

Northstowe News

By Northstowe Community – For Northstowe Community

Issue 36

December 2024 | January 2025



News and Updates

EDITORS' WELCOME

As Christmas approaches, it brings with it a wonderful opportunity to gather and celebrate with friends, family, and neighbours. This season is marked by other festivals too, including Hanukkah and New Year, each bringing its own special warmth and joy.

As we bid farewell to 2024, we want to say thank you for the kindness and connection you've shared with those around us and for being such wonderful neighbours. Let's make 2025 a year filled with even more generosity and unity. Together, we can make Northstowe the best place to live by sharing the values of peace, love, and joy throughout our community.

Want to advertise in Northstowe News?

Over 1700 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	£20 (£108)	£26 (£140)
Quarter Page 95 mm x 132 mm or 194 mm x 64 mm	£40 (£216)	£52 (£280)
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Full Page 194mm x 268mm	£160 (£864)	£208 (£1120)
Full Page Prime Position 216mm x 303mm	N/A	£270 (£1460)

Northstowe News is produced *right here in Northstowe* 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 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 February / March issue is **January 1st**.

HOUSEHOLD BIN COLLECTIONS

Friday 6 th December	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 13 th December	Black Bin
Friday 20 th December	Blue and Green Bins
Saturday 28th December	Black Bin
Friday 3 rd January	Blue Bin
Friday 10 th January	Black Bin
Friday 17 th January	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 24 th January	Black Bin
Friday 31 st January	Blue Bin



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

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Front Cover photo by Peter Cope
with additional elements from FreePik

The Northstowe News editors are happy to acknowledge that the printing and distribution of this magazine was supported by a contribution from Homes England.



GREENBELT GROUP

A wonderful winter for everyone

As a regular reader of Northstowe News, you'll know that a primary mission for Greenbelt is to help local communities grow and thrive together.

Beyond our award-winning land stewardship, we achieve this through helping fund local projects or lending our expertise to make the seemingly impossible possible.

At Northstowe we love working with residents on projects such as the annual Festival of Running and the Midsummer Festival – and this time of year is no exception.

That's why we were delighted to once again support Light Up Northstowe

With a lantern parade (with many of the lanterns created in a series of fun workshops, at home or in school), the much anticipated festive lights switch-on, live music, food trucks and more, this is an incredible and very popular annual get-together.

We think everyone at Northstowe agrees it's always the perfect opportunity to embrace the magic of winter in the great outdoors!

Of course, at this time of year it's also important not to forget our other Northstowe neighbours: the wonderful wildlife who also choose here as their home.

In order to create environments that protect and boost biodiversity and local wildlife, Greenbelt works closely with groups such as the RSPB. This amazing organisation has the following advice for helping our feathered friends during colder months:

- Put out bird food and fresh water on a regular basis.
- In severe weather, you may find you need to feed twice daily.
- Birds need high-energy, high-fat foods during colder weather.
- Always adjust quantity given to the demand and don't let uneaten food build up.

We have fab guidance, too, for all creatures great and small.

- **Foxes:** At dusk leave out gifts of cheese, meat, boiled potatoes and scraps of fat and bread.
- **Badgers:** It's not easy finding your favourite food of earthworms in frozen ground so lend a hand with lightly cooked meats, cheeses, peanuts and fruit.
- **Squirrels:** Squirrels hide food to eat when food is scarce – and they'll love finding hazelnuts, walnuts and almonds, plus chopped apples, carrots and beans.
- **Hedgehogs:** Minced meat, tinned dog food (not fish based), or even scrambled eggs are all big hits. Milk can cause severe illness in youngsters – instead leave out fresh water in a shallow bowl.

If you'd like to find out more about Greenbelt and our work visit greenbelt.co.uk



Greenbelt's work at Northstowe was recognised in the finals of the Pro Landscaper Sustainability & Biodiversity Awards 2024.



Remember to feed wild neighbours, such as hungry birds, during winter.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Mihaela Stan and Michele Eidevik-Skinner



Northstowe Community Forums 2024

The next Forum will be on Wednesday 4 December at Western Park Pavilion starting with a drop-in at 6:30pm and presentations at 7pm. 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.

Based on the success of the last hybrid meeting, we are proposing to do this again and broadcast live on Microsoft Teams, the link will be available on the forum page in due time.



Drop In Session with the CDOs

We offer monthly drop-in sessions for residents, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. No appointment needed, pop in for a chat over a cup of tea at The Cabin, in the café area. We are also available if residents would like to set up a meeting, whether this is within working hours or not. Most people drop in on an ad-hoc basis and we always make time to see them.

Digital Buddies

Following a series of digital support drop-in sessions provided by Cambridgeshire Libraries, the Citizens Advice and Connecting Cambridgeshire, some local volunteers have come forward to train as Digital Buddies. The sessions are designed to offer digital assistance such as: using/downloading apps, searching information online, bus pass application. We are working towards establishing regular Digital Assistance sessions. Please get in touch with us if you'd like to arrange a one to one with a Digital Buddy and spread the word to anyone you think would benefit from this support.

Cognitive Training

We helped a local resident with a background in social working to set up a new initiative which supports elderly people to prevent cognitive decline. This is offered as a drop-in session on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10-11 a.m. at The Cabin. The sessions will be paused in December and January.

Food Bank

We are supporting the Food Bank with a call for new donations. A crate is now available in the café area at The Cabin for people to place their donations. Personal hygiene products for males and females are needed, such as: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, general cleaning products: multi-purpose cleaner, laundry detergent, baby nappies sizes 6,7,8. Halal food donations are also welcomed. All donations should be unopened in the original packaging. Any donations would be appreciated.

Menopause Meetings

The Menopause Group meetings are free and take place monthly on a Wednesday evening. The meeting on 20 November included a guest speaker, Katherine Mellanby, a British Menopause Specialist. The session was also aimed at younger females, as well as partners. Future meetings will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community Noticeboards. Please contact us if you would like to help run the group.

Social Walking Group

The CDOs have been supporting the walks. There was a very successful walk on Friday 4 October with lots of people joining in. Please look out for future walking dates; which will include a walk to see the advent windows around Northstowe. Routes and themes will be advertised on the Northstowe Community Facebook pages and the noticeboards at The Cabin and Western Park Pavilion.

Afro-Caribbean Group

We are supporting the setup of a new Afro-Caribbean community group who would like to introduce and share their culture through music, art, language, food etc. They held their introductory meeting on Sunday 10 November at the Cabin, this was open to the community and discussed how the group could develop.

Kickstart Fund

Northstowe Karate Club have been successful in their application for the Kickstart Fund. They have become a constituted community group, they meet at The Cabin on Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

Welcome Pack Delivery

We continue to deliver welcome packs to new residents, monthly, in Phase 1 and the Keepmoat site in Phase 2. This is an opportunity for the new residents to ask questions about their new community.

SCDC Gardening Session

Over a morning in October, our team decided to tidy up the grass area at the front of The Cabin. This is still work in progress. We also weeded the raised beds in the back garden at The Cabin.

Hallmaster

All room bookings for The Cabin are now made through Hallmaster, if you would like to see room availability, size and capacity or make a booking please scan the QR code or go to:



<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/temporary-community-centre/>

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

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK

Hello to all Northstowe residents! By the time you read this, the Festive period will be marching towards us.

Assets and Events Manager

We have successfully recruited a New Assets and Events Manager, please extend a warm welcome to Giuseppe Bernardis who started with us in October.

Northstowe Market

On the 24th September at the Full Council Meeting, it was agreed to move the week the Sunday Market trades to the 1st Sunday of the month. The Market re-launched on the 3rd November where we had over 20 traders attend and there were 3 prizes given away, with products donated by the traders.

The new dates for the Market are below, trading from **The Green and inside The Cabin, 10 am – 2pm:**

1st December - 2nd February - 2nd March - 6th April - 4th May -
1st June - 6th July - 7th September - 5th October - 2nd November -
7th December.

Please do come and support the local traders at your very own Market.

Park Play:

This is a great way to get outside for an hour or 2. Sessions are free and are held every Saturday at The MUGA behind the Sports Pavilion, from 10.30-12.30. If you have not been and are interested or curious to see what this is all about, please just pop along; it is a great opportunity for families and individuals to get out and meet other residents in Northstowe and Longstanton, have a natter, engage in games: great for your Wellbeing. This is part-financed and supported by Northstowe Town Council and Longstanton Parish Council. Hektor is the ParkPlay leader and would welcome you to attend.

Community Lounge:

Continues to go from strength to strength, with some highlighted events. They have had many events over the year and will have more planned for 2025. Please pop along to The Cabin, the Community Lounge is on every Thursday from 6-8pm, where there are board games, table tennis, themed events and refreshments. If you haven't been, it is free, and all are welcome. The Community Lounge team will look forward to welcoming you. This is funded by Cambridge ACRE and Northstowe Town Council.

Mobile Food Hub:

This is run by a Non-Profit Organisation called Hope CIC. They started operating from the Green on Friday 23rd August 10:30 – 11:30 am. They will be operating Every Friday from this location and time. This is supported by Northstowe Town Council and Longstanton Parish Council.

'In June 2023, the Mobile Food Hub - Hope on the Go - was launched thanks to funding from South Cambridgeshire District Council, to support communities during the cost of living crisis. Fresh produce and essential items – some of which will be free and everything else is at below retail price – are being brought directly to villages around South Cambridgeshire to help residents with rising food prices. It is the first service of its kind in the district.'

For More information visit <https://hopeagainst.org/hopeonthego>



DO YOU NEED DIGITAL ASSISTANCE?

A DIGITAL BUDDY WILL BE HERE TO HELP YOU ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 1-2 PM AT THE CABIN IN THE CAFE AREA.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS OUR DIGITAL BUDDIES CAN HELP WITH:

- CONNECTING YOUR DEVICE TO AVAILABLE WI-FI
- USING THE INTERNET TO FIND INFORMATION OR CERTAIN WEBSITES
- DOWNLOADING AND SETTING UP APPS TO ACCESS LIBRARY SERVICES
- NAVIGATING THE LIBRARY WEBSITE
- CREATING AN EMAIL ACCOUNT

FUTURE DATES: 4 DECEMBER, 8 JANUARY, 5 FEBRUARY

DROP IN ON THE DAY, NO NEED TO BOOK IN ADVANCE

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 centre in the new 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, Revds Beth and Stephen of Northstowe Church Network (Pathfinder Church, Little Explorers, Compline) can give vouchers: 01954 261 181 contact@northstowe.church

DISTRICT COUNCIL



CLLR TOM BYGOTT

Save the Winter Fuel Payment

My group colleagues and I are fighting to save the Winter Fuel Payment for vulnerable pensioners that is currently under threat from the new government. In October's council meeting, all councillors unanimously supported our joint motion to sign Age UK's petition at <https://campaigns.ageuk.org.uk/page/154268/petition/1> to save the payment and to raise awareness of pension credit support.

Age UK research suggests that 2 million pensioners who badly need the support to stay warm this winter will no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment. With the Energy Price Cap due to rise by 10% in October, the physical and mental health of elderly people in the UK is threatened. We are continuing to work to raise awareness of this issue, including signing a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge a review of this decision and to protect pensioners at risk of fuel poverty.

Water authorities attend council Scrutiny meeting

We were grateful for the opportunity to welcome flood management representatives from Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, and from Cambridgeshire County and South Cambridgeshire District Councils to the council's October Scrutiny and Overview committee meeting chaired by Cllr Graham Cone, Deputy Leader of my group and local member for the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward.

The meeting provided a useful forum for councillors to raise residents' specific concerns, including recent flooding in South Cambridgeshire, the impact of new housing developments on water supply and management, and improving communication between communities and the water authorities.

Given recent heavy rainfall, we are encouraging residents to be vigilant about any flooding risk. In an emergency where there is an imminent risk to life, you should call 999. In the event of flooding on the roads, pavement, garden or property, or from sewers or watercourses, please report the issue to Cambridgeshire County Council online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/report-a-flood.

Supporting Prostate Cancer UK and period poverty

In October's council meeting, my group's motion to support Prostate Cancer UK's BOG STANDARD campaign was unanimously supported by all councillors. The campaign seeks to help men who have suffered from prostate cancer by providing incontinence products and discreet disposal bins in male toilets.

In February's council meeting, my group's motion to tackle period poverty was also unanimously supported by all councillors. We are pleased that the council has since taken swift action to secure a £12,000 grant in partnership with Hey Girls to distribute environmentally friendly menstrual products for up to 700 South Cambridgeshire residents.

Residents can apply at

www.heygirls.co.uk/south-cambridgeshire-home-packs/ for a home delivery of free period products. The eligibility criteria are outlined on the Hey Girls webpage.

Awaiting planning policy from Government

We are still awaiting the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) from the new national government. It is frustrating and challenging that this has not yet been decided, particularly as this plan will have a significant impact on South Cambridgeshire.

My group will ensure that residents are updated when the new NPPF is issued. We understand that many residents will be concerned about the new government's housebuilding plans, especially in our area, and we encourage you to get in touch if you have any concerns.

Cllr Tom Bygott

cllr@bygott.net



CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

District Councillor Longstanton Ward. Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing.

Being part of the delivery group for Northstowe, it's good news to see the Government's continued focus on Northstowe, supporting progress with timelines for delivery of the Permanent Community Centre and the Civic Hub. You can learn more about development and delivery timelines at the **Northstowe Community Forum from 18h00 to 21h00 on 4th December**. I'll be there too to answer questions about the work of South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and how I can support you as a resident of my district ward so please look for me if you'd like a chat.

In October I was delighted to congratulate, with others, resident of Northstowe, Thomas Nallor, who submitted the chosen name "Northstowe Avenue" for the main gateway into Northstowe. Well done Thomas! With my Licensing hat on, it was good also to see Northstowe Tap & Social launch with Baron their 'Not a Ghost Town' beer during Halloween week. Plus, the Sunday Market on 3rd November continued to attract local shoppers which is good to see.

Now with the dark, cold, winter months are upon us, here are some of the ways in which SCDC support residents:

Winter Fuel Payments and Pension Credit: The latest date to apply for Pension Credit and still qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment is 21 December 2024. There are many people who are entitled to Pension Tax Credits but do not claim it, so SCDC is working to identify these people and to remind them that they have the opportunity to apply. If you know of anyone who may be in this position, please contact me and I will connect them to the right SCDC officers.

This toolkit will also be of help:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pension-credit-toolkit>

SCDC is now a White Ribbon organisation: This means a proactive focus on support for people experiencing domestic abuse. As part of our work towards Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation, we introduced and strengthened policies and practices to support staff and residents of all genders who experience domestic abuse. Please reach out if you need support. South Cambridgeshire District Council is committed to ending violence against women and girls as a White Ribbon organisation.

Resident support – Tackling Period Poverty: South Cambs District Council is joining the fight to end period poverty by providing free menstrual products for up to 700 residents. Hey Girls, a UK-wide social enterprise, will be distributing packs. Residents can apply here:

<https://www.heygirls.co.uk/south-cambridgeshire-home-packs/>

The scheme is run on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Recycling Cables: Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is working with Recycle Your Electricals to encourage Cambridgeshire residents to participate in The Great Cable Challenge. With millions of cables cluttering up UK homes, Recycle Your Electricals have published a handy Cable Guide. If your electricals or the cables are no longer working or they aren't needed anymore, simply bag up your cables and recycle them! For your local points for recycling cables visit <https://www.scamps.gov.uk/news/councils-ask-residents-to-recycle-their-unused-cables-this-international-e-waste-day>

Happy Festive Season to you all!

Natalie

cllr.warrengreen@councillor.online

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR



FIROUZ THOMPSON

Dear Residents,

As the year draws to a close, December and January often prompt reflection on the past months and anticipation for what lies ahead. For our vibrant Northstowe community, these winter months bring not just festive cheer but also notable updates that signal growth, resilience, and renewed efforts to meet the demands of our developing town.

Busway Services Update: Tackling the Growing Pains

Early November saw further changes to the Busway B service, responding to challenges faced since the 4 September updates. Stagecoach's review revealed a 20% year-over-year increase in passenger use, with peak times seeing a surge of up to 58%. This has made it difficult for many to find space on their preferred journeys, prompting action to meet this demand.

To improve the commuting experience, Stagecoach has introduced:

- Additional Peak-Time Journeys: Two extra morning peak journeys from St Ives Park & Ride to Drummer Street and two evening returns to ease congestion.
- Route Adjustments: Due to traffic on Hills Road, taking up to 29 minutes at peak times, morning services to Addenbrooke's have been reduced from nine to five. This change aims to ensure better punctuality and reliability.

These measures respond to rising public transport use, highlighting that when investment is made, demand follows. Added complexity will come to play also as Government have announced recently that the bus fare cap will rise from £2 to £3 in 2025. I will continue to engage with Stagecoach and the Combined Authority to advocate for improved services and ensure our community's needs are met.

A Step Forward for the Community Gym and Café

Progress is also being made on the community gym and café at Northstowe Learning Community. In September, stakeholders including the Meridian Trust, South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) discussed these developments.

Community Gym and Leisure Facilities: While the initial tender for a provider was unsuccessful, further consultations have led to revisions. CCC has secured capital funding, and Homes England has committed to early planning contributions. This means the gym project, along with other leisure facilities like the 3G pitches and sports hall, will be re-tendered later this year—a significant step forward.

Community Café: Exciting news for coffee enthusiasts: the café is set to be installed by the end of 2024, funded by the Rural England Prosperity Fund, led by CPCA and SCDC. Six potential providers have expressed interest, with invitations to bid sent in early November. This reflects the vibrancy of the Northstowe Learning Community, which now supports nearly 100 staff and over 800 students, plus sports groups using the facilities.

With these developments, and Northstowe Learning Community set to finish construction early next year, Northstowe's potential continues to grow, promising a stronger community as more residents settle. These new facilities will meet practical needs and create spaces for residents to connect and enjoy all Northstowe has to offer.

As we close this year and step into the New Year, we remain committed to shaping a thriving, welcoming environment for all.

Contact: firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Oakington & Westwick

<https://www.facebook.com/longstantonoakingtonnorthstowe>

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



IAN SOLLOW MP

MP for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week 2024

On the 18th of November, Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week launched at a reception in Parliament with the theme 'Making Communities Safer'.

While it is always important to improve the safety of existing communities, it is also important that newer communities such as Northstowe are designed to be safe right from the start. I have heard many residents' concerns surrounding anti-social behaviour near unadopted roads and the guided busway towards Oakington and Westwick, and I know that County Councillor Firouz Thompson has seen success in ensuring that Homes England follow through on their promise to install CCTV that will now record the licence plate details of motorcyclists and cars.

The most valuable piece of advice I can give to residents is this: Keep reporting anti-social behaviour. Reports are vital in order to build up a better picture of the situation. This can be done on the non-emergency 101 number, via www.scamps.gov.uk/housing/neighbourhood-issues, or by attending South Cambridgeshire Community Engagement meetings, details of which can be found online.

Northstowe Arts and Light Up Northstowe

Back in October, I met with Mari and Paula from Northstowe Arts to hear more about harnessing the potential for the arts and creativity to support community development.

It was great to spend time hearing about their work and to see some of the creative projects they have helped deliver, including the wraparound art at The Cabin and the Northstowe Symbol sculpture in the garden there, incorporating the heritage of the past of Northstowe and looking forward to the future.

It really is fantastic to see Northstowe developing its own traditions too, like the Light Up Northstowe event – this year on 23rd November – organised by Northstowe Arts. It's a real demonstration of what a positive difference community organisations can make. Do get along if you can!

Bus capacity

I continue to be concerned about the lack of capacity on the busway buses. I raised these concerns with the Mayor and highlighted that franchising isn't a solution to the problems Northstowe and other communities face right now. I have a meeting with Stagecoach arranged and I will report back in due course.

ian.sollow.mp@parliament.uk

HOMES ENGLAND

Northstowe resident names major gateway to new town "Northstowe Avenue"

A name submitted by a local Northstowe resident has been selected as the official name for the main gateway into Northstowe, Cambridge, one of Britain's most significant new towns under development. Homes England, the government's homes and regeneration agency, unanimously agreed on "Northstowe Avenue" out of the 104 entries received, as the name for the new road, after Thomas Nalloor submitted the suggestion as part of a local initiative.

The recently named access road stretching over a mile, along with its new footways and cycleways, opened in Autumn 2023. It connects the B1050 roundabout to the emerging town and to the area which will become Northstowe's future town centre and to the expanding Northstowe Learning Community. The road provides a long-term solution for connecting Northstowe to Bar Hill, Cambridge, and beyond via the A14.

To celebrate the opening and mark the pivotal moment in Northstowe's journey, Homes England invited residents of Northstowe, Longstanton, Oakington, and Westwick, as well as local groups, to help shape the town's identity by naming the road. The judges unanimously voted for Thomas Nalloor's submission: Northstowe Avenue. "Northstowe" was chosen as it differentiates the road from the villages and parishes around it and celebrates the town's heritage. "Avenue" is defined as a 'broad passageway bordered by trees' and recognises the general biodiversity of the Northstowe development project.

Matthew Brown, head of large sites at Homes England, said:

"Northstowe Avenue is a major road that is critical to residents and visitors accessing the town, especially in the future. Its opening is a big moment in Northstowe's journey; this extent of road infrastructure isn't typically delivered so early on in a major development, but it serves as a key connection point, linking Northstowe to its surrounding areas and welcoming residents, commuters, and visitors alike."

"We decided to give the opportunity to name the road back to the community which it will serve, and Thomas' suggestion took the judges' unanimous vote because it is appropriate that the main route into the town carries the name of the town, and 'Avenue' reflects the grandeur of the route in its green setting."

Thomas Nalloor, who submitted the winning name, said:

"I'm honoured that my suggestion, "Northstowe Avenue," was chosen as the name for this new landmark road. As a local resident, I wanted to submit a name that would reflect the unique history and identity of Northstowe itself, setting it apart from the surrounding villages. The name 'Northstowe' is deeply rooted in the area's heritage, tracing back to the Hundred of Northstow, which speaks to its Roman and Anglo-Saxon past."

"I chose 'Avenue' because it symbolises a broad passageway often lined with trees, which felt fitting given Northstowe's focus on biodiversity, greenery, and sustainability. I hope the name resonates with residents and visitors for years to come

Offering convenient access for residents, commuters, and visitors, Northstowe Avenue complements the town's growing network of walking, cycling, and horse-riding paths, as well as existing links to the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway. Find out more about travel in and around Northstowe at <https://www.northstowe.com/travel>



Photo credit: Phil Mynott on behalf of Homes England. The image shows (L-R) Dean Harris, senior planning and enabling manager (Homes England); Cllr Natalie Warren-Green (South Cambridgeshire District Council); Graham Hyslop (regional development director at Homes England); Thomas Nalloor; Cllr Paul Littlemore (Northstowe Town Council); Cllr Firouz Thompson (Cambridgeshire County Council); Cllr Henry Batchelor (South Cambridgeshire District Council).

Northstowe Community Forum

Find out about ongoing
development in Northstowe



Wednesday 4 December
Drop in: 6:30pm | Forum: 7pm
Western Park Pavilion,
Peppercorn Drive, Northstowe, CB24 1BF



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.

2025 forum dates are 5th March, 4th June, 10th September, 3rd December



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Sports, Health and Wellbeing

FREE MEDITATION

Boost your focus and calm in just 6 minutes



Meditation is suitable for everyone, pregnant or not

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, we all need a moment to pause, breathe, and recenter. But when you're short on time, it's hard to know where to begin. That's why I'm thrilled to share a free tool that can help you feel calmer and more focused in as little as 6.5 minutes: a Focus Object Meditation you can download and start using today.

Just 6 Minutes? You don't need hours to feel the benefits of meditation. Studies show that even a few minutes of focused breathing can help reduce stress, increase focus, and improve mood. This 6.5-minute practice is designed to be short yet powerful, so it fits seamlessly into any schedule—whether you're taking a break at work, unwinding at home, or preparing for a busy day.

What to Expect

This Focus Object Meditation uses a simple technique to help you clear your mind by focusing on a single object, which you can choose yourself. This object can be anything that appeals to you, ideally something you can hold in your hand. The practice is easy to follow and requires no experience or special equipment; all you need is a few quiet minutes and an open mind.

Here's what you'll gain:

- Increased Focus: Training your mind to concentrate on one object helps build mental clarity and focus.
- Stress Reduction: Focused breathing can naturally lower stress hormones, helping you feel relaxed and at ease.
- A Sense of Calm: This short session creates an immediate calming effect, giving you a valuable pause in the middle of a busy day.

Ready to Try It?

To get started, visit <https://myyogacorner.uk/> and download the meditation directly from the freebies section. It's free, easy, and yours to keep, so you can use it whenever you need a moment of calm. This meditation is perfect for mornings, midday breaks, or unwinding before bed, giving you a moment to recharge whenever you need it most.

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We Need:

- personal hygiene products for females and males: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, conditioner etc
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ROMSEY MILL
Creating opportunities with young people and families



Volunteers NEEDED

Friday Football Fun Sessions

Are you passionate about football?

Enjoy a kick about?

Want to create a space where young people can have fun?

A volunteer's role would be to

- Help run an open access football session for young people alongside Youth Worker's
- Engaging with young people and making them feel welcome
- Having fun playing football alongside young people
- Fridays after school, 3.30-5:30PM



WALK FOR WELLBEING

After another day of tackling challenging issues and sometimes difficult people, I sighed, caught between the temptation of social media—which would only drain me further—and getting outside for a walk. Thankfully, the walk won.

I managed to pull myself away from the desk, not bothering to change out of my cozy work-from-home clothes. I found a pair of socks, slipped on my trainers, and, without any fuss, headed out the door. And I'm so glad I did. From the first step, the fresh autumn air filled my lungs, and I breathed deeply. A few more steps, and I heard a flock of birds flying overhead, their cheerful chirping echoing in the quiet. I felt instantly grateful for the nature surrounding me, especially so close to the city—just 16 minutes away.

I used to think I'd have to drive miles to find spaces like this, but with the thoughtful planning of Northstowe, nature is at my doorstep. I'm deeply thankful for the creative minds that brought this place to life.

So if you haven't yet, I invite you to step away from whatever's keeping you inside and immerse yourself in our beautiful green space. Start at the "Welcome to Bug Hunter Waters" sign as you enter Northstowe from the Longstanton Park & Ride. Follow the path to the pond, listen to the crunch



of gravel underfoot, breathe in the crisp air, pause to admire the wildflowers, or, if you're like me and have a keen sense of smell, catch the fragrance of the apple trees starting to bloom. I promise—you'll be glad you stepped outside.

Bukky Apampa

LONGSTANTON TENNIS CLUB

Over at Longstanton Tennis Club we've had a busy 2024.

In the last 12 months we've had some major upgrades to our facilities. At the start of the year we had some

brand new LED floodlights installed allowing for play all year round. In September our two all weather courts were newly painted and now look amazing.

To coincide with the improvement in facilities, we've also started a new coaching programme in conjunction with local coaches GameSetTennis. We've had over 30 people come along on Monday evenings taking part in junior coaching, as well as adult beginner and advanced levels. If you'd like to join the lessons from January do have a look at our website for more information.

We've welcomed lots of new members from Northstowe, Longstanton and the surrounding villages over the past year. Club social sessions on Tuesday and Friday evenings, as well as Sunday mornings are a popular way to get to know others and have fun on the tennis court all throughout the year - even in winter! Get in touch if you'd like to try one of these sessions for free before joining.

Finally, we've recently reduced the prices of some of our membership packages. Primary age junior membership starts from just £10, or £140 for a full family membership - far cheaper than any gym! Why not consider family membership or tennis lessons as a Christmas present?

Website: www.longstantontennis.co.uk
Facebook: LongstantonTennis



WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES

Willingham 01954 260230 Longstanton 01954 207600 Dispensary 01954 207602

District Nurse Team: 0330 726 0077 Health Visitors: 0300 029 5050

Out of hours cover: Ring 111 Website: www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

A&E IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO A GP APPOINTMENT. IF WE ARE CLOSED, PLEASE CALL 111

CHRISTMAS 2024 – SURGERY OPENING HOURS

Please note that we will be **CLOSED** at the weekends in addition to the bank holidays on **Wednesday 25th December, Thursday 26th December** and **Wednesday 1st January**. Normal opening hours on all other days during the holiday period.

Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication. The last date for ordering repeat prescriptions in time for the Christmas holidays is **Thursday 19th December**. The last date for collection before Christmas is **Tuesday 24th December** by 4pm at Longstanton Surgery and 6pm at Willingham.

The last date for ordering repeat medication before New Year will be **Tuesday 24th December**. The last date for collection before the New Year is **Tuesday 31st December** by 4pm at Longstanton Surgery and 6pm at Willingham.

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

Details of local Pharmacies that will be open over the bank holidays will be posted on the surgery doors, and also on social media and our website.

HEALTHY YOU FALLS PREVENTION

Falls are increasingly common as we get older, sometimes leading to injuries that can cost people their independence. The good news is that many falls can be avoided with the right help.



The Healthy You Falls Prevention Service is a **FREE** service for anyone aged 65+ living in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough and registered at a Cambridgeshire or Peterborough GP Surgery.

The service offers Falls Risk Assessments, which help identify falls risks before they become a problem, and **FREE** weekly strength and balance exercise

classes to improve strength, stability and confidence in balance. They are also a great way to meet other people, receive support and build motivation.

PENSION CREDITS - ARE YOU CLAIMING?

1,053 households in the South Cambridgeshire District Council area are entitled to **Pension Credit** due to their household income and are NOT claiming it – **ARE YOU ONE OF THESE?** This amounts to **£2,801,690** per year. If you are eligible, not only can Pension Credit payments be backdated 3 months, you can also claim **Winter Fuel Allowance**.

For further information about how to claim visit <https://apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/apply-citizen-ui/start> or telephone 0800 99 1234

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.

Please also note that we are unable to book appointments via email or our AccuRx Patient Triage system. You are able to make your appointment via SystemOnline, by using the NHS App or telephoning the surgery and speaking to our reception team.

SURGERY CLOSURE

Please note the surgery will be **CLOSED** from **1pm on THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY** for whole staff training.

Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication to last, remembering to order your repeats at least **THREE** working days before collection.

INTRODUCING DAVID BYRNE & GILLIAN HURST, OUR COMMUNITY MATRON

The Community Matron is an experienced, senior nurse who works closely with patients, primarily those with a serious long-term condition or complex range of conditions, in a community setting. The matron will plan and organise patient care. Community matrons also act as a case manager providing a single point of contact for care, support or advice. Please contact the surgery if you feel that our Community Matrons can offer you or a family member any support.

NHS HEALTH CHECK

If you're in the 40 to 74 age group without a pre-existing condition, you should receive a letter from us or the local council inviting you for a free NHS Health Check every five years. You can also call us to book a Health Check.

The NHS Health Check is a health check-up for adults in England aged 40 to 74. It's designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia. As we get older, we have a higher risk of developing one of these conditions. An NHS Health Check helps find ways to lower this risk.

Find out if you are eligible by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check/>



VACCINATIONS

The **Flu Vaccine** is available for all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the influenza season), individuals aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31/03/25) and individuals aged 18 years to under 65 years in a clinical risk group category

The **Nasal Flu** is available for all those aged 2 or 3 years on 31/08/24 (with a date of birth on or after 01/09/20 and on or before 31/08/22)

The **RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)** is available for individuals turning 75 years of age on or after 01/09/24. There is also a catch up campaign for those with a date of birth between 02/09/1944 to 31/08/1949.

The **Shingles Vaccine** is available for individuals who are aged between 70 years and 79 years old 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

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 December** and **Wednesday 8th January**, 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 susan.lawson7@nhs.net

ALL STAFF AT THE WILLINGHAM AND LONGSTANTON SURGERIES WISH OUR PATIENTS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2025

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November 20 - Dr Mallanby
December 18 - social
January 15
October 19
March 19

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Connect with others
Wonder why?
Future guest speakers
Share experiences and laugh
Peer support
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If you would like to be involved, but cannot attend, please email
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co op

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Comberton Ramblers walk alternate Sundays between 5-7 miles.

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You are welcome to join us on any 2 of ours walks to see if our group is for you. Then, once you have enjoyed the views, fun, exhilaration, it is just a case of becoming a member.

Annual membership membership fee is £10.00 per person.

No dogs are allowed except assistance dogs.

For further information please contact me by emailing : stella.hardwicke2274@hotmail.com
or telephoning 01954 210049, mobile 07930951703.

Thank you for reading this.

Stella – Secretary of the Comberton Ramblers
[https://combertonramblers.org.uk](http://combertonramblers.org.uk)



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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@scamps.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

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](#)

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

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**.

Cubs

Excitement and adventure for Cub Scouts aged 8 to 10%, 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@kickstartactive-life.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, borrow a book or grab a drink from the hub café coffee machine

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 Institute. [myyogacorner.uk](#)

Northstowe Board Gamers

Join us to play modern-style strategy and tabletop games, anything from Alhambra to Ziemlich Zügig! 3rd Tuesday each month in the **Cabin**, other weeks at 21 Heron Road, CB24 1AS. Starts 7:30pm. 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**.

The Baby Hub

Feeding and weaning, slings and carriers, cloth nappies and pottying, or just come along for a chat even if you don't need any specific support! 10:30-12pm alongside the Northstowe Hub Cafe in the **Cabin**. babyhub@northstowehub.org

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. 4.5-5.30pm termtime. Free snacks, or add low cost treats from the café.

Rainbows

For girls aged 4-7. 5:15-6:15 in the **Cabin**.

Karate Club

Family friendly - Age 6+, children and adults welcome. 6.30-7:30pm in the **Cabin**. www.northstowekarate.com

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

Over Power (£)

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

THURSDAYS

Little Explorers

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

Micro Library

Drop in at the **Cabin** any time 9:30-4pm, borrow a book or grab a drink from the hub café coffee machine

Thoughtful Thursdays

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

Sling Library

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

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.northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk

Sustainable Northstowe

Making Northstowe a green, clean, biodiverse and interconnected place for current and future residents. 3rd Thursday of the month, 7pm in the **Cabin**. 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.

Scouts

For ages 10% 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. Alternate 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. 7 June and 5 July, 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](#)

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 12:30pm 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 Institute. 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

Open Mic

Enjoy listening to some local musicians live, or bring your own act! 6pm-9:30pm (every other week) in the Cabin.

SUNDAYS**Sustainable Sundays**

Information stands, swap events and popup Refill Station with zero plastic waste. 4th Sunday of the month, on The Green.

See facebook.com/sustainablenorthstowe or email sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com

Northstowe Monthly Market

Brought to you by Northstowe Town Council. Variety of food and non-food traders. 1st Sunday of the month, 10 AM - 2 PM, inside (The Cabin) and outside (The Green) - YOUR local market!

www.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Northstowe Hub Café

Drop in for a chat, use the micro library and have a drink! 10am-2pm 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

ShapeXchange Functional Fitness Classes (£)

Fitness for real life - 45 minute classes to build your strength, stamina, balance and flexibility. 11am in WPP every Sunday morning. Find out more and book now at www.shapexchange.co.uk/classes

Pathfinder Church Sunday Gatherings

'Praying, exploring, and sharing' intergenerationally. 3.30-5pm PFPS during school term. (Church of England, United Reformed Church, Baptist Union: www.northstowe.church/Sundays)

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

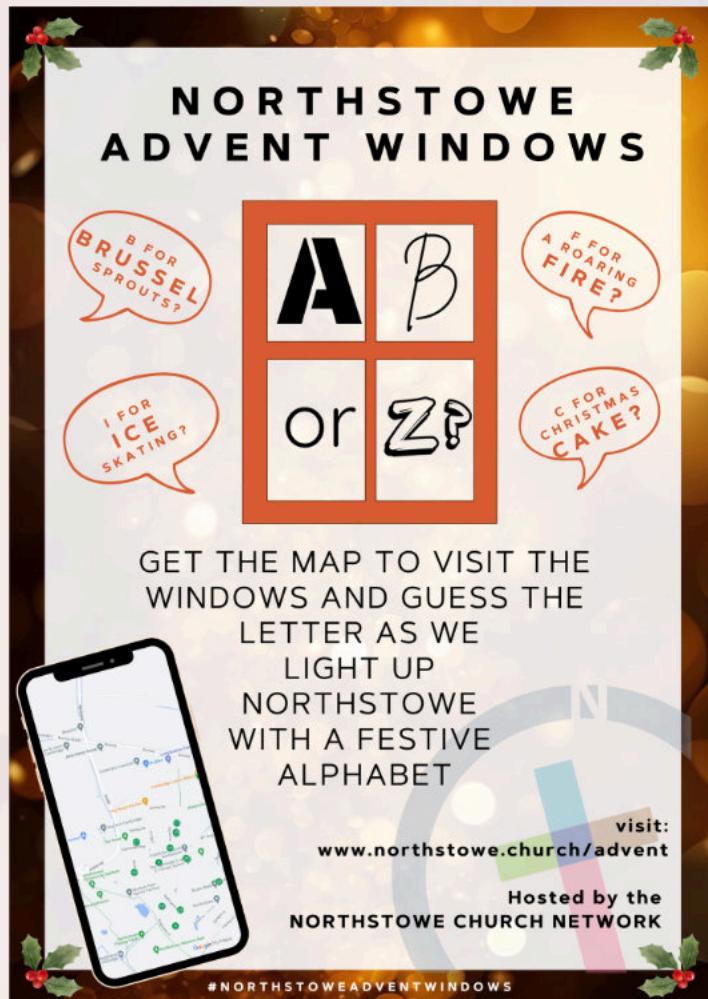
PFPS

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 NATURE MATTERS

Although it was the first time in my life of hearing the call I knew instantly what it was. I tend to prime myself with expectation by reading wildlife field guides for fun and the repeated phrases rendered variously as 'quick-we-wik' or 'wet-my-lips' could only be one bird. I excitedly scrabbled for my phone to snatch a recording as confirmation and evidence of the record and scribbled into my notebook "Quail – 2 or 3 calling from cover". Although with numbers of this summer visitor often reported as being as low as 300, I found it difficult to believe that hiding in front of me was 1% of the total UK population! Perhaps 2023 was a notable 'Quail year'?

Although the East of England is said to be favoured by the species it seemed remarkable that it had turned up in the band of rough grassland and brambles alongside the busway north of Heron Road, Northstowe. Intensively farmed arable landscapes are sadly inhospitable nowadays for Quail and other ground dwelling birds so I was reminded of the value of those corners where the mechanical mower and flail does not reach.

Happily, as the new town steadily expands, there are areas where our pressured wildlife can exist and even thrive. The aforementioned scrubby margin along the busway is one; the extensive grassland across the swales down to the ditches and lakes create a whole suite of precious habitats (a bonus for nature from the need for flood alleviation schemes here on the edge of the fens). The retained massive old hedgerows running south-east from the aptly named Swan End linking with the hedge extending south-east along Stirling Road then continuing parallel with Eagle way and Sandpit Lane are also of enormous value. The value of nature for resident's wellbeing is well recognised now but nature, I think, matters for its own sake.

As May ended in 2023, whilst I gathered myself from the thrill of the Quail encounter, there was plenty of other birdsong filling the air on that sunny afternoon. Willow Warbler, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Common Whitethroat were also entered in my notebook. Perhaps I can share with you many more encounters with British wildlife that I have been blessed with in coming editions of Northstowe News? Most of all I encourage you to go out and see, hear, even smell, the treasures on your doorstep, delight in them and help to protect them.

Mark Prina

halcyon.ecology2023@gmail.com



'Wild, scrubby land between the busway and path - perfect wildlife habitat.'



AlphaCEC
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Book your Airport or Long distance ride today!

We used AlphaCEC for a business transfer from Longstanton to London Heathrow for the first time this week. Brilliant service and a really lovely driver. Highly recommend for business and personal use.
***** (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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NORTHSTOWE CHORUS

Singing together is more than just making music; it is a powerful way to connect, lift spirits and improve well-being. Studies show that group singing can reduce stress, boost happiness and improve memory and lung function. The repertoire for the chorus will cover a range of styles in two to four parts and the chorus is aimed at adults in the community.

Join us at our first rehearsal of 2025 - Tuesday, January 14th, 7 – 8.30pm - at Northstowe Secondary College. Rehearsals will be under the direction of Audrey Caldwell, Director of Music for Meridian Academies Trust. Contact choir@northstowe.education for more information.



NORTHSTOWE ARTS UPDATE

By the time you read this, we will once again have enjoyed Light Up Northstowe – a beautifully community-wide celebration of light in the winter months including lantern-making in local schools and at workshops hosted by many of Northstowe's community and faith groups, a lantern parade through the growing town, live entertainment by local musicians, delicious food and drink trucks, and much more! If you came along, please give us feedback at northstowearts.co.uk/projects/light-up-northstowe: your positive comments help to secure funding and sponsorship for future events and your constructive ideas help us make improvements next time.

Thank you to everyone that came along and took part! Thank you to everyone that worked so hard to make the event a success, especially our partner organisers Northstowe Town Council, Northstowe Foodies, Northstowe Hub, Sustainable Northstowe, Northstowe's faith groups, Northstowe and Longstanton's schools, and many more! And thank you to our funders and sponsors, without whom free events like this couldn't happen: The National Lottery Communities Fund, Northstowe Town Council, Homes England and South Cambridgeshire District Council, Greenbelt Group Ltd and Phoenix Events (East) Ltd.

As we go into a quieter period of reflection and planning for the Northstowe Arts team, our Make & Mingle sessions at Northstowe Tap & Social continue! Join us with your crafty project, whether it's knitting, sketching, poetry or lino cutting and come for a chat with like-minded creative people. Between projects? We've always got some mindful colouring with us if you fancy that. These free sessions are on the second Monday morning and third Wednesday evening of every month so the next few dates are:

- 10am Monday 9th December
- 7pm Wednesday 18th December
- 10am Monday 13th January
- 7pm Wednesday 15th January

For more details on all the above activities, visit northstowearts.co.uk – and sign up to our newsletter to receive everything directly in your inbox!

Always wanted to SING?

NORTHSTOWE CHORUS

If you are passionate about music and looking for a fun, creative outlet, come and join our community choir.

Rehearsals are monthly and free-of-charge.
The chorus is aimed at adults living in the community.
No previous choral experience necessary.

We will be working towards TWO performances in the summer:
 Northstowe's Midsummer Festival, Saturday, June 21st.
 NLC Showcase at NSC, Wednesday, July 9th.

FIRST REHEARSAL 14th JANUARY 7 - 8.30pm	Rehearsal Dates: 14/1 4/2 11/3 22/4 20/5 17/6
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Venue - Northstowe Secondary College
 Contact - choir@northstowe.education
 Director - Audrey Caldwell

LIGHT UP NORTHSTOWE

Korstowearts.co.uk

How did we do?

Complete the Feedback Form online now!

With thanks to:

Community Spirit Celebrated on Northstowe Muslims Day

On September 15, 2024, Northstowe Muslim Charity marked a vibrant day of unity and celebration with its third annual Northstowe Muslim Day. Held in the heart of Northstowe at the Western Park Sports Pavilion, the event brought together a diverse gathering of close to 200 attendees, both Muslims and non-Muslims, to foster community spirit and reflect on the charity's achievements. The day was filled with an atmosphere of joy and engagement for all ages. Children were delighted by bouncy castles and activities, while adults enjoyed lively games and conversation over a delicious array of food and desserts. With multiple food vendors catering to a variety of tastes, the event underscored the charity's commitment to inclusivity and communal joy highlighting the warm and welcoming environment the charity aims to nurture in Northstowe.

Northstowe Muslim Day was not only a day of celebration but also a reminder of how far the community has come together. Through programmes that uplift and connect, Northstowe Muslim Charity continues to serve as a beacon of compassion, unity and service for everyone in Northstowe.

Northstowe Muslim Charity, established three years ago by a small group of dedicated volunteers, has made a lasting impact on the Northstowe community. Among its major initiatives, the charity has launched children's classes every Friday, providing Islamic learning opportunities in a supportive environment. Additionally, the charity arranges daily Maghrib or Isha prayers, offering spaces for spiritual connection and reflection. Northstowe Muslims have organised Taraweeh prayers and activities during Ramadan, allowing the wider community to participate in the spirit of the holy month. The charity's work extends beyond religious services to meaningful community support initiatives. Notably, we provide support for refugees and focus on wellbeing initiatives, meeting these challenges with an outpouring of kindness.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also recognise that the continued success and growth of Northstowe Muslim Charity relies on the ongoing support of our community. To expand our initiatives and reach even more people, we need contributions in the form of donations and volunteers. Whether it's helping with weekly classes, assisting with events like Ramadan or Muslim Day, or supporting our refugee and wellbeing programs, every bit of help strengthens our ability to serve Northstowe. We invite everyone—Muslims and non-Muslims alike—to join us in this journey of community building, giving their time, resources, or expertise to ensure Northstowe Muslim Charity can continue to be a pillar of compassion, unity and support for all.



Scan to donate



Website: www.northstowemuslims.org

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthstoweM>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Northstowe-Muslims-111484854961736>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/northstowe_muslims/

ONAM FESTIVAL

A Celebration of Joy and Tradition

Onam, a vibrant festival originating from the south Indian state of Kerala - known for its scenic backwaters and green landscapes - was celebrated with great spirit in Northstowe. The festival honours the bountiful harvest season and the visit of King Mahabali, a revered figure in Indian mythology. The event, which took place on September 28th, 2024, was organised by the Northstowe & Neighbourhood Malayalee Association (NANMA). The event highlighted Kerala's rich cultural heritage, showcasing its traditions and communal spirit.



According to legend, King Mahabali was a virtuous and generous ruler despite his origins in the Asura clan. He ruled Kerala so justly and brought such prosperity that the heavenly gods became envious. To remove him, they devised a plan to exploit his generosity. They sent Lord Vishnu, disguised as a dwarf named Vamana, to ask the king for a mere three feet of land. Mahabali agreed, unaware of Vamana's true nature. Vamana then grew into a giant form, covering the entire world in just two steps, leaving no space for a third.



King Mahabali willingly offered his own head for Vamana's third step, showing incredible generosity. Rather than destroying him, Vamana chose to let the king go unharmed to the netherworld. Although the people of Mahabali's kingdom were filled with sorrow, they were granted a special opportunity: their beloved king could return to visit them once a year.

Every year, the people of Kerala celebrate the return of Mahabali with joy. They dress in traditional attire, prepare lavish meals from their bountiful harvest, and gather for music and festivities. This vibrant celebration lasts up to 10 days, with people around the world who share a connection to Kerala joining in the fun with friends and family.

This year, the Onam celebration took place at the Over Community & Conference Centre. A beautiful Pookalam, made from colourful flower petals, served as a centrepiece to welcome King Mahabali. The event included a reenactment of the king's visit, accompanied by traditional music and dance performances. Children were encouraged to showcase their talents, adding to the festive atmosphere. Guests enjoyed a lavish vegetarian feast served on banana leaves, reflecting the harvest season. The celebration continued with enjoyable activities for all ages, including games, singing, and tug-of-war, creating a day filled with laughter and joy while celebrating the abundance of the harvest and the spirit of generosity.



NORTHSTOWE CHURCH NETWORK

praying, exploring, and sharing

Registered Charity Number 1206577



Candlelight and Campfires: celebrations of light and darkness

In October, we celebrated an ecumenical Partnership Celebration where Revd Beth was licensed to lead services across the range of church traditions that shape the Northstowe Church Network. This event highlighted how everyone has a role in our community, culminating in a beautiful moment where we built a fire together, ignited by the light of the Pascal Candle, symbolizing hope, unity, and the centrality of the Risen Jesus.

On All Hallows' Eve, the Deckchair Listening Project helped us explore themes of light and darkness. Children created glowing art with UV pens and decorated lanterns to celebrate what light means to them, and where, sometimes, darkness reveals things we might otherwise miss. Around the campfire, we shared stories and even experimented with metal salts to create colourful flames. For those of us with faith, it was a meaningful time to reflect on the light of Christ guiding us through life's darker moments.



Join us this Christmas!

Friday 20th December:

- 7-7.45pm: **Northstowe's Beer and Carols** led by a local Brass Band around the Christmas Tree on The Green, with Northstowe Foodies' Food and Drink trucks (5-8pm), and free Hot Chocolate from Northstowe Hub Café before the carols (from 6.30pm)

Christmas Eve (24th December)

- 3.30-4.45pm **Scratch Nativity** - Come dressed as a Nativity-character to The Pathfinder CofE Primary School Hall
- 11.40pm-12.20am **Midnight Campfire Communion** outside The Pathfinder CofE Primary School [inside if wet]

Christmas Day (25th December)

- 9.30-10.30am **Christmas Celebration** with pastries, carols, and storytelling in The Pathfinder CofE Primary School

... all is calm, all is bright.



In November, we honoured those who made sacrifices for peace, joining together for a moment of silence around the lake on Remembrance Sunday. Later, we collaborated with Northstowe Arts for a Lantern Making Workshop during our Afternoon Tea, adding vibrant colours to our large campfire-shaped lantern in preparation for Light Up Northstowe.

As we head into Advent, we look forward to lighting candles each week on our Advent Wreath and coordinating the Northstowe Advent Windows (check it out at www.northstowe.church/advent). We'll also light up the carol sheets with electronic tea lights at our Beer and Carols, sing by candlelight at the Scratch Nativity, and gather around a campfire for Midnight Mass.

We can't wait to celebrate the season together!

Full details at www.northstowe.church/Christmas



LITTLE EXPLORERS

Time for you, your child, and God
Thursdays during Term 9.15-10.45am
The Pathfinder CofE Primary School

Breakfast, storytelling, singing, and multisensory worship for babies, pre-schoolers, and their parents or carers



COMPLINE COMMUNITY

Stop, breathe, and pray
Thursdays during Term 8-9pm
Contact us for this Northstowe address

Fortnightly gatherings to share in silence and the poetry of Compline ("Night Prayer"), as well as regular communion meals



PATHFINDER CHURCH

Roots, path, and wings
Sundays 3.30-5pm
The Pathfinder CofE Primary School

Bringing together those of all ages and stages of life for interactive Sunday worship and through-the-week links with the primary school

Journey to Christmas

If you read this near the start of December, you'll probably be planning your Christmas events and preparations, for what can feel like a marathon journey to Christmas. As a church, our Christmas events will be in 5 different locations, so we're journeying towards Christmas. But most of all, we want this Christmas to be a time for everyone to journey towards the one Christmas is named after: Jesus Christ. So please come along to any of our events for fun, for food, for tradition, for creativity, for community. And we also hope you will learn more about Jesus, the one Christmas is all about. All our events are free, and everyone in Northstowe is welcome.

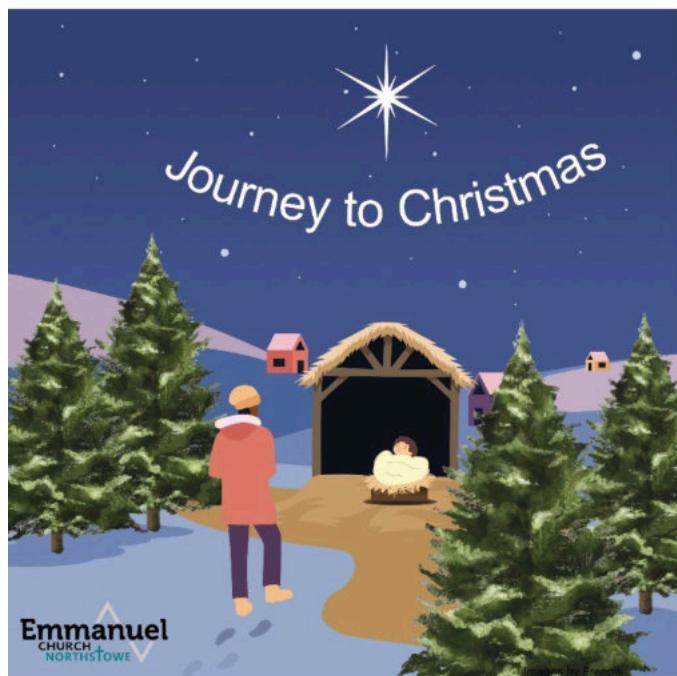


Image credit: Pavitra White

Emmanuel CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

8th December 10:30am Family Service in NSC Sports Hall

"Preparing for Christmas" An all-age service particularly suitable for under 10s.

15th December 10:30am Normal morning service in NSC auditorium

"The Son who is truly God" Hebrews 1. Children's clubs running for 11s and under.

15th December 6pm Outdoors Carols service (around the tree on The Green)

"The Son who is truly human" Hebrews 2. Traditional carols, readings, prayers and short talk around the Christmas tree. Free snacks and hot drinks after the service. (Wet weather option in the Cabin)

22nd December 10:30am in The Cabin and the Western Pavilion: Creative Christmas

"Journey to Christmas" events including crafts, songs, and videos.

25th December 10:30am The Green

"Christmas service" A short outdoors carol service on the big day itself! (Wet weather option in the Cabin)

Emmanuel Church normally meets every Sunday 10:30am at Northstowe Secondary College. If you have any questions about Emmanuel or want to get involved, please visit us any Sunday

You can find more information on our website: emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org or email contact@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

All Saints Church, Rampton Road, Longstanton is the neighbouring parish church of Pathfinder Church, Northstowe, within the Church of England.

Sunday services in All Saints are held at 9.30am as follows:

All Age service on 1st Sundays
Holy Communion on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays
Morning Praise on 3rd Sundays

The primary contact person is:

Rev'd Jenny Hill

Interim Leader of the 5folds team ministry

Serving in Longstanton, Over, Willingham and Swavesey.
T: (01954) 203459 E: admin@5folds.org.uk



Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Simon Blakesley

St Laurence's Church, 91 Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1XB

Phone: (01223) 704640

Live streaming available.

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat: Mass 9.30am
Wed, Fri: Mass 12.30
Sat: Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Sun: 0800, 9.30 and 11.00am

1st Friday of each month, House Mass locally 7.00pm.

Please ring on above phone number for details of where this is being held.

GAME OF THE MONTH

Camel Up is a great family game about racing camels, and trying to predict the outcome of a very chaotic event! Though camels may not naturally come to mind as the speed-demon of the animal kingdom, but apparently they can reach up to 40 miles per hour in short sprints and camel racing is a major tourist draw in Australia and the Middle East. Honestly, this is authentic.

This is an easy game to play, and we've seen it work well played with fairly young children, but there's always a similar question when people see the board, something like "can I be the orange one?" Alas no, in this game you're not a camel. You're not even the jockey on a camel. You're a spectator and your aim is to outsmart your opponents winning money by making clever bets on how the camels will perform.

There are five dice, one for each camel, which go into a big pyramid-shaped roller in the middle of the board. On your turn you can move a camel forward by choosing a random die and rolling it, then the camel moves forward that number of spaces. But one curious feature, which gives the game its name, is that if another camel lands on the same square as another, it will jump onto the first camel's back (in fact, all five camels can end up stacked on top of one another). And later on, if the bottom camel moves, it carries the other one along with it! This can have really surprising effects and means one camel might move much further than you expect, leading to laugh-out-loud moments when a camel defies the odds completely upending everybody's bets.



Camel Up is designed by Steffen Bogen, and published by eggertspiele.

If you think you know which camel will eventually win – or which will come last – you can place a bet. The earlier you do so, the better the reward you'll get if you're right (but the higher the chance you'll find your preferred camel carrying its own competitor to victory...)

You can bet for the overall winners at the end of the game, or the winner just at the end of each leg of the race (when each camel's die has been rolled once). There are also ways to further confuse what's happening out on the track, by placing a token which moves the camels one space forward or back if they land on it.

It's easy to guess what *might* happen in the race. But to predict all the possibilities, when dice could come out in any order, and camels might suddenly end up carrying each other round the track, is surprisingly involved. It's usually possible for any of the camels to be in with a chance of winning the race, right up until one of them has finally crossed the line and the game is over – you "just" have to work out what's actually likely.

Camel Up is easy to explain, fairly quick and chaotic fun. It plays with up to 8 people (and turns are short enough that you don't have to wait long until your next go – besides it's always exciting to see what changes on the track when a camel moves). It's an excellent addition to the Christmas list if you have a family who enjoy gaming together.

Andrew and Sarah Collier

Northstowe Gamers

Online and in-person board gaming meet-ups

Tuesdays 7:30pm

facebook.com/groups/northstowegamers

northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk

Join us on a Tuesday evening to play Camel Up or any of 250+ other games! We're in The Cabin on the third Tuesday of each month, or at our home on other weeks. The next dates in The Cabin are:

December 17th and January 21st

For details search FaceBook for "Northstowe Gamers" or email northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk

Lantern-Making Workshop Lights Up the Community!

During the October half term, Northstowe Hub Café buzzed with excitement as families came together for a lantern-making workshop in partnership with Northstowe Arts. Participants transformed empty cereal boxes into beautiful lanterns.

Over 20 families joined us for this free activity, guided by the team from Northstowe Arts who helped them cut, decorate, and assemble their lanterns. The atmosphere was filled with creativity and joy as children and parents alike brought their unique visions to life.

The finished lanterns played a special role joining with others in the parade at Light Up Northstowe, adding a warm glow to the holiday festivities. Seeing the community come together to create something magical was truly heartwarming.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this festive event! We enjoyed seeing all the lanterns shining!



Celebrating Diversity: First Afro Heritage Network Social

In November, Northstowe Hub proudly supported Northstowe's first Afro Heritage Social Network meeting, bringing together community members to celebrate African and Afro-Caribbean culture, heritage, and shared experiences.

The event was a vibrant gathering filled with laughter, music, food and meaningful conversations. Fostering connections among attendees from diverse backgrounds, the event not only celebrated African heritage, but also aimed to promote understanding and unity within the wider community.

We are excited to continue to support this initiative and plan future meetups. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this a success! Stay tuned for updates...



Pop into The Cabin on Wednesdays 9am-12:30pm & 3:30-5pm, Sundays 10am-12pm (2pm on Market Days) for a warm welcome, hot drinks and snacks!

New Morning Group for Older Adults: Let's Play Together!

With one of our volunteers we are exploring the possibility of starting a morning group specifically for older adults to come together and enjoy board games, jigsaws, and more. This initiative aims to create a welcoming space where participants can engage in fun activities while combating loneliness and supporting cognitive health.

Why Join?

- Social Connection: Meet new friends and enjoy engaging conversations over a game of Scrabble or while piecing together a jigsaw puzzle.
- Mental Stimulation: Playing games and solving puzzles can help keep the mind sharp and may assist in early dementia care.
- Community Support: Share experiences and build a supportive network with others facing similar challenges.

We want to hear from you! Are you or someone you know interested in joining such a group? Please let us know your thoughts, preferred days, and any suggestions for activities.

Contact us at info@northstowehub.org

BOOK REVIEWS

**Honey's Hive by Mo O'Hara**

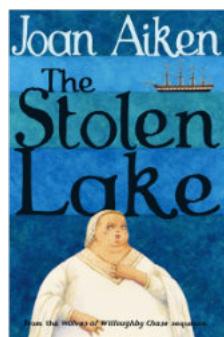
A novel for children about bees was a first for me. Honey is a young bee, still trying to find her role in the hive. She doesn't seem to have the same skills as her friends. She doesn't want to work in the bee nursery or pollinate

flowers, but yearns for excitement. When the bees are attacked by a swarm, Honey and her friends set off with the Queen, who cannot fly far, to find a new home.

This is an eco-adventure story on the lines of Watership Down, but for a younger audience. There are moments of real danger for the bees from angry wasps, but also humour with a food-obsessed fly. The characters are well developed and there is a lot of information about why bees swarm and waggle dance.

I enjoyed this book, as did my two testers, aged 5 and 7. It made a change from the usual fare of witches and fairies, or slapstick humour popular in books aimed at this age group. We will be looking out for the second book in the series.

Kathy Fountain



The Stolen Lake by Joan Aiken is a fantasy/alternative history novel from the classic Wolves Chronicles. It follows part of the adventures of Dido Twite, a young English girl who has found herself getting involved in a series of strange events around the world as she tries to return home to London.

In this book, the ship on which Dido is travelling is diverted to the mountainous kingdom of New Cumbria in Roman America, which was founded by ancient Britons who fled after the fall of King Arthur. Dido's captain has particular orders that if he has any girls aboard he should take them to meet the queen, who likes to have lots of girls and young women around her. Despite that, there seem to be very few girls in the kingdom and Dido quickly finds herself involved in alarming intrigue as she meets the queen, tries to find out more about the fate of a missing princess from the neighbouring kingdom, and deals with the sudden and mysterious illness of her friend Mr Holystone.

The Stolen Lake was written for children, but holds up well for older readers, with a lot of suspense and mystery. Dido is a very enjoyable character whose rebellious and irreverent personality is combined with genuine kindness and care for the people around her. I would recommend it for older children or a YA audience; while carefully written, there are some frightening scenes and plot points, including violence, kidnapping, murder, and attempted human sacrifice.

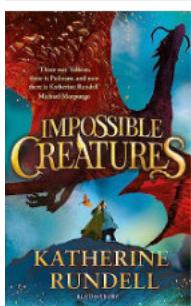
Becca Edney

NORTHSTOWE BOOK CLUB

We have started to meet again in person to see if this is more popular. If you are someone who requested this do join us. We meet in different venues, so send a message to find out where we are next month. We read lots of genres, children's books, contemporary novels, classics and a wide variety of non-fiction. Do feel free to come along regularly, or when a particular book we are reading appeals to you.

Next meetings**9th December Hercule Poirot's Christmas by Agatha Christie**

It is Christmas Eve. The Lee family reunion is shattered by a deafening crash of furniture, followed by a high-pitched wailing scream. The tyrannical Simon Lee has been murdered, and Hercule Poirot is called in to investigate.

**13th January Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell**

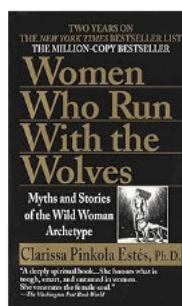
Christopher is visiting his grandfather when he sees an avalanche of mythical creatures come tearing down the hill. Then Mal appears in Christopher's world. She is being pursued by a killer, and is looking for a baby griffin. Can Christopher join Mal and help her in the quest to find the truth about what is going on?

NORTHSTOWE

BOOK CLUB

Meets once a month on Mondays
at 7.30pm

Email: northstowebookclub@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785

**10th February Women Who Run With the Wolves by Clarissa Pinkola Estes**

Synopsis: The "wild woman" is the wise and ageless presence in the feminine psyche that gives women their creativity, energy and power. This book aims to give contemporary readers a new sense of direction, self-confidence and purpose in their lives.



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HERITAGE SOCIETY UPDATE: December 2024 - January 2025

Longstanton Station Remembered

On 17 August 1847 the Wisbech, St Ives and Cambridge Junction Railway opened. Between St Ives and Cambridge, stations were established at Swavesey, Longstanton, Oakington and Histon. The coming of this branch line was to have a significant impact on East Anglia and the local area. This railway line allowed access to markets across the country for locally produced agricultural and horticultural goods prevalent at this time. These markets were critical for the big cities such as London, Birmingham, Manchester and others seeing rapid expansion as employment for the country's population became increasingly centred around fast developing urban areas.



The new railway line not only allowed local businesses to expand and thrive, with Chivers of Histon being one of the outstanding success stories of this area, but the railway line also opened up recreational travel across the country and for local communities including Longstanton, this enabled a tourist industry to develop, particularly to Hunstanton which had its own railway line until its closure in May 1969.

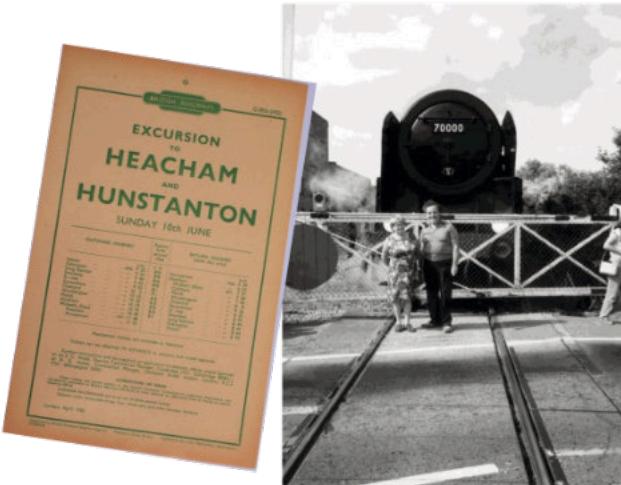
This branch line would also play an important role in the defence of the country during the Second World War, as the line which ran between Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick villages played an important role in enabling personnel and supplies to be easily transported to the Bomber Command airfield of RAF Oakington; construction of which had begun in 1939. Following the war, transport requirements changed and the transport of goods and people by lorry and car became more commonplace. The station's role as a major hub for the transport of horticultural produce from local villages including Willingham, fell into terminal decline. By 1967, St Ives became a terminus with the closure

of the line from March to St Ives and with no through trains the only service that could run was between Cambridge and St Ives. This was only a short reprieve and 5th October 1970 saw the last scheduled passenger train run; another casualty of Richard Beeching's cuts to the rail network. The line continued to be used for a while transporting sand and gravel from the gravel works near Fen Drayton and St Ives. Some excitement was generated however, when on 19th October 1991, 34027 Taw Valley and 70000 Britannia were on driver training and passed through Longstanton. In May 1992, the last gravel train ran on the line which was then closed for good.

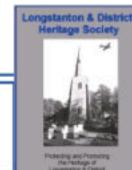
Nature was left to take over much of the old line but fortunately the route remained intact. This allowed the St Ives to Cambridge branch line to be reopened, in the hope that it would alleviate the transport problems being experienced on the old A14 and other local routes between St Ives and Cambridge. Eventually, the decision was taken to convert the old railway line to the Guided Busway that is in use today. In 2021, when the Northstowe boundary was finalised, Longstanton Station and its sidings were placed within the new town. Irrespective of this change of boundary, Longstanton Station still stands as testament to the pivotal recreational and economic contribution the former branch line played for local communities and indeed the nation as a whole.

All images used in this article form part of the LDHS Archives and illustrate why this collection is of importance to Northstowe, Longstanton and the surrounding communities. Help to protect and display these archives (in person and on-line) is now being sought as the Heritage Society considers both its future and that of our archival collection.

Hilary Stroud



Seasons Greetings
&
A Happy New Year
from
The Longstanton &
District Heritage
Society



NEWS FROM OUR LONGSTANTON NEIGHBOURS

First-of-its-kind piano donation scheme aims to repair inequality and sustainability in music

This International Repair Day, renowned music retailer Millers Music, based in Cambridge, has announced the launch of its game-changing piano donation initiative, Piano Equals.

The new programme aims to tackle unequal access to music education and sustainability in the music industry by assessing, repairing and reusing the thousands of older, quality pianos that sit idle in homes across the UK before matching them with a local school or community organisation that can truly benefit from them.

At the heart of the initiative is a desire to support the growth of a more equitable and sustainable music industry by addressing the challenge of instrument waste: the incremental carbon cost of using an existing instrument saves an estimated 97% of the carbon footprint of shipping a new one from the other side of the world.* To showcase how we can give new life to our own instruments, Millers Music will be hosting an all-day instrument repair workshop on Wednesday 30 October at the Grand Arcade in Cambridge for its annual sustainability event, Let's Go Circular. Individuals can register their interest at: <https://www.grandarcade.co.uk/events/music-instruments-repairs-piano-equals/>

Simon Pollard, Managing Director at Millers Music, said: "We believe every child deserves access to high quality musical instruments, but inequality in music education is widening. Studies have shown that music has the power to transform people's lives, and at Millers Music we believe that increasing access to high quality instruments is fundamental to this vision. Not only can a piano donation inspire and unleash musical creativity but also makes quality instruments more accessible and sustainable for all. Piano Equals aims to facilitate this by sharing our expertise and resources to reuse thousands of unused pianos and give the gift of music."

Thanks to the new initiative, a number of local schools and organisations have already benefited from the Cambridgeshire pilot. Cambridge Acorn Project, a therapeutic service provider for children and families in Cambridge, has been one of the first. Deputy CEO, Hannah Chapman, said: "Access to enrichment such as playing a musical instrument is really important for children's positive outcomes as they grow up, and for those living in financial hardship it is often more difficult to access these enrichment activities. Thanks to Piano Equals we are able to remove these barriers to music, which can lead to positive outcomes in children including increased self-confidence, improved mastery and good mental health."

Organisations across the UK – including schools, charities, churches and community groups – are welcome to apply for a piano donation by submitting an enquiry to Piano Equals. Millers Music will assess the needs of each application before matching organisations with a restored instrument and overseeing the delivery. If you are interested in donating an instrument, or in applying for a donation through Piano Equals, please visit: millersmusic.co.uk/pianoequals

* Calculations made based on the following government source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2020>



Pupils and a teacher at Hatton Park Primary School, Longstanton, stood next to a piano donated through the Piano Equals programme

LONGSTANTON VILLAGE MARKET



This September saw the return of the Village Market, many thanks to Amiebeth for stepping up to get the markets running again. The market will run monthly on the last Saturday of the month.

We are also very grateful all the residents of Longstanton and Northstowe for being so supportive

of the independent traders that make up the market. They will be on the Village Green rain or shine on market day, to bring you their high quality crafts and food.

Our final market of 2024 will be in December, and will be rather special...

Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On.

Our Christmas market and light switch-on is Saturday 7th December, 3pm-7pm.

We will have a Christmas market, Christmas lights, a visit from Santa, fairground rides, a festive brass band and hot food & drink.

We simply can't wait. The event is free to attend and open to everybody, and we look forward to seeing you there for our last event of the year.

See you in 2025

Market dates are planned to continue to run monthly in 2025 on the last Saturday of the month. Starting in February we will hold an indoor market in the Village Hall, and then from March we will be situated on the Village Green.

Longstanton Village Market, The Village Green, Nelson Crescent (next to Co-op), Longstanton, CB24 3GN
Follow us on Facebook/longstantonmarket or email longstantonvillagemarket@gmail.com for the latest event updates.

Youth and Schools

1ST NORTHSTOWE SCOUTS

Our Beavers have had a busy start to the year, with an amazing 84 badges already awarded! Cubs helped us with our orienteering and phonetic alphabet on our evening walk around the lake. We've also made lava lamps, water filters and helicopters, had a visit from a police officer (with siren demonstration), and 'flown' to Spain.

Scouts have been taking to the skies for real at Gliding Camp at Peterborough and Spalding Airfield, where all Scouts got to fly a glider with the help of an instructor.

They loved this camp so much that we've decided to include Gliding Camp in our programme next year as well! Scouts have also been building confidence outdoors with shelter-building, fire-lighting and backwoods cooking. You may also have seen some of our incredibly creative carved pumpkins.

Cubs have had plenty of adventures too, beginning the term with laser tag and attending district camp. They have also been busy in the woods, working together to light a fire to bake bread and prepare hot chocolate.

Huge congratulations to Scouts Oliwia Nazarewicz and Olli Roberts for earning the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

A quick taster of events to come: ice-skating for all three sections, a planetarium and observatory visit, Clip n'Climb sleepover, Beaver sleepover, ceramic creative skills workshop, and both day and night hikes.

This year, we are proudly celebrating our five year anniversary. We are all set to start up a 2nd Northstowe Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, with many children waiting to join, but we require your help to do so. To find out more about what we do and to help expand Scouting in Northstowe, please contact info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk.



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Northstowe

Learning Community

It has been a remarkably busy term for us!

Back in September, we welcomed 152 new students in Year 7, 50 students in Year 12 and 21 students in Reception. This is our biggest growth yet as we are now an all-through school, also known as, Northstowe Learning Community. The campus will grow gradually, year on year, to reach its full capacity of 630 pupils in the primary school, 1200 in the secondary school and 400 students in the sixth form. It is Meridian Trust's first all-through school where children can begin in Reception and continue their learning journey, all the way through to Sixth Form.

Works are near completion on our sixth form college and primary school, we are so excited to get into and use these fabulous new spaces.

It was a real privilege to have our Year 6 Open Evening have such a great turnout, with over 230 families coming to have a look around. It was so wonderful to have so many of you visit and see the school for the first time. It was also fantastic to see our students volunteer to help and show off their school to prospective students and families. In addition to this, it was lovely to meet prospective families coming up to Reception next September at our Primary School Open Evening. We have just had our Sixth Form Open Evening with a great turnout, and we are so proud of our students who helped us sell our sixth form! For any Year 11 students reading, the deadline to submit your MyChoice16 applications is Tuesday 14th January 2025.

We hope to see you soon either as a pupil, parent, or visitor. Do look out for job vacancies on our Northstowe Learning Community Website.



Northstowe Primary School

It has been such an exciting time, getting to know our four- and five-year-olds, setting up inspiring learning spaces and establishing the routines of primary school. We are thrilled with how our children have settled in, making new friends, and learning lots of letter sounds in their daily phonics lessons.

Northstowe Primary School is currently set up in its temporary space, which is the pre-school building. After Christmas we will move across to the large primary building, which you can see taking shape behind the pre-school and next to the Martin Bacon Academy. The children have been eagerly watching their new school being built, seeing changes day by day as well as lots of construction equipment and machinery!



Highlights of this first half term, for the children have been:

- PE lessons led by our PE teacher, Mrs Howard
- Reading their very first reading book and putting it in their book bag
- Lunchtime – when the roller shutter goes up to reveal the meal and our lovely cook
- Riding around on the bikes in the garden and working on their very own mini building site

We look forward to welcoming more children to Northstowe Primary School as it grows. If you are a parent or carer of a child who will turn five in the school year 2025-26, please do come and join us. Let your friends know we are open. You will find us on the primary admissions portal listed as Northstowe Learning Community – Primary Phase with the school code 4095.

Northstowe Secondary College

Our Year 11's have been super busy preparing their post-16 applications and undertaking GCSE mock exams! We are immensely proud of how they are handling all these big steps.

It has been great to be able to get some of our students out on some trips and visits already this year. Our Year 7's worked on their team building skills in missions and climbing at Big Rock and Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes, our Year 8's enjoyed a fabulous trip to see The Lion King in the West End, and our Year 11 Geographers headed out to the Norfolk coast on a field trip. We are looking forward to more trips as we get further into the year.

Finally, on the run up to Christmas, our Performing Arts department have been working hard to prepare for our first NSC Production, 'We Will Rock You'! We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to see the show.

We wish all our families and community a happy and healthy festive break.



Northstowe Sixth Form

Our Year 12's are now fully settled into sixth form and are eagerly awaiting the build completion! The students have been awesome helping us sell our sixth form at a variety of Post-16 events and we hope that the applications received in January will reflect their hard work.

It has been wonderful to see students make new friends, work hard and start to shape the sixth form into what they would like it to be, over this first term.

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NORTHSTOWE YOUTH HIVE AND ROMSEY MILL



We'd like to welcome two new Romsey Mill Youth Development Workers in Northstowe who are working alongside Emma. Caitlin Ballantine is working with Emma on Mondays, and Justin Lewis on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Our usual **Wednesday youth club** still runs term time, this is a space open to all those in school years 7-9. Before Christmas we will be running a trip to Ice Skating in Cambridge so keep your eyes peeled on our social media for more info!

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram by searching **Northstowe Youth Hive**.

If you're interested in finding out more about Romsey Mill and the work we do locally, if you're a young person with an idea or if you're interested in volunteering, contact Emma, emma.whitbread@romseymill.org

PUZZLES AND COLOURING

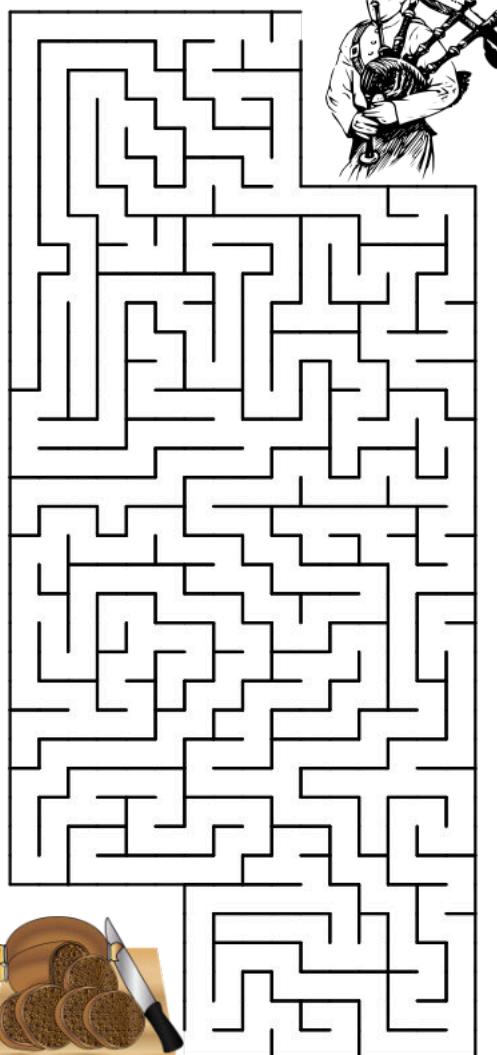


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Burns Night, 25 January

Help the piper reach the haggis!



New Year Word Search																			
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A	S	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	S	Y	N	F	M	N			
T	H	G	I	N	D	I	M	G	E	D	N	T	D	F	F	Y	O		
E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	N	P	H	S	Y	D	E	I			
U	Z	K	P	G	J	L	M	N	Y	R	S	A	R	Z	S	E	T		
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T	B	S	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	S	Y	S	Z	C	F		

Auld Lang Syne

Calendar

Celebration

Clock

Countdown

December

Eve

Festivities

Fireworks

Games

Happy New Year

Holiday

January

Midnight

Mistletoe

Party

Resolutions

Toast

Traditions

Twelve



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