again.

Langdon Playing Field: We are pleased to announce that the field charity has been awarded £710 by the DDC Community Grants Scheme towards upgrade works. The LPFA charity has renewed its Gift Aid Tax Relief status so that gifted or cash donations will attract an additional tax relief rebate from HMRC. This will help the on-going maintenance works programme to be delivered.



Wild Flower Areas: Several residents have expressed an interest in allowing wild plant areas to develop. A section of West Langdon green has been left mostly uncut for several years, as have the playing field embankments. A small area at St Augustine's churchyard will be sown with wild flower mix to encourage insects and wild life.

Appreciating our Rural Landscape:

Taking the time to enjoy our countryside is beneficial in many ways for our health and well-being. Local Martin resident Andrew Searle was invited to share his thoughts:-

Follow your chosen path!

Kent is blessed with an amazing number of varied and interesting footpaths, many of which are easily accessible from our parish.

Within 2 or 3 miles we have access to the long-distance North Downs Way and of course the glorious White Cliffs Country Trail but we also have attractive smaller paths going out from our villages to Pineham, Guston, Sutton, Ringwould and beyond.

Paths, tracks and ways are generally known as Public Rights of Way (PROW) and you can find them marked on the local Ordnance Survey (OS) maps or on the KCC website <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/standardmap.aspx>. This interactive map is most useful as, in addition to showing the rights of way, there is a reporting tool allowing one to record faults that may be found along a particular way. These could be anything from a fallen tree across the path to a stile needing repair.

You will see from the marked routes on an OS Map, or from the colours on the online PROW map, that there are several designations of Rights of Way. Briefly these are footpaths, bridleways (can also be used by cyclists and horse-riders), byways open to all traffic and restricted byways (mechanically driven vehicles not allowed).

It is useful to know your rights and responsibilities when using PROWs, also those of the landowners and the highway authority (in our case that's KCC). A good summary is provided by The Ramblers Association <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/paths-in-england-and-wales/rights-of-way-law.aspx>

If you are interested in getting out on local walks with other people, guided by knowledgeable walk leaders, then the White Cliffs Ramblers (WCR) group is well worth joining. <http://www.whitecliffsramblers.org.uk/index.php>. They offer walks with a range of distances and covering East Kent.

As well as guided walks, WCR volunteers help walkers (and KCC!) with some footpath maintenance tasks such as clearing overgrown paths. I am involved in these tasks and would be happy to provide further information to anyone interested.

Walking is good for your health, alone or in company and keeps our footpaths open. I commend it to you!

Andrew Searle, email: searlean@aol.com

CHURCH NEWS AND OTHER EVENTS

CHRISTMAS IN THE LANGDONS

CAROLS ON THE GREEN – Sing carols around the Christmas tree on East Langdon village green Wednesday 15 December at 6.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments at Church Farm Mews.

There will be a collection in aid of Demelza House so please bring money!

CAROL SERVICE – A traditional carol service in St Augustine's church, East Langdon at 4.00pm on Sunday 19 December.

MIDNIGHT SERVICE – 11.30pm on Monday 24 December in St Augustine's church.

CHRISTMAS MORNING COMMUNION – 9.30am in St Mary's church, West Langdon.

Regular services have taken place in the churches at East and West Langdon since we came out of lockdown back in July 2020. Whilst our usual social and fund-raising events have had to be cancelled during 2020 and 2021, we are planning ahead for 2022 in the hope that we can return to some shared enjoyment.

Our fund-raising activities are to raise funds for major repairs and improvements and in the last 20 years the internal area, except for the bell tower, has been redecorated, the Victorian stained-glass windows have been cleaned and repaired, a composting toilet and storeroom have been added and the churchyard has had a makeover to create the beautiful and serene place that it now is. Our current plans include internal works and decoration of the bell tower, cleaning and repainting the four bells and their infrastructure and establishing a wildflower area in the south-west sector of the churchyard.

The ten allotments in the "Clerk's Garden" adjoining Jossenbloc at the western end of East Langdon are managed by the church. Despite the challenges caused by a very grassy season, the gardeners have produced a varied and colourful selection of vegetables, fruit and flowers. It has been rewarding to see the success of these allotments which were re-established in 2015.

St Augustine's Church has been on this site for 10 centuries and it is for the benefit and use of all in the Langdons and that is why it is looked after. If, by chance, over the next 5 years we have a need to seek financial help to do what is necessary to preserve and enhance this church facility, we hope that you will be able to support such fund-raising activities. It is your church.

Anthony Hyde – Church Warden

Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop

Saturday 4th December 2.30-4.30pm
East Langdon Parish Hall.

All materials &
equipment provided.

Welcome drink and
mince pies!

£25 booking essential

Call Elaine Janaway for
details on 07429 360094



Congratulations to Hazel Gallagher and friends who held a Charity Quiz Night on the 16th October to raise for Heart UK. By all accounts it was a fun evening which raised £416 towards Cholesterol reduction and support.



Do you have Calligraphy Skills?

The church register of past vicars at St Augustine's needs updating.
Please contact Anthony Hyde on
07850 337124 if you can help.

Activities at the Parish Hall

Dog Training Classes

Contact Denise Coyle
07582 508843

Yoga Classes

Contact Charlotte Burnap
07984 508413

Sewing Group

Contact Nikki Poulton
1npoulton@gmail.com

Coffee Morning Club

Tuesdays 10 until 11.30am

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Church Farm Mews Pond at East Langdon.

Local residents have expressed concern about the demise of the pond and how it might be restored. Bernard Griffiths, chairman of the Mews residents group, explains: "As all are aware, the pond has drastically changed over the recent past years and has now transformed into more of a 'wetland' area as opposed to an ornamental pond. There are multiple reasons for this, there appears to be damage to the liner to the pond, there has been a very large influx of silt material from the gully in Church Lane and this silt appears to have included possible fertilisers from the neighbouring fields further up in Waldershare Lane, although this is unconfirmed. The end result has

been that the pond area now ebbs and flows with rainfall and has had a major proliferation of plant growth.

The area is owned by the Church Farm Mews Management Company, in essence the residents of Church Farm Mews. Over the past 18 months efforts have been made to address the issue, initially with a view to returning the area to a full pond again. This has involved multiple contacts with KCC and Highways, resulting in the exploratory 'dig' undertaken last year, after which they stated that they would be taking no further action as it was not their responsibility. Under the Highways Act there is right to discharge surface water from the road into inland or tidal waters. Independent pond contractors have also been consulted on the restoration of the pond. This resulted in an assessment that the cost to remove the current silt and plant life, removal of the damaged liner, replacement with a new liner and making good would cost in the region of £100k."

Langdon Parish Council has been involved in exploring ways of re-instating the pond as it is considered to be a significant wildlife amenity and community asset within the conservation area of East Langdon. (editor).

LOCAL CONTACTS AND SERVICES

PUBLIC DEFIBRILLATORS

Martin Mill: The Reception Office, Hawthorn Farm Holiday Park, Station Road, **CT15 5LA.**
what3words ///headings.spearhead.trickle

East Langdon: East Langdon Parish Hall, The Street, **CT15 5JF.**
what3words ///profited.teach.degree



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

This Newsletter is usually published by the parish council four times a year and distributed free to all Langdon households.

To contribute an article or help deliver, please email the editor 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

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

Coffee morning: Tuesdays 10 - 11.30am in the parish hall

Milk delivery: Dairy Crest 0845 606 3606

Community Warden: Steve Noddings 07977 982184

PCSO :- River Jarvis Call 101

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

Vicar: Rev Karen Reeves: 01304 853962

East Langdon Parish Hall: 01304 852097

Langdon Playing Field: langdonpfa@gmail.com

The Lantern Inn, Martin: 01304 852276

Grapevine Café & Shop, MM Campsite: 01304 853001

Langdon Primary School: 01304 852600

Dover Health Centre: 01304 865500

Parish Council Meetings

Usually every 3rd Monday of the month

November 15th - 7.30pm

December 13th - 7.30pm

January 17th - 7.30pm

in East Langdon Parish Hall

Please check public noticeboards or
www.langdonpc.org.uk for details

PARISH CLERK

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

Email: clerk@langdonpc.org.uk Chairman: chair@langdonpc.org.uk Langdon PC Website: www.langdonpc.org.uk