



Longstanton & District Heritage Society

Protecting and Promoting
the Heritage of
Longstanton & District

NEWSLETTER

No. 15 September 2022

Northstowe and Longstanton Heritage Facility

At the time of writing, work on the delivery of the Heritage Facility continues and it is anticipated that the building will open to the public this autumn. LDHS had hoped that the opening of the facility could coincide with 7 Squadron's Memorial Service at All Saints' church, Longstanton, on the weekend of 8/9th October, but we are currently not sure that this will be possible. Prior to opening, the LDHS Archives will hopefully move to a storeroom within the building, but this will be subject to the necessary agreements being put in place with the County Council. Whilst Homes England has made a commitment to the display and storage of the LDHS Archives in the Phase 2 Section 106 agreement, implementation of this agreement cannot put at risk the independence of LDHS or ownership of our archives. We acknowledge that some residents of Longstanton are concerned that the LDHS Archives may be sited within Northstowe, hence we are only prepared to make this move if the Heritage Facility is truly a joint partnership between Longstanton and Northstowe communities, both now and in the future, and LDHS can remain independent within it.



*Artist's impression of the Heritage Facility which will be built on the former RAF Oakington site, adjacent to the Homes England offices.
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LDHS Archives

During this last year, the Heritage Society has begun work on cataloguing the archives and we have been well supported by both the County Council Museums Officer and Longstanton Parish Council. Communications with Northstowe Town Council members and the Town Clerk have strengthened, which has helped develop a good working relationship with both communities. Considerable work has been undertaken to supply material for exhibition in the new building, and we thank local private collectors who have supported LDHS with this. New photographs and information have been added to the collection this year, and we continue to archive the Northstowe News magazines on behalf of the new town. It is worth reiterating that the Heritage Society aims to protect and promote the rural, social and military heritage of Longstanton, Northstowe and Oakington and Westwick and this joint remit is allowing significant progress to be made towards an integrated approach to our heritage.

LDHS Supports

Northstowe Celebrations



LDHS welcomed the opportunity to help Northstowe celebrate two important events held this May and June. May saw events to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the first Northstowe residents moving into Phase 1, and June saw both Northstowe and Longstanton residents celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Expertly hosted by members of The Wing and Northstowe Town Council, the two events were a wonderful opportunity to meet residents from both communities and chat through those aspects of heritage that they were interested in. Whilst some visitors were interested in the military heritage of our communities, many others were interested in the history of Longstanton and what the village looked like before Northstowe was built. The feedback to the Heritage Society's contribution to both these events was excellent, and illustrates how LDHS can make an important contribution to both the new Heritage Facility and community life for Northstowe and the surrounding villages.



Above: Northstowe Working Group, the Clerk of Longstanton Parish Council and others celebrate the first residents moving into Northstowe (May 2017)

Below: LDHS exhibition at The Wing, Pathfinder School, Northstowe to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II



Northstowe Celebrates the 5th Anniversary of Residents Moving into the New Town.

In May 2017, residents moved into the first houses on Northstowe Phase 1. LDHS has been committed not just to recording the ancient past of Longstanton, but to ensuring that the birth of Northstowe is documented also. This means the LDHS Archives have photographs depicting these first residents moving in. Here are some photos from the official celebrations held in 2017.



Heritage Stakeholder Group

This group has expanded from the original Heritage Steering Group to include a wider range of interested parties, including representatives from Longstanton Parish Council and Northstowe Town Council. This group has continued to meet remotely over the last year with new Terms of Reference having been drawn up. LDHS is pleased to see that many of our Objects are being supported by this wider group of organisations which, in addition to LDHS, includes representatives from the County Council, SCDC, Homes England, Longstanton Parish Council and Northstowe Town Council. LDHS is also pleased to see that the new Terms of Reference allows for wider participation in the future, which will enable other parish councils to join if they wish to do so. LDHS is resolved to work supportively with this group and CCC who will be managing the Heritage Facility. However all parties within the Heritage Stakeholder Group will need to understand and support LDHS's position as an independent community organisation and our need to make our own decisions on management of both the Society and the LDHS Archives.

AGM 2022

The AGM will take place in person at the Village Institute, High Street Longstanton on 15th September at 7.30pm. The meeting will be followed shortly afterwards by a talk on *The 1947 Floods* by Selwyn Richardson. Whilst LDHS members alone may vote on AGM business, non-members are encouraged to attend the talk. The Society offers a fantastic opportunity for cross-community socialisation and we look forward to welcoming local residents to this event. There is a £ 3 charge per person for non-members to help the Society cover the costs of the evening. This will be the first talk organised by LDHS since the start of the pandemic in 2020, and we hope that local residents from Longstanton, Northstowe and surrounding villages will be able to attend. If we are going to consider reinstating our talks programme next year it is important that these talks and our guest speakers are well supported.

The Year Ahead

All being well the new Heritage Facility will open on the former site of RAF Oakington and heritage will be firmly placed at the heart of both Northstowe and Longstanton communities. The Society welcomes the new opportunities that this facility will provide and looks forward to working with our local councils and others to ensure that it is a great success. After spending 15 + years campaigning for a heritage building for Northstowe and the surrounding villages, this moment marks a new chapter in the Society's history. Looking forward, we may need to consider making changes to the Heritage Society and its management so we can maximise the benefits of having this community Heritage Facility and to secure a long-term future for both the Society and the LDHS Archives.

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Many thanks to all our members - your membership is our mandate and every single member is invaluable. Remember, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you have any queries, would like any information or would like to contribute memories, photographs etc. Contact details are above.