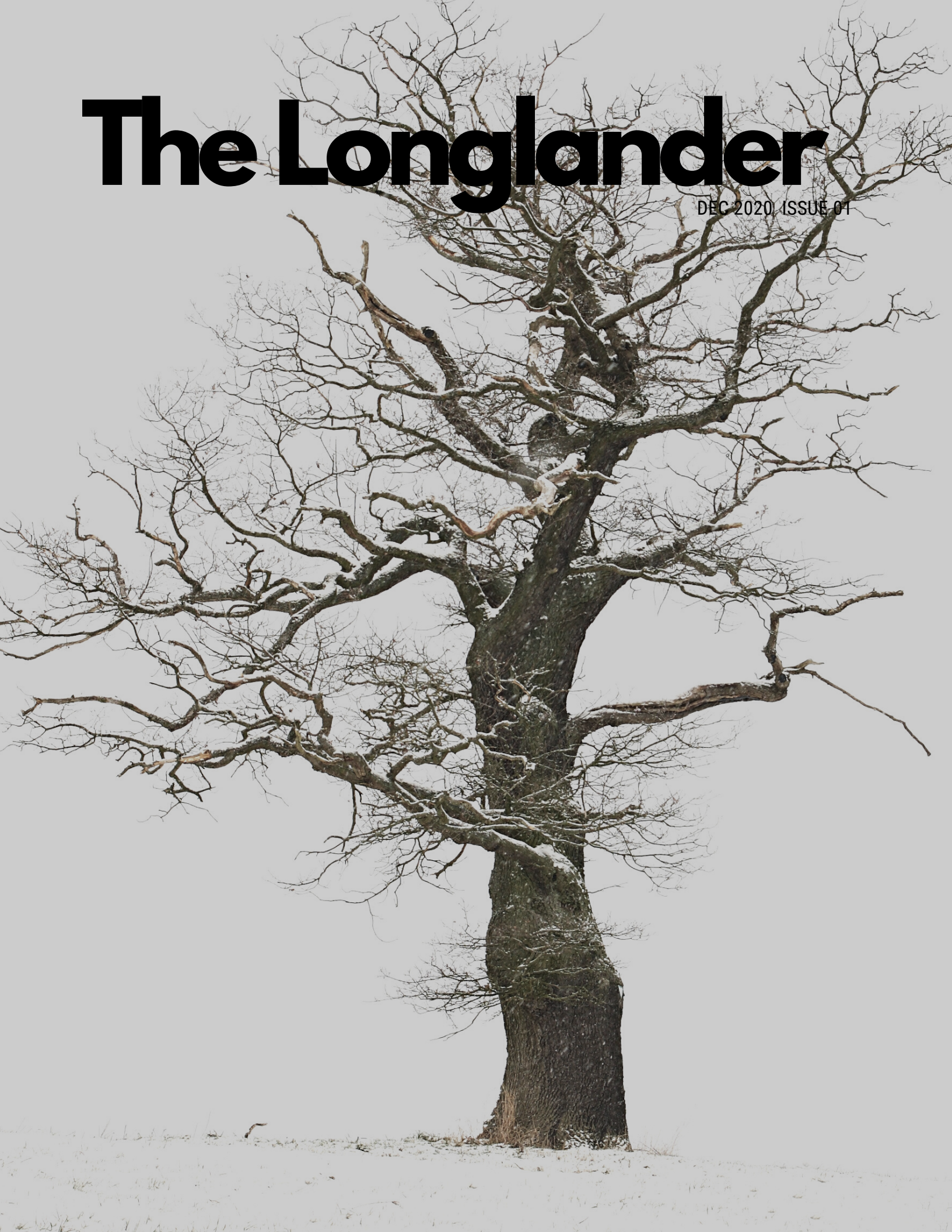


The Longlander

DEC 2020 ISSUE 01



Welcome



Photo: Gary Lawson

As 2020 begins to draw to a close, it is safe to say it has been a year like no other. We have faced challenges of which the effects will be felt for years to come. Despite all the doom and gloom, there has been one constantly shining beacon of light to help us through this tough time. Nature. It has provided us with hope and helped divert our minds away from the pandemic whilst giving the world a renewed enthusiasm for it and its protection. Our planet needs us now more than ever.

It has also been an exciting time and this year has seen you, the fantastic local (and further afield!) community pull together and raise the huge sum of money needed to buy the piece of land that will form the common. In total there are approximately 3000 of you! We've decided to create a quarterly newsletter to keep you all updated on the progress of work plus pages that will educate and entertain you. This, our first issue, is short and sweet and is full of our sincere thanks for all your efforts. We look forward to seeing you in the Spring when work begins!

Artemis Swann, Editor



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A big thank you.

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Long Lands Common Goes Ahead



You Did It!!

There aren't enough thank-yous to express the feeling of gratitude here at Long Lands Common HQ! We want you all to know that during what has been a very tough year for everyone, you, our Long Lands community, turned on the light. You couldn't be sending a clearer message about what is important in life.

With so much of our local green space being lost or threatened and the pretty bleak picture nationally and indeed globally for biodiversity decline, it has been easy to feel angry and helpless. But you believed in Long Lands Common from the start and what can be achieved if we all join forces together to say enough is enough. A community of like-minded people from our district and in other parts of the UK and even internationally, united because we care and we want to make a difference.

You answered the call to action in so many ways and each contribution is important to the common, valued and will never be taken for granted. Whether you've: bought shares; made a donation; become a school, charity or community group partner; volunteered your time and championed the common, we thank you so very much.

It has been an honour for us to share personal stories shared with us about why you wanted to help make Long Lands a reality. The stories and words of encouragement that we have received have lifted us up and kept us focused. What we love most is that Long Lands is about all ages working side by side together towards a very special legacy. The journey has only just begun and we all have so much to look forward to.

Have a lovely Christmas!

The Long Lands Common team

Announcements

Share Purchase Deadline

We have reached our extended target of £375,000 and the share offer is now closed. You are most welcome to continue sending in donations though!

The extra funding will be used for infrastructure projects to make Long Lands Common a publicly accessible green space with the construction of an access ramp, a new entrance to the site from the Nidderdale Greenway, footpaths, ponds and the building of a composting toilet.

We understand you will be excited to see Long Lands Common, but please DO NOT go on site until further notice as currently, the land is still private property until the purchase goes through. We hope to hold (socially distanced) open days in the Spring. This will be the first opportunity to go on site.



Illustration: James McKay

Certificates

We have now started to send out your share certificates. If you are waiting for a certificate please bear with us as this is a monumental task!

We are a small organization, especially our administration team and are all volunteers fitting everything in around our 'other' lives!.

Please note that gift and children's certificates are being issued first. It is likely that individuals' share certificates will be delivered in late January or early February

If you have a query about your certificate then please email info@longlandscommon.org



Illustration: James McKay

Timeline

For 2021

(subject to change through COVID-19 guidelines)



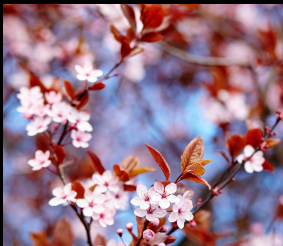
DECEMBER 2020

- Share offer now closed



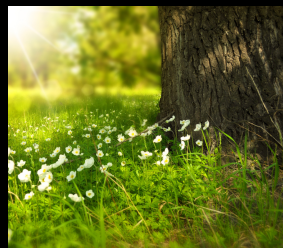
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

- Board members' planning meetings; advice from experts on infrastructure
- Land purchase takes place (total time is unclear as relevant authorities are currently disrupted by COVID)
- Certificates for individuals and organisations sent out



MARCH 2021

- Open day at a community centre and site tour – to consult shareholders including a ceremonial tree planting
- Consultations with schools/colleges and charity partners take place



SUMMER 2021

- Installation of: critical fencing (to secure site), critical pathways, temporary access points where necessary



AUTUMN 2021

- Some limited tree planting begins in parts of the site with volunteers

Volunteer Heroes



Our December Long Lands Common Champion!

Meet Paul Milling

Paul travelled from York every day to deliver leaflets door to door for a couple of weeks during our successful leaflet drop campaign. He reckons his average was 400 leaflets a day, so we estimate he delivered about 10% of our 48000 total. Even his car breaking down didn't deter him!

Paul tells us that: "The Long Lands Common project is a fantastic local initiative which I want to support even though I live in York. Long Lands Common is a group who are raising every penny themselves and I wanted to do whatever I could to help it become a reality."

Paul, who is retired, has charity close to his heart and recently travelled to Gaza in a convoy delivering aid for Christmas. He is now looking forward to getting involved with planting and general assistance when we have purchased the land and the mammoth transformation begins.

The board of Long Lands Common would like to thank Paul for his selfless efforts and are proud to announce that he is a Long Lands Common Champion.

If you think you could help with our amazing project please get in touch. All help is gratefully received.

We Want You!



Volunteering Opportunities

Spring will soon be here and that means work will be starting on the Long Lands Common site! If you have a few spare hours you'd like to put to good use please visit www.longlandscommon.org/volunteer and fill out the form!

Newsletter Contributions

We'd also like your letters, jokes, photos and recipes to include in the quarterly newsletter. Please send these to - thelonglander@yahoo.com