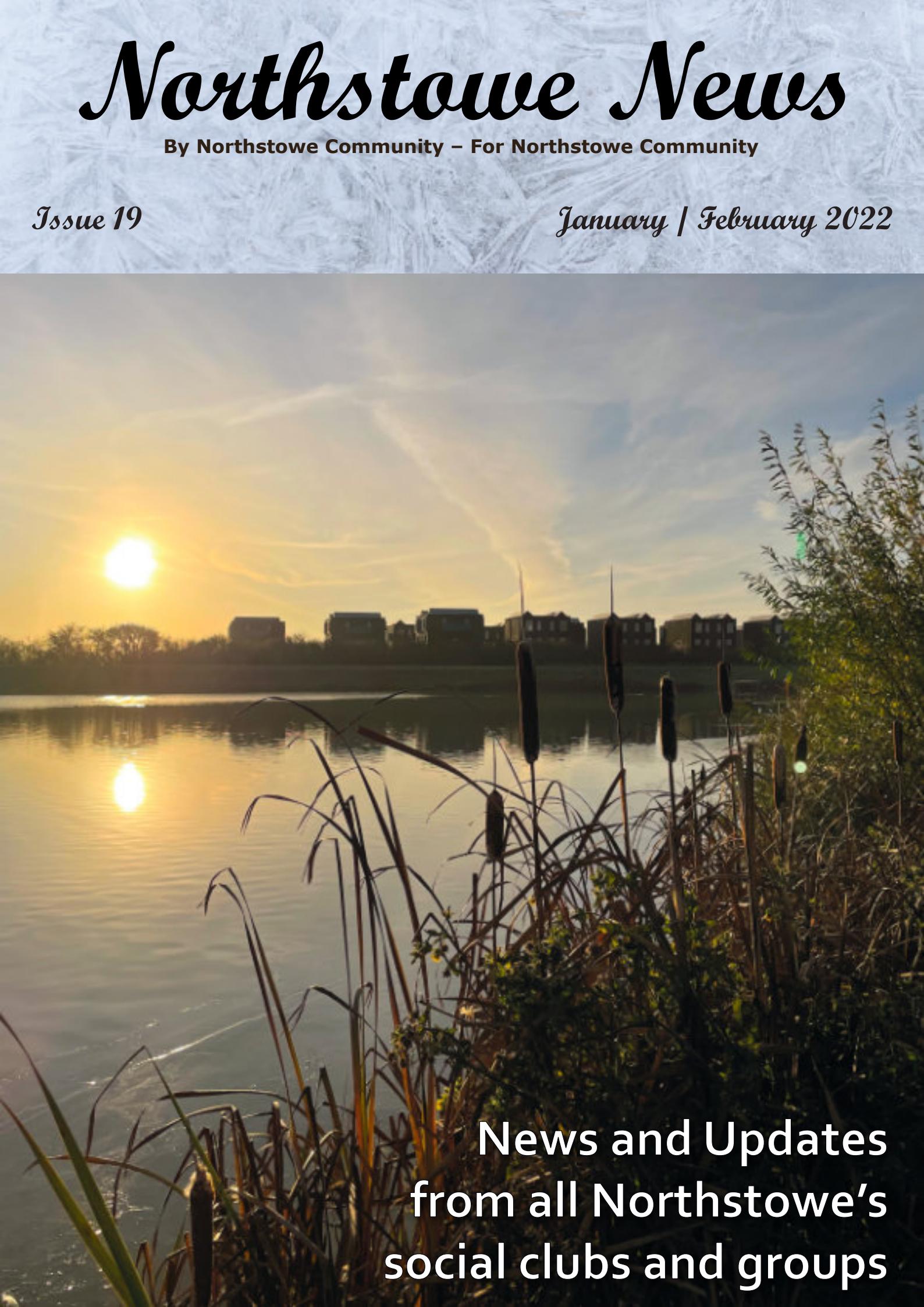


Northstowe News

By Northstowe Community – For Northstowe Community

Issue 19

January / February 2022

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water, likely a lake or pond. In the foreground, dark reeds and cattails frame the view. The water reflects the warm, golden light of the setting sun. In the background, a line of buildings is visible across the water under a sky filled with wispy clouds.

**News and Updates
from all Northstowe's
social clubs and groups**

News and Updates

EDITORS' WELCOME

Happy New Year Northstowe! May 2022 bring you joy as we continue growing as a town and community. Looking back, 2021 may have been marred by the lingering effects of COVID but it was an exciting year for Northstowe with our first town council, our first mayor and the opening of several green spaces including the lovely walk by the lakes which was the setting of our first remembrance service. Several community spaces reopened allowing a return of several community groups and we celebrated Christmas together again at the amazing lighting up of the town Christmas tree. Northstowe also continues to grow with over 1000 households. Whilst we are sad to say goodbye to Jon London our incredible community officer, we welcome Mihaela and Kathryn and look forward to getting to know them in the coming year. I can't wait to see what 2022 brings for Northstowe! Keep reading for exciting events and groups running here in the next few months and don't forget to sign in to the community forum on zoom to find out the next phase in Northstowe's growth.

Want to advertise in Northstowe News?

Over 1000 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*)

Ad Size	B&W Only	Colour
Eighth Page 95 mm x 64 mm	£18 (£97)	£23 (£124)
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Full Page 194mm x 269mm	£144 (£776)	£184 (£992)
Full Page Prime Position 216mm x 303mm	N/A	£240 (£1296)

Northstowe News is produced by a small group of volunteers. 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 Northstowe 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 March / April issue is **February 1st**.

The cost of printing and distribution of this magazine was supported, in part, by the Northstowe Developers Community Fund and the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

HOUSEHOLD BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday 4 th January	Blue Bin
Monday 10 th January	Black Bin
Saturday 15 th January	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 21 st January	Black Bin
Thursday 27 th January	Blue Bin
Thursday 3 rd February	Black Bin
Thursday 10 th February	Blue and Green Bins
Thursday 17 th February	Black Bin
Thursday 24 th February	Blue Bin



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



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Front Cover photo by Andrew Collier



THE LEGEND OF THE HEAVENLY GATE RACE

Long ago, the Jade Emperor wanted to select 12 animals to be his guards. He sent an immortal being into man's world to spread the message that the earlier one went through the Heavenly Gate, the better the rank one would have.

The next day, animals set off towards the Heavenly Gate. Rat got up early. On his way to the gate, he encountered a river. He had to stop there, owing to the swift current. After waiting a long time, Rat noticed Ox about to cross the river and swiftly jumped into Ox's ear.

The Ox did not mind at all and simply continued. After crossing the river, he raced towards the palace of the Jade Emperor. Suddenly, Rat jumped out of Ox's ear and dashed to the feet of the Emperor. Rat won first place and Ox was second.

Tiger and Rabbit came third and fourth because both are fast and competitive, but Tiger was faster.

Good-looking Dragon was fifth and was immediately noticed by the Jade Emperor, who said Dragon's son could be sixth. But Dragon's son didn't come with him that day. Snake came forward and said Dragon was his adoptive father; so Snake ranked sixth.

Horse and Goat arrived. They were very kind and modest and each let the other go first. The Jade Emperor saw how polite they were and ranked them seventh and eighth.

Monkey had fallen well behind. But he jumped between trees and stones, and caught up to be ninth. Last were Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

These 12 animals became guards of the Heavenly Gate.

2022 is the Chinese year of the Tiger. Happy New Year Northstowe

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUM

Northstowe Community Forum is your opportunity to hear directly from the developers, the councils, and other public sector bodies, to ask questions and find out everything about what's been happening recently and their plans for the future.

The next Forum will be held on **12 January 2022** from 7-9pm and will be either in person at the Northstowe Community Wing, or on Zoom. If the meeting is in person we may also include a 6pm-7pm drop in session.



7pm, Wednesday 12 January

Northstowe Community Wing
or on Zoom (tbc)

View the agenda, or join the forum: www.scamps.gov.uk/northstowe-forum
Submit your questions in advance to: Northstowe.Community@scamps.gov.uk

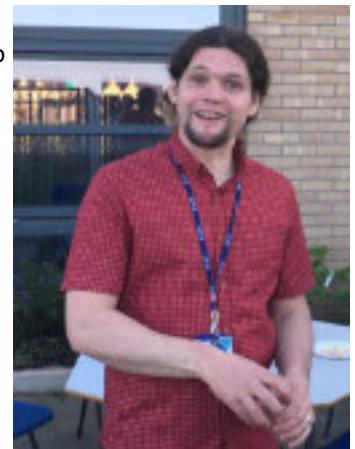
FAREWELL TO JON LONDON

It is time for us to say a fond farewell to Jon London (or Jon Northstowe as you may know him on FaceBook) who is leaving his role as Northstowe Community Development Officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council after four years.



From the early days when Northstowe had less than 100 houses, Jon has been a key initiator of all kinds of activities in Northstowe, from chivvying groups of people to hand-deliver the welcome packs, to spearheading Wing Wednesdays: the monthly events in Northstowe Community Wing where the whole of Northstowe could come together to chat and relax.

Jon was also key in helping to set up Northstowe Social, the Sports and Social committee, and other community groups. He also organised our first Christmas tree, helped problem-solve the dreaded bin collections, and works hard behind-the-scenes to make the Community Forums possible. He has also helped to keep the Northstowe News running through its sometimes turbulent path to its present form. He's been an invaluable, enthusiastic link between the community in Northstowe and the developers and council.



Jon, what an amazing fellow you have been to this community, being in every zoom meeting (sometimes two at once!) pushing forward the agenda for Northstowe and planting a vision for a great community. We appreciate all the time, effort and commitment you have given into setting up groups and traditions that we hope will last long into the future. You have been such a great help and this community will forever be grateful to you. Thanks very much and we wish you a greater and glorious adventure ahead.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Sarah Cheung Johnson, Cllr Alex Malyon

Happy New Year (and for those who celebrate Chinese New Year like Sarah – Gung Hey Fat Choi 新年快樂!) We hope you all had a restful Holiday season and end of what has been a mixed year – let's hope 2022 will bring an easier time for all.

PLANNING UPDATES

Sports Pavilion

Detailed plans for a sports pavilion and changing facilities for Northstowe, drawn-up by South Cambridgeshire District Council, have been approved.

Our thanks to residents who fed into the building's design via the Council's Northstowe Community Forum. The planning application was supported by Northstowe Town Council, Longstanton Parish Council and by us as District Councillors.

The new pavilion will be constructed around the edge of the bowling green at the Northstowe Western Park. It will provide local sports teams with six changing rooms, changing facilities for sports officials, a kitchen, clubroom, reception and office space, a kitchen, and toilets.

An air source heat pump will be installed to provide heating and hot water for the building, which will have energy efficient LED lighting. Conduits to allow the future installation of Electric Vehicle charging points in the car park will be installed during construction. There will be solar panels on the roof and bird or bat boxes within the walls.

£1.1 million in funding to construct the pavilion was secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council from developers L&Q Estates. Additional costs to further boost the quality of the building, and make it environmentally friendly, are being met by the Council.

The council will be tendering for a construction partner and once this is in place we will have a more accurate picture of timescales, currently the programme proposes that our construction partner will start on site April 2022 with completion in Spring 2023 (we are mindful of current issues regarding material and labour shortages which are causing delays in construction projects).

Approval of Endurance Estates Planning Application

At the November meeting of the planning committee approval was also given for the outline planning application for the demolition of a house and associated buildings, to be replaced with up to 107 homes, and employment / community / café / development on land west of Station Road (adjacent to the current Bloor homes and Northstowe Phase 3b) by Endurance Estates.

Keepmoat Homes Planning Application Phase 2B

The planning application for three hundred dwellings for Phase 2B was approved by South Cambs Planning Committee – these are next to the Rampton Drift and cited next to the future Town Centre. This application includes affordable housing provision, non-residential floorspace, landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure for access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale. For more details search for the outline planning permission 21/02310/REM Phase 2B, Northstowe.

Planning Committee for Northstowe Phase 3a and 3B

The proposals for Northstowe Phase 3A and 3B, were due to go to Planning Committee on the 16th November 2021 but this was postponed, and the application will go to a future meeting, date to be confirmed at time of writing.

We will be speaking to object to these proposals, echoing Oakington Parish Council concerns over flood alleviation, adequate green separation, and the Southern Access Road East and concerns from Northstowe and Longstanton residents on highways and access for Phase 3B.

ZERO CARBON COMMUNITIES GRANT SCHEME

Congratulations to Northstowe Horticultural Association who were again amongst the successful applicants to this year's Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme.

The scheme will be open for another round of applications next year and we would be very happy to support other local groups who would like to apply. The grants support projects which contribute to reducing carbon emissions and helping South Cambs district to meet the target of net zero carbon by 2050.

For further details:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/fresh-batch-of-grass-roots-green-projects-receive-funding-to-help-zero-carbon-drive/>



Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson

District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Northstowe

Contact details:

Sarah Cheung Johnson: cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk
Alex Malyon: cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR



Firouz Thompson

Happy New Year, with winter in its ascendancy, we are asking residents to take extra care in the evenings, especially in bad weather as the days remain shorter and visibility may be reduced.

On duller days, light, bright or fluorescent clothing is more visible, and at night reflective elements and lights are important, particularly if you are out running, cycling, dog-

walking or horse riding. Drivers are urged to be cautious and to give other road users plenty of space. Low sun and damp, dull conditions will also affect your view so give yourself a little bit more time and space too. More advice here:

<https://tinyurl.com/m5rvdwnj>

Here are some of the activities in Northstowe at the time of writing in December:

PATHS around EDUCATION CAMPUS: I am hoping that at the time of writing all the foot/cycle paths and bridleway in and around the schools will have been completed. I have worked closely with the School Heads, Homes England and Sisk to ensure the kids safety travelling to and from school over the months. We ask that parents/carers where possible to consider their children to cycle or walk to school, to minimise the safety around the school drop off and pick up times.

ACTIVE TRAVEL continues to be one of my priorities for Northstowe as a part of our Healthy New Town strategy. As most roads and paths will not be adopted by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) until 2026, we will be looking at safe walking and cycling routes and connections to busway around Phase 1 and 2. The 'Reclaim Your Cycle Path' campaign will continue in Phases across the year, one of our biggest hurdles we believe is changing the behaviour of residents that currently park their cars on cycle paths. If you have any thoughts around this then please do get in touch.

SOUTH ACCESS ROAD WEST (SARW) CONNECTION TO B1050:

Contracts were signed between CCC and Highways England and work has been scheduled to be completed by February. This connection will drive traffic from A14 and A1307 to the Education Campus, reducing traffic on Stirling Road which is greatly welcomed. I will work with my colleagues at CCC to ensure that taxis for Martin Bacon Academy SEN school, will look to use this new route if approaching from A14 area.

CCC officers are working on several schemes for Non-Motorised Users routes in and around Northstowe: Wilson's Road Bridleway South side was completed in October, North side and bridge will be completed by Homes England

alongside opening of SARW. Schemes still to be developed by CCC are, the route from Hattons Road Water Park to SARW, the plan is to begin construction in Spring and the detailed designs are still being finalised and there are a few details and risks to iron out. Another scheme is the Oakington to Girton shared-use path improvements also to be completed by Spring, designs have been approved.

HOUSEHOLD FUND: this support fund which aims to help those struggling to pay for food, energy or other essential items this winter was launched in November and will continue until March 2022. Cambridgeshire County Council has been allocated £3.58 million to help people who need financial support. More than £1.1 million of the funding is being used to operate a direct voucher scheme for eligible families over the October half-term, Christmas school holidays and February half-term periods.

The remainder is being used to provide a wider scheme, with at least half of the total funding allocated to support households with children. Details of how to access the scheme are available at:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/household-support-fund

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY: A draft of the County Council's revised Climate Change & Environment Strategy was considered by the CCC's Environment & Green Investment Committee in December. This follows a series of engagement meetings with parish councils, local businesses, and Council officers across the organisation. The final version of the Strategy will be considered by the Full Council at the budget meeting in February. The CCC's annual report on its carbon footprint will go to the Committee for consideration in January.

Meanwhile, Climate-related research work is ongoing by postgraduate students from the University of Cambridge on two pieces of climate-related work. The first is considering the potential for a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and how it might work. The second is considering how Local Area Energy Planning could work in Cambridgeshire. Local area energy usually refers to energy projects that are led by local organisations, whether public, private or third sector, and run for local benefit.

CONTACT DETAILS: Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

Firouz Thompson: firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Cambridgeshire County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Oakington & Westwick

For those on social media please follow Longstanton, Oakington & Northstowe Facebook group

Please report any highways problems at:

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

MAYOR, RICHARD OWEN

Hi Northstowe, and Happy New Year!

As we head into 2022, I wanted to reflect on some of the events over the past few months which have helped bring our community together. In mid-November, we held our first Act of Remembrance at the Northstowe Water Park, which fell on the 100th anniversary of the first Poppy Day. Over 100 people from across the town, including representatives from our schools, scouts and uniformed service groups, came together to reflect and remember those lost in conflict over the past century.

Revd Beth Cope led a beautiful ceremony, and I would like to thank her and all the community groups involved for contributing to the start of a great new Northstowe tradition. The Water Park was a fitting and peaceful location to lay our poppy wreaths before they were taken to the Longstanton War Memorial; this will be used for future ceremonies, at least until the Garden of Remembrance is built later in the development of the town.

Throughout November and December, the Northstowe Winter Festival provided many creative and social activities for residents to celebrate the holiday season. There were lantern making workshops in late November, with those lanterns forming a parade of lights to the Christmas tree on the Green. Northstowe Social, Northstowe Foodies, Northstowe Pathfinder Church and local school choirs from Hatton Park Primary and Pathfinder Primary School came together to celebrate the lighting up of the Christmas tree, and I was honoured to switch the lights on on behalf of the Town Council. The Northstowe Craft fair showed off the creative and artistic flair so many of our residents have, and there were wonderful carol services and celebrations throughout December around the tree and at the Community Wing. Mari O'Neill and all at Northstowe Arts have done a fantastic job coordinating these events, and I'm looking forward to seeing them grow with the town over the next few years!

The Town Council has its full council meetings at the Pathfinder Community Wing on the 4th Wednesday of each month - all members of the public are very welcome to come along to these meetings and raise issues. Outside meetings, if there are any issues you need assistance on or would like to raise about Northstowe, please get in touch with me (cllr.owen@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk) or Mark, our town clerk (townclerk@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk), we'll be very happy to hear from you. Stay safe!

Cllr Richard Owen
Town Mayor



Act of Remembrance organiser Revd Beth Cope with the Town Mayor. Image credit: Cllr Firouz Thompson

TOWN CLERK, MARK NOKKERT

The Mayor nicely illustrates how the Town Council's ethos of working cooperatively, with organisations, community groups and businesses, is at the heart of what the council is about. This also extends to working with the many developers who are instrumental in place-shaping and creating the framework for a place we can call home.

There are a number of significant meetings that happen behind the scenes where the Town Council has a seat around the table and where it can voice residents' concerns, and where the Town Council is updated on new plans. To give you an example, there is a monthly meeting of the Phase 1 Open Spaces Management and Maintenance Steering Group where the developers and all levels of Local Planning Authorities are coming together to discuss the next steps in green space and community facility development. We are pleased that the notes of many of such partnership discussions can be shared with residents through the Town Council's website and its publicly accessible council meetings.

The Town Council also discusses plans and issues directly with developers including L&Q for Phase 1, and Homes England for Phase 2, and the management company Greenbelt that has recently taken on the first of a number of green spaces. Those relationships are good and the Town Council will play an increasingly important role in discussing and influencing their forward plans and strategies.

By the time you get this issue in your door the Christmas tree will still be up on The Green. I, therefore, like to end this column by publicly thanking the developers who have helped fund the purchase of the Christmas tree. The Town Council has received very generous sponsorship from the following companies: Greenbelt; Homes England; Urban Splash; and a generous grant was also obtained from the Northstowe Developers Community Fund from Northstowe's Phase 1 housebuilders David Wilson Homes, Taylor Wimpey, Linden Homes and Domovo Homes. Thank you all on behalf of the Northstowe community!

Mark Nokkert
Town Clerk

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY

Is anti-social behaviour a concern for you?

The South Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team, which covers Northstowe, would like to know what is most concerning you?

By working together, we can help to find solutions to the local problems that matter to you most.

What is anti-social behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour or ASB for short is something which spoils the community's quality of life and; has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; is of a persistent nature; is unreasonable.

We work closely with partner agencies, including local councils, to target and tackle ASB issues within our communities so that offenders face justice and victims receive a better quality of life.

Examples can include:

- Rowdy, noisy behaviour
- Night time noise from homes or gardens (particularly between 11pm and 7am)
- Threatening and/or drunken behaviour
- Vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting
- Dealing or buying drugs on the streets
- Littering/fly-tipping
- Aggressive begging
- Drinking on the street
- Setting off fireworks late at night
- Abandoning cars on the street

In many cases ASB can be resolved without the need for legal action and we can issue warnings and penalties including acceptable behaviour contracts, dispersal orders, closure notices and criminal behaviour orders.

But in order to address the issues, we firstly need to know what they are. We invite you to report any ASB to us via this link <https://bit.ly/3oWNyC> or the QR code

Keeping in touch

If you want to know what your local neighbourhood team are getting up to, you can follow us on Facebook @SouthCambsCops Twitter @SouthCambsCops

You can also sign up to our online newsletter

www.ecops.org.uk

If you've got any other community concerns, report them to us here or via the QR code

<https://bit.ly/3oWNyC>



PC Chris Smits

South Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team

COUNCILS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND KEY GOVERNMENT-FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

If you have a problem or concern do not worry too much about who can solve it just ask the question to the parish clerk or a councillor and they will point you in the right direction. The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but it is important to identify where responsibility lies.

County Council

Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, Waste management, Maintaining their estate.

Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.

District Council

Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.

Parish/ Town Council

Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters and many more depending on council.

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)

'The local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government worth up to £500 million over 15 years, to vital improvements in infrastructure (decarbonising transport), supporting and accelerating the creation of 44,000 new jobs, 33,500 new homes and 420 additional apprenticeships.'

Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.

The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor

'A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.'

What our Mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.

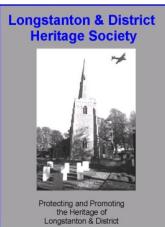
Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge, and Peterborough

To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

The Fire Authority is the governing body responsible for delivering a fire and rescue service to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is made up of Cambridgeshire County Councillors and Peterborough City Councillors.

LDHS UPDATE: NORTHSTOWE - January / February 2022



A New Way Forward?

Over the last year it has become apparent that the workload involved with running the Heritage Society, protecting and indexing the LDHS Archives and disseminating information to our communities, via social media and our local magazines, is becoming increasingly complex and challenging.

Whilst membership numbers both local and national are good, volunteers to manage the Heritage Society and its archives are not available in sufficient numbers to

make viable the work involved in owning and maintaining an important archive. In addition, some of our work requires a level of professional expertise that community volunteers do not have. For many months we have been requesting professional support as we work to protect the archives, provide information to Longstanton and Northstowe residents whilst, at the same time, working with Cambridge County Council, Homes England and others on LDHS content for the forth-coming heritage building. Unfortunately, despite the importance of the LDHS Archives and the importance of this new building to Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe, no professional support has been forthcoming and this has inevitably impacted the Society. The result is that choices now need to be made as to how to proceed.

LDHS participation within the new building hangs in the balance, with questions on storage, display, governance and autonomy still to be addressed. Whilst LDHS is delighted that a heritage building is being provided on the site of RAF Oakington, the Society can only move into the building if it provides LDHS with the necessary secure storage and work space that we need and LDHS's autonomy is guaranteed. The Heritage Annex must be a workable home for LDHS - there is simply too much work involved running the Society for this not to be the case. We realise this building is a first step and it is hoped that outstanding issues with the heritage building can be resolved. However, LDHS has reached out to Longstanton Parish Council and Northstowe Town Council asking for support in planning for the next stage of the LDHS project.

Unfortunately, the workload involved with running the Society and the lack of professional expertise has the potential to put the future of both the Heritage Society and the LDHS Archives at risk. What is important now are cross community discussions as to what organisation structure will best protect the LDHS Archives for future generations. There are a few options that can be considered and whilst LDHS members will have the final say on the future of the Society and its archives, it is likely that members will decide on whatever course of action best protects the archives for the long-term.

Decisions do now need to be made if the LDHS Archives are to be



Above: Longstanton High Street showing the old yard at Home Farm, 1982. The Co-op stands approximately where the large barn is standing.

Below right: Hattons Road which, before the construction of the bypass, was the main road (B1050) through the village and out towards Willingham and the Fens.

Both photographs: LDHS via Rachel and Philip Dale Collection.

secured as a long term community heritage asset, which can be accessed by the public in a secure and professional manner. To date, LDHS welcomes the support it has been receiving from Longstanton Parish Council and members of Northstowe Town Council and we look forward to working with them over the coming months to explore options on the best way forward.

We would also like to thank those residents of Northstowe who have joined the Society and are

supporting our work. LDHS members are helping to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to understand the heritage that the new town shares with Longstanton and Oakington. If you would like more information or wish to help the Society at this critical time, please do get in touch.



In the meantime, the LDHS Committee would like to wish all residents of Northstowe a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2022.

Hilary Stroude (Secretary)



Looking for childcare near Northstowe?

Bellaclaire Childcare is a privately run nursery offering first class childcare in Longstanton. We offer a modern purpose built well administered and well managed childcare facility. Creating a safe, caring and stimulating environment where each child can develop their social, emotional, educational skills and potential whilst becoming independent and active long term learners.



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It has been a busy term here at NSC. Since our last article we have held both our Year 6 into 7 evening and our Open Morning. Our Year 6 evening was attended by over 400 people, with lots of interest in joining us in September 2022, we are currently oversubscribed in the incoming year and in our current Year 7. Our students enjoyed showing our facilities off to the prospective students, as well as helping out in example lessons. 4 of our students were also brave enough to speak to all the visitors about their experience at NSC. Our Open Evening was a lovely morning with over 400 people joining us during the course of the morning.

It was fantastic to see our current students showing their families round, many of whom had not ever seen our complete building due to Covid restrictions.

We have been lucky to be able to get out on some trips and visits, with our Woodland Challenge and our team building missions and climbing in Milton Keynes. Year 7s have also been to the National Space Centre! We have also held our Annual Remembrance Service on the 11th November. The students filed out in

silence, and stood outside while we read, reflected and observed a minutes silence. We were so pleased to have Rev Cope join us as well as having Joshua play the Last Post. Florence Gosling also joined with me at the first ever Northstowe Remembrance service on Sunday the 14th. We felt a great deal of pride in being part of this community event, and Flo did a wonderful job of reading and laying a wreath on behalf of the College.



We celebrated Children in Need with our funky hair, socks, tights and ties, asking families to donate a pound in aid of such a good cause. We are also proud to have Sam here in the NSC family, raising money for a coding club for our students. Many of you will have seen him on our FB page and on his fundraising page. He really is a star, raising nearly £700. Watch out Alan Sugar, our Sam is coming! Also on our FB pages, we hope you have seen our Hot Chocolate Wednesday students, rewarded for always demonstrating the College's core values of Kindness, Curiosity and Hard work. Our environment committee also played their part in making promises for the environment as part of the COP26, school's initiative.

We are thankful for the kindness of our parents, who have been supporting us with computing, engineering, recycling, planning our Valentine's disco and giving so generously of their time in our enrichment programme. We are able to offer so much more because of them. Our clubs continue to thrive with over 30 clubs on at lunchtime or after school. We hope to add to that with more student lead clubs, with students bidding for £1000 offered by Living Sport, to set up and run their own after-school sessions. Having listened to our young people give their pitches, I was so proud of the seriousness they gave to the task and the professional way they presented. We have a great deal of wonderful young people at the college.

We have also been working on our website, to try and make it more reflective of the family you will see if you visit the college. We also want to share our tips on how to support children at home, as well as inspiration for children and families curious about the learning, do have a look.

As we plan for our Christmas Concert in early December, we would like to take the time thank you our community or their support and wish you all a lovely and restful festive break.

Carole Moss



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Sports, Health and Wellbeing

NORTHSTOWE BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS



Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have continued with learning and discussions around the history of Longstanton village as well as the newly evolving Northstowe.. The groups spent a few weeks preparing for Remembrance Sunday by painting rocks with Poppies on, arts and crafts, talking about the meaning of the 'poppy' and the sacrifices that were made by many. The groups each represented at the Northstowe Remembrance Sunday memorial and a short walk took us from the community wing over to lay a wreath beside the lake. Many children and young people attended and showed the upmost respect.



Many of the sessions either take place in the Northstowe community wing or in the open air. Cubs and scouts have continued with some evening hikes. More recently virtual sessions have taken place where activities are focussing on kindness and respect as well as working towards different badges/ challenges. There are plans for some Christmas celebrations for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. A range of activities and festivities are discussed and celebrated by the groups across the year.



Dark, wet and cold days are unfortunately back, and we know how difficult it is to find the motivation to stay active, and that's why... Northstowe Running Festival Active Winter is back!

The series of three 5-week challenges are designed to help you stay active and motivated throughout the wintertime.

They're simple!

Run or walk for at least 30 min, three times a week for a chance of winning amazing prizes every week. Your pace or distance doesn't matter as long as you keep moving for at least 30 min, three or more times every week. Prize draw every Tuesday. Sign up for free and get active!

<https://northstowerunfest.co.uk/active-winter-2021/>

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Happy New Year!

Willingham and Longstanton Surgeries would like to wish all our patients a very Happy New Year!

Get ready for winter viruses

Flu and COVID-19 can both be life-threatening and spread more easily in winter, when we are all crowded together inside. Most adults and children will be eligible for a flu jab, COVID-19 booster, or both. It's the most effective way to boost our natural immunity and protect ourselves from these viruses. So, book your vaccine appointments now and BOOST your immunity this winter.

So it's important to get your flu vaccine this year as well as your COVID-19 vaccines. The flu vaccine is given free on the NHS to people who:

- are 50 and over (including those who'll be 50 by 31 March 2022)
- have certain health conditions
- are pregnant
- are in long-stay residential care
- receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
- are frontline health or social care workers

When will I get better?

EAR INFECTION - at least four days

BLOCKED NOSE - two to three weeks

COLD - one to two weeks

SORE THROAT - one week

FLU - two weeks

See your local pharmacist for professional help and advice

COVID-19 vaccines are available to anyone over 16 through the national booking service or walk-in spots. Boosters are also available for people over 50 or health and social care workers, as long as you are 182 days since your second dose. These have to be booked at

<https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/>

There's loads of winter bugs already circulating in our communities. It might feel like you've been ill forever, but some things do take a while to clear. You can get medication from the pharmacy to help relieve the symptoms whilst you recover.

Help your local NHS this winter

- The past 18 months have been really hard for the NHS but there are some small things you can do that will make a big difference to help the NHS this winter
- Get your flu vaccine – whether you have one for free or need to buy one from a pharmacy, it's really important for you and your family to be protected this winter
- Get your COVID-19 vaccines – first dose, second dose, third dose or booster, take up the offer of COVID-19 vaccines that are available to you
- Download the NHS app – for on the go access to your NHS COVID pass, book appointments, order repeat prescriptions and more <https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/nhs-app/>
- Use your local pharmacy – they are experts in medication and can provide lots of self-care advice and medicines for winter bugs
- Keep a well stocked medicine cabinet – you never know which bugs you and your family might catch this winter, so it's worth having a supply of basic medications at home <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/your-medicine-cabinet/>

104 appointment slots were missed between 1st and 30th November 2021. This means 104 booked appointments went unattended by patients. This equates to 21 hours of wasted clinical time.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP YOUR BOOKED APPOINTMENT OR TELEPHONE CALL. Failure to attend appointments puts added pressure on the NHS.

COVID-19 vaccine for pregnant women

The NHS is encouraging pregnant women to get the COVID-19 vaccine as new data shows that nearly 20 per cent of the most critically ill COVID patients are pregnant women who have not been vaccinated

Covid Booster Jabs

At the time of writing the Government is expanding the booster programme to all adults over the age of 18 with all those eligible being offered a top up jab by the end of January as well as halving the gap between doses to protect people more quickly. Booster jabs must be booked through the national booking service at <https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Staff Changes

Lynda Few retired at the end of December after 30 years working in the Longstanton Dispensary. We would like to thank Lynda for all her hard work and years of dedicated service looking after the needs of patients in Longstanton and beyond.

Rhea Brown will be our new Dispensary Manager at Longstanton. Rhea has worked with Lynda in the Dispensary for a number of years and we wish her all the best in her new role.

Dr Gilbert left for her maternity leave in December, her clinics will be taken over by Dr Bhandari until she returns.

**The COVID-19
vaccine is safe and
effective during
pregnancy and is
recommended by
clinicians and
charities**



THE MANDERSON TRUST



The Manderson Trust is a disabled fishing charity based in Over, initially set up by Denis Manderson, to allow disabled and less able-bodied fishermen and women easy access to a fishing lake. The complex is open to everyone who enjoys fishing, whether as a day-ticket, season ticket or family membership.

In turbulent times The Trust has continued to provide a haven of calm. A place to sit, think, take in a bit of nature and unwind.

The free under 12s fishing has seen many more families down at the lakes this summer making the most of the equipment we loan and the advice we offer. If you are thinking of bringing youngsters to have a go it's always a good idea to start them fishing with a pole or whip suited to their size and to bait up with a few maggots as they almost guarantee a fish a cast. Once a few fish are caught most youngsters are hooked and will want to move on to a rod and reel and the chance of bigger specimens. We have carp up to 20lb in lake 5 and a host from 6lb upwards. Get in touch if you fancy a session with your youngsters.

The restocking of Lake 1 with small carp up to 2lb has proved very successful. One angler recently had 40 in a 12 hour session. The lake now hosts open matches on the first Sunday of each month with winning catches usually being in the 10lb to 20lb range. More stock, Carp and Ide should arrive before the new year. See our Facebook page for notifications.

Last winter brought with it a lot of rain and with that came soft banks and rutted access paths. The Mick George sports fund very kindly gave us a grant of over £1000 to purchase hard core and gravel to reinstate and repair nearly 200m of track. The funding included a sum for machinery and driver hire. We are very grateful to Dave at Over garage for the use of their digger and to Harry for his time and skills as the driver.

Work continues on the wild flower meadow. More thanks are needed to Richard Fenwick for his hard work on the 'little red Furgie', cutting grass and harrowing the area ready for spring next year. Last year we seeded the meadow with insects in mind this year the Trust has allocated funds to add colourful native annuals to the site. Trevor from the Over and Swavesey conservation society continues to advise us and monitor the progress of the area. This year's star find was a group of Bee Orchids among the grass.

Plans are afoot to restock Lake 4 as part of ongoing development. 100 Tench and 100 Crucian carp will go in once water temperatures consistently drop to below 7 degrees. The banks around the lake will have a makeover giving access to areas in front of swims in order to clear weed but to also allow other areas to develop the cover that the two species need to thrive.

Our next project will be to make Lake 3 fully functioning again. Norfolk reed has all but taken it over but with a combination of mechanical removal and judicious spraying we should be able to get it under control. This will be an expensive job and work on funding will be in hand over the next few months. Once the work is complete, we will have a breeding lake to provide smaller fish to stock the other lakes and a great place for juniors to hone their angling skills.

The Trust is making efforts to link up with various support organisations in the community. We continue to work with The Centre School in Cottenham and have recently joined forces with Cambridge City Housing First Project who bring those they support to the lakes for a bit of respite and a quiet time on the bank. If you know of a group or organisation that would benefit from the facilities we can offer, please contact us.



November saw us in The Angling Times. We appeared as one of the national venues that cater for disabled anglers. We have already had enquiries about using our facilities as a result.

Best wishes from all at The Manderson Trust.

<http://www.themandersontrust.co.uk/>





Hungry? How to GET HELP

We know that anyone can reach crisis point and we're here to help when that happens.

Food bank vouchers are available from local agencies such as citizens advice, schools, and churches.

Vouchers can be redeemed at Distribution Centres across Cambridge, including the new Northstowe centre.

Each gives you a parcel of three days of emergency food, providing non-judgemental support at the point of crisis.

Looking to donate?

The nearest collection point is at Bar Hill Tesco

Want to volunteer?

Get in touch!

Read more: cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk
One contact is Revd Beth Cope (Pathfinder Church)
07720 330 272 contact@northstowe.church

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Beverley | CAP Life Skills member

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Northstowe Community Wing

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Community Groups and Social Events

WHAT'S ON IN NORTHSTOWE

KEEP US UPDATED!

Spotted any errors, changes, or more groups to be included? Please email northstovenews@gmail.com

MONDAYS

Tang Soo Do (£)

Family-friendly martial arts club. Tiny Tigers class for 4-6 year olds at 4pm followed by a junior class for 7-11 year olds from 4:45pm. Email enquiries@Northstowetsd.co.uk

Tai-Chi (£)

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

Social Run

Longstanton and Northstowe Limpers social run meeting on The Green at 19:30

Book Club

Meet to discuss books in Monday evenings once per month. New members always welcome.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785>

TUESDAYS

Stay and Play (£)

Sessions for children from around 10 months or walking. 10-11:30am at the Community Wing. To book please email ChildAndFamilyCentre.South@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Baby Group (£)

For parents of pre-mobile babies. Meet other parents and access support from and advice from the Child and Family Centre team. 1-2:30pm at the Community Wing. To book please email

ChildAndFamilyCentre.South@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Huntingdon Hockey Club (£)

Northstowe Secondary College Astroturf, 7pm - 8:30pm
All abilities welcome. Contact huntingdonhockeyclub@gmail.com

Fastbreak Basketball (£)

Indoor sessions in the Northstowe Secondary College Sports Hall, 12 & Under at 6pm, 14 & Under at 7pm

northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk

Northstowe Board Games

Join us Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm to play modern-style strategy and tabletop games, anything from Alhambra to Ziemlich Zügig! Northstowe Community Wing last Tuesday each month, and online other weeks. Email northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk

WEDNESDAYS

Pioneer Cafe (£)

Serving teas, coffees, cold drinks and snacks 10:00-12:30 at the Community Wing

Cardio Conditioning Fitness Class (£)

A mix of aerobic (low or high impact) and strength & resistance training to improve your heart health. 12:40-13:30 at the Community Wing. Advance booking only, cependlebury62@gmail.com

Sustainable Northstowe

A community group with a vision to make Northstowe a green, clean, biodiverse and interconnected place for current and future residents. 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm at The Wing.

sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com

Longstanton and Northstowe Limpers

Beginners session all welcome. Members-only coached session.

Over Power (£)

Fitness, Strength, Conditioning circuits. We help ladies to tone up, lose weight and feel great. Pathfinder School Hall 6:15 pm and 7:15 pm overpowerfitness@outlook.com

Chicken Soup for the Soul

Stop, Breathe, Pray – 1st Wednesday of every month, 8pm. Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close (www.northstowe.church)

THURSDAYS

Sweaty Mama (£)

New Sweaty Mama classes starting at Northstowe Community Wing from Thursday 9th September 9.30am, see booking details

<https://midcambridgeshire.sweatymama.com/book-on-a-class/>

Fastbreak Basketball (£)

Indoor sessions in the Northstowe Secondary College Sports Hall, 10 & Under and 16 & Under at 7:15pm, Adult sessions at 8:20pm

northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk

Tang Soo Do (£)

Family-friendly martial arts club. Tiny Tigers class for 4-6 year olds at 4pm followed by a junior class for 7-11 year olds from 4:45pm. Email enquiries@Northstowetsd.co.uk

Clubbercise (£)

Easy to follow dance routines, toning and combat moves with disco lights and glow sticks. 7:15pm at Over community centre. marilynsq@icloud.com

FRIDAYS

CAP Life Skills

A friendly group where you'll gain practical skills and discover new ways to live for a brighter future. 10:30am at the Community Wing (starting January 21st). Email johannascoones@capuk.org for details

Judo (£)

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

SATURDAYS

Sustainable Saturdays

Information stands, swap events and popup Refill Station with zero plastic waste. 3rd Saturday of the month, on The Green sustainablenorthstowe@outlook.com

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

Breakfast Gatherings

Community breakfast with activities for all ages, regardless of faith background, including an optional communion service in a side chapel. 1st Sunday each month, 10.30am Pathfinder Primary School. www.northstowe.church

Community Litter Pick

3rd Sunday each month at 10:30am. Meet outside 6 Woodpecker Close, bring gloves! bit.ly/NorthstoweLitterPicks

A partnership of Northstowe Town Council, Plastic Free Longstanton and Northstowe, and Pathfinder Church Northstowe.

Emmanuel Church Northstowe

A growing gospel-centred church serving a growing new community. Sunday morning services for all ages at 10:30, at Northstowe Secondary College.

www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

Pathfinder Church Northstowe

Your local Church of England church with an inclusive ecumenical welcome: praying, exploring, and sharing. Sunday Gatherings 3.30-5pm (normally at Pathfinder Primary School, but check www.northstowe.church)

Ignite Youth Group

Youth group from Emmanuel Church Northstowe for anybody ages 11-14. Runs term-time alternate Sundays 5pm at the Community Wing. Email ignite.ecn@gmail.com

Community Litter Picks

Jan 16th and other
Third Sundays at 10.30am
Meet outside
6 Woodpecker Close

Bags, pickers, gloves,
hoops and jackets provided
check social media for final
confirmation
bit.ly/NorthstoweLitterPicks

community Café at The Wing

takeaway available!

LET'S TAKE A COFFEE BREAK

Pioneer Café

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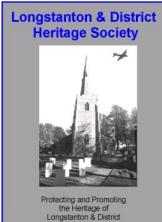
Friends of The Wing

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Northstowe's very first Winter Festival got off to a great start with the Lantern Parade and switching on the Christmas Lights on the Green. Santa himself was in attendance, as well as hot food trucks from Northstowe Foodies, drinks and mince pies from Northstowe Social, and the Town Mayor turned on the lights.



LDHS LOCAL HERITAGE INFORMATION



Longstanton & District Heritage Society is interested in not only telling the stories of Longstanton and Oakington Airfield, but is also keen on introducing residents to the wider heritage on our doorstep. Local villages such as Longstanton and Oakington were not isolated communities but were part of a wider network of social, tribal and trade interactions, much of which was strengthened by our local area's proximity to the Fens. In the days when transport of goods by unmade roads would have been difficult, the waterways of the Fens allowed for the transportation of goods, materials and people. The isolation of the Fens also provided a good hiding place for outlaws and others who did not wish to come to the attention of the authorities such as local legend, Hereward the Wake. The proximity of East Anglia to continental Europe also led to vulnerability from attack, which meant this area of the country was not always as peaceful as we may imagine.

In a recent edition of our local magazine, I told the story of the network of ancient trackways that lie between north-west Cambridge and the south-west Fens. Some of these trackways pass close by Longstanton and Northstowe and can be easily explored by bicycle, horse or on foot. However, heritage within our landscape does not end with trackways and paths, there are other interesting features linked to historical events of the past which can be seen within the landscape if you know where to look.



I have been asked to tell the story of some of these local places so I will start by sharing the story of Giants Hill, Rampton, an ancient fortification which lies near to Rampton church. It would be a long walk from Longstanton or Northstowe Phase 1, but it is easy to get to

by bicycle or by car. To get to Rampton take the track that lies next to the Phase 1 lake, cross over the Guided Busway and head out across open countryside. On the edge of Rampton the track splits; right takes you towards Westwick and turning left takes you towards Rampton village itself. Once in the centre of the village keep right and head towards Cottenham until you see a layby on your left. The entrance to Giants Hill is there. If you reach the traffic calming area as you leave the village you have gone too far. Fortunately, Rampton has a pub on the main road which, if open, can provide refreshment and rest before heading back to Northstowe and Longstanton.

Giants Hill Rampton

Once you arrive at the site of Giants Hill, there is a short but fascinating walk around Giants Hill which is an unfinished medieval castle dating from 12th Century. It is associated with the remains of a medieval settlement and its arable fields, partly overlying the remains of the medieval village of Rampton. The castle is linked to the Anarchy, a period of civil war and unrest during the reign of King Stephen and 'Queen' Matilda. When King Henry I died in 1135, Henry's daughter, Empress Matilda, claimed the throne but so did Henry's favourite nephew, Stephen of Blois. Matilda's brother had died in 1120, which left her as Henry's sole legitimate heir. However, Stephen hurried to London and was crowned King, an appointment confirmed by the Pope in 1136. In 1139, Matilda invaded England to claim the throne for herself. Many clergy and barons threw their support behind Matilda's claim but many others became a law unto themselves. Authority broke down and Stephen's government lost control – hence the term 'anarchy'. Barons supported either Stephen or Matilda, with some swapping allegiance depending on who they thought would be on the winning side. Civil War

raged between 1139 and 1153, with ordinary people, across large parts of the country, being caught up in what was effectively a family dispute and a fight for power.

One such Baron, Geoffrey de Mandeville, 1st earl of Essex, is considered one of the worst of a number of cruel and lawless barons during the reign of King Stephen. Geoffrey was a great landowner in Essex and elsewhere. He came to prominence in 1140 when Stephen, desperate to have his support against Matilda, made him hereditary earl of Essex. When Stephen was captured by Matilda's supporters (February 1141), Geoffrey deserted to her. In 1141, plans were made for Matilda's coronation but she did not have the support of the people and she was forced to free Stephen, in return for the release of her half-brother. Stalemate followed with Matilda controlling lands in the south-west of England, Stephen controlling lands in the east and midlands and the rest of the country being controlled by local independent barons.

In 1143, during the height of the Anarchy, one such baron, Geoffrey De Mandeville, seized the Isle of Ely in opposition to King Stephen, ransacked the area, burning Cambridge and capturing and fortifying Ramsey Abbey. In response, King Stephen ordered the construction of a series of castles along the Fen Edge, at Rampton, Burwell, Caxton, Swavesey and Wood Walton. The peasants of Rampton were instructed to help build the castle and were forced to pull down their own houses to make way for it. In August 1144, Geoffrey De Mandeville attacked the castle at Burwell while it was still under construction and was mortally wounded by an arrow, dying soon after. With Geoffrey's death the castles were no longer required and Giants Hill was left frozen in time.



King Stephen by Matthew Pois

How did this period of anarchy end? In 1148, Matilda retired to Normandy and began to promote her eldest son Henry. The throne continued to be disputed by Henry, who invaded England in 1149, and 1153. Stephen stubbornly fought on but, following the death of his son, agreement was made with Henry that he would inherit the throne on Stephen's death. Henry did eventually inherit the English throne in 1154, and was crowned Henry II.

In autumn 2004, South Cambridgeshire District Council magazine produced a great article that details the history of the site and provides information on location, parking etc. A digital copy of the article and further information can be found by visiting the Rampton village website:

<https://rampton.org/rampton-park-and-giants-hill/>

We hope that you enjoy exploring this fascinating piece of local history but as usual please be aware that the site is uneven and could be muddy after wet weather. Please take care to close gates, protect grazing livestock and make sure that litter is taken home. Archaeological sites are fragile, particularly if visited by many people, so please take care to leave this ancient castle site undisturbed.

Hilary Stroude

SUSTAINABLE NORTHSOWE

What have we been up to?

- **Monthly Refill and eco-home stalls** (3rd Saturday of the month at the Green)
- **Egg boxes collection** which were donated to a local chicken farm.
- **Halloween Costume and Decoration Swap & Share:** set up at the Community Wing during October. It was great fun seeing costumes coming and going!
- **Tree of Promises – COP26:** We collected promises for the planet and to stop climate change in leaves, and the beautiful tree is now in the Wing. You can still add your promise!
- **Crisp packaging unofficial collection point** (by the entrance of the Wing). We bring collected packaging to the Northstowe Secondary College (official point), helping them to get additional points for funding. Get in touch if you want to help out in the collections/sorting.
- **Xmas Jumper and decorations Swap and Share:** at the Community Wing, throughout November and December.
- **Upcycling craft stall at the Northstowe Craft Fair** to make wrapping paper, gift bags and decorations with reclaimed material from residents and from the Cambridge Community Scrap store.
- Our **first ever AGM** was scheduled for the 14th December! At the time of writing it has not yet taken place, but I am hopeful it was a fun, engaging and exciting meeting to think about how we can make Northstowe a more sustainable community.

What are we planning ahead?

In January we will hold a planning meeting where we will decide what events and projects we want to continue organising or kick-off during 2022, possibly: **swaps & share events, toy library, repair café, trees, tree spotting recycling and reusing events...** Do you have an idea you would like to take forward or want to get involved in the group (e.g. newsletter, website, grants)? Drop us a line, or come in to our next meeting!

Best wishes for the new 2022!

Carla, Chair (at the time!) of Sustainable Northstowe

FB page: @sustainablenorthstowe

Contact us at sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com



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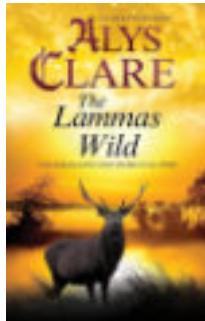
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BOOK REVIEWS

The Lammas Wild by Alys Clare is a medieval fantasy novel set in Cambridge shortly after the Norman conquest. In this case, 'medieval fantasy' doesn't just mean a fantasy setting that resembles medieval Europe; Clare has created a fantasy version of real medieval history involving a hidden world of magic-users. In this book, we follow Lassair, a woman with healing and divination powers, as she returns to the Fens from her travels in Europe to find political plotting and murder already underway. Her old boyfriend Jack is now in charge of local law enforcement and she has to help him unravel the mystery while also dealing with dark forces that have followed her home.



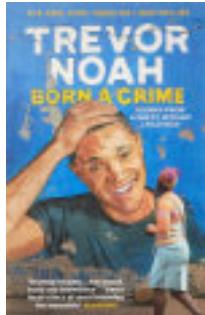
This is the final book in what appears to be a long series. Especially given that fact, Clare does a great job of establishing the world and Lassair's friends and enemies. I never felt like I was lost or didn't understand what was going on even though it was clear that a lot had already happened. Lassair and Jack were mostly very likeable and sympathetic characters and I enjoyed reading about them. I especially liked a subplot where Lassair gets involved in running what amounts to a women's refuge; it's sadly rare to see so many positive interactions between women in either historical fiction or fantasy.

I recommend it for adults and readers at the older end of YA who enjoy fantasy.

Becca Edney

BOOK CLUB

During the past year Northstowe Book Club members have read books from many different genres, historical novels, fantasy, science-fiction, classics, books set in Corfu, the USA, and all round the world. One book I really enjoyed but probably would not have picked up for myself was *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. I am not normally a big fan of autobiographies but this one is excellent. Noah's story is fascinating, just as exciting as any novel. He begins by describing how he was once thrown from a moving car, and proceeds to tell of a life full of drama, variety, some sadness and lots of humour. Wisely, he does not try to relate his whole life chronologically, but picks episodes and intersperses these with historical background. I learnt a lot about life in South Africa under apartheid and what it was like to live as the offspring of a black mother and white father when such a union was illegal.



Northstowe Book Club meets monthly, currently on Zoom. We would love to welcome some new members. Get in touch via our Facebook page.

Kathy Fountain

GAME OF THE MONTH

One of the things we've missed in the last year or so, is meeting up with other Board Gamers and playing the games they've brought with them which we haven't seen. But sometimes we've been able to find new things online, and Cubirds is one game which we played first on Board Game Arena, before we got an opportunity to play it in real life.



Cubirds is designed by Stefan Alexander and published by Ultra-Pro.

In Cubirds – so called, perhaps, because the birds queue up along the wires, or because of its distinctive cuboid art style – you are trying to collect flocks of birds to add to your collection. Each turn you choose a bird from your hand, and place all your cards of that species onto the left or right sides of one of the rows on the table. If, doing that, you "sandwich" any other birds between two of the same species you take those captured birds into your hand. Once you have amassed enough cards of one species to form a flock, they fly away from your hand (with optional wing-flapping sound effect!) and one goes face-up into your collection. But there is a twist - if you ever manage to empty your hand of all cards, every player discards their cards and is dealt a new hand, and you get to take the first turn in the next round. Play continues until one player wins by having a collection of seven different species of birds, or at least three copies of two species.



Like many of our favourite games, Cubirds has rules that are fairly simple to explain and understand, but there are some quite interesting decisions to be made as you play. For example, emptying your hand to take the first turn of a new round can be a very powerful move, but you may have to pass up on some opportunities to collect a rarer bird into your hand and is it worth it? There's plenty of interaction between players, as it's always wise to look at what birds your opponents need to collect, and try to avoid leaving too many of them on the table. Plus it doesn't take too long to play, and the artwork is bold and fun (even if the Reed Warbler does look like a wafer biscuit).

Andrew and Sarah Collier

We're back meeting face-to-face again! On the last Tuesday evening each month we're meeting at 7:30pm in Northstowe Community Wing, and we're online on Zoom the other weeks – there's limited space in the Wing so please email northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk or search FaceBook for "Northstowe Gamers" to see details and get in touch.

NORTHSTOWE NATURE NOTES

Late autumn has brought in plenty of wintering bird species to Northstowe. Most obvious are the extra ducks on the Water Park lake, with our swan family being joined by Mallards, Gadwall, Teal, Tufted Duck and Pochards along with more Coots. Locally, very large numbers of waterfowl winter at Fen Drayton RSPB (easy bike ride along the busway) and along the Ouse Washes – the huge flood storage area between Earith and Denver, with the approximately 10,000 Whooper Swans being the specialty there, plus the growing flock of Cranes (currently 73 near the railway bridge)

Kingfisher Pond has also been busy, with the mild November allowing dragonflies to continue later than they normally survive. Their eggs or larvae are in the

pond (or in the surrounding trees in the case of Willow Emerald damselflies), ready to develop and emerge next spring and summer. A young grass snake was seen nearby in October. The main sign of winter there is a growing flock of Siskins, with over 20 of these yellow finches feeding with a large flock of Goldfinches in the alders. A pair of wintering Stonechats is also back along the Greenways, often with the Meadow Pipits.

Goldfinches have been coming into my garden in increasing numbers as well, to nyjer seed and sunflower hearts. Close to Kingfisher Pond, these would also attract Siskins. House Sparrows have also moved into Northstowe, mostly along the hedge by Pathfinder School but also visiting gardens. They are much less fussy and will also eat wheat-based bird seeds, but do really appreciate dense bushes to sit and hide in. It's important to keep feeders clean, especially if they have sat unused for a period. Greenfinches, which are sometimes around, have recently crashed by 50% due to Trichomonosis disease.

Hugh Venables



LONGSTANTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Welcome to 2022. A new year is upon us. In the Christian church the first festival we celebrate is Epiphany on 6 January. It is the journey of the Magi (or Wise Men) to the manger in Bethlehem. There they meet the baby Jesus, born to be the ultimate King of all Kings. It is a wonderful Bible story which can be read in Matthew chapter 2.

It is as if these Wise Men journey with us out of one year in to the next. They set out to follow a star. I wonder who or what we set out to follow in 2022. Will our aspirations on 1 January still be our aims six months later on 1 July?

The light of their guiding star was seen in the darkness. As the carol 'We three Kings of Orient are' puts it: this star burned bright with royal beauty. In the dark and difficult moments on their travels, the Wise Men trusted that light was still to be found. Looking back on 2021, when did we encounter darkness? Where did we discover light?

The Wise Men asked questions when they were lost and looked for help. Perhaps we grapple with particular concerns at the start of this new year? Who might offer us wisdom?

We are led to believe that the Magi were three Kings travelling together to Bethlehem. They were a little community on the road. I wonder what experiences we share with others in Northstowe and beyond. How do they enrich our lives?

As 2022 unfolds may our path be illuminated with wisdom, direction and companionship.

Services are held in All Saints Church, Longstanton each Sunday at 9.30am. We enter 2022 with the addition of two new small group meeting spaces within the church building. These are available for use by the local community. Please do be in touch to find out more about hiring arrangements.

Rev'd Lucy Cleland, Team Vicar in the 5folds Group
Longstanton with Northstowe, Over, Swavesey and Willingham.
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EMMANUEL CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

What's the best future you could imagine?

There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But these days, hope often feels hard to come by. Where can we find a hope that won't disappoint us?

If you're looking for hope or intrigued by the impact Jesus has had on the world, then please join us for our January Hope Explored evening series. Hope Explored looks at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in Luke's Gospel. This three-session series shows that Christianity is about real hope: a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present.



Emmanuel
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Each session will start with dessert and coffee, followed by time to talk about your questions, a short discussion of a Bible passage, watching a short video and then discussing what was said.

Session 1 Hope	Friday 14th 7:30-9pm
Session 2 Peace	Friday 21st 7:30-9pm
Session 3 Purpose	Friday 28th 7:30-9pm

Venue (in Northstowe or Longstanton) tbc when we have final numbers. Sign up by sending an email to contact@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org with your name and any dietary requirements.

For details about Emmanuel's Sunday service (10:30am Northstowe Secondary College), Ignite youth group and other activities, see our website emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

Correspondence address: 45 Eaton Way, Longstanton, CB24 3ET



PATHFINDER CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

praying, exploring and sharing

Have you wondered who Pathfinder Church Northstowe are? We are...

- made up of people moving into the area: rooted and growing right here in our new town
- from all traditions and none; those just starting exploring their spirituality and pilgrims dusty from the journey
- people who love to get involved in our local communities, and want to make a difference
- Northstowe's Church of England church community, which means we are here to offer weddings, funerals, and thanksgiving or christening services to anyone who lives in the area.
- *praying, exploring, and sharing.* Why not come and explore a while with us?

Looking back: Advent & Christmas highlights

Praying: Where is your favourite place to find refreshment?

For several of us at Pathfinder Church, we find our monthly "Chicken Soup for the Soul" evenings help us to rest and recharge. We reflect with contemporary wisdom and poetry, share ten mins of silent meditation, and then wrap up with the beautiful ancient monastic poetry in the Night Prayer service of Compline. In December, this was made even more special by gathering around a campfire outside the Northstowe Nativity Scene.



Exploring: How much of Northstowe have you explored?

Thank you to everyone who took part in Northstowe's Advent Windows this year! This was the perfect opportunity to step out and see new parts of our town. The theme of Festive Food led to a rich variety of international cuisine, presented in a myriad of different ways. If you missed it, there are still some highlights on show on the facebook group:



Sharing: What was your favourite partnership event?

Northstowe's winter months could be summed up by the word "community". Those from all faiths and none shared traditions and customs from around the world, and made new ones, all under the banner of Northstowe's Winter Festival. So many great partnerships were formed! We just can't decide between the Switch On event, Christmas Craft Fair (where our carols, refreshments, and Listening Post helped raise funds for the antislavery charity International Justice Mission), Carols Round the Tree, the Art Pavilions displays, or one of the Campfire Celebrations. Can you?

Term Time Pattern

Join our Sunday Afternoon Gatherings at 3.30pm

- 1st Sunday of the month off-site: prayer-walk in Northstowe
- Other Sundays: Join us for interactive all-age conversation, prayer, exploration, and worship. Experience rooted faith, shaped for this time and this place. Church, but not as you know it. Pathfinder Primary School Hall/Field: 3.30-5pm

Or our monthly special events:

- **Community Breakfast** Gatherings: 1st Sunday of the Month Whatever your faith, bring the whole family to share in breakfast, activities, and gentle chat, with an optional communion in a side chapel. Pathfinder Primary School, 10.30am – 12 noon
- **"Chicken Soup for the Soul":** 1st Weds of the month, Stop; Breathe; Pray. Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close. 8pm

Check social media for holiday variations

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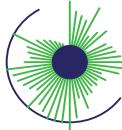
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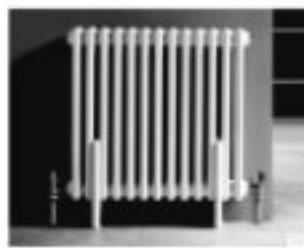
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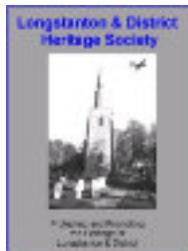
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LDHS MEMORY LANE



Below: St Michaels, Longstanton (early 1980's) showing The Hoops pub on the left and the white cottage, once lived in by members of the Abbs family. The Hoops pub was demolished in 1986.

Right: Woodside, Longstanton with Melrose House and All Saints' church in the distance (early 1980's).



These photographs were amongst the first to be donated to Hilary Stroud when she set up the Longstanton Archive in 2005. Ivan Cook donated many photographs featuring The Manor / Manor Farm, where he had lived for a time with his parents. Ivan's father, Vic Cooke, was Farm Foreman on Manor Farm and Ivan remembers with great fondness his days living here in Longstanton.

By 2005, Ivan Cooke no longer lived in the village and without the creation of the Longstanton Archive, his collection of historic photographs would have been lost. Ivan's donation was the first step in protecting the heritage of Longstanton and it led to the creation of the Longstanton & District Heritage Society, in May 2007. LDHS formalised ownership of the Longstanton Archives enabling them to become the community asset they are today.

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NORTHSTOWE NEWS IS YOUR MAGAZINE!

Here at the Northstowe News, our goal is to be a part of building a strong, all-inclusive community in Northstowe. Everyone involved in putting the magazine together is a resident here, and we want to enable everyone to keep up-to-date with everything that's happening in this new town. We especially want to help connect people into all the social groups and activities that are starting up.

By answering these questions you can help us shape the magazine, making sure it stays relevant and is meeting the needs of the community. Please either:

- Write your answers on this page, then cut out the form and drop it into the box we'll leave in Northstowe Community Wing.
- Or answer online at <https://tinyurl.com/northstovenews2022>



How much do you read the Northstowe News? (Please tick)

- A few articles occasionally
- Some articles in each issue
- Most articles in each issue
- Every article

What are your top 10 favourite regular features in the Northstowe News?

(Answer 1 to 10, 1 = most favourite)

- Editors' Welcome
- Household Bin Collections
- News and updates from the councils
- News and updates from the schools
- News and updates from the doctors' surgery
- Reports from Young People's after-school activities such as Cubs, Beavers and Scouts
- Longstanton and Northstowe Limpers
- Other Sports and Wellbeing news
- What's On in Northstowe
- Sustainable Northstowe
- Longstanton and District Heritage Society
- Northstowe Book Club and Book Reviews
- Northstowe Gamers
- News and updates from the local churches
- RSPB Fen Drayton
- Northstowe Nature Notes
- Colouring and Puzzles
- New and updated Northstowe map
- Local business advertising

What topics, not currently covered in the magazine, do you think would be valuable?

Has the Northstowe News helped you find any of the social groups or activities you regularly participate in? If so, please list:

Do you use any local FaceBook groups or other online communities? If so, please list:

Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

If you would like to get involved at Northstowe News either writing a column or helping behind the scenes, please email northstovenews@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Colouring and Puzzles



Valentine's Day Word Search

C	U	U	U	V	A	L	E	T	I	N	E	S	J	
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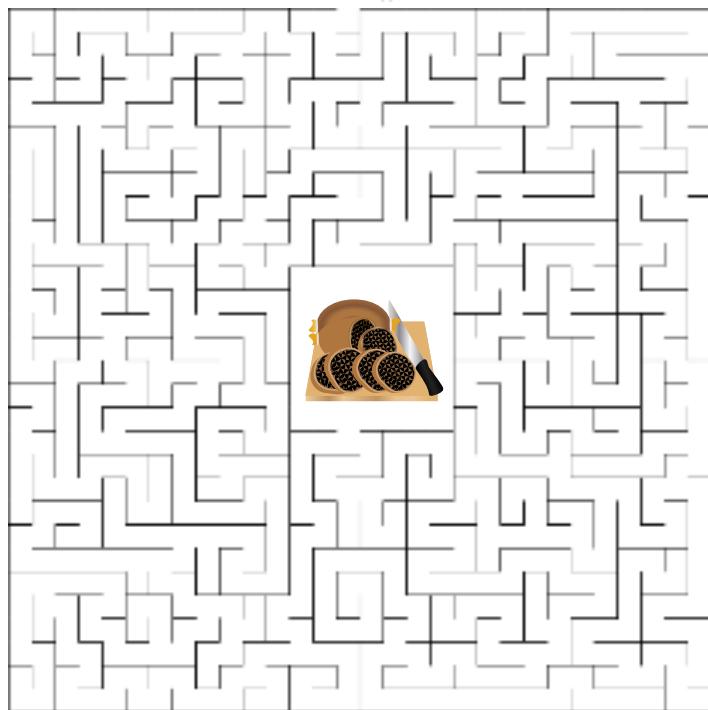


- Gift
- Candy
- Kisses
- Hugs
- Cupid
- Flowers
- Love
- Heart
- Chocolate
- Arrow
- Sweet
- Valentine



Burns Night 25th January

Help the Piper to
find the Haggis!



Valentine's Day Crossword Puzzle

Fit each word in the box into the puzzle below. There is only one correct place for each word.

angel	adore	valentine
roses	romance	sweet
date	hugging	Flower
card	candy	love
heart	red	

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