

Northstowe News

Issue 15

May / June 2021

Summer sports
opportunities

Nature and wildlife

Local History
Roman Settlements and trackways

Buggy Bootcamp
comes to town

Brand New
Town Council

#YouAreNotAlone

Board Game and
Book Reviews

Sustainability and
plastic-free

**Clubs, Groups, Events,
News from the Developers,
and Much More Inside...**



Editors' Welcome

The re-emergence of the buzzing community, after the most recent lockdown, coincides with May's *Northstowe News* and the team are excited to share all that the residents have been doing and events to come. The last editor has done an incredible job establishing the paper and bringing locals together, and is now passing the precious responsibility over to a new team; so May is also the first "hello" from us!

Spring has brought with it more optimism than ever; daffodils bring colour to all corners of Northstowe, sunshine gives an extra bounce to those weekly walks (now perhaps enhanced with coffee consumed on a bench), and finally picnics (of a socially distanced nature) can be embraced on the green once more. The little pleasures sing louder this year.

On the note of change, at the beginning of April 2021, Northstowe formally left the parish council of Longstanton and started to be governed by a new Northstowe Town Council. This event marks Northstowe's official birth as a new town, although of course development has been going on for many years.

Want to advertise in Northstowe News?

Contact janeppendrill@gmail.com for more details.
Annual rates and colour ads also available on request.

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NORTHSTOWE
SOCIAL

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

The submission deadline for the July / August issue is **June 1st**.

BIN COLLECTIONS

Friday 7th May	Blue and Green Bins
Thursday 13th May	Black Bin
Thursday 20th May	Blue and Green Bins
Thursday 27th May	Black Bin
Friday 4th June	Blue and Green Bins
Thursday 10th June	Black Bin
Thursday 24th June	Blue and Green Bins



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

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Cover photo by Andrew Collier



District Council

We again hope that you have all been staying safe and well. As we now are now starting to come out of the latest restrictions, we are hopeful for the Spring and Summer, but our thoughts remain with those who have been affected by Covid. We continue to thank all of those who have worked tirelessly to support our communities through this pandemic.

£ MULTI-MILLION INVESTMENT IN NORTHSTOWE BY SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL

We are incredibly pleased to have been able to announce that SCDC has agreed to spend £5.05 million acquiring the local centre and Enterprise Zone from L&Q – both within Phase 1. We want to ensure that residents and businesses are central to shaping the plans for this area from an early stage.

The council are already bringing forward plans for a community building, which will sit within the local centre. The vision for the Enterprise Zone and local centre is for it to be designed around pedestrians and cyclists. Enterprise Zones are designated areas across the country that provide tax breaks and Government support. They are great places to do business, especially for both new and expanding firms.

The local centre is located directly next to the employment land and presents an opportunity for the Council and the community to help shape and bring forward the retail and commercial development. The vision is to create a mixed-use area made up of shops, restaurants and cafés with the community building providing a central focus point.

We are currently in the process of appointing a team to work with residents, businesses, and others to ensure they can contribute to the development. Businesses and green energy specialists are also among the groups the Council plans to approach for input. The ambition is for construction work to begin on site in the summer of 2022.

COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT

The council is still providing advice, grants and other support for businesses disrupted by the pandemic. For information, please go to: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>

UPDATE ON LAPTOPS FOR SCHOOLS APPEAL

Together with local campaigner Firouz Thompson, we ran an appeal to provide laptops for our local schools to support children learning at home. Through an appeal on social media and to local businesses, a total of 33 pre-loved laptops and 14 tablets were distributed. Martin Bacon Academy received 7 laptops from the local community, plus a brand-new desktop, monitor and printer from construction company MACE. Firouz also arranged for her workplace, Royal Society of Chemistry, to donate 10 laptops. The Pathfinder Primary School received 16 and Hatton Park 10, plus 14 tablets and a brand-new laptop paid for by Northstowe Foodies. Other donors were CN Bio, Dr Reddy's, PigCasso's food truck and employees from Abbexa, Synaptics and Citrix, as well as residents and Emmanuel Church. Thank you very much to the members of the community who have supported this appeal, it has made a real difference for schools and children.

NORTHSTOWE PLANNING UPDATES

Phase 2B — Many of you will already know that Keepmoat Homes will be working with Homes England to deliver the next 298 homes for Northstowe Phase 2B, known as the Fenways. 20% of the homes built will be affordable rent homes, with another 40% Northstowe Starter Homes. These are sold at a discounted rate, with prices capped at £250,000 and designed to help people get on the property ladder. They planned to submit a planning application in early April.

Phases 3A and 3B — Following a further period of consultation on amended plans for Northstowe Phase 3 we have continued to raise objections to the plans. We have concerns regarding the lack of green separation, the current proposals for the Southern Access Road East, concerns about flooding and the plans to protect biodiversity and existing habitats, particularly around the Military Lake. We also did not feel that the updated plans provided necessary assurance that the impacts of construction on residents from noise, dust and construction traffic will be satisfactorily managed. We will update residents when this application is going to the planning committee.

EAST-WEST RAIL CONSULTATION

East-West Rail has started a 10-week consultation today on proposals for a new train route from Oxford to Cambridge. The final decision will be taken by the Department for Transport as this is a national infrastructure project. The preferred route option for the line into Cambridge remains via the south and they provided details of why the Northern route is not included in the consultation. You can find details of the consultation here: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/the-project/bedford-to-cambridge>

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

We have a monthly email newsletter - with updates on local news as well as wider district issues. To sign up please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_longstanton

As ever, feel free to contact us on these or any other issues:
Sarah Cheung Johnson: cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk
Alex Malyon: cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk



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County Councillor's update

COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET

Cambridgeshire County Council pledged to fund improvements to footpaths and roads as the annual budget was passed. The council voted through a £660.3million budget for the 2021-22 financial year with an increase of around £47.3million – or 7.7 per cent – compared to last year's budget, for county services, which include schools, social care, public health, highways, libraries, waste disposal and recycling. An example of some of the new extra spending which is **on top of existing budgets is:**

£20 million extra in footpath maintenance with half on surface treatments, such as footway repairs, and the other half on deeper treatments, such as resurfacing and reconstruction. This is in addition to the current **£1.3 million** annual budget for footpath maintenance.

£2.73 million extra in measures to prevent flooding and improve local biodiversity, including rapid gully/drain clearing, better verge maintenance on rural roads avoiding peak flowering times, plus initiatives to provide both active and practical support for local communities to address flooding.

£6.97 million for the B1050 Shelfords Road between Willingham and Earith. The council said this road had been a longstanding concern for a number of years. A busy route crossing the River Ouse, it is the main commuter route from the Fens towards Cambridge and the A14. While "significant work" has been undertaken to keep it serviceable, the council said "historic construction destabilised by poor ground conditions" means a possible full reconstruction is needed to prevent its eventual closure. **There is in excess of £29 million of new County Council extra funding going into highways and there will be no cuts in the maintenance budgets.**

The County Council's precept for Council Tax will rise by 1.9%, and the Adult Social Care Precept by 1%.

SELF-ISOLATION SUPPORT

Self-isolation support totalling almost £1million helping residents reduce spread of Covid-19 — Almost £1 million has been awarded to residents across Cambridgeshire to support them to self-isolate and reduce the spread of Covid-19. Since the scheme launched last October, almost 2,000 claims from people requesting financial support to self-isolate have been approved totalling £996,500. The scheme was due to expire at the end of February but has been extended until the end of June to allow the County Council to continue supporting everyone who needs assistance to self-isolate. It has also been expanded to include parents who need to have time off work to look after a child who is self-isolating. Hundreds of families across Cambridgeshire have been supported to self-isolate since the financial scheme launched last October and it is great news that this support will continue. For some people, financial assistance is the only way they feel able to self-isolate when needed, which is why the scheme is so vital. Rates are reducing in most parts of Cambridgeshire, but to ensure that trend continues we have to make sure we all continue to self-isolate when asked to by NHS Test and Trace. There is no better way to break the chain of transmission. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but we can only reach that light if people continue to self-isolate.

This support includes:

- one-off payment of £500 if they lose income as a result of not being able to work. This payment can be made available on multiple occasions if a person comes into contact with people who test positive a second or even third time

- For anyone not eligible for the government support – a local discretionary fund which offers financial support to make sure people don't suffer financially.

To be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme people must meet all the following criteria:

- have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home and will lose income as a result
- they are claiming at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credits, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit or Housing Benefit.
- If they do not receive one of the above benefits they may still be eligible for a discretionary payment if they are going to suffer financial hardship by isolating.

NHS Test and Trace ID number, bank statement, and proof of employment or self-assessment returns will need to be provided.

Details of both schemes are available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



- LANDSCAPING
- DRIVEWAYS

- PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
- INTERNAL RENOVATIONS

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Sports, Health and Wellbeing

BUGGYBOOTCAMP

Outdoor exercise classes for mums with their babies and toddlers

BuggyBootcamp has been running in Cambridgeshire since 2009, and was set up by Nicola Ostler, a new mum, who missed being able to exercise as she had pre-baby, knowing that other mums did too! Nicola designed classes to take into account mums' postpartum bodies, buggies and babies, as well as providing a full body workout that would leave them feeling fitter and stronger and supported by a great group of likeminded mums.



The social aspect is as important as the exercise element, and exercises are interactive, fun and non competitive. Having had four babies, including three c-sections, Nicola has the personal and professional experience to safely guide you to a healthier you. She provides many modifications and alternatives to exercises which means that classes are inclusive and effective, no matter how old your baby is or how fit you are. There are many opportunities for you to tend to your baby when they need you, whether that be feeding, changing or just needing a cuddle. BuggyBootcamp provides opportunities to boost both your physical and your mental health. It has been shown time and time again that exercising, particularly outdoors, can help alleviate symptoms of postnatal depression as well as preventing it developing. Classes are Wednesdays at 10:30am, meeting in Pioneer Park and last for 45 minutes and we would love to meet you.

For any more information or to book your place, please email Nicola at familyfitnessuk@gmail.com.

YELLOW LADDER SERVICES PAINTING AND DECORATING

**27 TOAD ACRES, LONGSTANTON,
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MOBILE: 07794 853567

EMAIL: BILLAN41@BTINTERNET.COM

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TUESDAY PM

Kathie - 07772 868 472

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ACTIVE NEW COMMUNITIES

It's a great time of year to get active outdoors - being active can help give us a much-needed boost of 'feel good vibes', lift our mood and impact positively on our physical and mental wellbeing!

There are a growing number of activities on offer in Northstowe and here are a few new ones that you might be interested in...

We are delighted to share the news that **Fastbreak Basketball** are going to be setting up new basketball opportunities for juniors and adults in Northstowe. There will be sessions for juniors taking place indoors at Northstowe Secondary College Sports Hall on Thursdays 7.15-8.15pm (U11 and U14). There will also be adult (16yrs plus) beginner to intermediate level coaching outdoors on the MUGA at Pioneer Park on Thursdays 6-7pm, along with a women's session on Mondays 7-8pm. For further details about the sessions please visit <https://fastbreakbasketball.co.uk/clubs/northstowe-basketball-club>

Buggy Walks - Mondays 10.30am-11.30am.

Meet at Northstowe Community Wing.

Explore the footpaths of Northstowe - A great way to meet other local people, whilst getting active and enjoying the fresh air. Suitable for families with children under 5, their carers and expectant parents - free of charge. Numbers are restricted so booking is essential. Sign up via email: ChildAndFamilyCentre.South@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call 01954 284672 or message on Facebook [SouthCambsChildandFamilyCentre/](#)

Cycling

If you're looking for local cycling routes ranging between 6-12miles check out the website below. These routes offer a mix of traffic free tarmac, off road bumpier bits and short sections on roads - there's a route suitable for everyone. We have also produced a fun resource aimed at younger cyclists with a few challenges and activities you can do along the route! To find out more about the routes and to download a copy of the resource visit

<https://www.activenewcommunities.com/northstowe>

BuggyBootcamp - Wednesdays 10.30am on Pioneer Park, Northstowe

BuggyBootcamp is a well-established outdoor postnatal fitness programme for mums with their babies and toddlers, for all levels of fitness and for babies 6 weeks until school age! Founder Nicola is an experienced fitness coach and mum of four and is excited to bring her classes to Northstowe. Bookings contact familyfitnessuk@gmail.com Follow on Facebook @BuggyBootcampUK

Catalyst Fit - Boot Camp Sessions on The Green, Northstowe

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 6:30-7:15am and Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Book your place using www.Picktime.com/catalystfit

Follow on Facebook @Catalystfit21 or contact Louise 07919 050261



Football Fun Factory

The Football Fun Factory will be bringing their amazing Football Fun Camp to Northstowe during May Half Term at Northstowe Secondary College

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th June, 9.00-3.30pm for Boys and Girls aged 5-12 years

£40 for full camp or £25 per day. 50% Sibling discount available. You can sign up now at:

<https://www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/camps>

To keep up to date - Like our Facebook page Active New Communities & visit the Active New Communities website to find out what's on offer: www.activenewcommunities.com/northstowe

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Beverley | CAP Life Skills member

Friday mornings 10:30am - 12:30pm

Northstowe Community Wing

Book your free place by contacting

07770 884570 johannascoones@capuk.org

Hungry? How to GET HELP

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

During the pandemic, special arrangements are in place to minimize travel and contact

Your local contact is Revd Beth Copo (Pathfinder Church Northstowe) 07720 330 272 contact@northstowe.church

Beth can issue a food bank voucher which will give you a parcel of three days of emergency food, providing non-judgemental support at the point of crisis.



Read more: cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk

Cambridge & District

citizens advice

You can still get Advice during Covid-19

General advice is available via our **Adviceline 0344 848 7979**. This is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm (we now have lots more people answering so it is easier to get through than before)

You can [email us for advice](#) or to request a call-back by visiting the website at <https://www.cambridgecab.org.uk/help-advice/get-advice>

Anyone seeking to make a new claim for Universal Credit should call our **FREE Universal Credit Help to Claim line on 0800 144844** (Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm)

For advice on consumer issues (e.g. issues related to products or services you've purchased, cancelled holidays etc.) can contact the Citizens Advice **Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133** for FREE or chat online to an advisor.

LONGSTANTON AND NORTHSTOWE LIMPERS

Our Winter Warmers events, held between November and the end of January with the aim of getting people to stay active has now finished. It has been a big success, held during lockdown as a series of 6 virtual races, a challenge to get out and about over 80 days and even a virtual couch to 5k. I'm very pleased to say that a lot of people got into the spirit of it, and collectively completed over 3500 miles – the equivalent of the distance to New York! We also raised £600 to be shared between the Hatton Park, Pathfinder, and Northstowe Secondary schools. It went very well but we learnt a lot so we're busy planning something similar for the summer. Keep

an eye on our Facebook page for details. It's likely to be bigger and better, and I'm very pleased to say we've secured some funding from England Athletics to help us improve the prizes, although it was great to hand out £75 in Advance Performance vouchers this time! Thanks to everyone that took part and supported the events.

We've also had an exciting time drawing our lucky winner in our club ballot for the London Marathon. As an affiliated club we get a guaranteed place each year, and Jon Fuller has this year's club slot to represent the Limpers. Good luck and enjoy your training!

Like everyone else at the moment we've got our fingers crossed for a return to more normal conditions and we're thinking about and planning to get ready for bringing back our Monday night social runs, and some other events so we can enjoy the summer conditions and the droves and more rural routes that have been harder to use over the wet winter.

Give us a wave if you see us out and about!

Chris Poultney

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

WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES
Reception Tel: Willingham 01954 260230 Longstanton 207600 Dispensary 207602
District Nurse Team: 01223 726469 Option 2 Health Visitors: 0300 029 50 50
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.

Covid Vaccination Programme

The surgery is under immense pressure as we continue to support the local GP hub in collaboration with neighbouring practices. Please only contact the surgery about the vaccine if you have been invited. We are getting a vast amount of queries about medical conditions which are exhausting our already stretched resources. We will contact you when it is your turn.

If you have already received your first vaccination, you may be wondering when your second appointment will be. Current guidance is that your second vaccine will be between 11-12 weeks since your first.

Please do not call us. The surgery will contact you when it's your turn, in the same way as we did for your first appointment. It is vital your contact details are up to date on our system.

Please ensure the surgery has your most up to date contact details including your mobile number and home phone. We are using the details on your medical record to invite you for your Covid vaccine as soon as you are eligible. If we cannot get hold of you by phone, we will write to your home address.

Staffing & waiting times

The period before Easter was especially challenging for the practice, and we are aware the waiting times to speak with a GP were very long. We also had considerable wait times on the phone.

The practice is now caring for over 10,000 patients, and the spike in demand due to the pandemic and the vaccination programme had a considerable impact on the surgery in the early Spring.

In response to this, the surgery is increasing clinical and reception staff in order to manage patient care and reduce the waiting times to a more manageable level.

We ask that you remain patient as new members settle into the team.

Hearing aid maintenance and batteries

Cambridge Hearing Help (CAMTAD) are still unable to return to the surgery for hearing aid maintenance, however they continue to provide batteries in the post and maintenance/re-tubing service appointments at other locations as part of a limited service.

If your Hearing Aid needs cleaning and maintenance, they have launched a 'drop-off and pick-up 20 minutes later' service at local Hearing Aid Maintenance Centres.

For further information please see www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk, or call 01223 416141.

Signs of domestic violence and abuse

Domestic violence, also called domestic abuse, includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse in couple relationships or between family members. There are different kinds of abuse, but it's always about having power and control over you. Domestic violence can happen against anyone, and anybody can be an abuser.

Getting help and support for domestic violence:

You do not have to wait for an emergency situation to find help. If domestic abuse is happening to you, it's important to tell someone and remember you're not alone.

Find out how to recognise the signs of abuse and where to get help by visiting:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/getting-help-for-domestic-violence>

- Women can call The Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline, run by Refuge on 0808 2000 247 for free at any time, day or night. The staff will offer confidential, non-judgemental information and support
- Talk to a doctor, health visitor or midwife
- Men can call Men's Advice Line on 0808 8010 327 (Monday and Wednesday, 9am to 8pm, and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am to 5pm) for non-judgemental information and support

Carers Meeting

Due to the pandemic, the carer's meetings are still currently postponed until further notice. They will be reinstated as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we would like to continue to support carers in our local community in any way possible. If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please contact Sue Lawson at susan.lawson7@nhs.net or 01954 260230.

Lisa Smith –Assistant Practice Manager– May 2021

Buttercups

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Contact the Nursery

Phone: 01954 488081

Email: nursery@buttercupchildcareltd.co.uk



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w: www.bellaclaire.co.uk

e: office@bellaclaire.co.uk

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Follow our activities and fun on our social platforms!

Schools



Northstowe
Secondary College

It has been a real joy to see our students back in school, of course everyone's hair has got long, or in some cases been cut short and so many have grown upwards over the last few months since we saw them last! It was wonderful to see their happiness at being with their friends again, seeing their teachers and getting back into classes. They have returned with renewed enthusiasm and curiosity. We really did make the most of the three weeks before Easter.

Our young people have continued to demonstrate our school values of 'Kindness, Curiosity and Hard work' while at home, not only working on their school work, but also reading to try and achieve the million word reader status. They have also been working on their pledges, with students concentrating on their environmental pledge by litter picking in their local villages and upcycling at home. Some have been learning new skills cooking at home and learning about other cultures. Others have been looking after younger siblings and teaching them new things or baking for friends and neighbours. One of our year 8 students Joshua even made us the a swallow out of wooden planks, it is an amazing piece of work, that so accurately depicts our Northstowe swallow. Very fitting then that our swallow represents the fact there are no ceiling to a child's achievement, when they are given the wings to fly.



We continue to be impressed by the kindness and ingenuity of our young people. We have been able to recognise our first 28 children at NSC to achieve their pledges. 26 bronze pledges were awarded with two children in Year 8 achieving their bronze and silver pledge, an almost unheard of achievement in our schools. As they were the first to ever achieve this accolade in the young life of our school, we had a little celebration to mark it.

We have also had an art competition, started before the lockdown, focusing on love and we involved our feeder primary schools Hatton Park and Pathfinder, with some beautiful pieces of art work with winners and runners up in the different age categories and Lexie and Laxmi our winners. The talent and thoughtfulness of our children in primary and secondary was outstanding, it really makes you proud of the kindness of our youth.

At Northstowe our vision is to put the well-being of our children first and our work around mental health has been recognised in the achievement of the Carnegie Mental Health Award in Silver. Mr Russell, Assistant Head has been leading

on this, collating a wide range of evidence to show what we have in place to support young people, staff and families. We are one of a tiny handful of schools in Cambridgeshire to have met the tough categories and achieved the silver. A huge well-done to the team. We will continue to work on our offer, aiming to achieve the Gold category next year.

We have also started fundraising for our school minibus, that will allow us to get to fixtures and competitions and will be shared with Martin Bacon Academy next door. We are hoping to go green and have set our sights on a electric minibus that is wheelchair accessible. Thank you to the Northstowe foodies and some great fundraising ideas from staff and students we are out of the starting blocks. We will be looking for ways to raise money whilst also bringing a bit of fun too!

We have also found out the names of all those children joining NSC next September in Year 7. It is a very exciting time for us as the school will be full with 120 children coming to us next academic year. We have already sent out our welcome pack and look forward to meeting them in the summer term, hopefully in person!

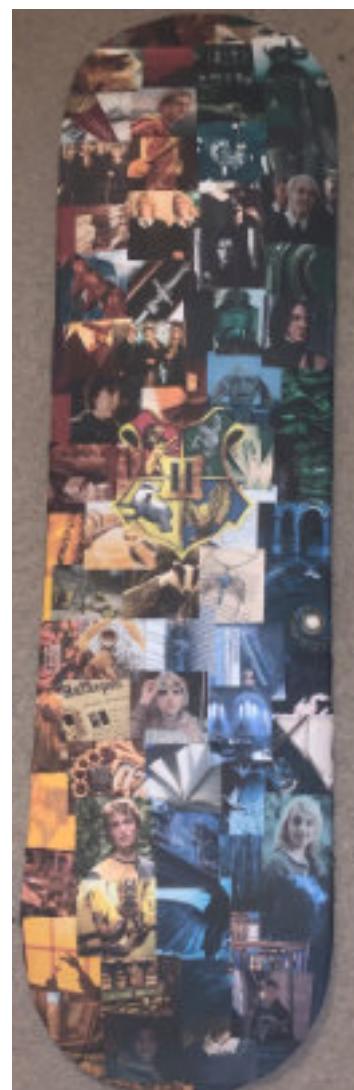
So whilst schools have not been open in their normal format, we have not stopped and are grateful to now have our NSC family back together again.



WINNER KS2
Laxmi P
Yr 3



WINNER KS3
Lexie
Yr 8





THE PATHFINDER C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term has been another challenging time for us all and another lengthy lockdown and enforced school closure period that has tested our resolve. We started the term in January expecting to be open, but without notice, told we were closing the very next day. However, once again it is amazing to witness how resilient our children, families and staff are in the face of adversity. Since the children fully returned on 8th March 2021, it has been wonderful to witness the joy of returning to school – to learn, to play, to socialise, to look to the future with hope and live life in all its fullness. Many of these sentiments are experienced and echoed at Easter.

Census Day 2021

On 21st March the school took part in activities linked to the national census day. Throughout the day, the children looked at census data from the past and made observations of things that surprised them or were noticeable differences to now. In particular the children highlighted the significant increase in vehicles, an increase in age range and a much wider ethnic diversity.



The children and staff have also filled a time capsule that represents our school in 2021. This will be dug up in 10 years time, at the time of the next census in 2031! The children included photos of their class, self portraits and writing that shares what they are most proud of about their school in 2021.

Some of the older children completed their own databases from information collected in school.



World Book Day 2021



No World Book Day would be complete without a dress up day ... which this year was themed around the 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' ... and friends.



For World Book Day, we were fortunate to receive a hamper of book donations from Vistry East Midlands, the company building Linden and Bovis Homes within Northstowe.

Nic Chapman, Sales and Marketing Director for Vistry East Midlands, said: "We can think of no better way to mark World Book Day than to offer this gift of books to a local school, enabling it to provide a wider choice of reading materials for its pupils."

Mark Elwood, English Lead at The Pathfinder Church of England Primary School, said: "Reading is a universal and vitally important skill to all. A rich and varied reading diet is essential for the development of our children."



WE ARE RECRUITING

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASITC AND PASSIONATE PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR TEAM IN SEPTEMBER 2021

2 X FULL-TIME LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

1 X PART-TIME (MORNINGS ONLY) LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

2 X MIDDAY ASSISTANTS (1.5-2HOURS A DAY)

PLEASE VISIT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION OR GET IN TOUCH VIA vacancies@pathfinderschool.org.uk



LAPTOPS FOR SCHOOLS



Over the last term we have been so grateful for the support in enabling all of our children to access remote learning during the school closure period.

Thank you to Firouz Thompson and others for campaigning within our community and local businesses for donation of pre-loved laptops.

We also received a kind donation from Emmanuel Church, which enabled us to purchase some new devices.

We were also grateful for laptop donations from staff and families alike.

Without all of you ... a community pulling together ... we would never have been able to ensure that every single child had the resources to access their learning.

THANK YOU



As a school we have very limited shade, so we are raising money towards a sun shade sail (similar to that pictured to the left). If you haven't chosen us as your local Co-op cause, please do so to help us reach our goal. Please visit the website above.

Are you looking for somewhere to hire for your weekly group, meeting or one off event?

If so, please email us to find out more.

All bookings will be in line with the most up to date COVID restrictions and guidance.

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01954 584801

Community Groups and Social Events

NORTHSTOWE Book CLUB

Kathy Fountain

Last month we read **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens. This tells the story of Kya, who spends most of her childhood alone in the marshland of North Carolina. As each member of her family leaves, her isolation becomes almost complete and she has to catch and sell fish to survive and pick up life skills by observing the behaviour of wildlife around her.

The novel flits back and forth from Kya's childhood in the 1950s to 1969, when the body of local heartthrob, Chase Andrews is discovered in the marsh. Suspicion falls on Kya, the outcast and the author cleverly keeps us hooked as we fill-in the background story, leaving us guessing until the end.

I found this novel quite uncomfortable at times in its depiction of the ostracisation of someone who does not "fit" in. It is beautifully written and difficult to categorise, part coming of age novel, part murder mystery, part study of loneliness. I think it will haunt me for some considerable time, but I am glad I read it.

Northstowe Book Club meets once a month on Monday evenings, currently on Zoom. If you are interested in joining us look for our Northstowe Book Group Facebook page or get in contact with one of us.

We will be reading:

The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August by Claire North (May 10th)

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell (June 7th)

The Trouble With Goats and Sheep by Joanna Cannon (July 5th)

Persuasion by Jane Austen (August 9th)

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (September)

Just One Damned Thing After Another by Jodi Taylor (October)

Book REVIEW

Becca Edney

The Flower Reader by Elizabeth Loupas is a historical romance and thriller with elements of fantasy, telling the story of Rinette, a young minor noblewoman at the court of Mary Queen of Scots. She has some powers of prophecy thanks to her ability to read the language of flowers and gets involved in intrigue and danger after being put in charge of a casket of important papers by the dying Mary of Guise.

This isn't the kind of book I would normally pick up, but I was intrigued by the concept of a heroine who can read the future with flowers. Given that, I was a little disappointed by how unclear the use of that power ended up being. However, the book was still a wild ride and I enjoyed Rinette in particular as she tries to survive and thrive through all the disastrous things that happen to her. It's not that often that I come across a genuinely strong female character who never picks up a weapon.

I also found the romance very plausible and enjoyed the main love interest, who came across well as a genuinely sweet guy who genuinely cared about her from his first appearance. Overall, the plot was tight, the characters very well drawn, and I enjoyed it.

I recommend it for adults only, with a trigger warning for intimate partner abuse and sexual assault

FRIDAY WALKS

10:15am Every Week

Meet on the Green for a short walk round Northstowe

NORTHSTOWE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Northstowe Neighbourhood Watch continues to meet online every 2 months, everyone is welcome to come along and contribute. Let's hope at some point this year we can meet in person over a cuppa! It's a forum to discuss concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour and the intention is to see what might improve our community for residents and look at positive solutions for any concerns that arise. Generally Northstowe is a happy and law abiding place to

live but it's helpful to have a forum to discuss concerns as they crop up and link in with the police, council and other relevant agencies who can help.

We have a Facebook group where people can share information and get in touch with us. We are also contactable on email at: northstowe.nwatch@gmail.com

Our next meeting is due on **Thursday 13th May** at 7pm. Meeting details will be published on the facebook group nearer the time. It would be great to see you there!

PLASTIC FREE COMMUNITY

Some good news with the project to start making Longstanton and Northstowe free from single use plastic! After lots of work, we have been certified as an official Plastic Free Community by *Surfers Against Sewage*, who are running this programme nationwide. This doesn't mean that everything is all finished but there has been a lot achieved already, and it gives us a great platform to take things forwards.

Longstanton Parish Council were early supporters and adopted a resolution to become single use plastic free and support local initiatives. Working with long-time collaborators the Northstowe Foodies, 5 food trucks have become Plastic Free Champions, removing plastic from their businesses and committing to work with their supply chains to go further and have an even bigger impact. It is amazing how something as simple as swapping plastic cutlery for wooden forks and knives saves such a huge amount of single use plastic entering local bins.

Working with the Longstanton and Northstowe Sustainability groups has provided oversight and some great ideas. There are lots of local groups doing litter picking, and making changes to reduce plastic in their daily lives. Northstowe Secondary School has done the work to become the first accredited Plastic Free School in Cambridgeshire.

It has been difficult in the lockdown to organise events and let you know what we've been doing. Check out our facebook page for what we're planning as things get back to normal. We'll be supporting more businesses to go plastic free, continuing to work with the other schools and nurseries in the area, and helping out where we can.

If you're interested in getting involved or have an idea then get in touch!

Chris Poultney

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

[PlasticFreeLongstantonandNorthstowe](https://www.facebook.com/PlasticFreeLongstantonandNorthstowe)

NORTHSTOWE SUSTAINABILITY GROUP



The Northstowe Sustainability group was set up in September 2020 and we have been holding meetings online discussing interests, concerns and possible projects. These include circular economy, wildlife friendly gardening, management of our green spaces, plastic and food waste, and how to ensure our community buildings and infrastructure are sustainable.

The main actions and achievements of the group from last six months are:

- **Pop-up Refill station:** on December the 17th, we brought a Refill station stall selling cleaning and personal hygiene products in containers people could bring from home. The stall was a success and was invited again in February and March. There was great turn out from local residents and people from surrounding villages, which together saved more than 220 plastic bottles! The refill station will be in the Green every 3rd Saturday of the month from 10am to 2pm. We are also in contact with local sustainable businesses, and hope that in the upcoming months we can have a stall selling alternatives to plastic everyday use items. The pitch fees from these stalls will be used to fund sustainability community projects.
- **Trees:** we plan to check that all trees that should be planted in according to the planning applications have or will be planted and are replaced if needed. This is part of a wider tree strategy, which will ultimately involve identifying areas where more trees can be planted.
- **Networking:** the group is working alongside Plastic-Free Longstanton and Northstowe, the Longstanton Parish Council Sustainability Working Group, as well as other community groups in Northstowe and local and regional authorities. We have also established links with sustainability groups from neighbour villages and conservation organisations in the area. We believe in creating synergies, joining efforts and bringing communities together.

We have now 10 active group members and meet monthly, all our minutes are available on Northstowe Pioneers Facebook group. As we prepare for the year ahead and develop our strategy, objectives and plan activities, **we want to engage with the community to gather views on what areas of sustainability matter most**. We also hope to motivate and spark interest in the group amongst residents, and **welcome anyone who wants to get involved**, from volunteering of participating in events, to leading projects or joining our meetings.

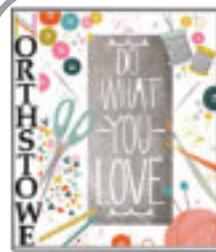
Have your say!

Visit this link <https://forms.gle/WL7Srskk294KA3iS7> or scan the QR code to reply to our survey by Sunday 6th June and enter in a draw to win a pack of mixed seedlings to plant in your garden, allotment or pot.



Carla Bros Sabria,
Sustainable Northstowe

Any queries, please contact us on sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com



The Northstowe Community Crafters Club is encouraging Crafters of all ages, levels and craft types from Northstowe and surrounding Villages to join the group each week at varying Hosted Events. Meet new friends, learn new Crafts and be part of a new and vibrant group of like-minded people like yourself. To find out more contact Karen:

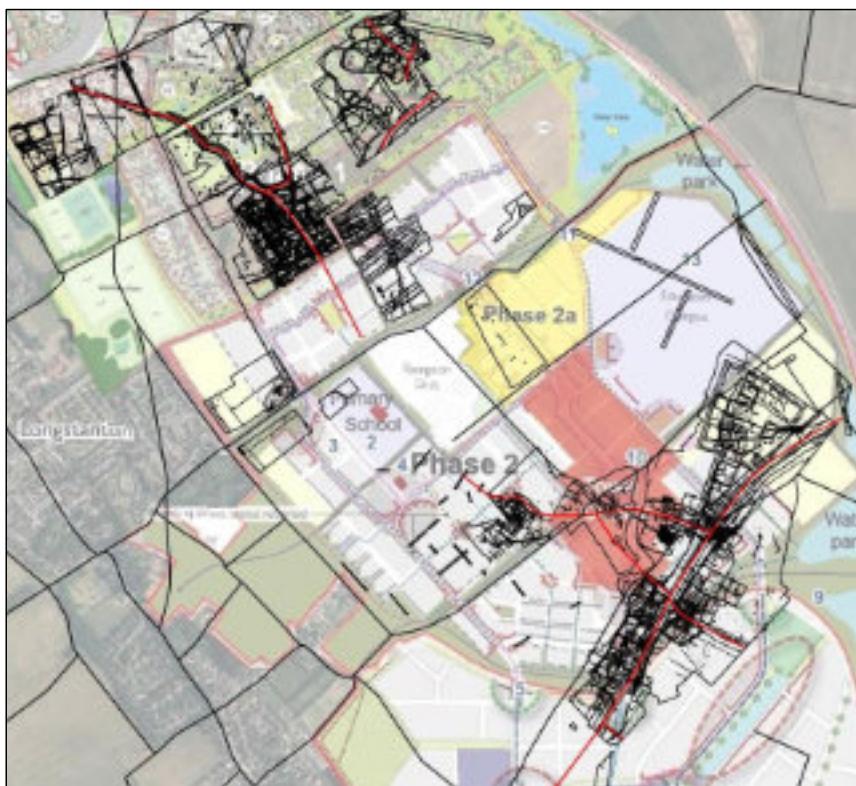
Uniting Local Communities through the Love of Craft.

LIKE & Join our Facebook group @ <https://www.facebook.com/northstowecommunitycraftersclub/>



Northstowe and local trackways

In 1991, modern archaeological excavations started on Hatton Farm Longstanton, prior to the farm's conversion to a golf course. This area was later identified for the development of the new town of 'Northstowe'. Excavations on the Northstowe Phases 1 and 2 sites (stretching from the former golf course site and spanning part of the airfield area) started in 2014 and ended in 2019. The main findings from the excavations were the identification of the first settlements in the area: a number of small dispersed Iron Age settlements distributed across the development area. However, the biggest group of sites were associated with the Roman period, with several large Roman settlements (derived from Iron Age ones) being linked by a series of trackways. Settlements, burial grounds, ditched trackways, wells, cisterns and other features were found, as well as hints of a surrounding field system. Some of the sites show an unbroken occupation from Middle Iron Age to Late Anglo-Saxon period before merging into the Medieval village and the present day village of Longstanton.



Northstowe Masterplan with the archaeology from Phases 1 and 2 inlaid.

Image courtesy of Homes England and Cambridge Archaeology Unit (CAU)

The excavations showed a complex settlement structure which, by the early Roman period, had become more permanent and was expanding with defined areas of settlement and farming activities, such as the enclosing of animals. Amongst these settlement arrangements, ditches and trackways dating to the Late Iron Age were formalised. In one location (Phase 2 large Late Iron Age / Roman settlement) the ditches and trackways formed an important crossroads. Probably associated with the Roman period crossroad was an outdoor shrine, associated with a stone altar that was found during the excavations.

The importance of the trackways

and the crossroads to the settlement cannot be underestimated and it is clear that the large Phase 2 site was a hub in the Roman period; with movement of people, livestock and animals an important feature of the settlement. Pottery found on the site featured local, regional and imported wares from the continent. The Quern-stones used for milling were sourced from across Roman Britain and the Roman Empire. Mobility and trade can also be seen in objects used for looking after animals and the processing of agricultural produce. Soil samples indicate that people were foraging plants from the landscape around them and the close proximity of the Fen provided an important agricultural resource; with wet meadows providing good grazing for cattle and other wild resources. The presence of nearby rivers is also likely to have influenced the settlement and it is probably true to say that the natural resources and proximity of the site to the Fen Edge and the nearby gravel terrace were influential factors that led to this Roman settlement taking on local significance.

Movement in and out of the crossroad settlement would have relied on the trackways directly associated with the site, but also those further afield. Nearby, there was the Via Devana (along a similar line as the old A14) to Godmanchester and Cambridge. What places were connected to the crossroad settlement – where were people coming from and going to? Post excavation work by archaeologists may be able to answer these questions in the next few years.



Depiction of a Romano-British Settlement by Andrew Hall. Image courtesy of Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU)

How the ancient crossroads links to the trackways and routes that remain to this day is hard to say without additional and extensive archaeological excavations; but it is highly likely that the Iron Age and Roman settlements on Northstowe and the later Anglo-Saxon and Medieval villages of Longstanton and Oakington were in part a product of the local gravel terrace and the network of trackways which

linked other places to them. The gravel terrace that runs across Longstanton and Oakington is linked to Arbury and King Hedges in Cambridge, via Girton and Histon. This was not just a topographic link, but also one that was based on social relationships and kinship which connected the local tribal groups centred on the Late Iron Age univallate fort Arbury Camp, and later the Roman villa estate in Kings Hedges, with those communities in Longstanton and Oakington.

It is possible that the routes from Girton and Histon to Belsar's Hill (Willingham) via Rampton and the route from Girton to Oakington and Longstanton, via Woodside, were ancient prehistoric routes that have survived in part today. If this is the case, then it is possible that they formed part of a network of routes which may have led to the crossroads found during the Phase 2 excavations. Clearly during the Late Iron Age to Roman period these routes were of significance and would have been pivotal to the development of the community at this time. At the end of the Roman period the settlements found on Northstowe Phases 1 and 2 was eventually abandoned, though occupied to some extent during the 5th to 7th Centuries. By the 9th to 10th Centuries the site had become integrated into the field systems of Longstanton and Oakington. However, the outlying trackways and routes that connected this Roman settlement to Arbury Camp/King Hedges, Longstanton, Westwick and the Fens could still remain within the roads and trackways that exist around Northstowe today.

H Stroud

with the kind assistance of Dean Harris (Homes England) and Dr Oscar Aldred (CAU)

GAME OF THE MONTH

By Andrew and Sarah Collier

Perudo is based on an ancient South American game commonly known as “Liar’s Dice”. It was played at least as long ago as the 16th century, and apparently became very popular among pirates (as can be seen in that totally reliable 2006 documentary, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest*). One thing I love about Perudo is that it’s a game about statistics, and really demonstrates how they work. However this doesn’t usually sell it to most people, for some reason...



Peruvian-styled designs inlaid in them. I played it as a child and loved the fact that it was about more than just rolling dice - statistics will tell you how many dice on average should show a particular face, but when the sample size is small the actual result can vary considerably in practice. What people bid reveals information about what they know, and you can use that to your advantage (unless they manage to bluff you into bidding too high).

Can you win by working out the statistics, or is it better just go with your gut? Find out by playing Perudo at boardgamearena.com, or join us online on Tuesday evenings – for details search FaceBook for “Northstowe Gamers” or email northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk

Perudo is sold under license by Paul Lamond Games in the UK and Asmodee elsewhere.

All you have to do is guess what faces are showing under everyone's cup. You start with 5 dice each, roll them under a cup, look at only your own dice and then take turns to make predictions of how many dice in total will show a particular face (ones are wild); e.g. “there are seven 6’s”. On your turn you either have to increase the bid, or say “Dudo” (literally, “I doubt that”) meaning you wager that the opponent’s last bid was too high. When someone does that, all the dice are revealed and whoever was wrong loses one of their dice, meaning that they then have less information for the next round of guessing.

Unlike many other games we mention in this column, you may already have heard of this game. It is available in some common high street stores and I’ve even seen it on sale in a supermarket. There are various different editions, some with authentic leather cups, this one has boldly coloured plastic cups with

POETRY CORNER

The Black Pen

The day they locked me in my room,
Aloneness began to surge over me

I found you on my table left alone
You and me, years after, together again,

You did the magic for me ..
You drew the dreams for me ..

You derived my happiness ..
You derived my thoughts ..

I shared my moments with you ..
I shared my thoughts with you..

You delighted my moody mind..
You owned my dreamy world ...

You are with me, within me..
Always! Always as a black beauty spot

The day may come, I may fly again
Until then you are my friend,
dear black pen

– Neena MS

Last Breath

It seems here end the track
I can't see anything clearly ahead
My vision is fading
I realise I am alone now

They were with me, my family
But where are they now?
I am alone now,
The loneliness haunting me

I can't breathe, I can't move
I am alone, all alone, only “blues”
But I will wait, wait for my kisses
Until my last breath, perhaps..

– Neena MS

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NORTHSTOWE FOODIES

Northstowe Foodies is run by residents Firouz Thompson and Mollie Clarke. Our key motivation was to support local businesses like independent food trucks and provide an alternative choice for our local area.

30-50% of Northstowe Foodies pitch fees go back into the community. We have been delighted to help fund towards social events within Northstowe. From raised beds in the allotment area to the free School Meals campaign. We have also supported funds for a new laptop for a local school to hire to pupils during lockdown. Our current fundraising focus is for a green minibus for Northstowe Secondary College and Martin Bacon Academy.



Photo credit: Lorraine Wesley

We currently have 30+ food trucks that are attending site per month with the support of our friends at FoodTruck Revolution and there's more on the waiting list! All food trucks can be found pitched up by Northstowe Green, right on Station Road.

The variety of food trucks cuisine ranges from delicious gourmet burgers to fragrant Middle Eastern dishes. We are delighted to introduce a pop up stand for a washing refill station (let's get sustainable!) and our most recent addition, Cambridge Luxury Bakes.

We love to shout out great local finds across Cambridgeshire, from independent restaurants and stores to local foodie creators. Do you have a local hotspot to share? Fancy writing a post for us? Pop us a message on social or at northstowefoodies@gmail.com.

To stay up-to-date on the weekly food truck schedule, head to Northstowe Foodies on Facebook. We'll see you at the trucks!



THE DOG BAR

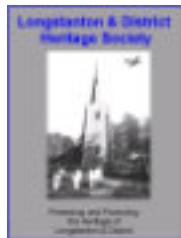
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LDHS MEMORY LANE



These photographs come from the LDHS Archives via Len & Rene Sanders. Len worked on this part of the railway for many years. The couple can be seen below taking the opportunity to have their photograph taken with 'Britannia', the last locomotive to pass through Longstanton. This view has of course changed with the automatic crossing on the B1050 accommodating guided buses now rather than trains.



'Britannia' was not normally associated with Longstanton; but although the Cambridge to St Ives branch line was closed to regular traffic long before this, part of the track remained in situ for some considerable time as did the junction with the main line. This meant that the line could still be accessed for occasional use and on September 15th 1991, it was used as a "loaded test run" of 'Britannia'.

With the boundary of Longstanton parish now changed to accommodate the new town of Northstowe, these photos illustrate how our two communities have a shared history and one which LDHS is safeguarding for us all.



PATHFINDER CHURCH



Pathfinder Church, Northstowe



Your Church of England Church, with an inclusive ecumenical welcome

Even while unable to meet in person, Pathfinder Church have been using online gatherings, letter-exchanges, Prayer and Reflection broadcasts, and social media, to ask things like:

- What calms you when you feel anxious?
- How can we encourage each other?
- What's been the best part of this week?
- What social justice issues need attention right now?
- What are you learning?
- Whose voices aren't we hearing yet?
- What have we lockdown-learning do we need to hold on to?
- What was just for that time?

A defining feature of the community making up Pathfinder Church is that we love to start with questions. This focuses our attention and activities on respecting and partnering with those we meet, responding to our community, and ensuring we have the skills to do things well.

**DON'T BE
HELPFUL,
Be Curious**

"When we look more closely at the vast majority of the words of Jesus, they point to our primary task as listening and seeing how God is the active agent before we become active—helpful."

"EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK:
DISCOVERING THE CHURCH RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE" BY TIM SOERENS, WALTER BRUEGEMANN

But the quote "Don't be helpful, be curious" doesn't mean we never turn questions into action. For those of us with a faith, 'starting with questions' means listening to both our community and to God, in order to move forward in partnership with those around us.

Whatever your faith position, I wonder what Curious Questions might help you make a meaningful difference?

Find out more: www.northstowe.church

Revd Dr Beth Cope, Pioneer Minister for Northstowe, is available to talk through the Big Questions of life, as well as for Northstowe's weddings, baptisms, and funerals whether you are a churchgoer or not.

Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close, Northstowe (01954 261181) contact@northstowe.church

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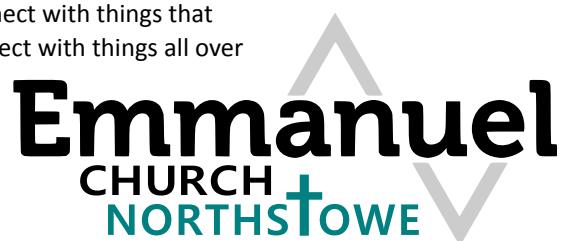
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EMMANUEL CHURCH NORTHSOWE

As we come out of lockdown, lots of us are asking what is the best way to connect with things that matter to us. We've learned to access things online, which means we can connect with things all over the world. And some will be cautious about returning to in person services. Others are desperate to get back to "normal", and for many that means travelling into Cambridge for much of life, including the brilliant large churches there. Why come to a smaller church in Northstowe instead which has less resources than the large churches? Why come in person rather than permanently attend church online? At Emmanuel, there are two convictions that mean we are committed to local Northstowe church, and to meeting in person when we can.



1) Church as family. When you read the New Testament, you find that the people who have trusted in Jesus are meant to be like a family. Through Jesus they have all been adopted into God's family, and so now they are brothers and sisters. A church can express that family-likeness more easily when everyone attends in person and lives in the same community. It's not just about the time in the church service, but the time beyond it: the coffee and meal time after the service; bumping into each other at the school gate or the shop; having meals together; being there to help when someone is ill or the boiler is broken. Church as family works best when people live near to each other and physically meet each other.

2) Church for the community. All churches want to bless the communities they live in. All churches want to welcome in people and help point people to Jesus. But it is hard for a city centre church to serve a village or small town community. Their foodbank is in the city, their courses and toddler group are in the city, their special events like carol services are in the city, the community events they partner with are based in the city. So if we really want churches to serve Northstowe, we need churches in Northstowe, running in person activities in Northstowe and getting involved in the events in Northstowe.

So if you are a Christian with a heart to bless the community in Northstowe, why not visit one of the local churches in Northstowe and see if you could be part of a church for this community? You can find more about when we'll be returning to in person services and get in touch on our website, emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

LONGSTANTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH

#YouAreNotAlone

'You are not alone' characterises how many parish councils, local communities and churches have responded to Covid-19. From meeting the needs of neighbours to 1 to 1 walks, from household bubbles to delivery folk at the door. Virtual gatherings on screen have helped to keep dispersed members of many families in contact. I came across #YouAreNotAlone through the ministry of Pathfinder Church, Northstowe.

'You are not alone' echoes throughout the Bible. Along with 'Do not be afraid' and 'Peace be with you' it is especially evident in the post Easter story, as the risen Jesus greets and reassures his first followers. So, it is a strap-line for this season of the Christian year.



'You are not alone' also resonates with the story of the local parishes. On 1 April 2021, the 5folds Team Ministry came into formal being. Thus, everyone within the Anglican churches in Northstowe, Longstanton, Over, Swavesey and Willingham is reminded of their unity and togetherness as one family grouping. 'You are not alone' can be a watchword for each of these churches and each of their members.

During May and June, we will probably offer a combination of services in church and online in the 5folds villages. As always, we seek to complement the offerings of dear friends in Pathfinder Church, our partner worshipping community in Northstowe.

The 5folds ongoing audio services and talks are accessed via: <https://www.5folds.org.uk/page/online-services-and-resources>
Extra video resources can be accessed at: <https://5folds.online/YouTubevids>

Rev'd Lucy Cleland, Team Vicar in the 5folds Group
Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Swavesey and Willingham.
T: (01954) 277758 E: lucy@5folds.org.uk

AN UPDATE FROM FEN DRAYTON LAKES



Close your eyes and picture a lake under a clear, blue sky. Ducks, geese and swans are out on the water, many of which have paired up and may even have a brood of ducklings, goslings or cygnets with them. Great-crested grebes are performing courtship dances or disappearing from sight under the surface as they dive for a meal and along the lake-edges a heron stalks through the shallows.



Lapwing in flight. Photo credit Kevin Sawford (rspb-images.com)

Turn your vision now to the north where an expanse of wet grassland habitat, containing ditches and shallow depressions, spans the northern side of the lake with a peninsula extending down towards the central island. The soft lowing of cattle can be heard as they graze this area to maintain the vegetation for breeding waders. Overhead, displaying lapwing can be seen with their wavering, up-and-down flight and characteristic 'peewit' call as they lay claim to the best nesting habitat whilst redshank, the 'sentinels of the marsh' watch on, ever vigilant for danger.

In the north-west corner a reed fringe to a smaller water body provides cover. Reed, sedge and Cetti's warblers can be heard singing from within the reed as water rail and coot call from the base. Look closely and you may be lucky enough to see a bittern skulking along as it blends into the background. Dragon and damselflies are in abundance as they dart around on the hunt and perch on the reed and other vegetation.

Back out on the water are the tern rafts. Constructed and deployed to imitate small shingle islands, these provide the perfect conditions for nesting common tern and black-headed gull. Watch as they build nests, incubate eggs and then bring small fish in to their chicks.

All around are the sights and sounds of nature, offering a chance to forget for a time the stresses of life and to connect with the great outdoors. However, this tranquillity can be quickly shattered as wild creatures are easily disturbed and can be put off from using areas where people and dogs regularly go. This reduces the habitat available for them to use and the amount of wildlife for us all to enjoy. You can help wildlife flourish at Fen Drayton Lakes by not entering areas that are reserved for nature and by keeping dogs on a lead or under close control on the public footpaths. Please help us help nature thrive. Thank you.

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk

Phone: 01954 233260

Visit rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity:
England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

NORTHSTOWE NATURE NOTES

Hugh Venables

Early spring has brought a range of birds back into Northstowe to breed. There are at least two pairs of Shelduck and two Little Ringed Plovers on the Phase 2 flood will hopefully find somewhere suitable to nest. Resident birds are also finding places to breed, with Mute Swans nest building on the Phase 1 lake. The nyjer seed feeder in the garden has encouraged two pairs of Goldfinch to settle, checking out the dense bushes in the show home garden for a nest site. A Red Kite over the house was another welcome distraction and early flowers (crocus and lungwort especially) have attracted the first bees. Bee orchids marked out along the busway verge have been spared from the spring cut and should flower in early June (with thanks to the county council and their contractor).

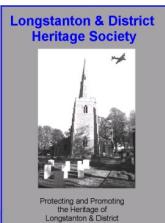


The saga of Kingfisher Pond took another twist with a pike being seen. It might have been there unseen for a year or two or it may have been rescued from floodwater (or moved on from a fishing lake).



At Fen Drayton RSPB the receding flood waters brought in large numbers of ducks and wading birds, including a flock of over 1000 Black-tailed Godwits, feeding up before heading Iceland in April. Between there and the Ouse Washes north of Earith there were over 30 Great Egrets, a rapidly spreading species – previously the largest count locally was 14. It's likely they will follow Little Egret and start breeding, as they now do in Norfolk.

LDHS UPDATE: NORTHSTOWE — May / June 2021



A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL!

The elections this May will see the beginning of a new era for Northstowe as it formally becomes independent from Longstanton and Oakington and starts the exciting process of self-government, through its new Town Council. The Longstanton & District Heritage Society welcomes this historic moment and looks forward to working with the Town Council and Northstowe residents on the various heritage matters governed by the LDHS Constitution. We take this opportunity to explain to Northstowe residents that LDHS was set up in May 2007, to protect and promote the heritage of Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe at a time when the new town was being planned. *Heritage is defined as buildings; objects; landscape features; local art; archives; personal memories; memorabilia and artefacts and anything else that the Trustees may determine.*

In addition to establishing the LDHS Archives, our work over the years has included achieving Listed status for the rare circular Oakington Pillboxes, protecting the Longstanton conservation area and lobbying to get the groundwater issues faced by Longstanton and the Kingfisher Pond understood and remediated. This is a work in progress and we are awaiting the second report from H R Wallingford. However, in recent weeks Northstowe residents have been in contact over the state of the Kingfisher Pond and LDHS is encouraging Northstowe residents to join the Society so we have a unequivocal mandate to share our years of experience of the groundwater issues with the new Town Council. The current situation with the pond 2/3 covered in scrub and now the home of a rather large pike, does not give the Kingfisher Pond a sustainable future. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that the developer will pay for restoration if Northstowe residents seek to maintain the current status quo.

Recent social media posts have tried to make clear that whilst myself and the Heritage Society are not looking to tell Northstowe residents how to restore Kingfisher Pond; we have spent many years building a case for the developer of Phase 1 to be held accountable for the damage caused to it, and the other ponds that lie on the river terrace gravels below Longstanton and Northstowe. Any request to leave the Kingfisher Pond as it is serves only to undermine these efforts and could ultimately lead to little or no restoration taking place.



The Kingfisher Pond - photograph LDHS via Clive Hayden (2012)

If no action is taken the pond is likely to suffer problems with algae bloom before slowly drying out. Whilst the final decisions on restoration lie with Northstowe residents and the new Town Council, LDHS has a constitutional obligation to continue our work to ensure that this pond's future is secured.

Northstowe was originally meant to be an Eco-Town and the damage caused to the habitats on the river terrace gravels is simply unacceptable. We have lobbied to safe-guard and

restore the Kingfisher Pond since 2016, and we will continue to do so. Now however, we hope to do this with the support of Northstowe residents and the Town Council. With your support and working together we can continue to use our knowledge to ensure the developer properly funds the restoration of the Kingfisher Pond, so it is a fantastic natural heritage asset for Northstowe for generations to come.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Annual subscriptions are now due. It costs £10 for an individual and £15 for a family. Membership forms can be downloaded off our website: <https://www.ldhs.org> Alternatively please contact the Secretary by any of the methods outlined below and we will provide you with a form. The Heritage Society is a great way to find out more about your community and meet other people, whilst helping us to safeguard our shared heritage for future generations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Heritage Society has an enormous task on its hands and the LDHS Archives form a large part of our responsibilities. The physical archives require safe storage, indexing and filing and the digital archives, including photos, interviews and film require to be made accessible to the public in a way that does not undermine the physical displays found in the Heritage Annex, when it eventually opens on Northstowe Phase 2 (the site of RAF Oakington). Coronavirus has inevitably delayed the Heritage Annex project and has increased costs and this will impact on the design of the building. However, we are confident that it will come to fruition in due course. Meanwhile, LDHS has been delighted to have had the support of Longstanton Parish Council as we work with Homes England and others on the delivery of the building and we look forward to having the support of Northstowe Town Council too. With an increasing membership from Northstowe residents, the Heritage Society looks forward to helping our communities enjoy our SHARED history.

Hilary Stroud

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

NORTHSTOWE PIONEERS

Have you heard about The Northstowe Pioneers?

It's a community-centric Facebook group for Northstowe residents to discuss all kinds of local matters and to help arrange social events et cetera (no buying and selling, but there are other groups for that).

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthstowePioneers> to keep in touch!

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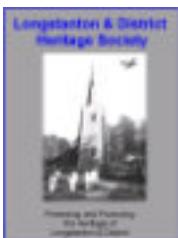
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Thomas Daniels
Mob: 01572 158 098
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COMMUNITY RESEARCH: LONGSTANTON AND NORTHSTOWE



The work of the Longstanton & District Heritage Society covers many different areas and in recent years this has meant that there has not been the time to carry out our own research into Longstanton and Northstowe history, or the history of our neighbouring area. However, last year we were approached for help by Roger Hetherington who was working on a research project of his own. On completing his research Roger kindly agreed to write a series of three articles for us to publish in the community magazines. Below is Roger's second article - we hope you enjoy it. We were delighted to be able to help Roger and if anyone else has research they would like to carry out we would be delighted to assist if we can and to publish summaries of the work here. Please see the LDHS Update for our contact information.

The shapers of Longstanton - stories behind the stones.

Inside and outside All Saints' church are impressive memorials and many gravestones marking one-time members of the parish community. But who were they and what influence did they have on Longstanton village? Over the next few months there will be a series of articles about some of these characters based on evidence I gathered from a survey of memorials for my Archaeology and Heritage studies and other research.

Edward Prior - faithful steward

This unassuming and heavily weathered stone has an interesting story to tell. It is the left one of two stones in front of the church tower. Looking closely, you can just make out the name "Edward Prior" who died 17th April 1793 in his 50th year and "Katharine".

Who were Edward and Katharine Prior?

A couple of entries in the All Saints Church burial register for that period (now available at the Cambridgeshire Archives in Ely) shed some light on this. There is a burial record for a "Kitty" Prior on 14th August 1778. ("Kitty" was a common pet name for "Katharine" in the 18th Century). There is a burial record for Edward Prior on 10th April 1793. (There must be a mistake here or on the stone as I don't think he could have been buried seven days before he died. Such mistakes did happen!) What makes this record particularly interesting is the note (presumably added by the vicar):

"Farmer & Steward to Sir Thos: Hatton & Family upwards of 35 years"



Edward Prior seems to have had wealth, for in his will, he was able to leave some £950 distributed between his sister, three half-brothers, two nieces and a nephew, presumably leaving sufficient for his surviving wife, Susanna. £950 would have been worth about £140,000 today. The will does not record any provision for sons or daughters and so, rather sadly, "Kitty" appears to have been an only child who did not survive childhood.

Recent research by the late Jane Lane showed that the Hatton estate was divided into a small number of farms leased to tenant farming families. The Priors were one such family whom, it would seem, were middle class. However, as tenants rather than freehold farmers, they effectively owed their status, and so were duty bound, to their landlords, the Lords of the Manor, the Hattons.

You may wonder what the elaborate carving above the inscription is about. At its centre is a winged cherub. You will see one or two other stones of around this date with such a symbol. It is believed to have signified the hope of the resurrection of all faithful souls on the last day. There is one stone in the churchyard with a skull and bones carving dating to 1771 (close to the chancel door). That represents an earlier, more austere protestant tradition reminding the living of the inevitability of death and judgement, and therefore the need to live "good lives".

Roger Hetherington



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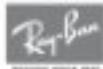
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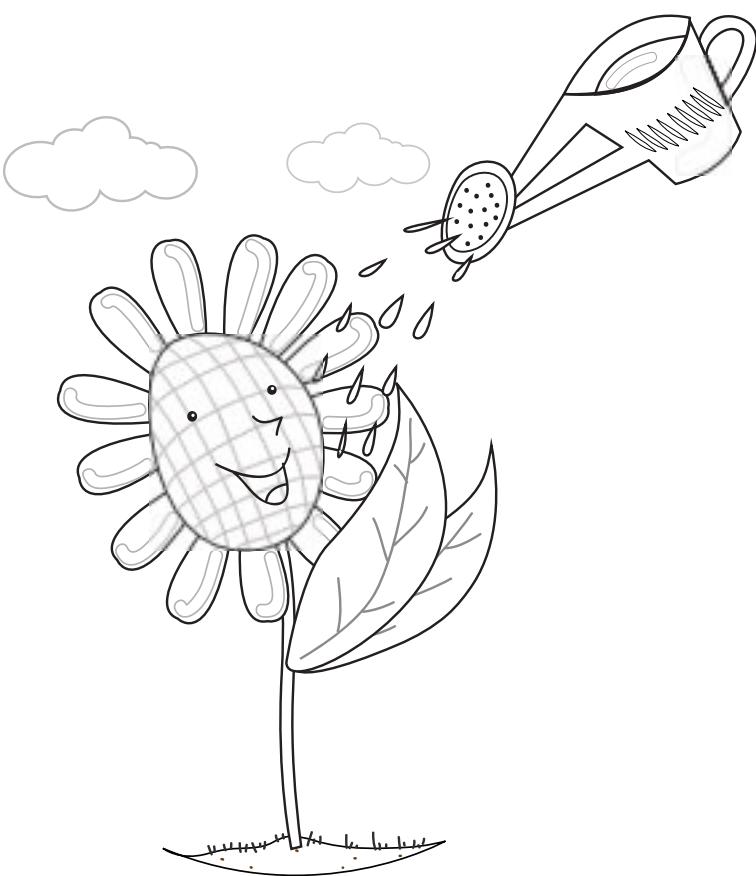
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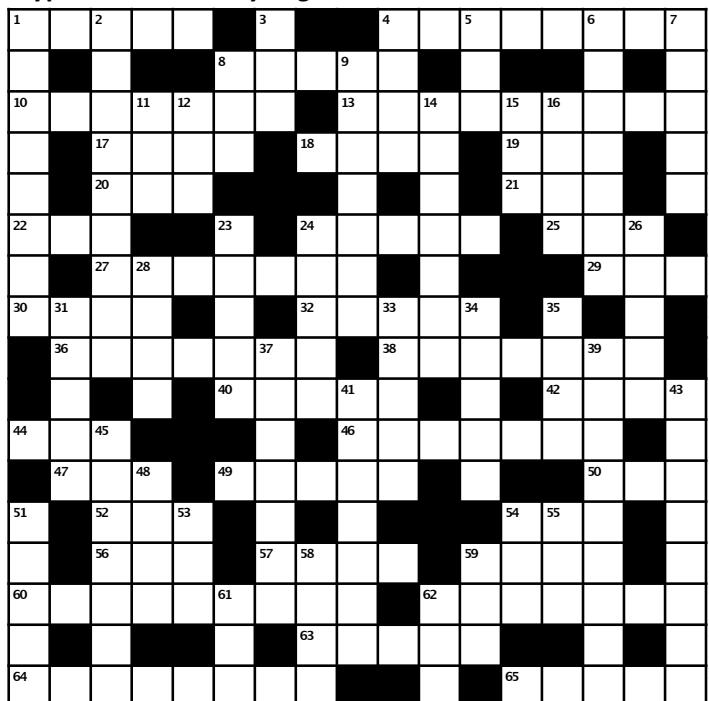
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Cryptic Crossword by Pilgrim



Across

- Musician from St Andrew's or surrounding area (5)
- Fur flies; what about it? One left at the end is furious (8)
- Find mass of an object such as an anchor (5)
- Substance that fills hearse nicely (7)
- Is a scholar, or is a hint to change (9)
- Politician loses letter, which causes frayed tempers (4)
- English town where you will probably

get very wet (4)

- How Pooh's wise friend spells his name (3)
- Wood for making part of helmet (3)
- Bird delivers letter from Greece to the Orient (3)
- Just any woman, not quite the wife of Zeus (3)
- Awkwardly wrest control, then broadcast (5)
- Curve causes car sickness (3)
- Underground worker finds aluminium, or other inorganic substance (7)

Down

- Indicates joint and major vessel (8)
- Fine marsh might yield opportunity for this profession (9)
- One moment; I'll have a dry white, please (3)
- A small amount at Pentecost (4)
- A set of books eaten by aardvarks (3)
- Malfunction caused by bubbles of air in the flue (7)
- Cuff or golf may be said to be missing (5)
- Stupid person who pretends to be this may be half right! (3)
- Appalling, like the change in colour of Tom Pease's mare (7)
- Shelter? Quite the reverse; there could be a danger of electric shock (3)
- Common soldier returns to familiar battle zone (3)
- Quiet! Ray is at the back, tuning up oboe in case (4, 3)
- O, you and I are in debt (3)
- Latin love returns to home city (4)
- Aquatic mammals are impressed (5)
- Alexander or Alexandra on the beach (5)
- Relief work came to nothing (5)
- Hostelries located in opposite directions (4)
- Seated figure's thighs are made of blue stone (5)
- Short seducer goes about the east; this sucks (5)
- Semi-precious substance found, appropriately, in a creature (5)
- Measure watering-place in the north (4)
- I pass note to artist, who passes note in turn, and so it repeats (7)
- Natural mulch that might require plaster of Paris (9)
- Conservative gets mixed up with 54 down, with random results (7)
- Anti-rust solution leaves nothing to the imagination (8)
- Arbiter left behind the United States, saying a definite no (7)
- Sort of halo made in gold by an artist (4)
- Renown gained by Britain going back on parties (5)
- Tear, apparently fatally (3)
- Allow return to hill in Middle East (3)
- One Tolkien goblin or a hundred (3)
- Lose your rag? It seems not, and there's a point to it (4)
- Possesses endless cannabis (3)
- Vegetable supposed to cause discomfort to royalty (3)
- Mushroom contained in receptacle (3)

Father's Day Wordsearch

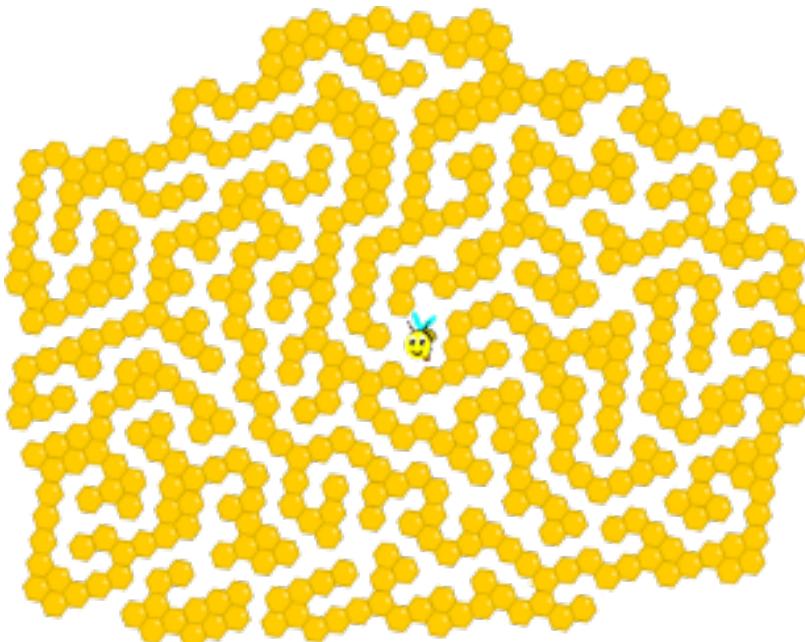
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MARSHMALLOW TOFFEE KRISPIES RECIPE

Sarah Collier

This is a recipe I have made many times when we could gather together and have Northstowe socials. I would often get asked how to make them and I would always say melt some butter, a pack of toffees and a pack of Marshmallows, once melted add Rice Krispies until it is the right consistency. This is how I was taught to make it by my Mum but it's not that helpful when passing a recipe on so below is an actually useful recipe.



Ingredients

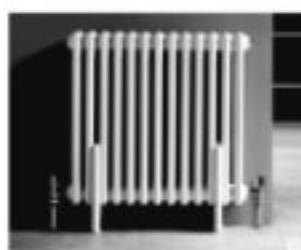
125g	Butter
200g	Marshmallows
175g	Toffees
325g	Rice Krispies

Method

1. Grease a fridge-safe container (I use two 20x20x5 cm silicone trays)
2. Melt the Butter, Marshmallows and toffees in a pan, stirring occasionally till everything is melted
3. Pour the Rice Krispies into a large bowl
4. Once melted add the content of the pan to the bowl and mix well
5. Pour the Rice Krispy mixture into your prepared container
6. Use the back of a metal spoon to flatten out the top of the mixture
7. Cover with cling film or a lid
8. Place in the fridge for at least 3 hours preferably overnight
9. Turn out onto a chopping board and cut into bite size pieces ready to serve



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