

NORTHSTOWE

News

ISSUE 43

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2026

By Northstowe's Community – For Northstowe's Community



NEWS AND UPDATES

EDITORS' WELCOME

Welcome once again to another issue of the Northstowe News! We're heading towards the end of winter, and it may still be cold and icy outside. Please don't be tempted to walk on the lakes if they're frozen over! But maybe a cold snap could be a good reminder to look out for your neighbours, especially older people or those with mobility issues. A quick check in, or an offer to clear snow from a stretch of path, could make all the difference in getting through the daily routine without the weather being a disruption.

Meanwhile, we're really excited about the things that are coming soon to Northstowe. Look through the pages to find out more!

WANT TO ADVERTISE IN NORTHSTOWE NEWS?

Over 1900 copies of each issue are delivered, a free magazine to every residence in Northstowe. If you want your business to be included, contact janetpendrill@gmail.com for more details.
Annual discount rates are available.

Advertising Rates Per Insert (six issues annual discounted rate)

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Eighth Page 95 mm x 64 mm (L)	£20 (£108)	£26 (£140)
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Full Page Prime Position 216mm x 303mm (P)	N/A	£270 (£1460)

Northstowe News is produced right here in Northstowe by a small group of volunteer residents. We're always looking for regular or one-off articles, photos, artwork, event reports, notices, and anything else that may be of interest to the community. If you would like to write in the magazine please email northstovenews@gmail.com with your questions, ideas and contributions.

The submission deadline for the April / May issue is **March 1st**.

Views expressed in contributed articles are solely those of their author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Northstowe News editors.

HOUSEHOLD BIN COLLECTIONS

Friday 6 th February	Black Bin
Friday 13 th February	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 20 th February	Black Bin
Friday 27 th February	Blue Bin
Friday 6 th March	Black Bin
Friday 13 th March	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 20 th March	Black Bin
Friday 27 th March	Blue and Green Bins



Report Missed bins at:
<https://www.scamps.gov.uk/bins/report-a-missed-collection/>

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The Northstowe News editors are warmly grateful to the community groups and other organisations who have made donations towards our printing and distribution costs.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS



Mihaela Stan and Michele Eidevik-Skinner

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUMS

The next Forum will be on Wednesday 4 February at Western Park Pavilion starting with a drop-in at 6:00pm and presentations at 6:30pm. Agendas are usually advertised the week before and questions can be asked during the evening by attendees as well as submitted in advance to northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk. The meeting will be broadcasted live on Microsoft Teams. The link will be available on the forum page nearer the time Northstowe Community Forum - South Cambs District Council

NORTHSTOWE OVER 60S GROUP, 'COME AND SAY HELLO'

For anyone 60 or over. The group meets every couple of weeks on a Thursday morning in the Café area at The Cabin. It is open to residents from Northstowe, the surrounding villages and anyone interested in finding out more about the area. The next dates are: Thursday 12 and 26 February, and Thursday 12 and 26 March, these dates will also be advertised on community noticeboards and Northstowe Facebook pages.

YOUNG PARENTS GROUP

This is a new group for parents aged 25 and under with children aged 0-5 years. They meet every Monday at The Cabin in Northstowe from 1pm - 2:30pm. It is free to attend, no booking required. For more information, email: childandfamilycentre.south@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

COGNITIVE TRAINING FOR THE ELDERLY

Drop-in sessions for elderly focused on preventing cognitive geriatric illnesses with a local volunteer who has experience in cognitive training. Sessions are held every Tuesday 10-11am in the café area at The Cabin.

MENOPAUSE MEETINGS

The meetings are free and take place monthly on a Wednesday evening. Future meetings will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community noticeboards. Please contact Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing Group if you would like to help run the group or have any questions about attending hello@northstoweswgroup.co.uk

NORTHSTOWE PLAYERS

This drama group meet every Thursday at The Cabin from 7pm - 9pm. Please get in touch if you'd like to join the group. Email: northstoweplayers@mail.com

HALLMASTER

All room bookings for The Cabin are made through Hallmaster, if you would like to see room availability, size and capacity or make a booking please go to: The Cabin - South Cambs District Council (scambs.gov.uk). We are currently taking bookings up to the end of February 2026.

Bookings from March onwards need to be directed to bookings@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk All the relevant information can be seen at

https://www.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk/Unity_Centre_52254.aspx

If you would like to talk to a CDOs, get involved in any projects or activities, or help with other volunteering opportunities please contact us on northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

IAN SOLLOW MP



Member of Parliament for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

Happy New Year to all residents of Northstowe - I hope you had a joyful festive period. As I write this during the final week of parliamentary business before Christmas Recess, I am certainly looking forward to making the most of the short break to get out and about across the constituency.

CHANGES TO INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN – HONG KONG COMMUNITY

Before Christmas, I was pleased to attend one of the regular 'UK Welcomes Refugees' event in St Neots, which brought together people from Hong Kong, as well as other refugee communities who have made the constituency their home. They shared with me their stories of arriving in the UK and how they have integrated into the community, as well as their concerns regarding changes to ILR and the challenges of navigating the complex immigration system.



I know many residents, especially those here on British National (Overseas) (BNO) visas are concerned about how the Government's changes to Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) may affect them.

My Liberal Democrat colleagues and I are committed to representing those who are affected by these changes, and my office remains available to assist those with queries about visa applications.

GET IN TOUCH

I continue to hold both in-person and online surgeries to speak directly to constituents about their issues. If you feel you have a problem I could help with, or you have a policy matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at ian.sollow.mp@parliament.uk

I also send out a regular email newsletter with updates on my work, which you can sign up to at www.iansollow.org/emails.

NHBC TRAINING HUB

£100m construction skills drive lands in Northstowe, with new NHBC Training Hub to train 200 apprentices a year

NHBC multi-skill training hub to tackle regional skills shortage and fast-track quality local talent into housebuilding is welcomed by Minister for Skills



An artist's impression of an example of a new NHBC Training Hub. © NHBC

Planning has been approved for a new multi-skill apprenticeship training hub in the town of Northstowe in Cambridgeshire, which will supercharge house-building training and help tackle the construction skills shortage head-on.

The NHBC Training Hub, Northstowe, is part of a planned UK-wide network of 12 facilities backed by a £100 million investment from the National House Building Council (NHBC), the UK's leading provider of new home warranties and insurance. Together, the hubs will train 3,000 new apprentices every year in the most needed trades, with the multi-skill hub at Northstowe set to train 200 per year.

The new facility will be delivered in partnership and built by top 10 housebuilder Keepmoat, with land and support provided by Homes England, the Government's housing and regeneration agency.

Located on Rampton Road, the hub forms a vital part of NHBC's commitment to developing a high-quality, skilled construction workforce to support UK housebuilders in meeting the Government's target of delivering 1.5 million new homes this Parliament. The initiative comes at a critical time, with industry forecasts indicating the UK construction industry needs to recruit an extra 251,500 workers by 2028 to meet demand.

Expected to open in early 2026, the NHBC Training Hub, Northstowe, will be two-thirds the size of a football pitch. It will deliver skilled, site-ready tradespeople at pace and scale, providing a significant workforce boost to support housebuilding across the region.

Initially, the NHBC multi-skill training hub will focus on delivering apprenticeships in essential trades including

bricklaying, groundworks and site carpentry. These will make up around 80% of its use. The remaining capacity will support a range of related activities, including upskilling the existing house-building workforce, traineeships, skills bootcamps, specialist trade masterclasses and sessions for career changers, specialist groups and school students. These activities will showcase the wide-ranging opportunities within the housebuilding sector. The facility is designed to be flexible and responsive to local needs and evolving regulatory requirements, ensuring a consistent flow of qualified tradespeople needed to build high quality homes in the area.

NHBC's innovative training model means 200 new apprentices each year from diverse backgrounds will benefit from immersive, hands-on learning in real site conditions from day one at the NHBC Training Hub, Northstowe.

Results from NHBC's existing training hubs show apprentices are completing this industry-leading and tailored training in as little as 14 months, with many achieving distinctions. That's nearly twice as fast as traditional education routes, which can take up to 30 months.



Apprentices working at an existing, smaller NHBC Training Hub in Cambridge, which is training the next generation of skilled housebuilders in just 14 to 18 months.

Commenting on NHBC's Training Hubs, Jacqui Smith, Minister for Skills, said: "This government is committed to creating opportunities for people across the country to access well-paid jobs in vital sectors like construction and NHBC's excellent new training hubs are helping to deliver exactly that."

"Their innovative model will prepare apprentices at the pace and scale we need to tackle the construction skills shortage and deliver our ambitious target of 1.5 million new homes this Parliament.

"These hubs will equip local people with high-quality skills and rewarding careers, whilst building the communities of the future and supporting our economic growth mission."

Commenting on the approval of the new NHBC Training Hub, Northstowe, Roger Morton, Director of Business Change at NHBC, said: “We’re not just training apprentices, we’re raising the standard for the whole house-building industry. Our new NHBC multi-skill hub at Northstowe, along with our 11 others planned across the UK, will deliver quality training at scale in a way the industry has never seen before. Apprentices learn in real-site conditions from day one, gaining hands-on experience in the same conditions they’ll face in the job. It means faster progress, stronger results and most importantly, skilled, site-ready tradespeople.

"The industry is under real pressure to build more homes, build them well and find the skilled people to do it. That's why the Chancellor's recent Budget announcement is so significant. Although we await the full details, making apprenticeship training free for under-25s taken on by small and medium-sized builders removes one of the biggest barriers to hiring new talent. Cost, time and uncertainty have held many builders back and now those barriers could be about to come down.

"Combined with NHBC's £100 million investment in 12 multi-skill hubs across the UK, training 3,000 new apprentices every year, this is a huge opportunity for smaller builders who are the backbone of our industry. With free training and access to NHBC's real-site hubs, where apprentices reach top industry standards in as little as 14 to 18 months, builders can take on new recruits with confidence. Together, we can tackle the skills shortage and deliver the homes the UK urgently needs."

Alison Crofton, Chief Property Officer at Homes England, added:

"As the government's housing and regeneration Agency, supporting NHBC's multi-skill training hubs takes us a step closer to delivering on the government's mission to build 1.5 million homes this parliament. The hubs are a brilliant opportunity to bridge the gap between construction skills development and housing delivery, bringing much-needed new talent into the industry at a pivotal time for housebuilding.



"As we continue to deliver phases two and three of Northstowe, the NHBC Training Hub will fast-track hundreds of apprentices into high-quality, site-ready roles, enabling meaningful training for local people and supporting a skilled workforce that can continue to build the future of Cambridgeshire.

"We're proud to provide the land and support NHBC and Keepmoat on the programme, which will not only accelerate progress at Northstowe, but also set a benchmark for large-scale, sustainable communities across the country."

Tim Wray, Group Land and Partnerships Director at Keepmoat, added: "We're thrilled to be working closely in partnership with the NHBC and Homes England to deliver this multi-skills accelerated apprenticeship hub at Northstowe.

"At Keepmoat, we're committed to building communities and transforming lives. Working with NHBC on initiatives such as this is critical to ensure the future workforce is equipped with the required skills, knowledge and experience to deliver high quality, affordable homes and sustainable communities.

"The initiative will also work to attract and nurture new talent into the sector, addressing the skills shortage and increasing awareness of the rewarding career opportunities available in construction."

NHBC is the UK's largest independent provider of warranty and insurance for new homes. Our purpose is to build confidence in the construction quality of new homes by assessing, inspecting and directly insuring new homes registered with us. We are a non-profit distributing organisation with no shareholders. NHBC is also a leading training provider for the house-building industry. Our training is shaping and growing the future workforce. Discover more about our training programmes at nhbc.co.uk



Expert trainers at the new NHBC Training Hub, Northstowe, will ensure apprentices meet NHBC's industry-leading standards, drive quality and help deliver the homes the UK urgently needs.

NEXT STEPS FOR NORTHSTOWE FAITH LAND USE



Photo by SCDC

Northstowe residents will soon be able to comment on bids that have been made for land reserved for use by faith or community groups.

A bidding window – which was launched by South Cambridgeshire District Council in January 2025 – closed on Friday 23 January 2026.

It is the first of four opportunities at Northstowe for faith or community groups to secure land for their own facility. In future, there will be further land or floorspace within the town centre on phase 2 available, plus two more opportunities within phase 3.

The 0.25-hectare plot which is the current focus is located off Stirling Road – between the Taylor Wimpey and Urban Splash developments and next to Bug Hunter Waters. This was allocated under part of the planning agreements for phase one of Northstowe. Where space for worship is provided in any new building – there should also be community areas accessible to all, including other faith groups.

As part of the process, applicants were required to outline their plans for the land, including proposed facilities, services for their group and the wider community, evidence of demand, and the benefits their project would bring. They also needed to demonstrate that their proposals suit the site and that they have the capacity and financial resources to deliver them.

Support with the application process was available from District Council officers – both before and throughout the entire year-long bidding window.

Now the 23 January 2026 deadline has passed, bids are being assessed against the detailed assessment criteria which has been available for bidders to review for the past year. The District Council's Allocation Policy for the distribution of faith/ community land in the new community of Northstowe was agreed at a Cabinet meeting in March 2020.

A summary of proposals and assessments will shortly be published for the public to comment on. Those comments will be considered as part of the decision-making process.

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet will review all the information before making a decision on awarding the land at their June 2026 meeting. Following this, consent for the disposal will be requested from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. This is a process the Council must follow in this instance to offer a long lease on the land at a peppercorn rent.

The land, currently owned by Northstowe phase one developers Urban&Civic, will transfer to the Council, which intends to grant a 999-year leasehold to the chosen group. The successful bidder will commit to meet agreed policies and their project milestones. Delivering in line with these will be a condition of the winning bid.



Aerial photography by Skytech Cambridge

Cllr Henry Batchelor, South Cambridgeshire District Council's Lead Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity to create a space that serves both faith and community groups and the wider community. We've designed the process to be open and transparent, with clear criteria and public input, so everyone can have confidence in how decisions are made. Support with the application has been available from our officers throughout the past year – and indeed before the process got underway. These new facilities will play a vital role in bringing people together, fostering connections, and supporting a thriving, inclusive community."

One of Northstowe's District Councillors, Cllr Tom Bygott, commented: "Places of worship and faith-led community facilities have long played a vital role in the public life of towns, providing spaces not only for worship, but for service, fellowship and civic cohesion. As Northstowe continues to grow, the availability of dedicated faith and community land is an important

step in its maturation into a fully rounded town, alongside shops, schools and other essential facilities."

Fellow District Councillor for Northstowe, Cllr Natalie Warren-Green, added: "Representatives from Northstowe-based Faith Groups have told me over the last year how excited they are about bidding for the faith and community land. I'm looking forward to hearing more about the proposals as I know residents are too. The team at the District Council will use a resilient process for assessing bids and will be able to share more about the proposals in due course."

The District Council will ensure that Northstowe residents are informed as soon as they are able to have their say during the engagement work. The easiest way to stay up to date is to ensure that you are following South Cambridgeshire District Council's social media channels. You can also find out more about the process on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website at www.scamps.gov.uk/northstowe-faith-and-community-land

HOMES ENGLAND

NORTHSTOWE 2025: PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

2025 has been a big year for Northstowe. Together, partners, residents and local organisations have made real progress across new homes, community spaces, education, and skills.

As Northstowe continues to grow, residents are increasingly shaping everyday life, helping to create a connected, supportive and active community. These milestones reflect a genuine shared effort across Northstowe - proof that it takes a community to build a town.

Here's a look back at some of the year's highlights ...

NEW HOMES AND GROWTH FROM ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN NORTHSTOWE'S DEVELOPMENT

With 1,660 homes now lived in across the town and Stirling Fields half complete, Northstowe continues to grow as a new community. This development in Stirling Fields was shortlisted for the Housing Design Awards 2025. Site preparation works at the Eastern Sports Hub by Homes England and finishing works by Urban&Civic are helping create safer routes, greener spaces, play areas, and support Northstowe in becoming a healthy, active and growing community.

1660 homes

occupied, with
Stirling Fields over
50% complete

New Community
Café at **Northstowe Secondary College**



Construction of the **Northstowe Unity Centre and Eastern Sports Hub** are making excellent progress.



NHBC construction skills training hub plans approved to create 2000 apprenticeships over 10 years

Northstowe Running Festival successfully celebrated its 5th birthday, and the first junior parkrun was held



Northstowe Learning Community named Best Education Project in Regional Property Awards – 1st place



Sixth form, nursery, and 2nd primary school open

TOWN submit plans for a **first-of-a-kind co-housing development** on Phase Two

Temporary Commercial Activation Space plans revealed



Homes England supported the **Northstowe Holi Mela**, the **Midsummer Festival 2025**, and the **Northstowe Open Art Exhibition** with £16,376 Community Activation Fund (CAF)



New Airfield Marker Memorial unveiled at former **Oakington Barracks**

Here's a snapshot of the milestones in 2025.

Be part of an innovative, international community in a green, healthy, new town.

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SME-developer TOWN and Hill Group also submitted plans for a first-of-a-kind cohousing development on Phase Two for 145 new homes, with 40% of them proposed as affordable. The plans include homes for Market Sale alongside two side-by-side cohousing communities where residents have their own front doors but share gardens and community spaces for cooking and eating together, creating a strong sense of community from the start.

SPACES TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Kier started construction on the Northstowe Unity Centre, the new permanent community building on The Green. It'll include a large hall, flexible rooms, shared workspace and a welcoming café area. Managed by Northstowe's Town Council, the Unity Centre will give residents more places to meet and spend time together as the town continues to grow.

Homes England's plans were approved for a Temporary Commercial Activation Space, which will provide space for local traders and small businesses while the permanent town centre is being planned. This early activity will provide more reasons for residents to connect.

NORTHSTOWE

A new Community Café also opened at Northstowe Secondary College this year. Initially operated by Northstowe Hub a couple of evenings a week, it has already become a friendly and well-used spot for students, families and neighbours.

Construction work on Northstowe's first permanent commercial unit is nearing completion on Phase Two. It will be a great addition to the growing community when Keepmoat hand it over to South Cambridgeshire District Council, and it is leased to an operator in 2026. Together, these new facilities are helping build a stronger network of shared spaces and are supporting the town as it moves from creating its first buildings towards growing a thriving and active community.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY LIFE AND LOCAL PROJECTS

Community life continued to grow in 2025, supported by Homes England's Community Activation Fund (CAF), which provided £16,819.15 to local groups and projects. Homes England funding helped organisations run activities, such as "Mingle & Make" and the Open Art Exhibition, that bring people together to be creative and strengthen the sense of belonging in Northstowe.

Homes England's contribution helped both The Midsummer Festival and Holi Mela, come to life, and these events once again drew strong crowds and showed how much the community enjoys gathering to celebrate music, food and local traditions. The Midsummer Festival has become a popular highlight of the town's calendar and continues to reflect the energy and diversity of Northstowe, as it grows.

This year, Northstowe Running Festival went from strength to strength and celebrated its 5th birthday sponsored by Keepmoat Homes. In addition to the established adult park run, 61 young runners joined in on Northstowe's first junior parkrun and enjoyed the chance to be active in the town's open spaces. These events help bring neighbours together and develop a healthy, active and fun lifestyle for Northstowe's residents.

EDUCATION, SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AGES

Education continued to be a key focus in Northstowe this year. The Northstowe Learning Community was named Best Education Project in the Regional Property Awards. The award recognised the work of teachers, students and project partners in creating a strong and ambitious learning environment.

NHBC & Keepmoat's plans were approved for a new multi-skill construction training hub that will offer hands-on training, apprenticeships and routes into construction careers for people of all ages over a ten-year period. The land was provided by Homes England, and overall, this investment supports Northstowe's ambition to grow where people can learn, work and build their futures.

With a second primary school, nursery and sixth form opening this year, learning opportunities in Northstowe now span early years, primary, secondary, sixth form, apprenticeships and adult skills.

HONOURING HERITAGE AND IDENTITY

A new Airfield Marker Memorial was unveiled at the former Oakington Barracks, which played an important role during the Second World War. Created with The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust and the support of community groups, the memorial was revealed at a well-attended ceremony, bringing residents and veterans together. It offers a place for quiet reflection and honours the aircrews who trained and served there, helping keep this history alive as Northstowe continues to grow.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Plans for new homes and facilities will move forward in the year ahead. In January, the brand new Northstowe Sports Centre Gym will open its doors at the Secondary College. Keepmoat Homes has already shared plans for 400 homes, including affordable homes and allotments/green spaces on Phase 2C. The Unity Centre is nearing opening, a new cycleway now connects Phase One and Phase Two, and the BMX pump track build will be complete.

Local groups will continue to thrive using the CAF and Northstowe traditions, like the Midsummer Festival, Light Up Northstowe and Northstowe Running Festival are set to return next year. The future looks bright for Northstowe as we move into 2026. This progress is thanks to the residents and partners who help shape the town every day.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of Northstowe's journey so far, and we wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Hungry?

How to get help:



We know that anyone can reach crisis point and we're here to help when that happens. Foodbank vouchers can be exchanged for a parcel of three days of emergency food, providing non-judgemental support at the point of crisis.

Vouchers are available from local agencies such as citizens advice, schools, and churches. Vouchers can be redeemed at Distribution Centres across Cambridge: there is always one open every day Monday-Friday. This includes the Northstowe Welcome centre in the Northstowe Community Centre: The Cabin

Looking to donate?

The nearest collection point is at Bar Hill Tesco (for in store shoppers), or you can arrange to go to the Warehouse in town, or give financially. See cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

Want to volunteer?

We've a friendly local team, who are looking for more volunteers. Get in touch via

cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk



Like other agencies, Revd Beth of Northstowe Church Network (Pathfinder Church, Little Explorers, Compline) can give vouchers during office hours : 01954 261 181 contact@northstowe.church

FESTIVE WISHES FROM OWLS

OWLS Community Car Scheme coordinators and drivers would like to wish all their customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

OWLS has provided almost 1,000 journeys this year to people living in Over, Willingham, Longstanton, Swavesey who need to attend medical appointments or make other necessary journeys, but are unable to access other means of transport. A small number of Northstowe residents have also benefitted from the OWLS service.

We urgently need more drivers to meet increasing demand. Are you retired or about to start retirement or perhaps working part-time? Drivers do not have to commit to regular days/times but being able to do one journey a week is really helpful.

Drivers use their own cars and receive 45p a mile in total. A DBS (free) check is required and additional insurance cover is provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

The OWLS mobile is manned by a rota of volunteer coordinators who have the phone for a fortnight at a time. We would also like to have an additional coordinator to help with this.

Can you help maintain this very important Community service?

PLEASE ring the scheme's mobile number: 07505 254363 for an informal chat, without commitment.

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR

As we progress through 2026, Northstowe continues to grow in both size and character.

One of the most significant developments ahead is the progress of the Unity Centre. We are working closely with all partners to ensure it becomes a space that genuinely serves the heart of our community. In the coming months, we will share more detailed plans and timelines. At the time of writing, several vacancies are open as we assemble the team who will manage the Centre. By the time this issue reaches you, preparations for an anticipated Spring opening should be well underway.

The Town Council will also begin work on a strategic plan to guide our priorities for the coming years. I look forward to updating you on this progress in the next issue.

At a Full Council meeting in January, we submitted the Council's formal response to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The comments agreed aim to ensure Northstowe's interests are clearly represented in future plans in the region. At the same time, we continue to regularly push for master developers to complete key roadworks along the town's main routes within the agreed schedule. We also remain active participants in discussions with Greenbelt and South Cambridgeshire District Council on green spaces to ensure effective management.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Carla Wilson, our new Town Clerk. Carla brings substantial experience in local government administration and will play a key role in supporting council operations, strengthening communication with residents, and helping guide Northstowe Town Council through the next stage of its growth.

As always, I encourage every resident to stay engaged, attend council meetings, share ideas, and take part in the initiatives shaping our vibrant town.

For any questions or suggestions, please get in touch.

Cllr Carla Bros Sabrià

Mayor of Northstowe

cllr.brossabria@northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk



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DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLLR. NATALIE WARREN-GREEN



District Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington & Westwick.
SCDC Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you to all the residents and community groups who have been contacting me to help signpost and support in finding district council services that you have needed over the winter months. As we approach spring the needs will change so feel free to be in touch as you need more information or guidance from SCDC officers. I'm hoping you find this information useful give the cases that people have brought to me in the past year:

SCDC PLEDGES £900,000 TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS THROUGH 3-YEAR SERVICE SUPPORT GRANT FUNDING

SCDC has just committed Service Support Grant funding of £300,000 a year to local groups to underpin the delivery of services to support people with their mental health, independent living, advice services, and to help residents through the cost-of-living crisis. SCDC's Service Support Grant funding has almost doubled compared to the previous budget, made possible by prudent management of the council's finances and a recognition of the acute need for these services.

Grant recipients include

- Over Day Centre - £30,000 per year to provide transport and hospital discharge support service for older residents.
- Cambridge and District Citizens Advice - £105,000 per year to provide free, confidential advice services to residents.
- Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre - £10,000 per year to deliver specialist support for survivors of sexual violence.
- Support Cambridgeshire (CCVS) - £20,000 per year to strengthen the voluntary and community sector in the district.
- Hope Against Poverty CIC - £14,400 per year to provide a Wellbeing Programme for people experiencing anxiety, bereavement, or social isolation.

Others receiving funds which I know from my case work will be of interest in our ward include:

For Young People: Blue Smile children's mental health charity; Cambridge Acorn Project supporting children who have experienced trauma; Home-Start home-visiting services; Ormiston Families helping families facing adversity; Turtle Dove to improve mental health, wellbeing, and employment outcomes for young women.

For Older Residents: Care Network Cambridgeshire to help continue and expand support for Community Car Schemes; Sew Positive using sewing to help address mental health challenges, social isolation, or economic inequality; The Voluntary Network helping older residents maintain independence.

For all ages: CamSight helping people of all ages with low vision and blindness; Reach Community Projects supporting families facing poverty as well preventing others from falling into it.

More information, including the full list of grant recipients can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/exbkw6eu>

POSTAL VOTERS

Regardless of whether there is an election in May, for elections in general, if residents previously had a postal vote and wish to continue to have one, they should reapply now if they have not already done so. www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote. If you have any questions or wish to cancel your postal vote, please email elections@scambs.gov.uk

FOOD COLLECTIONS UPDATE

Food Waste Collections, started in some areas of South Cambs in January. We will introduce food collections locally later this year and SCDC will write to all residents in advance with specific information, including the start date. The collection dates will also show on your bin collection calendar.

CLLR. TOM BYGOTT



South Cambridgeshire District Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington and Westwick

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Government has launched a consultation on a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to make it easier for developers to build more houses and more difficult for local communities to object: www.gov.uk/government/news/housing-sec-pledges-to-go-further-than-ever-before-to-hit-15-million-homes

The consultation is being held at:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system.



Major changes include:

- A permanent presumption in favour of "suitably located" development, intended to make development in urban areas acceptable by default.
- A proposed "default yes" approach to new housing around railway stations, both within existing settlements and around so-called "well-connected" stations outside them, including some sites within the Green Belt. Minimum density standards of 40 dwellings per hectare are proposed around all stations, rising to 50 dwellings per hectare around better-connected ones.
- Strong encouragement for urban and suburban densification, including redevelopment of corner plots and other lower-density sites, upward extensions to existing buildings, infill development, and building within residential curtilages (that is, gardens).
- The introduction of a new category of "medium development" for schemes of 10–49 homes, with proportionate requirements intended to support small and medium-sized builders.
- Exemptions from Biodiversity Net Gain requirements for developments up to 0.2 hectares, alongside further proposed simplifications for small and medium sites. Additional exemptions for some brownfield residential development are also under consideration.
- £8 million of new funding for local planning authorities to speed up post-outline planning stages for major residential developments, targeted at areas with high volumes of deliverable schemes and strong economic growth prospects.

When people are asked their opinions about brownfield development, they are often favourable. However, the name "brownfield" is misleading because it not only includes disused factories but also any previously developed land, even if it is green and full of vegetation. Private houses can become brownfield if they are used for commercial purposes in between, such as a house that becomes an office or a hotel. Historically, residential gardens were treated as brownfield land until this was changed in the 2012 NPPF.

The current consultation does not seek to overturn this definition, but instead creates new mechanisms to enable "garden grabbing" where developers build large numbers of small dwellings on the gardens of existing houses. Local councils will be asked to positively encourage this style of development, particularly on large corner plots, wide-frontage suburban houses or shallow-built plots with extensive side or rear space. Upward development means adding extra storeys to existing houses, roof conversions and the replacement of bungalows with two or three story buildings. Local planning authorities would be expected not merely to permit but to actively promote this form of development.

The cumulative effect of successive national planning reforms has been to place increasing emphasis on housing delivery and density, often at the expense of local character, space standards, and resident preferences. Quality of life, the ability of local communities to shape the places in which they live and the social benefits of widespread home ownership need to be given a higher priority than a 'growth agenda' based solely on increasing population and consuming more resources. Our villages are losing their precious rural character and are becoming merely pieces of city scattered in remote locations.

The deadline for consultation responses is **10th March**, and residents with an interest in planning and development may wish to review the proposals and submit their views.

READY TO SPRING INTO ACTION AT NORTHSTOWE

At long last spring is on the horizon at Northstowe and with the longer days and warmer weather will come an even busier period of seasonal work across our green spaces and outdoor areas. Our spring programme is designed to help keep shared spaces healthy, attractive and ready for the months ahead.

After the colder winter period, spring is always a key time for inspecting the environment and supporting new growth.

Greenbelt Group's team will be carrying out checks on trees and shrubs to identify any damage caused by wind, frost or waterlogging. Where planting has struggled, replacement trees and shrubs may be introduced, with a focus on resilient species that support wildlife and long-term sustainability.

Grassland management is also a priority at this time of year. Cutting schedules will be carefully planned to balance tidy, usable spaces with areas managed as meadows, designed to encourage wildflowers to establish, providing important habitats for vital pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

You may notice some areas being left longer than others – this is intentional as it helps to greatly boost biodiversity across the development.

Northstowe's Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), including swales and ponds, receive particular attention in spring. These features play a vital role in managing surface water while also supporting wetland plants and wildlife. Our teams remove debris, monitor water flow and manage vegetation to ensure these areas continue to function effectively and always look their best.

Beyond the important day-to-day maintenance, Greenbelt Group is delighted to continue to work closely with residents, local representatives and partners to support the long-term stewardship of Northstowe's green spaces.

Your feedback helps to shape how green spaces are managed, ensuring they meet the needs and aspirations of the people who use them every day.

As Northstowe continues to grow, our spring work will play an important role in setting the scene for the year ahead – nurturing landscapes, supporting wildlife and creating welcoming outdoor spaces for everyone to enjoy.

We encourage you to make the most of the green spaces this season and share the pleasure of the great outdoors as Northstowe once again comes into bloom.



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SPORTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING



BUG HUNTER WATERS PARKRUN

As winter begins to ease and the days slowly grow lighter, Bug Hunter Waters parkrun keeps running every Saturday at 9am. Whether you're chasing a personal best, catching up with friends, or enjoying a gentle walk, it's a brilliant way to start the weekend and stay active. Each week we welcome around 240 participants, supported by around 25 volunteers. Every cheer, click, and barcode scan helps keep our parkrun community thriving.

We're also proud to host 5k Your Way, a support group provided by the Move Against Cancer charity. It's open to anyone affected by cancer — those living with and beyond it, their families, friends, and healthcare professionals. The group joins us on the last Saturday of each month, encouraging movement and connection. You'll spot them by their blue flag and t-shirts, and they always welcome a friendly hello before or after the event. After parkrun, they head to the Tap & Social for coffee, cake, and conversation. Please spread the word to anyone who might benefit from this support.

We're looking forward to the months ahead as we continue bringing people together through movement and community spirit. If you'd like to run or walk, come along any Saturday and we'll show you how it all works. Under 11s just need to stay within arm's reach of their accompanying adult. There's always room for more hi-vis heroes if you fancy giving volunteering a go too.

To find out more, find us on Facebook, Instagram [@bughunterwatersparkrun](#) or email bughunterwaters@parkrun.com



LONGSTANTON TENNIS CLUB

Are you looking for a brand new way to stay active this season, or are you a seasoned tennis player looking to step up your game?

Longstanton Tennis Club offers weekly coaching sessions for players of all ages and abilities, as well as both friendly and competitive matchplay. If you are a complete beginner, or simply want to enjoy a non-competitive environment, the **5:30–7:00pm** session on a Friday is perfect for you; no booking required, just show up!

Our club is a welcoming community of people who love tennis, and we know that you will love it too. If you prefer a more fast-pace game, turn up to the intermediate-advanced sessions on Fridays 7:00–9:00pm. We also offer opportunities for social tennis for all abilities on Tuesdays 6:00pm–9:00pm and Sundays 11:00am–1:30pm, where you can enjoy casual games and friendly rallies.

We are always looking out for new members to join our competitive teams, and we take pride in our recent successes in the winter league, with both our men's and mixed teams achieving some great victories.

Sounds exciting? That could be you! Whether staying healthy and living an active life was on your new year's resolutions, or you simply want to experience a new and exciting hobby, Longstanton tennis club is the place for you. We would love to see you on our courts, where you will no doubt make lots of great memories and lasting connections.

For more information, visit our website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/longstantontennisclub>

NORTHSTOWE PERI/MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUP

YOU'RE NOT ALONE: WHY NORTHSTOWE'S PERI/MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUP IS A GAME-CHANGER

Hot flushes in the middle of a meeting? A sudden wave of anxiety while doing the weekly shop? Forgetting a close friend's name thanks to a cloud of brain fog?

If this sounds familiar, you aren't "losing it"—you're likely experiencing one of the many stages of menopause. While these symptoms are a natural part of life, they can often feel isolating, confusing, and physically exhausting.

IT'S MORE THAN JUST "THE CHANGE"

Many people associate menopause strictly with women in their 50s. However, **perimenopause**—the transitional phase leading up to menopause—can begin much earlier. It is common for women in their early 40s (and sometimes late 30s) to start noticing changes in their sleep patterns, mood, and cycle.

Understanding what is happening to your body is the first step toward feeling like yourself again.

WHY JOIN THE NORTHSTOWE MENOPAUSE GROUP?

Navigating hormone replacement therapy (HRT), herbal remedies, or lifestyle changes can feel overwhelming when you're doing it alone. Our local group in Northstowe was created to bridge that gap, offering a warm, welcoming space to share experiences and find clarity.

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM OUR MONTHLY MEETUPS:

- Peer Support:** Real conversations with women who truly "get it." Sometimes, just knowing you aren't the only one struggling with night sweats can be a huge weight off your shoulders.
- Expert Information:** We provide helpful resources regarding symptoms and the various medical and holistic options available to alleviate them.
- A Safe Space:** Whether you want to ask questions, share a laugh about the "joys" of hormones, or just sit and listen, you are welcome here.

MEETING DETAILS

We meet on a **monthly basis** at the Cabin in Northstowe. No matter where you are on your journey—whether you're just starting to notice changes or you're well through the transition—we'd love to have you join us. And what's more, it's **FREE** to attend!

Take the first step: You don't have to navigate this transition in silence. Knowledge is power, and community is the best medicine.

The next speakers are as follows:

18th February – Amanda Ryder – Nutritionist

18th March – Ingrid Fawcett – Midlife 360

Join the online group for updates on speakers:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3813030578975892>

or you can contact us by email on northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk



**NORTHSTOWE
PERI/MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUP**

**UPCOMING 2026
MEETING DATES**

JANUARY 21ST
ALAINA BUNCE-SOCIAL PRESCRIBER
FEBRUARY 18TH
AMANDA RYDER - NUTRITIONIST
MARCH 18TH
INGRID FAWCETT-MIDLIFE 360
APRIL 16TH - TBA

DETAILS ON ALL OF THESE SESSIONS WILL BE MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE NEARER THE TIME. SEE POSTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

JOIN US AT THE CABIN, NORTHSTOWE
6.30 - 8PM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK @ NORTHSTOWE PERIMENOPAUSE/MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUP 

EMAIL: NORTHSTOWE.COMMUNITY@SCAMBS.GOV.UK

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WHEN THE SURGERY IS CLOSED PLEASE CALL 111 FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, OR 999 FOR A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY
FOR URGENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, PLEASE CALL 111 AND SELECT OPTION 2

THE LATE DAVID GOWING

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the family and friends of the late **David Gowing** for their very generous donations to the **Willingham Medical Practice Surgery Equipment Fund**. Their kindness and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated and will make a meaningful difference by helping us invest in essential equipment to support patient care. This generous tribute is a lasting reflection of David's memory, and we are truly grateful to everyone who contributed.

WESTERN PARK JUNIOR PARKRUN



Join in the fun at the Western Park Junior ParkRun walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate

- Free and easy to take part
- Make new friends and feel part of the local community
- Every Sunday morning

A free, fun and friendly weekly 2K event for juniors (4- to 14-year-olds). It's held every **Sunday** and starts at **9am** taking place at **Western Park, Peppercorn Drive, Northstowe, Cambridge CB24 1BF**. It's **FREE**, but please register before you come along.

Please see <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/westernpark-juniors/> for more details or speak to a member of practice staff.

NEW SURGERY OPENING TIMES (AMENDED)

Willingham Medical Practice		Longstanton Branch Surgery	
Monday	8am – 6.30pm	Monday	8.30am–1pm & 2.30pm-6pm
Tuesday	8am – 6.30pm	Tuesday	8.30am – 1pm
Wednesday	8am – 6.30pm	Wednesday	8.30am – 1pm
Thursday	8am – 6.30pm	Thursday	8.30am – 1pm
Friday	8am – 6.30pm	Friday	8.30am – 1pm

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Repeat medication can be ordered via SystmOnline, using the NHS App or by handing in paper repeat prescription slips to the surgeries at Willingham or Longstanton as well as the Willingham Pharmacy.

Despite any notifications received after ordering electronically, our current turnaround for regular repeat prescriptions is **THREE WORKING DAYS** (this DOES NOT include weekends) so please be aware of this when ordering and give yourself plenty of time to ensure you don't run out of medication. We will always help where we can with urgent orders. However, this is always subject to stock availability so we cannot guarantee we can fulfil a prescription quickly. In these circumstances we will be in contact to advise.

Please remember to bring your own bag(s) when collecting your medication. Our dispensary does not hold a supply of carrier bags and is therefore unable to provide them. Bringing your own bag will help ensure a smooth and efficient collection. Thank you for your understanding and support.

CONTACTING THE SURGERY

Emails to the surgery are not the appropriate route for our patients to make clinical contact with the GP and we ask that you do not convey any clinical information this way. This includes, for example, asking clinical questions, letting the GP know that you are changing doses of your medication or wanting to update the GP before attending an appointment with them. On receipt of such emails, our only response will be to ask you make a GP appointment.

PIP SUPPORTING LETTERS

We understand that applying for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) can feel challenging. Please be aware that the GP practice is unable to provide supporting letters for PIP applications. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) use the information you include on your application forms to make their decision. If the DWP needs any further medical information or clarification, they will contact the GP practice directly.

If you need help with completing the forms, there may be local advice services that can offer support and our Social Prescriber, Alaine Bunce, may be able to help in some instances as well as facilitate a referral to support services such as the Social Care Welfare Benefits Team.

HEALTHY YOU 'SMOKING CESSATION'

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of ill health in the UK and at Morelife we are dedicated to helping you embrace a cigarette-free life through our programmes. Stopping smoking and staying stopped will give you a better chance at a longer, healthier life. Want to quit smoking or reduce harm? We've helped over 10,000 people quit since 2018.



For further information, and to access the service, a self-referral can be completed by visiting <https://healthyyou.org.uk/integrated-health-services/smoking-cessation/> or by telephoning 01223 386200

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: CHAIR OF THE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

We are looking for a new Chair for our Patient Participation Group (PPG). The PPG is a group of patients who work with the practice team to help improve services, share patient views and support the development of the practice. As Chair, you would lead meetings, help set agendas, and act as a key link between patients and the practice.

Any patient registered with Willingham Medical Practice, who is interested in representing patient views and helping shape local healthcare services, can apply. No previous experience is required - just enthusiasm, good communication skills and a willingness to get involved.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Sharon Unwin, Practice Manager. We would love to hear from you and welcome new voices to the PPG.

VACCINATIONS

The **Pneumococcal Vaccine** is available year-round for everyone who is aged 65 years and over.

The **RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) Vaccine** is available year-round for everyone who is aged between 75 and 79 years of age and for all pregnant women who are over 28 weeks.

The **Shingles Vaccine** is available year round for everyone who is aged between 70 and 79 years of age and have never received a shingles vaccine, for individuals who reach the age of 65 or 70 years of age during the period 01/09/23 and 31/08/2028 (these individuals should be vaccinated on or after (but not before) their 65th or 70th birthday), individuals who are aged 50 years and above and meet the definition of severe immunosuppression and for those who are aged between 18 and 49 years and receiving a stem cell transplant. *Please note, when booking your second (booster) shingles vaccination, that this cannot be administered any sooner (even by one day) than six calendar months after the first vaccination was given.*

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) MEETING

The PPG brings together patients, GPs and staff from a GP practice. They meet to discuss issues relating to their surgery and the services provided to patients. All of our patients are welcome.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11th March, 7-9pm** at the **Willingham Medical Practice**.

CARERS MEETINGS

If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please come along to our carers support meetings on **Wednesday 4th February** and **Wednesday 4th March**, at the **Wilford Furlong Centre in Willingham**, where we will be holding drop-in sessions **between 2pm and 4pm**. Please come along and get some support from other people in the local community. Refreshments are provided, there's no need to pre-book and it's completely **FREE!** Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month and for more information please contact alaine.bunce@nhs.net

COTTONHAM TENNIS CLUB

SPRING INTO ACTION

As the days begin to lengthen, Cottenham Tennis Club is preparing for a busy spring season on the courts. Whether you are looking to improve your backhand, get the kids active during the holidays, or simply meet more people in the community, we have something for everyone.

THE FUN FAMILY TOURNAMENT

Our popular Fun Family Tournament returns on **Saturday 25th April, 10am-12noon** at Cottenham Sports Centre. If the word "tournament" sounds serious, don't be put off! This event is designed entirely around enjoyment and community spirit.

The format features doubles pairs made up of one adult and one child (aged 5-16ish). Adults do not need to be experienced players; we use underarm serves to keep the games accessible for all. If you cannot find a partner, do let us know and we will do our best to pair you up. We warmly welcome non-members to sign up, as only one person in each pair needs to be a CTC member. Entries must be sent to the club secretary by 17th April. Don't hold back—fun and cake are guaranteed!

LEAGUE PLAYERS WANTED

We are currently recruiting men and women for the **Cambridgeshire Dunlop Summer League**. Our women's team is particularly short on numbers this year, so we are keen to hear from you. This is a brilliant opportunity for those who might belong to another club but don't get many match opportunities there. By playing for your local Cottenham team, you'll get plenty of time on court and a chance to really sharpen your competitive edge.

Are you 60 or over?

Would you like to meet other residents and have a chat over a tea or coffee?

If yes, come and say hello on:

- Thursday 12 and 26 February
- 10am - 11am
- The Cabin, **Northstowe**
- Pathfinder Way, CB24 1FD



Future dates for March and April will be advertised on social media and the noticeboard on The Green

A lovely place to share information, news and ideas.



HOLIDAY CAMPS AND COACHING

With the Easter break approaching, we are pleased to confirm that our **Easter Holiday Camps** will be taking place. These are a fantastic way to keep children busy and active; no membership is required to join in. Specific dates are being released this month (February), so please check the website for details.

For the adults, have you considered **Cardio Tennis**? These high-energy, pay-as-you-go sessions are open to everyone, including non-tennis players. It is a fantastic way to build stamina and strength in a fun environment. We also have spaces available in our intermediate and advanced adult coaching groups. If you are a total beginner interested in getting started, beginner adult classes will be running from January 10, every Saturday from 10:00am to 11:30am. Please get in touch—we would love to welcome you and help you get started.

MEMBERSHIP VALUE

For 2026 season new memberships are now available. Membership includes free play every weekday evening (except Tuesdays) and all day on Saturdays, offering a great opportunity to get involved and enjoy regular play throughout the year.

For all bookings regarding coaching, camps, and cardio, please contact our pro coaches at Full Swing Tennis. For general club enquiries, contact our Secretary, Louise Cooke.

Website: www.cottenham tennis.co.uk

Email: info@cottenham tennis.co.uk

Coaching: www.fullswingtennis.co.uk

Walking for all in Northstowe

Social walks are an ideal way to meet old and new friends enjoy the fresh air and get some exercise



The next walk will be in March

Please check on social media nearer the time and the noticeboard on The Green for date, time and starting location



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WHAT'S ON IN NORTHSTOWE

MULTIPLE DAYS

MEET THE COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Come to meet our council Community Development Officers, drop-in any time between 9:30am–4:40pm on Tuesdays–Thursdays, or to make an appointment email northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk

MIDWIFE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Services available in the Cabin at various times all week, by appointment only

FOOD TRUCKS

Northstowe foodies hosts food trucks weekly at the Green, 5–8pm Wed–Sun. Line-ups can be viewed on their page on FB and Instagram @NorthstoweFoodies

MONDAYS

MAKE & MINGLE

Bring your latest craft projects and meet up with other crafty locals. 2nd Monday of the month, 10am at Tap & Social. northstowearts.co.uk

YOUNG PARENTS GROUP

Weekly play session for young parents 25 and under with children 0–5 years. To book email childandfamilycentre.south@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 1pm–2:30pm at the Cabin.

BABY MASSAGE 5 WEEK COURSE (£)

Learn techniques to help you bond with your baby, soothe them, help with wind and colic, as well as calming ideas and other topics. Suitable from birth. 1pm at Longstanton Village Hall. myyogacorner.uk

NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

Make new friends – Take your time and relax – Meet with others. 4:15pm–6:00pm at NSC.

TANG SOO DO (£)

Family-friendly martial arts club. Classes for children ages 6–14, at 4:30pm in WPP. Email enquiries@Northstowetsd.co.uk

BEAVERS

Beaver Scouts aged 6–8 Years will get a chance to try a wide range of different activities. 17:45 – 18:45 at NSC. Email info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk

ADULT DANCE (£)

Explore a mixture of dance styles. 17:45–18:35 at Tap & Social. Book: app.classfit.com/Studio/179657

OVER POWER (£)

Fitness, Strength, Conditioning circuits. We help ladies to tone up, lose weight and feel great. PFPS playground, 6pm & 7pm. www.overpowerfitness.com

OVERPOWERFITNESS@OUTLOOK.COM

NORTHSTOWE BADMINTON CLUB (£)

Adults social badminton. 18:30–20:00 at NSC.

BODYBURN (£)

Low impact workout. 18:45–19:35 at Tap & Social. To book visit app.classfit.com/Studio/179657

CUBS

Excitement and adventure for Cub Scouts aged 8 to 10½, be creative and get involved in your local community. 19:00 – 20:15 at NSC. Email info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk

FOOTBALL (£)

Turn up and play, welcome to everyone. 7 a side and 9 a side £6.25 per week. Adults session 19:15–20:15 at NSC george@kickstartactivelife.co.uk

NETBALL CLUB (£)

Meet a great group of women of all abilities who are learning to play netball. 7pm–8pm at WPP. Search Facebook for [Northstowe Netball Club](#)

TAI-CHI (£)

Weekly relaxation and inner peace. 19:30 at the PFPS. To book please email malcolmsavannah233@gmail.com

SOCIAL RUN

Longstanton and Northstowe Limpers social run meeting on The Green at 19:30 facebook.com/LandNLimpers

BOOK CLUB

Meet to discuss books on Monday evenings once per month. New members always welcome. www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785

NORTHSTOWE JETS BASKETBALL (£)

Ball handling, shooting, positioning, attacking, defending, fitness. All skill levels welcome. 20:00–21:00 at NSC. northstowebasketball@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

MICRO LIBRARY

Drop in at the Cabin any time 9:30–4pm

STAY AND PLAY GROUP

Weekly play-based activities for families with children age 10 months or walking, 10–11:30am in the Cabin. Phone 01954 284 672 to book.

BABY GROUP

Weekly play-based activities for families with babies up to year or crawling. 1–2:30 pm in the Cabin. Phone 01954 284 672 to book.

GUIDES (GIRLGUIDING) (£)

A group for girls aged 10 to 14 to explore the things they love and do stuff they've never done before. Activities, crafts, games and more. guiding@thehays.net

FASTBREAK BASKETBALL (£)

Indoor sessions in the NSC Sports Hall, 12 & Under at 6pm, 14 & Under at 7pm northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk

HUNTINGDON AND NORTHSTOWE HOCKEY CLUB (£)

NSC Astroturf, 7pm – 8:30pm All abilities welcome. Contact hello@huntingdonandnorthstowehockeyclub.com

FIREFLIES NETBALL CLUB (£)

A friendly 16+ netball club training 7:00–8:30pm year-round at NSC. Try first month free. FirefliesNetballClub@gmail.com

PREGNANCY YOGA (£)

Covering breathing techniques, warmup and yoga poses, deep relaxation with self hypnosis (hypnobirthing) and various birth and parenthood preparation topics. 7pm at Longstanton Village Hall. myyogacorner.uk

NORTHSTOWE CHORUS

A new community choir for anyone who enjoys singing. 7pm one Tuesday a month at NSC, check dates at northstowearts.co.uk

NORTHSTOWE BOARD GAMERS

Join us to play modern-style strategy and tabletop games, anything from Alhambra to Ziemlich Zügig! From 7:30pm every Tuesday 21 Heron Road, CB24 1AS. northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk

WEDNESDAYS

NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

Make new friends – Take your time and relax – Meet with others. Open 9am–12:30pm and 3:30–5pm in the foyer at the Cabin.

LITTLE STARS (£)

Preschool ballet and dance with Stardust Dance Academy. 10am–11:15 in the Cabin. Book at www.stardustdanceacademy.com

YOUTH DROP IN AT NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

Youthwork run by Romsey Mill and Northstowe Youth Hive for school years 7–9, 4–5.30pm termtime. Free snacks, or add low cost treats from the café.

1ST NORTHSTOWE RAINBOWS

For girls aged 4–7. 5:15–6:15pm in Hatton Park School, Longstanton.

OVER POWER (£)

(See Monday's entry for details) PFPS playground, 6pm & 7pm

KARATE CLUB

Family friendly - Age 6+, children and adults welcome. 6:30–7:30pm in the Cabin. www.northstowekarate.com

MAKE & MINGLE

Bring your latest craft projects and meet up with other crafty locals. 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm at Tap & Social. northstowearts.co.uk

LONGSTANTON AND NORTHSTOWE LIMPERS

Session starting at 7:30pm for people that are new to running or getting back into it. facebook.com/LandNLimpers

DANCE FIT (£)

Adult class with Stardust Dance Academy. 7:30–8:30pm in the Cabin. Book at www.stardustdanceacademy.com

THURSDAYS

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Time for you, your child, and God. Breakfast from 9:15, main session 9:45–10:45am in PPFS www.northstowe.church/little-explorers

BPHA DROP-IN SESSIONS

Second Thursday of the month at the Cabin 9:30am–11:30am. To talk about any community matters, difficulties, challenges, suggestions or feedback.

MICRO LIBRARY

Drop in at the Cabin any time 9:30–4pm

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS

Emotional support, case management and life admin. From Cambridge Acorn Project. 9:30–11am, (term times) in the Cabin.

OVER 60S GROUP

Meet old friends and make new ones. 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month, 10–11am in the Cabin

SLING LIBRARY

Collection of slings and baby carriers, available to try and to hire. Run by experienced babywearing consultant. 13:30–14:30 at Tap and Social myyogacorner.uk

NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

(See Tuesday's entry) 4:15pm–6:30pm at NSC.

GYMNASTICS (£)

Preschool gymnastics with Stardust Dance Academy. Book at www.stardustdanceacademy.com

TANG SOO DO (£)

(See Monday's entry for details) 4:30pm in WPP.

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY LOUNGE

Socialise with neighbours and have access to free Wi-Fi, hot drinks and refreshments. 6–8pm every Thursday at the Cabin. Free for everyone. We're planning well-being sessions, language classes, games night and more activities. www.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk

SUSTAINABLE NORTHSTOWE

Making Northstowe a green, clean, biodiverse and interconnected place for current and future residents. 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:30pm in Tap and Social. For more info see facebook.com/sustainablenorthstowe or email sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com

NORTHSTOWE CRICKET CLUB

Outdoor season underway. Net practice at Fen Ditton Recreational ground, contact northstowecricket@gmail.com northstowe.play-cricket.com/home

FASTBREAK BASKETBALL (£)

Indoor sessions in the NSC Sports Hall, 10 & Under and 16 & Under at 7:15pm. Adult sessions at 8:20pm northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk

OVER POWER (£)

(See Monday's entry for details) PFPS playground, 6pm and 7pm.

ADDAF+ PEER SUPPORT GROUP

ADHD Peer support group to connect and empower ADHD adults of marginalised genders. Second Thursday of the month, 7pm in WPP

SCOUTS

For ages 10½ to 14. Build and develop young people's confidence, sense of adventure and outdoor skills. 19:15–20:30 at NSC. Email info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk

NORTHSTOWE'S COMPLINE (NIGHT PRAYER)

Stop, Breathe, Pray. Thursdays 8–9pm. www.northstowe.church/compline

FRIDAYS

ACROBATICS AND DANCE

Pre-school class with Studio Fogg Dance. 9:45–10:45 in the Cabin. Book at studiofogg.co.uk

WALKING FOR ALL

A social walk around Northstowe, followed by a free drink. 14 February and 14 March, starting 10:15 at the Cabin.

MOBILE FOOD HUB

Low cost fresh produce and essential items, from Hope on the Go. No voucher or referrals needed, simply drop by. 10:30–11:30 on The Green.

BABY AND POSTNATAL YOGA (£)

Have fun with your baby while safely rebuilding your core and pelvic floor, stretching and strengthening. Suitable after your 6/8 week check. 11:30am at Longstanton Village Hall.

myyogacorner.uk

BABY MASSAGE 5 WEEK COURSE (£)

(See Monday's entry for details)
1pm at Longstanton Village Hall.

MOBILE LIBRARY

2nd Friday each month, 3:20–4:20pm on The Green outside the Cabin. Free to all, join at the vehicle or online.

ARTS CLUB (£)

Children's activity with Artastic Kids Club. 4–5pm in the Cabin, book at www.gorgeouslittlethingsuk.com

SEWING AND DESIGN (£)

Children's activity with Artastic Kids Club. 5–7pm in the Cabin, book at www.gorgeouslittlethingsuk.com

JUDO (£)

Ages 5 to 105 from beginners to Dan grades. On Fridays at PFPS, 5–6pm (under 8s) and 6–7pm (over 8s). For more info contact colinhappidojo@gmail.com

NORTHSTOWE BADMINTON CLUB (£)

Adults social badminton. 18:00–19:30 at NSC.

SATURDAYS**BUG HUNTER WATERS PARKRUN**

A free, fun and friendly weekly 5k. 9am at Bug Hunter Waters, near the bridge. Please register at www.parkrun.org.uk/bughunterwaters

PARKPLAY @ WESTERN PARK SPORTS PAVILION

FREE Healthy outdoor fun with games for everyone. Join us every Saturday any time between 10:30am and 12:30am on the Multi-Use Games Area behind WPP. Please register at <https://park-play.com/register/>

MY YOGA CORNER WORKSHOPS (£)

Birth rehearsals - Breastfeeding - Babywearing and sling library - Starting solids. 10am–12 at Longstanton Village Hall.

myyogacorner.uk

CATHOLIC MASS

Visiting priest from Cambridge. 6pm in the Octagon at Bar Hill. For more details contact Bunty Waters 07734 690580 or Fr. Adrian Gates 01223 622699

SUNDAYS**WESTERN PARK JUNIOR PARKRUN**

A free, fun, 2k event for juniors aged 4 to 14. Meet at Western Park near the pavilion (WPP) for a 9am start. Please register at parkrun.org.uk/westernpark-juniors

NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

Drop in for a chat, use the micro library and have a drink! 10am–12pm in the Cabin

PATHFINDER CHURCH SUNDAY MORNINGS

'Praying, exploring, and sharing' intergenerationally. 9.30am PFPS (Church of England, United Reformed Church, Baptist Union) www.northstowe.church/pathfinder

BETHEL REVIVAL CHURCH

You're warmly invited to join us for our Sunday services. Every Sunday 10am in the Cabin

EMMANUEL CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

A growing gospel-centred church serving a growing new community. Sunday morning services for all ages at 10:30, at NSC. www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

Youth group from Emmanuel Church Northstowe for anybody ages 11–14. 5pm alternate Sundays in the Cabin. Email ignite.ecn@gmail.com or check emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

Cabin The Cabin, 1 The Green, CB24 1FD

NSC Northstowe Secondary College, CB24 1DJ

PFPS Pathfinder Primary School, CB24 1AA

WPP Western Park Pavilion, CB24 1DA

KEEP US UPDATED PLEASE!
Spotted any errors, changes, or more groups to be included? Please email northstowenews@gmail.com

NORTHSTOWE Community Forums 2026

Find out about ongoing development in Northstowe



4 February

15 July

25 November

Drop in: 6pm | Forum: 6.30pm

Venue: To be confirmed

Community Forums are free, open to all, public meetings bringing together residents, planners, developers and other stakeholders to discuss and share information about new development. The forum is open to everyone including young people/students who live in Northstowe or attend one of the schools. The venue is accessible.

→ www.scamps.gov.uk/northstowe-forum

To join our mailing list, request agenda items or raise questions for discussion, please email the team.

✉ northstowe.community@scamps.gov.uk



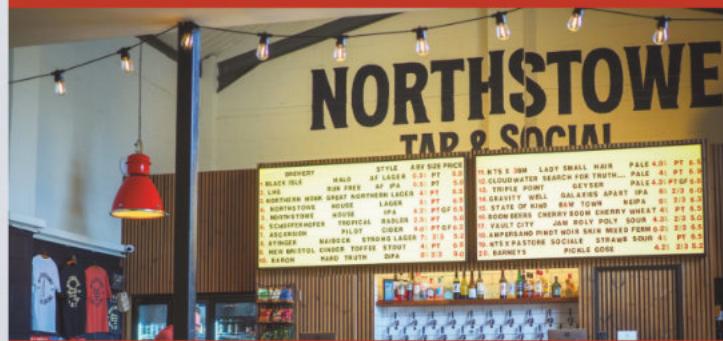
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***** (5*) Facebook Review) Amy Moran

I've travelled with three different drivers from Richard's company this year. An extremely safe, comfortable, peaceful, punctual journey every time. I'm delighted to have found such a reliable service and look forward to using them for all my future journeys.

***** (5*) Google Review) Jo Eadie



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LET'S BRING NORTHSTOWE together!

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Northstowe Secondary College

Monday: 4.15pm - 6.00pm

Thursday: 4.15pm - 6.30pm

Cabin Community Centre

Wednesday: 9am - 12.30pm

Wednesday: 3.30pm - 5pm

Sunday: 10am - 12pm



Volunteers needed

We're always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help bring our activities and events to life - from lending a hand at the Hub Cafés to supporting festivals, projects, and local initiatives.

Whether you can give an hour or two each week or just help out occasionally, your time makes a real difference. Email us today at the address below.



TRUSTEES WANTED

We're looking for new Trustees to help shape our vision and support exciting projects for the community.

If you have ideas, leadership skills, or a passion for making a difference, we'd love to hear from you.

Get in touch to find out more!



northstowehub.org



info@northstowehub.org



northstowehub

HERITAGE SOCIETY UPDATE: February - March 2026

New Membership Year Begins 1 April

Once again, we are fast approaching that time of year when memberships of the Heritage Society are up for renewal. Following a year of free membership for 2025 -2026, the decision has been taken to reinstate membership subscriptions at their previous rate of £ 15 / year for a family membership (all family members living at the same address) and £ 10 / year for an individual. Subscriptions are necessary to help fund the costs of running the Society, with expenses such as website fees and insurance needing to be paid on an annual basis. For those new residents who are not familiar with the work of LDHS, below is a summary from our Constitution.



The Objects of the Society are:

To act as an advisory body.

To protect & promote the heritage of Longstanton & District.

To develop archival records in any appropriate format; recording the social, rural and military heritage of Longstanton & District.

To promote and support the display and storage of the LDHS Archives within Longstanton, Northstowe or Oakington and Westwick.

To use the Society's archival collections for education and exhibition purposes within Longstanton and District and to raise funds to meet the Objects of the Society.

The Definitions used in the Objects of the Society are:

Longstanton is defined as the village and parish land that remains outside the new town of Northstowe.

District is defined as consisting of Northstowe and the village of Oakington and Westwick. It can also include the area associated with the South West Fen Edge and our local tracks and by-ways, so the interactions between local communities can be properly understood.

Heritage is defined as photographs, film, buildings, objects, landscape features, local art, archives, personal memories, memorabilia and artefacts and anything else that the Trustees may determine.

If you would like more information on the work of the Heritage Society or wish to join us, please do get in touch with us via our Facebook page or email: ldhssec@hotmail.co.uk

Members provide the mandate for all the heritage protection work we do and we cannot do this work without a strong membership base. LDHS needs local residents to join us so this work can continue.

LDHS Archives Storage

The archives remain in temporary local storage whilst discussions continue regarding the provision of display and storage facilities within Northstowe. The County Council has agreed to provide a grant to cover the costs of this temporary storage but to date this grant has not yet been paid. This delay has implications for the Society's residual funds and we hope that payment of the grant will be forthcoming early in the New Year. This grant will be paid from the remainder of funds that had been previously allocated to the former Heritage Annex building project. The grant does not come from any direct Northstowe funding.

Secretary, Longstanton & District Heritage Society, c/o The Manor, Woodside, Longstanton, Cambridge. CB24 3BU
For more information please visit our website at <https://ldhs.org> or contact us by post, Facebook message by or e-mail at ldhssec@hotmail.co.uk

Community Engagement 2025

In addition to our **regular articles** in this magazine and **social media** publicity for a wide range of local heritage organisations and events, the Heritage Society continues to fulfil the Objects of the Society as listed here. Following our **support of research** into the Solar Alignment of St Michael's Well, we continue to try and resolve the outstanding issue of the Well's significant deterioration. This issue has been raised at the **Heritage Steering Group** meeting and we are waiting for confirmation as to which organisation is responsible for repairing this Grade 2 listed structure. With the location of the hood's cross now understood to have significant solar alignment, it is concerning to see that cross itself is in danger of being lost if repairs are not carried out urgently. This is the sort of **heritage protection** work that the Society is carrying out on behalf of all our communities.



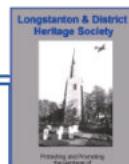
Deteriorating condition of the St Michael's well canopy.
Photos: December 2025

Other community engagement work in 2025, included supporting the **Northstowe Midsummer Festival**, and working with Homes England to choose a suitable location for the new **Oakington Airfield Memorial Marker**. The Heritage Society has also responded to recent **planning consultations** including a proposal for a solar farm on the former airfield. In recent months we have been working with a number of organisations and individuals to understand the implications of the latest draft Local Plan on the green separation between Northstowe, Longstanton and Oakington; with particular concerns having been raised by residents from all three communities. Work to ensure the long term protection of the green separation and the Longstanton Paddocks will continue so that these green spaces and public access areas will be safeguarded for the benefit of local residents, wildlife conservation and heritage preservation. The green separation for Northstowe is an important green 'heart' for the new town and we believe that unequivocal legally binding protection needs to be assigned to all these areas and guaranteed as such in the final adopted Local Plan.

Northstowe Heritage Exhibition

Over the last year, the Heritage Society has continued to work with members of the Heritage Steering Group to ensure that the heritage display previously planned for the Heritage Annex building could be delivered elsewhere within Northstowe. We are pleased that details of the heritage exhibition plan were announced at the Northstowe Forum held on 3rd December, and we are looking forward to the LDHS Archives contribution being on display later this year. Once the exhibition is open to the public we hope that there will be greater awareness regarding the heritage of the Northstowe site and the educational and economic benefits of that placing heritage at the heart of Northstowe can bring.

Hilary Stroud



NORTHSTOWE NATURE MATTERS

In Northstowe News issue 37 I wrote a review of my local wildlife sightings for 2024, so I thought I'd do a similar trawl through my notebook of 2025's nature encounters.

In the last issue (42) I mentioned a sighting of a Ruby Tiger Moth larva which was sharing the path behind Eagle Way with our walking group in October. I found other local sightings of this species had been submitted to iRecord, the national wildlife database (I'm still awaiting acceptance of the identification from the designated verifier). I mention this again so that I might astound you with the fact that we have about 2500 species of the insect order Lepidoptera – the moths and butterflies – in the UK. The butterflies only make-up 59 of this figure but as the most obvious daytime visual delight they are easily valued as good contributors to our 'well-being'. The natural world, to my mind, is infinitely more than that being fundamental to our very existence. All those unseen moth species are just as significant as our butterflies but need a little more effort to discover. If any local 'moth-ers' read this please contact me as I would love to run an evening light trapping event at Northstowe to share the wonder of these creatures.

Amongst my 2025 notes on birds, plants and insects around the Northstowe greenspaces I noted a number of butterfly species. I will focus on one.

The Common Blue is found throughout Great Britain in various grassy habitats. The two photos show an individual feeding on Bristly Ox-tongue flowers in late October 2024. I was heartened to find it as I had hardly seen any that year despite the abundance at Northstowe of Birds-foot Trefoil, its main larval food-plant. In 2025 numbers seemed to pick up and whilst walking around Unity Lake in July I spotted four males and one female clearly associated with the aforesaid food-plant. It is sad however, that like much of our wildlife there are ongoing declines in populations through many changing factors including climate, habitat destruction, declines in rabbit grazing and increase of intensive agriculture. My enduring hope is that losses in the short-term can be reversed if we are sensitive to our impact and care enough to mitigate for it.

At Northstowe it must be recognised that many butterfly colonies would have been lost as the golf course and abandoned airfield were taken for housing which highlights the importance of the grasslands now preserved as part of the flood alleviation landscaping. Doubly important as colony loss will continue to occur in the areas that have 'rewilded' awaiting the next phases of building. Nature must not be seen as simply an obstruction to society's needs therefore to be sacrificed. My plea is that we always ensure that space is made for it to flourish.

MARK PRINA

halcyon.ecology2023@gmail.com



Male Common Blue Butterfly on a Bristly Ox-tongue flower.



An underside view of the same individual

NORTHSTOWE GAMERS

Way way back in Northstowe News issue 14 (March/April 2021), we wrote about a game called "The Crew", which is a space-themed co-operative version of traditional Whist card games. This month, we'd like to talk about "The Gang", which along similar lines, plays like a heist-themed co-operative version of Poker.

The idea is that the players, working together as a group, must work out who has the best hand, and the next best, ranked all the way down to the worst hand according to the rules of Texas Hold 'em. You can't talk about your cards at all: you can only communicate by grabbing the numbered tokens, either from the middle of the table, or from other players! First you only see the two cards in your hand, and you arrange between yourselves who gets which of the numbered white tokens. When everyone has got one, the first three shared cards are revealed, and you negotiate over the yellow tokens. You reveal a fourth shared card, and everyone takes their orange token. Finally a fifth shared card is revealed, the red tokens are arranged, and the final answers are locked in! Reveal your hands from lowest bid to the highest: making the best hand out of any five cards from among your own cards and the shared cards, did you bid in the right order?



It may seem odd that Poker, a fiercely competitive game of bluff and bidding, should translate so well to a team game of communication, but it's really fun to play and so The Gang has been very popular at our games evenings recently. The heist setting is paper-thin and has no real effect on the rules, though at least there are some nice thematic touches on the face cards artwork. But this is a game that stands high on its gameplay and group interaction. There's a lot of satisfying logic involved in observing when people get a lot more confident about their bid, because that generally means something revealed on the table matched the cards in their hand and you can start working out what they've got. This sort of deduction is often vital for getting the order right overall.

It's easy to get to the table because rounds are quite short and it's quite flexible on player count (works perfectly well with any number from 3 to 6), people can even drop in and out between rounds if necessary. One thing that surprised us was how much variation they've managed to get into the game, by adding extra rules cards which make things either easier or harder, or just generally mix things up a bit. A common way to play is make the game a little harder every time you win, and easier when you lose, which keeps it fun and balanced no matter how experienced your group.



Are you trying to "break in" to the tabletop gaming hobby? Try it out by joining us from 7:30pm on a Tuesday evening to play **The Gang**, or any of our other games! For details email northstowegamers@thecolliers.uk or search FaceBook for "Northstowe Gamers"

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BOOK CLUB

Looking back at 2025 it is clear that Northstowe Book Club members have been reading widely. Some books were universally enjoyed, others proved more contentious, but all provoked plenty of animated discussion.

Carole says: My favourite book was **Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China** by Jung Chang. It was quite a challenge to read – a 650-page epic, but very worthwhile, and it gave me a real insight into twentieth century everyday life in China. It proved quite an eye opener as to the many hardships the three women featured endured.

Lorraine writes: I liked so many this year- **The Island of Missing Trees** by Elif Shafak was very moving. I wouldn't have read Michael Crichton's **Jurassic Park**, but enjoyed it. The controversy of **The Salt Path** by Raynor Winn and love the classics – **Sense and Sensibility** by Jane Austen and **Cold Comfort Farm** by Stella Gibbons.

Lisa says: I had 3 favourites this year. **Wild Swans** was incredibly powerful. It opened my eyes to a part of history I knew very little about and stayed with me long after I finished it.

Factfulness was an unexpected joy; it genuinely changed how I think about the world and challenged a lot of assumptions I didn't even realise I had.

And Ruta Sepetys's **I Must Betray You** was especially meaningful – it helped me understand Romanian history much more deeply, which felt personal as it gave me insight into a close friend's background.

All three are books I'm not sure I would have picked up without book club, but I'm so glad I did.
Wonderful Book Club!

Janis writes: Hans Rosling's **Factfulness** is a book that I would have been unlikely to read were it not for book club. Its full title is **Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World and Why Things Are Better Than You Think**. It's interesting and readable, with a refreshing approach to data analysis. The most eye-opening and useful thing is you realise your assumptions about various world issues, such as population and poverty, may not be factual at all. The challenge is to analyse and think more accurately, using the most reliable information available. Rosling may seem incurably positive, but read about Ebola in this book. Also, published two years before COVID, Rosling cites pandemic as a factor with potential major negative impact. So I think it's a sensible as well as a positive approach.

Northstowe Book Club has been running since late 2018. We read lots of different genres, children's books, contemporary novels, classics and a wide variety of non-fiction. We are a small group and would love to welcome some new members. Do feel free to come along regularly, or when a particular book we are reading appeals to you. We meet in different venues in Northstowe, so send a message to find out where we are next month.

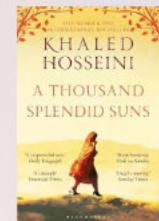
Email: northstowebbookclub@gmail.com
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NEXT MEETINGS

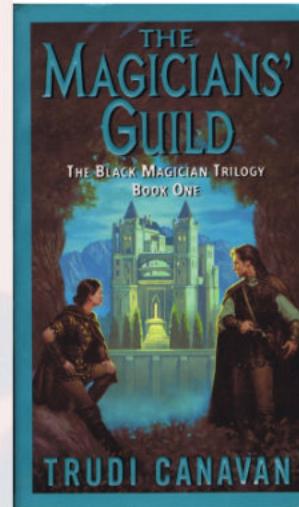
February 23rd: **A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini

March 23rd: **The Wager: a tale of shipwreck, mutiny and murder** by David Grann

April 20th: **Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir



BOOK REVIEW



The Magicians' Guild by Trudi Canavan is a fantasy novel following a young girl named Sonea who has just discovered she has magic powers. She goes on the run from the powerful Magicians' Guild and tries to stay undercover as her magic becomes more powerful and dangerous to her and those around her. Meanwhile, the magicians of the guild are searching for her not only because by law they can't allow a magician to stay outside the guild but also because they want to find her before her magic explodes. One of them also plans to use her for his own political purposes.

The novel is set in a city with deep social divides which have affected Sonea all her life, and it's possible to get a real feel for the city and see how the characters react to their social positions. Rothen, the magician who takes charge of searching for and training Sonea, is also an appealing character and it's easy to see where and why their worldviews clash without it coming across as one being simply wrong. I also really enjoyed Sonea's friend Cery and the development of their relationship, though I won't give details to avoid spoilers.

This is the first book in a trilogy and I'm keen to find out how it develops; there are plenty of things that are clearly being set up for later. I would recommend it for YA and adults looking for a character-focused fantasy story with some mystery and political elements.

BECCA EDNEY

SUSTAINABLE NORTHSTOWE

GROWING A GREENER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

We are Sustainable Northstowe, a group focused on sustainability and practical action in the town of Northstowe. Since 2020, we have been bringing residents together through activities that reduce waste, support nature, and help build a stronger, greener and more connected community.

You might have seen us at **Light Up Northstowe**, where we ran a successful **toy swap at The Cabin**. Hundreds of toys were donated and swapped, allowing families to pass on toys they no longer needed and take home something new-to-them. This helped reduce waste, save money and give toys a longer life.

We also run a Children's **Clothes Rail swaps**, a **Community Pantry**, and **Community Planting projects** that help reduce food waste while creating greener spaces across Northstowe. These activities provide simple, practical ways to live more sustainably while strengthening community connections.



Toy swap November 2025, The Cabin, Northstowe.



Community planting project March 2025. The north green way, Northstowe.

Families and residents of all ages are welcome to join us — whether helping with planting, supporting tree care such as watering during the dry season, or donating to help cover watering costs.

Furthermore, we aim to re-establish our longstanding Community Pantry and children's clothing rail at the Unity Centre, run two toy swaps, and explore ideas such as a **repair café** and a **skip day**. Whether you can help regularly or just occasionally get in touch, any help counts!

To get involved, follow **Sustainable Northstowe** on Facebook, join our Tree and Wildlife Task Force on WhatsApp via the QR codes, or email sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com.

In March, we are planning a tree and nature restoration project near the Water Play Park, working with our partner Trees Are Good. We aim to plant around 50 trees, including native, drought-resistant and fruit trees; as well as edible and wildlife-friendly hedges and small pockets of woodland. Around one hundred people joined us to plant fruit trees last year, and we hope even more will get involved this year.

Trees and wildlife taskforce Northstowe
WhatsApp group





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Christian and Muslim groups work together to bid for Northstowe's first Faith and Community Space

The Northstowe Church Network, working closely with Northstowe Muslims, is submitting a bid to South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) for the lease of the first of four Faith and Community Land sites designated across Northstowe.

This proposal is **built by Northstowe, for Northstowe**. It has grown from seven years of listening and working alongside residents, schools, youth workers, and community groups responding to a consistent message: people need **calm, welcoming, flexible spaces** that support everyday community life—within walking distance of home.



What is being proposed?

Set beside Bug Hunter Waters, the proposal offers:

- **Flexible community rooms** for wellbeing work and other small-group activities
- **Shared indoor and outdoor spaces**, including reflective gardens connected to Northstowe's greenways
- **A Chapel by the Lake**, providing a permanent home for Christian worship and other life event services
- **A dedicated Islamic prayer and education room**, shaped collaboratively with Northstowe Muslims



Keeping community life local

Northstowe was designed as an eco-friendly, sustainable town where everyday needs can be met locally. But right now, many residents—including families from different faith backgrounds—have to travel outside the town to find spaces for worship, reflection, and community gathering.

This proposal would give both Christian and Muslim families a **place to come together within their own community**—reducing the need for regular journeys elsewhere and helping neighbours stay connected to the life of the town.

A shared site, locally shaped

While the Chapel and Islamic prayer room provide dedicated worship spaces, the wider building and grounds are intentionally designed for **shared community use**.

The Network is already in conversation with schools, youth organisations, wellbeing providers, arts groups, and uniformed organisations about future use of the shared spaces, and welcomes other enquiries.

How residents can have their say

- **Sign up for updates on** www.northstowe.church/centre
- **Share how you would use the space**—what activities, groups, or events would you bring?
- **Participate in SCDC's public consultation** when dates are announced

Who we are

Northstowe Muslims is a local charity supporting the social and spiritual life of Muslim families in Northstowe, with a strong focus on youth mentoring, wellbeing, community events, and building friendship and understanding across the town.

Northstowe Church Network is an ecumenical Christian charity bringing together Church of England, URC, Baptist, Methodist, Quaker and other Churches Together traditions to serve the town through worship, pastoral care, youth and family work, and community-building, working with people of faith and other worldviews in the life of Northstowe.

The long-term hope for the Chapel by the Lake is to host both Catholic and Protestant worship. In the meantime, alongside local services led by Revd Beth Cope, those seeking additional sacramental provision are invited to St Laurence's Roman Catholic Church (www.saintlaurence.org.uk; 01223 70464) or the Anglican 5Folds Benefice (www.5folds.org.uk).



Northstowe Muslims Reflect on Faith & Community Milestones

www.northstowemuslims.org

Northstowe Muslims continue to play an active role in fostering faith, reflection and a strong sense of community within the town.

In January, local families gathered to commemorate Al-Isra wal Mi'raj, an important event in the Islamic calendar marking the miraculous Night Journey and Ascension of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The occasion serves as a reminder of the importance of prayer, spiritual discipline and maintaining a close connection with God. Adults and children came together for prayers and short talks, reinforcing shared values and strengthening community bonds.

As February progresses, the community is preparing for the holy month of Ramadan, which begins later this month. Ramadan is a period of fasting, charity and self-reflection observed by Muslims worldwide and concludes with Eid al-Fitr, a joyful celebration emphasising gratitude, generosity and togetherness.

During Ramadan, Northstowe Muslims Charity will be arranging daily Taraweeh prayers at the Community Centre in addition to a joyful Iftar Celebration inviting the wider community.

Northstowe Muslims will be organising Eid al-Fitr prayers in the town, enabling residents to observe the end of Ramadan locally with family, friends and neighbours. Building on the success of the first local Eid congregation held last year, the event represents a further milestone for the growing Muslim community and reflects its ongoing commitment to the wider Northstowe community.



Northstowe Church Network

www.northstowe.church | 01954 261 181 | hello@northstowe.church

This winter has been full of shared moments across Northstowe, from glowing **Advent Windows** created by families and local groups to the warmth, music, and conversation of **(Hot Chocolate) Beer and Carols**, and the wonder of the **midnight campfire communion**.



Looking ahead, two much-loved community events are coming up:

Pancake Party - 3.30pm, Sun 15 Feb, Pathfinder School

A relaxed half-term favourite with pancakes, conversation, and space to catch up.

Ice Cream Palm Sundae - 3.30pm, Sun 29 Mar, Pathfinder School

A playful way to begin the Easter holidays, with ice-cream sundaes, storytelling, and time together.

We were especially proud of the pupil leaders from The Pathfinder Primary School who brought energy, confidence, and humour to **Northstowe's Christmas Eve Christingle** with a skit many will remember. Seeing young people take the lead has been a real joy.

You're also warmly invited to any of our regular weekly gatherings, whether you've been to church before or this is all completely new:

- **Pathfinder Church**, 930am Sundays
- **Little Explorers**, 915am Thursdays
- **Compline Community**, 8pm Thursdays

Revd Beth Cope is Northstowe's vicar and part of the ecumenical Northstowe Church Network team. She's your first port of call for Northstowe weddings, baptisms, and funerals.



"Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You"
Augustine of Hippo, addressing God directly in Confessions.

Do you ever feel like something is missing? Whether it's the gift you didn't get for Christmas or a relationship that is strained or ended, or the medical treatment that hasn't worked, or just a sense that life feels a bit pointless, we all know that feeling that life isn't as it should be.

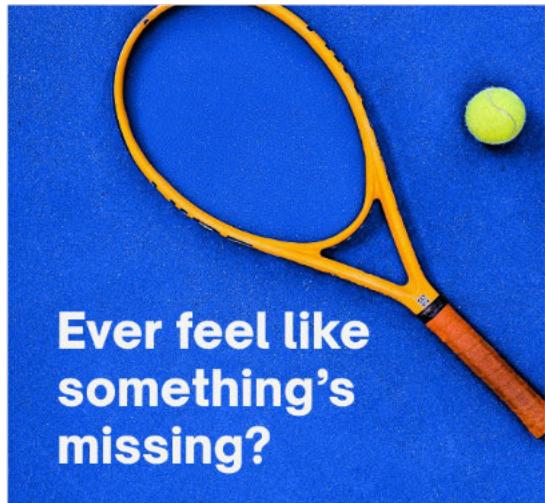
In Confessions, Augustine writes his own story of seeking fulfilment in excessive pleasures, the pursuit of success, and various philosophies and religions. Yet all of these left him weary and empty. It's not until he comes to have a real relationship with God through Jesus that he finds what has been missing from his life.

Emmanuel Church Northstowe is partnering with five local churches as part of a nationwide movement called A Passion for Life. We want to invite you to find the hope, the comfort, the meaning you are looking for: to find life in Jesus! Between the 8th & 20th of March, these churches will host various events ranging from a men's breakfast to spring-wreath making to a "Grill-a-Christian" youth event where you can ask real questions and get real answers!



Look out for more information around Northstowe and the surrounding villages as we get closer to the event.

Find us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/life26northstowe/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583620920987>.



Events from 8th March 2026

emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org Life'26



As we step into this new year, we carry with us the profound promise found in Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Even when we falter, God never turns His back on us; His faithfulness continues to shine brightly, even in the midst of our own faithlessness. He is the God of second chances, the architect of new beginnings. Regardless of what 2025 held for you, the choice to walk in the light of a fresh start rests in your hands. Choose wisely by placing your trust in Jesus, the surest foundation and hope for a life well-lived on earth and to eternity in heaven.

Our heartfelt prayer for you in 2026

"We pray that God will strengthen you and provide you and your family the joy, peace and freedom he has promised to those who will believe in him. We pray that you may get to taste and see the goodness of God and understand his deep and abiding love for you. We pray that you are reconciled with him so that you may walk confidently in the will of God and lead a new life of transformation in Christ that is enduring in faith, perfect in love and blameless unto him, Amen."

Join us in person: Sundays at 10:00 am at The Cabin, Pathfinder Way, Northstowe, Cambridge CB24 1FD.

Contact us via email: bethelrevivalchurchuk@gmail.com

Visit our website for more information: www.bethelrevival.com

Hindu Samaj Northstowe (HSN)



A Community Sanctuary for Northstowe

As Northstowe continues to grow, many residents have spoken about the need for calm, welcoming spaces outside of home and work, places to slow down, feel at ease, and connect with others. Hindu Samaj Northstowe (HSN), a local registered charity, has put forward an idea for an Interfaith, Wellbeing and Community Hub, shaped by years of working closely with families, young people, elders, and neighbours across the town.



Rooted in Faith, Open to Everyone

The proposal responds to South Cambridgeshire District Council's invitation for bids on faith and community land. While the hub would include a Hindu place of worship at its heart, reflecting the needs of Hindu families who currently travel long distances to worship, the wider space is intended to be open and useful for everyone, whatever their background or beliefs. This reflects the way HSN already works—bringing people together through learning, service, and shared experiences.



What the Hub Could Offer Northstowe

The idea is to create a space that supports everyday wellbeing. This could include yoga and mindfulness sessions, quiet areas for reflection, a community kitchen offering free meals as an act of service, and spaces for cultural and interfaith activities. Many of these are things HSN already runs locally and hopes to grow in one shared, welcoming place. The centre is intended to be open to all, community led and shaped by local voices.

Looking Ahead Together

Set beside the lake, this vision is for a peaceful place that blends naturally into the town's green surroundings. A Hindu shrine and a shared community hub will work side by side, offering spiritual quiet and creating space for learning, wellbeing, and togetherness. It's a vision rooted in respect, openness, and care, where faith and community life can comfortably coexist and add to the richness of Northstowe.



To find out more about the proposal, please scan the QR code or visit us our website.



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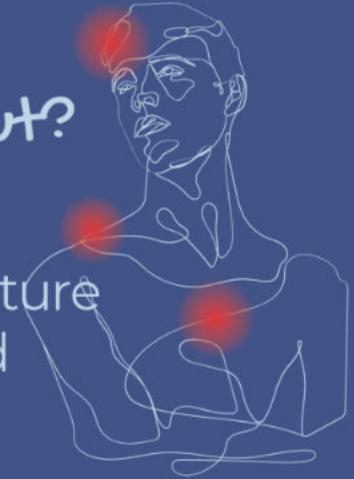
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1ST NORTHSTOWE SCOUTS

As we start the new year, we're excited to announce the launch of Squirrels, which began with twelve 4 and 5 year olds in January. By the time you read this, they will have already built blanket forts, munched fruit skewers, learned new games and taken part in a mini carnival parade! If all goes well, we are hoping to expand the group in a few months.

At home, Beavers have enjoyed lots of messy science experiments, as well as a talk about recycling. Both Beavers and Cubs had a fantastic, inspirational night away at the National Space Centre in Leicester. We were able to explore the galleries after dark, watch an explosive demo on how rockets work, collaborate constructing intricate marble runs and attend a personalised planetarium show. Cubs then followed this up with a visit to the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge.

Unfortunately, the visibility was too poor for star gazing, but we were able to take a tour of the giant telescope and join in a fascinating talk about the search for extraterrestrial life.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts also collaborated on a stall at All Saints Church Advent Fayre, raising money for charity and for the group. Members of all sections also represented us at the Remembrance events in both Longstanton and Northstowe.

Scouts have been collaborating with other groups from around the district and from even further afield. They had a live call with a scout and a leader from Finland, met up with Willingham Scouts for a hockey tournament, and enjoyed an outdoor geocaching challenge. As well as all this, a team of our Scouts successfully finished the Silver Fox Night Hike with 20 other teams from across the district in November.



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Over the coming year, we're looking forward to a host of adventures, including: ice-skating with Cubs, a Scouts sleepover at Duxford, a bake-off competition, Beavers and Cubs wild camping at Dernford Nook in May, and our group camp in July at Phasel's Wood.

As always, we are indebted to all our amazing volunteers who allow these opportunities to take place. We are still actively recruiting keen volunteers to enable more children to join the Scouting movement. This could include becoming a trustee or supporting the running of sessions. Please contact info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk to find out more about volunteering with us.



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Emmanuel CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

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The Youth Groups of Emmanuel Church Northstowe meet on alternate Sunday evenings during school term time for fun, food, games and Bible teaching. Please see the church website for more details.

www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

JUNIOR PARKRUN

NEW TO NORTHSTOWE – JUNIOR PARKRUN HAS ARRIVED!

In case you missed the news - junior parkrun has come to Northstowe, officially launching as the Western Park junior parkrun on 30th November 2025!

It's a free, fun and inclusive 2k event for kids aged 4–14 and takes place on Sundays at 9am in Northstowe's Western Park, offering a fun, community-focused way for children to get active with volunteer support. We would love to see you join us!

Key Details:

What: A free, weekly 2k walk/jog/run for children.

Who: For children aged 4 to 14.

When: Every Sunday, meet at 8.50am for 9am start.

Where: Western Park, Peppercorn Drive, Northstowe, CB24 1BF.

Cost: Free

Milestone rewards: earn a colourful wristband for 11, 21, 50 or 100 runs.



How to join in:

Register once and bring your scannable barcode: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/westernpark-juniors/>

Volunteer - adults (and children) can volunteer - send us an email westernparkjuniors@parkrun.com or opt-in for volunteering emails via your parkrun profile to get future notices.

Find out more on the Western Park junior parkrun website, find us on Facebook, or feel free to contact the team at westernparkjuniors@parkrun.com

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We are sharing our extensive catalogue on our [RosieinStitches](#) facebook page so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts and warm clothing and accessories for special friends and family. Please take a look at our extensive selection of jumpers and cardigans ideal to keep babies and children up to 4 years old toasty and warm through the winter using coupon [sleeves50](#).

For all your other online shopping, please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to The Friends of the Rosie Hospital, which means you can raise FREE donations for The Friends of the Rosie Hospital no matter what you're buying. You can find our easyfundraising page here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forh>

Our next in person stalls are at

Waterbeach Community Market

on Sunday 15th February 10am to 3pm at The Old Barracks

Bar Hill Community Market

on Saturday 28th March 10am to 1pm in the Church Octagon

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all the very best for 2026.



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NORTHSTOWE YOUTH HIVE



Could you be our next treasurer and help young people secure more funding for youth-led opportunities like this?



The Northstowe Youth Hive was established to ensure that the voices of young people in Northstowe are recognized. Our mission is to unite youth from various backgrounds, cultures, and identities, fostering an environment where they can enjoy themselves, grow, and make a positive difference. Read more: www.northstowe.hub/youth



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