

# NORTHSTOWE

## News

ISSUE 38

APRIL / MAY 2025

By Northstowe's Community – For Northstowe's Community



# NEWS AND UPDATES

## EDITORS' WELCOME

Welcome to another issue of Northstowe News! You'll probably notice a few things that look a bit different this time, like a new coat of paint here and there – but just like always, this magazine is packed full of genuinely-local news and updates: everything that's going on in our exciting new town. Read on to find out what's happening in Northstowe's many social and community groups, the councils, religious organisations, and the schools; find out about progress on buildings and what's coming up next, and discover what our elected representatives are doing for us. It's all in here!

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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](mailto:janetpendrill@gmail.com) for more details.

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

The submission deadline for the June / July issue is **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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

## HOUSEHOLD BIN COLLECTIONS

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Black Bin
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Black Bin
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Black Bin
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Black Bin
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Black Bin



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

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Front Cover:  
 Halcyon Mere, photo by Andrew Collier

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



## UNITY CENTRE BREAKS GROUND

The start of construction of the Unity Centre was officially marked on Thursday 6 March at a groundbreaking ceremony. This marks a significant milestone for Northstowe and celebrates the first step toward the completion of this state-of-the-art facility. Located next to the temporary community centre and overlooking The Green, the Unity Centre will be the permanent community centre for Phase 1 of Northstowe and is due to be completed in early 2026.

The Unity Centre has been collaboratively funded between South Cambridgeshire District Council, which is contributing £6.5 million towards the project, £2.2 million Section 106 funding from the Phase 1 developers, Urban&Civic, in addition to funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Designed on Passivhaus principles, the building will have solar panels and ground source heat pump. Being highly insulated, it will have a low energy demand. The building's green roofs coupled with the hedges, trees, bird/bat boxes and bee houses in the enclosed garden will help increase biodiversity within the site, and 70 cycle spaces will be provided.

Once complete, the Unity Centre will host a range of community activities, events, and services, providing an exciting and spacious meeting place that promises to be well-used and enjoyed by Northstowe residents, offering:

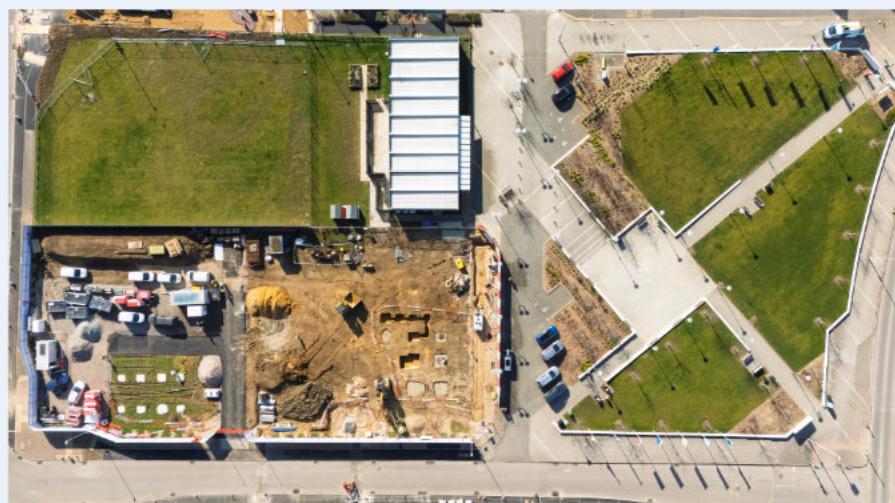


Photo: davidjohnsonphotographic.co.uk

- A main hall - A large multi-purpose hall for formal and informal events
- Generous foyer and café area
- Kitchens, to serve the main hall and café
- A base for staff, Town Council offices, reception and booking point
- Consultation / meeting rooms – multi-purpose spaces for meetings, groups, and visiting community services
- A free-range shared space for community uses and co-working
- Micro Library area
- Flexible activity space - a robust 'make space' for potentially messy or noisy activities, connected to the courtyard garden
- Toilets including a Changing Places facility
- Safe and secure outdoor space

## OWLS COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

### We need Northstowe drivers!

OWLS Community Car Scheme was set up to provide journeys for residents of Over, Willingham, Longstanton and Swavesey. In the last couple of years requests from a small number of Northstowe residents have also been accommodated as there is no Northstowe car scheme in place, as yet. OWLS is keen to recruit some Northstowe volunteer drivers to help with growing demand. Drivers receive 45p a mile in total and do not have to commit to particular times or days. Are you retired, work part-time or work flexibly from home and can help out? A maximum of one journey a week is appreciated. Volunteer drivers have to be DBS checked (at no charge) and have appropriate car insurance cover.



OWLS celebrated a milestone 10,000th journey last summer. Customers call the service 'a lifeline' and say that they couldn't manage to get to appointments without it. With Northstowe growing apace it is hoped that it will have its own Community Car Scheme in time. In the meantime can you help those in your community who are not able to access private or public transport to use this much needed and valued Community service? Please ring the scheme's mobile 07505 254363 for more details, without obligation.

### 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 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/](http://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](http://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk)



Like other agencies, the Northstowe Church Network's Revd Beth Cope can give vouchers during office hours :  
01954 261 181 [contact@northstowe.church](mailto:contact@northstowe.church)

## DISTRICT COUNCIL

### CLLR TOM BYGOTT



#### Local government reorganisation

The UK Government has announced plans for the biggest reorganisation of local government in England since 1974. Dozens of district councils across England are set to be abolished. A deadline was set in January for councils to volunteer to become part of larger unitary authorities. The Government has not publicly disclosed a comprehensive list of councils that submitted proposals for local government reorganisation by the January deadline. However, several councils have publicly announced their actions: (1) East Sussex, (2) Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire and (3) a joint letter from Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea, and Thurrock.

All councils will receive a further invitation to submit proposals by spring and autumn 2025, ready for the first wave of new unitaries to be set up to commence operations in 2027. We are continuing to work with council officers to ensure everyone is up to speed on new updates. At the time of writing, no councils in Cambridgeshire have made public announcements and it's likely that the county elections here will proceed as planned.

#### Four day week referendum

In my group's alternative budget proposals, we have called for a referendum on the 4-day working week at the council. We believe the public consultation document produced by the council's ruling group is inadequate, as it does not even ask residents if they agree with the 4-day week – or if they are happy to pay for it. That is why we are calling for a referendum for South Cambridgeshire's residents to decide once and for all if they want to continue paying their council to be paid 5 days per week but only work 4 days.

Given that the number of children being born in the UK continues to fall, there are profound economic changes that will come about because of this demographic problem. There will be an ever smaller working proportion of the population to fund a retirement for those in old age. That means that we need to (1) increase productivity through technology, (2) work for more years before retiring and (3) work more hours every week. A generalised gift to the whole working population of increased leisure time, as appealing as that might be, is counterproductive in our current economic and demographic circumstances.

#### Annual report to tenants and leaseholders

There are a number of things in this report that are concerning for our tenants and leaseholders within South Cambridgeshire. In several areas, South Cambs District Council is bottom of the pile compared to other local authorities when it comes to the people for whom the services exist – our residents. This report can be found on the council's website at [www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/information-for-council-tenants/tenant-news-and-involvement/tenant-and-leaseholder-news](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/information-for-council-tenants/tenant-news-and-involvement/tenant-and-leaseholder-news).

This news is particularly alarming, especially when you consider this report was compiled under the auspices of a 4-day working week. To rank so low for resident feedback is disappointing.

**Improving Complaint Handling:** Effective complaint handling is crucial for any organisation, particularly in public services like housing management. Recent survey results reveal that South Cambridgeshire's approach to managing complaints is falling behind compared to other organisations, with a satisfaction rate of just 29%. This puts the local authority among the lowest scorers, with the lowest satisfaction rate across other organisations being 28%.

**Resident Involvement:** When it comes to whether the landlord listens to tenants' views, only 54% of residents were satisfied. Unfortunately, when compared to similar organisations, South Cambridgeshire ranks among the lowest in tenant satisfaction related to the landlord's responsiveness and follow-through on tenant feedback.

Contact: [cllr@bygott.net](mailto:cllr@bygott.net)

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

### CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN



Dear Northstowe,

It's good to be sitting in the spring sunshine to write to you. Thank you for contacting me throughout the winter to support your interactions with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), and for approaching your dedicated Community Team, located at The Cabin on the Green.

In addition, a useful SCDC contact number for all the District Council services is 01954713000. This is open 8am to 5:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and on Wednesday, from 8am to 6:30pm. For specifics about how to contact a service, go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/contact-us>.

Picking up on some of your key concerns you have been contacting me about:

#### Development of Unity Centre (Northstowe Permanent Community Centre)

While the temporary community centre has been a great success, it's also good to have broken ground to start work on the Permanent Community Centre, the 'Unity Centre', in March. At the groundbreaking ceremony Kier were clear that they welcome comments and requests from residents as they build, ensuring that the new centre meets the needs of Northstowe. Please do engage on this.

#### Retail outlets and GP for Northstowe

This is an ongoing theme of questions from residents keen to have Northstowe fully operational as a New Town. The roadmap for development is being produced by Homes England, and in the meantime, I have been working with them, the delivery group for Northstowe, and the many community groups in the town, on ideas for use of 'meanwhile' space giving you more facilities while the permanent facilities are developed. I've also met with the GP in Willingham with our County Councillor Cllr Firouz Thompson and our MP Ian Sollom to discuss possibilities for health provision. I will continue to share updates as things develop.

#### Land use and Preserving Nature

The government has launched a consultation on a new strategic approach to managing land use in England, to give decision makers the data they need to protect agricultural land and increase Britain's food security. The consultation explores the land use changes implied by commitments to restore nature, support food production, improve climate resilience and deliver new housing and infrastructure. It seeks views on the type and scale of land use changes that might be needed, as well as the actions government could take to support this. The consultation closes on 25 April. To read the consultation document in full and comment, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/land-use-in-england>.

#### Waste Service Update – Blue bin recycling contract

Residents have approached me about local news coverage of the new bin recycling contract with concerns about transporting waste to North Ireland and the carbon footprint involved. Following a thorough public sector procurement process, Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) launched the new contract on March 3rd, with Re-Gen Waste Management Ltd.

Importantly, you will experience no changes to your recycling service. The same items can continue to be placed in blue bins, and collections remain unchanged. While the materials will now be processed at Re-Gen's facility in Northern Ireland rather than locally at Waterbeach, this decision was made after careful evaluation of all options, with Re-Gen offering the best combination of cost-effectiveness, processing quality, and environmental compliance. In addition, Re-gen is planning to open an operation in England by the end of 2025 which will mean the journey will be closer to Cambridge.

Contact: [cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk)

District Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington & Westwick  
SCDC Cabinet Member for Environmental Services & Licencing

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON



Dear Residents,

I hope you are all enjoying the arrival of spring and the longer, brighter days. Over the past few months, we've been engaging with healthcare and transport providers to push for better support and solutions for residents.

#### GP Services – Strengthening Our Local NHS Support

In late February, I met with Willingham Medical Practice alongside Ian Sollom MP and District Councillor Natalie Warren-Green. This was an important opportunity to strengthen relationships with our local GP services, understand the pressures they face, and explore how we can support them.

Access to quality healthcare is essential for our community's well-being, and we recognise the challenges that come with a growing population. We remain committed to supporting our NHS partners and working collaboratively to ensure local services can meet demand. By maintaining strong engagement with both residents and healthcare providers, we can advocate for the right support and resources.

#### Transport

Transport remains one of Northstowe's biggest challenges. Over the past month, Ian Sollom MP and I met with Homes England and Keepmoat to discuss ongoing issues affecting our community which includes Transport.

Bus fare increases since January, combined with concerns about flexi-ticket usage, have caused real frustration. Many residents struggle to get on overcrowded buses—if the buses don't arrive full already—and the lack of reliable connections to London-bound trains adds to the inconvenience.

While the success of Tiger bus passes for young people is positive, it's clear that demand for better public transport far exceeds what is currently available. Despite this, Stagecoach has yet to offer meaningful solutions, leaving many residents with little choice but to rely on cars, increasing congestion and environmental concerns, which is what they complain about themselves!

I welcome the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's (CPCA) decision to introduce bus franchising, which could improve services. However, what this means for Northstowe in the short term remains unclear. We will keep pushing for better transport options and urge residents to continue raising concerns with Higher Education Colleges, Stagecoach, CPCA, and us. A big thank you to Andrew, Editor of Northstowe News, for publishing last month's Shame on Stagecoach article and following up in this edition, ensuring residents' voices are heard.

Finally, a reminder that local elections for the Cambridgeshire County Council and Mayor, will take place on **Thursday 1 May**. These decisions directly impact our community, so I encourage everyone to use their vote and have their say in shaping the future of our area.

As always, I am here to listen and stand up for our community. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please get in touch. Together, we can ensure Northstowe develops into the thriving town it's meant to be.

Contact: [firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

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

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

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

### IAN SOLLOM MP



Member of Parliament for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

#### Local Healthcare

Since my last update to the Northstowe News, I have now written to the Health Secretary, expressing my concern about the Government's lack of input into the design of the town's healthcare centre and urging him to prioritise the area as the perfect opportunity for the new government to put its manifesto promises into practice.

Over the past few weeks, I have visited both Maple Surgery in Bar Hill and Willingham Surgery to explore how shortcomings in healthcare provisions in Northstowe are causing capacity concerns at surgeries in neighbouring towns. Ahead of the upcoming Spending Review, I will continue to press the Government to ensure areas of high growth such as Cambridgeshire receive the support they need to guarantee quick, accessible primary care in their communities.

#### Child Maintenance Service

At one of my recent surgeries, I met a constituent who had been having issues with the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) that went back years – their payments were constantly missed and unenforced, leaving them in and out of arrears, and they were hitting a brick wall when trying to contact the Service about this. I have recently lead a parliamentary debate on fixing the CMS, and this has gathered support from MPs of all backgrounds. By raising this crisis directly with the Government, I hope we will be able to effect much needed change for both paying and receiving parents.

#### Transport and Roads

As Northstowe grows, its transport network must grow too. I recently met with Homes England and Keepmoat Homes, alongside Cllr Firouz Thompson, to discuss how capacity issues on bus services are not only affecting current residents but will continue to impact the building and uptake of homes if they are not resolved. The developers will continue to make representations to Stagecoach about service capacity, and I will update you on this in due course.

In other transport news, fellow Cambridgeshire MPs Charlotte Cane, Pippa Heylings and I recently wrote to the Transport Secretary about the state of highways in our area. Cambridgeshire already faces unique problems due to roads being built on peaty fen soils, but the legacy of the A14 upgrade project and ongoing lack of sufficient funding mean that many of our roads are in urgent need of repair. I will continue to press the Government to give Cambridgeshire the funding it deserves ahead of the upcoming Spending Review.

I continue to hold in-person and online surgeries to speak directly to constituents about their issues. If you feel you have a problem I could help with, or you have a matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at [ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk) to request a surgery appointment.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS



### NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUMS 2025

The next Forum will be on Wednesday 4 June 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](mailto:northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk). The meeting will 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 are always happy to make time to see them.

Cognitive Training for the elderly with games to prevent cognitive decline are available at The Cabin in the cafe area every Tuesday 10–11am. Pop in any time, no need to book in advance.

### LET'S COOK

We worked with Let's Cook to arrange three sessions over the February half term holiday for primary school aged children. The sessions focused on nutrition, meal planning, preparation and cooking.

### TREE PLANTING

We joined Sustainable Northstowe on 8 March for a Tree Planting event at the Pioneer Park. It was a great day out planting fruit trees which residents had the opportunity to adopt and will look after until maturing.

### DIGITAL ASSISTANCE

The Digital Assistance sessions are designed to offer support such as: using/downloading apps, searching information online, email accounts and more. We have agreed on regular Digital Assistance sessions on the second Friday of every month 3–4pm. The service extends to parents at the local schools.

### MENOPAUSE MEETINGS

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

[northstoweswgroup@gmail.com](mailto:northstoweswgroup@gmail.com)

### SOCIAL WALKING GROUP

The CDOs have been supporting the walks. The next walk is a family Easter painted rock hunt starting at The Cabin on Saturday 12 April at 2:30pm. Future walking dates, routes and themes will be advertised on the Northstowe Community Facebook pages and the noticeboards at The Cabin and Western Park Pavilion.

### NEW COMMUNITY GROUPS

**Drama Group** – we supported the set-up of a new Amateur Dramatics group for adults. The group usually meet on Thursday evening 7–8:30pm at The Cabin and are already preparing for their first play at the Midsummer Festival in June.

**Northstowe African Heritage Group** – They are planning two events, one in October to promote Black History month and another as part of the Midsummer Celebration on Saturday 21 June.

**Table Tennis** – This has been very successful, the Monday evening sessions at Northstowe Secondary College included training with a coach and the use of a robot to feed players with balls.

### 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 go to: The Cabin – South Cambs District Council ([scambs.gov.uk](http://scambs.gov.uk))

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](mailto:northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk)

**Mihaela Stan and Michele Eidevik-Skinner**

### NEW DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE CABIN

A new defibrillator has been donated by the developers, and it is now installed inside **The Cabin**. It is located in the storage room attached to the wall between the storage room door to the kitchen and storage room door to assembly room 1.

The box where the defib is stored is not locked like the other outdoor devices, so it can be accessed by anyone without the need to call the emergency services to provide a code to unlock. People should still call 999 in an emergency to be provided with the appropriate advice.

It is important to note that this can be accessed only when The Cabin is open. If the Cabin is closed, there are available defibrillators outside Pathfinder School and outside Western Park Pavilion.



## NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN MAYOR

Hello Northstowe,

Last time I wrote about our emerging business plan to operate the Unity Centre, which we can now see the exciting start of construction on-site. Lots of work has gone into our draft submission which we have now sent to South Cambridgeshire District Council. This will trigger their Community Asset Transfer policy where our case will be assessed against any other bids they may also receive. I want to pay particular thanks to our officers, councillors, and other organisations who we have worked with to develop this plan to operate this building in the best interests of the community.

January also saw us decide on our budget for 2025–26, with our emerging plans for the unity centre we've had to budget for additional legal advice, as well as other incidentals that we need to consider as we move forward with our plans to operate the Unity Centre. This means a Band D household will now see a £105.69 per year precept, which is an increase of £9.61 for the Town Council portion of your council tax bill.

I'm also pleased to say that we have been able to fill 3 of our casual vacancies by co-option too. We welcome our new councillors Cllr Birr-Pixton, Cllr Hodgson and Cllr Hunter to the council. We had a further vacancy arise just before our meeting in January through disqualification, which we have subsequently decided to fill again by co-option in our March meeting, as there was not a call for an election by the electorate.

As always, if there are any topics that you'd like to raise with the Town Council, please do get in touch with myself

[\(cllr.littlemore@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk\)](mailto:cllr.littlemore@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk) or Mark our Town Clerk  
[\(townclerk@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk\)](mailto:townclerk@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk), there is always our standing Public Participation item on all our meeting agendas. Full Council meetings run on the 4th Tuesday of the month, starting at 19:00 in the Cabin.

**CLLR PAUL LITTLEMORE**



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### TOWN CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK

Hello to all Northstowe residents! By the time you read this, spring has popped out and some warmer days are hopefully ahead!

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Tuesday 29th April 7–9 pm at The Cabin. This is a meeting where all residents can attend; we would like to see as many of you there as possible.

### Northstowe Monthly Market – First Sunday of the month

Thank you for your continued support with the Northstowe Market.

The Market has started to re-establish itself and the number of traders who joined on the December 2024 and February 2025 markets has grown significantly. Our Market Manager has worked hard in securing new traders, including for basics such as fruit & veg and meat, cooked food stalls and crafts – something for everyone. Over 400 people attend the Market in February and some great feedback was received about their experiences visiting the Market.

The market dates in 2025 are: **6th April, 4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November, 7th December.** Trading on The Green and inside The Cabin, 10 am – 2 pm.

The Market Traders look forward to your support throughout 2025. Will we see you there?

### Northstowe – Longstanton ParkPlay – Every Saturday morning

ParkPlay is a great way to get outside for an hour or two. Sessions are free and are held every Saturday at The MUGA behind the Sports Pavilion, between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. Hektor is the Park Play leader; do pop along to join in and see what it is all about.

### Northstowe Community Lounge – Every Thursday evening

Successful events held in February and March included Chinese New Year celebrations, where lanterns, crafts and painting took place; all had great fun. A CamLETS speaker came on 27th of February, talking about how the community can trade skills, services or goods without needing or using real money; Timebanking people attended on 6th of March, explaining how the community can exchange skills.

Please pop along to The Cabin where the Community Lounge is on every Thursday from 6 – 8 pm, with board games, table tennis, and refreshments. It is free and all are welcome. The Community Lounge team looks forward to welcoming you. This is funded with support from a grant from Cambridge ACRE.

### Mobile Food Hub – Every Friday morning

This is run by the Non-Profit Organisation Hope CIC. They have been operating on The Green since August 2024, every Friday from 10:30 – 11:30 am. Fresh produce and essential items – some of which is free and everything else offered at below retail price – are brought directly to villages around South Cambridgeshire to help residents with rising food prices.

After an initial six month trial the Town Council decided at its 25th February Full Council meeting to continue supporting this service on a monthly rolling basis.



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**01223 232 082 - info@srg-histon.co.uk**

**www.srg-histon.co.uk**

Greenbelt Group is a big believer in community engagement. That's why we've enjoyed helping to organise or sponsor fun events in and around Northstowe for many years now.

As we enjoy the longer and lighter days of Spring and look forward to a summer of outdoors events, it's the perfect opportunity to reveal the secret ingredient to better health and wellbeing

In a world where we count steps, track calories and strive for work-life balance, there is one often-overlooked wellness booster hiding in plain sight: community engagement in the green spaces of Northstowe.

Connecting with others, whether that's through one of Northstowe's wonderful sports or arts groups, or simply meeting up with friends for a walk, can do wonders for our physical and mental wellbeing.

Here's the science bit. Getting together triggers the release of feel-good hormones, such as oxytocin and dopamine.

A friendly chat about the Northstowe Running Festival with your jogging partner? Instant mood boost. A laugh with a fellow bird watcher about the biodiverse nature of Northstowe's indigenous species? Natural stress relief.

All of these little moments of connection accumulate to form a healthier, happier you, and are, of course, enhanced by the sense of space and freedom that beautiful green spaces can provide.

And did you know people with strong social ties tend to live longer? Studies have shown those of us who actively participate in communities can have lower risks of chronic diseases and even a stronger immune system.

Who knew that feeling valued and connected can literally add years to our lives?

Have you ever noticed how working out with a friend or sharing goals with an arts or music group makes you more likely to stick to healthy habits and personal learning goals? The truth is community engagement provides the motivation and support needed to maintain good routines, whether that's exercising, eating well, or practising mindfulness.

For all of these reasons and many more, throughout this year and beyond, Greenbelt Group is honoured to continue to help sponsor the wonderful gatherings and communal events at Northstowe.

"Northstowe's famed outdoors events and gatherings are always super-friendly and welcoming," said Nick Upton, our Community Liaison Officer for the region.

"I'm constantly surprised and delighted at the fabulous enthusiasm shown by the residents of Northstowe and we very much look forward to helping everyone celebrate the joy of being together in the great outdoors in 2025!"

Find out more about Greenbelt Group at [greenbelt.co.uk](http://greenbelt.co.uk)

## LET'S GROW TOGETHER AT NORTHSTOWE!



From wildflowers to wildlife-friendly habitats, Greenbelt's land stewardship at Northstowe nurtures sustainable biodiversity to create a beautiful and healthy environment

## ARE STAGECOACH BUSES GOOD VALUE? YOU DECIDE!



In the last issue, we ran an article expressing our disappointment that Stagecoach had changed the Terms & Conditions pertaining to already-purchased Flexi tickets making them invalid for travel to and from Northstowe.

This attracted the attention of the Business Development Director at Stagecoach. We are happy to include his response unedited and in full.

But we stand by the original article, and its assertion that this was a quiet change to T&Cs. Contrary to being publicised widely, we've found no mention of this change published by Stagecoach anywhere except on the new T&C page.



Destinations all along the guided busway between Cambridge and St. Ives (that is, including the Longstanton Park & Ride station at Northstowe) were included in Cambridge Town Zone Flexi tickets since they were introduced. We found nothing that described this as a Promotional Offer at the time.

Stagecoach have stated elsewhere that the National Insurance rate increase and threshold change together add about 3% to their wage bill. You might decide for yourself whether this constitutes a "huge rise" and justifies a 75% increase to the price of Flexi tickets to and from Northstowe, or whether this explanation is opportunistic deflection.

The prices at Grand Arcade car park are deliberately set to discourage peak-time use, and to encourage other methods of travel into Cambridge, so it's hardly an achievement for the buses to be less expensive than this. A more representative comparison might be an eight hour stay in Castle Hill car park, which costs £8.90 (or £42 for a weekly ticket, which is £6 per day). This comparison goes in favour of parking for car-sharing commuters, or families, who pay only once per vehicle whereas bus prices are per passenger.

While it is appreciated that more buses are being added to the busway, it will take a lot more than two to make bus travel anything better than a last-resort option for commuters in Northstowe by the time the remaining 7500-or-so houses have been built. Simply put, we believe Northstowe deserves peak-time buses that aren't already full by the time they arrive, and which are priced at a level to encourage sustainable travel habits. Much of Northstowe's travel promise hinges on people being able to make efficient use of the guided busway; the councils have put a lot of investment into it, and this boundary change feels insulting and punitive to Northstowe specifically.

We urge Stagecoach to reverse their decision.



### BUSES ARE OUTSTANDING VALUE!

I read with interest your comment piece regarding the Busway ('Shame on Stagecoach') and appreciate the passion that it showed for our local buses, but I must disagree on the outstanding value that Busway travel offers.

We publicised widely, at the end of last year, that Northstowe would need to be moved into the Plus Zone, and out of the Town Zone, where it had been as a Promotional Offer since Covid.

We needed to do this because of the huge rise in National Insurance and our obligation to maintain a financially sustainable local bus network. We only ever make such changes after great deliberation and so that we can invest to improve journeys.

So, let's look at the tremendous value that bus travel offers. As your writer suggests, the £2 fare cap is still in place throughout Cambridge, but beyond that, for those who prefer to buy their tickets in advance, a Plus Zone 28 Day MegaRider offers unlimited bus travel in the Plus Zone for just £3.15 per day for Youth tickets and £4.43 for Adults, whereas a 7 Day MegaRider is £3.95 per day for Youth tickets and £5.55 for Adults.

A Large Group ticket (5 people) is £4.08 each, and a Student Annual pass costs as little as £2.04 per day.

What can you get for £4.43 or even £2.04 today, that would compare to unlimited travel around the wider Cambridge area? Contrast that a more than five-hour stay at the Grand Arcade Car Park, in Cambridge, can cost as much as £33.10.

One result of our investment is that, last October, we were able to add two extra buses onto the Busway, in response to the tremendous popularity of the service.

Likewise, over the past year, because our buses are in good working order and we have Drivers available, we rarely need to cancel services. As a result, we complete approximately 99.5% of the miles we are timetabled to complete each week, to make sure that our loyal customers can get where they need to go.

**David Boden, Business Development Director, Stagecoach East**

## FAITH AND COMMUNITY LAND UPDATE



### FAITH AND COMMUNITY GROUPS INVITED TO CREATE A NEW FACILITY AT NORTHSTOWE

The District Council secured a 0.25-hectare plot of land for development from the master developers of Phase 1 Northstowe to be developed for use by a faith or voluntary group. Faith and community groups are now being invited to bid for this parcel of land, located between Bughunter Waters and Stirling Road, next to the Taylor Wimpey parcel, to realise their ambition for a new community facility.

Having opened 23 January 2025, the bidding window will remain open until January 2026 to give groups time to begin fund raising and prepare detailed applications for consideration by the South Cambridgeshire District Council.

In order to be eligible to apply, the group (or the lead organisation if the application comes from a consortium) must be a registered charity, with a sound financial track record and the ability to provide a realistic and deliverable project to a timescale. Applicants must demonstrate they will be able to serve the needs of the Northstowe community, have an association to the town and prove there is sufficient public support for their plans.

Representatives of the faith groups active in Northstowe have been working as part of the Northstowe Faith Strategy Group alongside the District, Town and County councils since 2019, to help inform and guide a fair process for all applications. The Council's role is to ensure a proper process is conducted to transfer the land to a qualifying faith or community group, associated with Northstowe. The mechanism for distributing land to eligible faith/community groups was agreed in a meeting of the District's Cabinet in March 2020, when it adopted the Faith Land Allocation Policy for Northstowe. It was agreed at the time that this policy would also be used at other new developments in the district.

All applications will be carefully assessed using an agreed point scoring system. Then, local people will be invited to feedback on the bids submitted which will be considered within the overall assessment. Ultimately, South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet will take a decision on which group is to receive the land at no cost.

This first parcel of land is set to be transferred to the District Council by developers Urban&Civic in Spring 2026. Once in the ownership of the District Council, the land can be transferred to the successful applicant.

There is further faith and community land to be made available in each of the later phases of development.

More information about this first land, guidance for applicants and an on-line application form can all be found on the District Council's website,  
<https://www.scamps.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/faith-and-community-land>



### Did you know that Cambridgeshire ACRE has Village Agents working in Northstowe?

Cambridgeshire ACRE supports local residents through a team of Village Agents who provide help, support and solutions for people's health and social care by connecting them with wider support available in their community and beyond.

Our Village Agents are based in Community Hubs that operate across Cambridgeshire and regularly attend Northstowe Community Hub on Thursdays 6-8 pm in the Cabin, 1 The Green, Pathfinder Way. They're independent and provide a free service that is completely confidential.

Our Village Agents can support residents with a number of things such as bringing health services to your community, supporting you to book health related appointment, help with cost-of -living information, supporting you to access services specific to your individual needs or linking you with your local foodbank and helping you apply for vouchers. The list is not exhaustive!

If you are a Northstowe resident and are interested in learning more about Village Agents and Cambridgeshire ACRE's community wellbeing work you can contact Angela Stibbs on 07484053089 or email [angela.stibbs@camsacre.org.uk](mailto:angela.stibbs@camsacre.org.uk) or Rachel Mason on 01353 865025 or email [rachel.mason@camsacre.org.uk](mailto:rachel.mason@camsacre.org.uk).

Cambridgeshire ACRE welcomes self-referrals from people who would like the support of a Village Agent. Professionals working with individuals who would benefit from locally based, lower-level support are also welcome to make referrals via our Village Agent Referral Form at

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/village\\_agent\\_referral/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/village_agent_referral/)

Cambridgeshire ACRE is a charity dedicated to supporting and strengthening rural communities, working alongside residents and groups to help improve the places, services and assets that are important to them. It drives positive change to improve people's lives and tackle rural disadvantage for those living and working in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Further information on the work of Cambridgeshire ACRE can be found at  
[www.camsacre.org.uk](http://www.camsacre.org.uk)

Why not come along to the Northstowe Hub for free refreshments and a chance to socialise. If you're new to the hub, let us know and **Angela** will be happy to accompany you on your initial visit, as we know it can be daunting first time!



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## SPORTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### BUG HUNTER WATERS PARKRUN

Bug Hunter Waters parkrun continues to grow, and we love seeing more people getting involved each week. Whether you're a runner, jogger, or walker, everyone is welcome to take part. Families are also welcome, and volunteering can be a great way to get involved together.

Time has flown since our very first event, and over the weeks, we've experienced all kinds of weather—from crisp, frosty mornings to warm, sunny starts. Whatever the conditions, our dedicated volunteers do their best to ensure a safe and positive event takes place.

This spring, parkrun is encouraging more people to walk the event—so if running isn't for you, don't worry. Walking is a great way to enjoy the fresh air, be part of the community, and get moving at your own pace. We always have a tail walker, meaning you'll never be last. Well-behaved dogs on a short handheld lead (one per participant) are also welcome to join in the fun.

Our volunteers make parkrun possible. If you'd like to help, no experience is needed—we'll explain everything and support you. We also have Duke of Edinburgh students gaining valuable experience with us, and we're always happy to welcome new volunteers.

We look forward to marking a special milestone on June 21st—our first birthday! It's been fantastic to see Bug Hunter Waters parkrun become an established part of the local community, with a mix of visitors and regulars joining us every week.

If you'd like to take part, volunteer, or have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at [bughunterwaters@parkrun.com](mailto:bughunterwaters@parkrun.com). We'd love to hear from you!

Perhaps see you one Saturday morning?

### NORTHSTOWE PERI/MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUP

In April 2024, the Northstowe Peri/Menopause Support Group was established as a vital resource for women who are navigating the often-challenging journey of perimenopause and menopause. This support group aims to provide a safe and welcoming space for women to share their stories and tips, fostering a sense of community and mutual understanding.

Since its inception, this free-to-attend group has provided a diverse array of sessions, from fitness professionals to supportive discussions. These have offered valuable insights and practical advice, empowering women to take control of their health and well-being. The support group has also welcomed a Menopause doctor and a skin specialist, providing members with professional advice tailored to their specific needs. The group's commitment to holistic well-being is reflected in their plans to host even more diverse speakers in the future: such as experts in art therapy, a local GP, an aromatherapist, more yoga, and a chocolate-making/tasting session.

The Northstowe Peri/Menopause Support Group has successfully attracted a wide range of attendees, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Participants have praised the group for its supportive atmosphere and the wealth of information provided.

The group has been made possible thanks to funding from Homes England and The Longstanton Co-Operative, allowing them to continue expanding their offerings and reaching more women in the community.

As the group looks to the future, they are eager to welcome even more women into their community. By continuing to offer varied and engaging sessions, they hope to reach out to more individuals and provide the support and camaraderie that are so essential during this significant phase of life. Do come along to learn, support, and share experiences with other women.



**NORTHSTOWE PERI/MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUP**

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

APRIL 16TH AMIEBETH - CHOCOLATE QUEEN
MAY 21ST ELYSSA - PARADISE POTIONS
JUNE 25TH DR STEVENS - WILLINGHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE
JULY 23RD HANNAH, NORTHSTOWE YOGA
AUG 20TH SUMMER SOCIAL

**JOIN US AT THE CABIN, NORTHSTOWE**  
**6PM - 7:30PM**

FIND US ON FACEBOOK @ NORTHSTOWE PERIMENOPAUSE/MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUP

EMAIL: [NORTHSTOWE.COMMUNITY@SCAMBS.GOV.UK](mailto:NORTHSTOWE.COMMUNITY@SCAMBS.GOV.UK)

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FREE REFRESHMENTS  
FREE TO ATTEND

## BABY MASSAGE FOR BETTER SLEEP

Sleep can be one of the biggest challenges for new parents. Baby massage is a gentle, effective way to calm your little one, helping them relax and settle into a restful night.

### HOW CAN BABY MASSAGE HELP SLEEP?

Massage reduces cortisol (the stress hormone) and increases melatonin (the sleep hormone). It also soothes discomfort, aids digestion, and strengthens the bond between parent and baby, helping them feel safe and content. A short massage before bed can signal to your baby that it's time to wind down, making sleep easier.



### CREATING A RELAXING BEDTIME ROUTINE

- A warm bath
- A dim, quiet space
- Soft music or white/brown noise
- A gentle massage
- A feed and cuddle

### SLEEPY TIME MASSAGE

- Leg and foot – softly squeeze and release, moving from thighs to toes.
- Tummy – make gentle, clockwise circles below the ribcage to aid digestion.
- Chest – glide your hands from the center of the chest towards the shoulders.
- Back – stroke down their back in long, slow motions.
- Apanasana – bring knees to the tummy one at a time, then both together, to relieve trapped wind.
- Face – lightly trace a heart shape from the center of the forehead down to the chin.

### TIPS

- Choose the right time – when your baby is calm, not overtired or overstimulated.
- Use a safe oil – edible oils like grapeseed are best.
- Follow your baby's cues – if they seem unsettled, pause and try again tomorrow.

### A BONDING MOMENT

Baby massage is about connection. It fosters trust, communication, and relaxation for both parent and baby. Whether it's a short, soothing touch before bed or a full routine, your loving hands can help your baby feel safe and comforted.

 Join a group course to learn more moves and create a routine that works for both of you!

**Cristina Freniche**

Baby Massage Instructor at My Yoga Corner, Northstowe



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Cambridgeshire &  
Peterborough

## How Are You South Cambs?

Looking for something to do?

H.A.Y. is all about helping you look after you. We know that often the hardest part is getting started, so we include videos and information to help you know what to expect the first time you go.

[www.HAYSouthCambs.co.uk](http://www.HAYSouthCambs.co.uk)

Needing support?

A website that brings together:

-  Local things to do with information about what to expect when you get there.
-  Opportunities to connect, be active, learn, get creative, explore the outdoors, volunteer and more!
-  Places to get a wide range of support.

Whatever challenges you may be facing, the H.A.Y. websites have information from a wide range of organisations that may be able to help you - from the NHS and council services to local community groups.

Point the camera on your phone here for support and activity ideas



@HowAreYouSouthCambs



@HowAreYouCambsPboro

#HelpingYouLookAfterYou

# NORTHSTOWE News

## NORTHSTOWE CRICKET CLUB

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY SPORTS, ONE CRICKET MATCH AT A TIME

We at Northstowe Cricket Club (NCC) are more than just a cricket team—we are a growing community that brings people together through sport, fitness, and shared passion. Founded in 2021 by local residents, our club has quickly become a respected name in Northstowe and the surrounding villages.

We believe cricket is for everyone. It is a fun and inclusive sport that not only boosts fitness, stamina, and strength but also creates connections across all ages and abilities. Whether you are a seasoned player or completely new to the game, you will find a place with us.

### A SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN'S CRICKET

One of our proudest achievements has been the creation of our Women's Softball team, which has gone from strength to strength. Last year, our team took part in the Women's Softball Festival, winning two matches against experienced teams—a remarkable achievement! One of our players even received the prestigious "Inspired to Play" award from CCB's The Cricket Collective Awards.

This year, we are focusing on growing our Women's team even further and are inviting women of all ages and abilities to join us. If you have never picked up a bat before, do not worry — some of our players had their first go at cricket just last season and absolutely loved it.

### A CLUB BUILT ON COMMUNITY

At our core, we are passionate about giving back to our community and being an active part of local life. As members of the Northstowe Sports and Social Club, we take pride in promoting sports and social activities that bring people together.

Our Men's team has also been making waves, competing in the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association (CCA) leagues. In 2022, 2023 we celebrated a huge milestone by winning the Division 5 title followed by a promotion to Division 4 which we also won! The team narrowly missed making it 3 in a row last year —a testament to the talent, determination and team spirit that drives us.

### READY TO JOIN US?

When you join us, you are not just signing up to play cricket—you are becoming part of a supportive, friendly community that values every member. Our preparations for the 2025 season are already underway, as our indoor nets practice concluded in February and outdoor practice starting in April.

Drop us an email at [northstowecricket@gmail.com](mailto:northstowecricket@gmail.com), or contact us on our facebook page. Let's get started!



Women's team celebrating after winning WSF league match



Women's Team after winning friendly against Cambourne



Men's team photo



Neha Jamwal (Captain women's team) accepting 'Inspired to Play' award







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**FOR URGENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, PLEASE CALL 111 AND SELECT OPTION 2**

### EASTER 2025 / MAY BANK HOLIDAYS

#### - OPENING HOURS

Please note the surgery will be **CLOSED** for the long Easter weekend including the bank holidays on **FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** and **MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL** as well as the bank holidays on **MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY** and **MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY**.

In addition, we will also be **CLOSED** from **1pm on THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY** 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.

### MYCHART PATIENT APP



MyChart is the electronic patient portal at Addenbrooke's and The Rosie hospitals, allowing their patients to securely access parts of their health record held within the hospitals' Epic electronic patient record system. It is designed to improve communication between patients and their clinical teams, and enable patients to be more involved and informed about their care by having access to their information.

Hospital information available electronically in MyChart includes upcoming appointments / past appointment details, current problems / conditions, clinical correspondence, test results, medication etc. Patients are also able to check-in for appointments, message their care team (if available within the clinical specialty), download recent visit records and securely share MyChart information electronically with other clinical settings such as the GP, community care staff and clinicians at other hospitals.

For further information and to sign up to MyChart please visit:

<https://www.cuh.nhs.uk/visiting-our-hospitals/your-appointment/mychart/>

### ZERO TOLERANCE

Sadly, we have noticed an increase in rude and abusive behaviour from our patients and, in some instances, this has been directly targeted towards individual members of our staff. We all aim to be polite, helpful and sensitive to our patients' individual needs and circumstances and we respectfully remind patients that very often our staff are working under immense pressure.

The Practice takes it very seriously if any member of staff is treated in an abusive or violent way. Aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in you being removed from the Practice list and, in extreme cases, the police being contacted.

We ask you to treat your GPs and our staff courteously at all times.

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

As the summer holidays are fast approaching many of us are turning our attention to booking holidays and making our travel plans. If you are planning to travel abroad please consider whether you will require any vaccinations. By booking a Travel Clinic appointment (at least six weeks before your date of travel) with one of our practice nurses, they can offer a general travel consultation with advice. They are also able to administer the following vaccinations (free of charge): **Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Tetanus Diphtheria & Polio and the MMR**. For any other vaccinations we would recommend you attend MASTA, a private travel clinic, located on Hills Road in Cambridge. Please visit our website for further information and to fill out a Travel Questionnaire, which must be completed BEFORE your appointment.

For those who are on repeat medication, please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication to last for your time away, remembering to re-order with plenty of time before you travel and allowing at least 3 working days before collection. And, just in case of emergency, we would advise that you take a list of your repeat medication with you (your repeat prescription slip would be ideal).

Finally, just a reminder that the GP is unable to sign (as proof of identification) any passport/visa applications and they will not write 'Fit to Travel/Fly' letter for our patients.

### WAITING TIMES

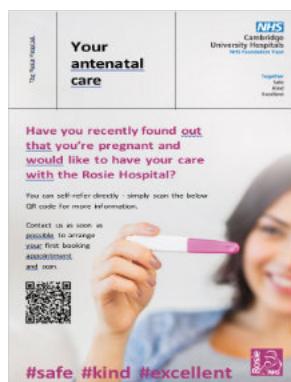
We apologise that, due to the increased demands on the GP's, there may be delays in being seen for your routine or emergency appointment. Please bear in mind that our staff are working hard to minimise this but it is always advisable to allow a little extra time, just in case.

### REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

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

Despite any notifications received after ordering electronically, our current turnaround for regular repeat prescriptions is **THREE WORKING DAYS** (this DOES NOT include weekends) so please be aware of this when ordering and give yourself plenty of time to ensure you don't run out of medication.

We will always help where we can with urgent orders. However, this is always subject to stock availability so we cannot guarantee we can fulfil a prescription quickly. In these circumstances we will be in contact to advise.

**PREGNANCY**

If you have had a positive pregnancy test, or are pregnant and have recently moved to the area, you are able to self-refer to the Rosie Hospital and Rosie Community Midwives for your care.

For further information on what to do next, and to download the Pregnancy Self-Referral form, please visit the web page below:

<https://www.cuh.nhs.uk/rosie-hospital/maternity/pregnancy-pathway/>

Once you have completed the form, email it to their booking line admin team on [cuh.cmwnewbooking@nhs.net](mailto:cuh.cmwnewbooking@nhs.net) (all instructions are on the form).

For women who require a translator, or who don't have digital access, please call **01223 348981** and leave a voicemail with your name and NHS number. Please be advised to email your self-referral form or telephone the service as early as possible following a positive pregnancy test.

**VACCINATIONS**

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

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

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

**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 2nd April** and **Wednesday 7th May**, 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](mailto:susan.lawson7@nhs.net)

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Pregnancy Yoga  
Birth Preparation  
Support groups

**Baby**

Postnatal Yoga with Baby  
Starting Solids (weaning)  
Cloth Nappies



Contact Cristina at

<https://myyogacorner.uk/>  
MyYogaCorner@gmail.com  
text/WhatsApp: 07765211807



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## WHAT'S ON IN NORTHSTOWE

## MULTIPLE DAYS

## MEET THE COMMUNITY OFFICERS

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

## MIDWIFE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

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

## FOOD TRUCKS

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

## MONDAYS

## MAKE &amp; MINGLE

Bring your latest craft projects and meet up with other crafty locals. 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 10am at Tap & Social. [northstowearts.co.uk](http://northstowearts.co.uk)

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.overpowerfitness.com) [overpowerfitness@outlook.com](mailto: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 10½, be creative and get involved in your local community. 19:00 - 20:15 at NSC. Email [info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk](mailto:info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk)

## FOOTBALL (£)

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

## NETBALL CLUB (£)

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

## TAI-CHI (£)

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

## SOCIAL RUN

Longstanton and Northstowe Limpers social run meeting on The Green at 19:30 [facebook.com/LandNLimpers](http://facebook.com/LandNLimpers)

## BOOK CLUB

Meet to discuss books on Monday evenings once per month. New members always welcome. [www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785](http://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](mailto: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 cafe 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](mailto:guiding@thehays.net)

## FASTBREAK BASKETBALL (£)

Indoor sessions in the NSC Sports Hall, 12 & Under at 6pm, 14 & Under at 7pm [northstowefastbreakbasketball.co.uk](http://northstowefastbreakbasketball.co.uk)

## HUNTINGDON AND NORTHSTOWE HOCKEY CLUB (£)

NSC Astroturf, 7pm - 8:30pm

All abilities welcome. Contact [hello@huntingdonandnorthstowehockeyclub.com](mailto: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](mailto:FirefliesNetballClub@gmail.com)

## PREGNANCY YOGA (£)

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

## NORTHSTOWE CHORUS

A new community choir for anyone who enjoys singing. 7pm one Tuesday a month at NSC, check dates at [northstowearts.co.uk](http://northstowearts.co.uk)

## NORTHSTOWE BOARD GAMERS

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

## LITTLE STARS (£)

Preschool ballet and dance with Stardust Dance Academy. 10am-11:15 in the Cabin. Book at [www.stardustdanceacademy.com](http://www.stardustdanceacademy.com)

## YOUTH DROP IN AT NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

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

## RAINBOWS

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

## OVER POWER (£)

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

## KARATE CLUB

Family friendly - Age 6+, children and adults welcome. 6:30-7:30pm in the Cabin. [www.northstowekarate.com](http://www.northstowekarate.com)

## MAKE &amp; MINGLE

Bring your latest craft projects and meet up with other crafty locals. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7pm at Tap & Social. [northstowearts.co.uk](http://northstowearts.co.uk)

## LONGSTANTON AND NORTHSTOWE LIMPERS

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

## DANCE FIT (£)

Adult class with Stardust Dance Academy. 7:30-8:30pm in the Cabin. Book at [www.stardustdanceacademy.com](http://www.stardustdanceacademy.com)

## 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](http://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 cafe 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](http://myyogacorner.uk)

## GYMNASTICS (£)

Preschool gymnastics with Stardust Dance Academy. Book at [www.stardustdanceacademy.com](http://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](http://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](http://facebook.com/sustainablenorthstowe) or email [sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com](mailto:sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com)

## NORTHSTOWE CRICKET CLUB

Outdoor season underway. Net practice at Fen Ditton Recreational ground, contact [northstowecricket@gmail.com](mailto:northstowecricket@gmail.com) [northstowe.play-cricket.com/home](http://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](mailto:northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk)

## OVER POWER (£)

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

## SCOUTS

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

## NORTHSTOWE'S COMPLINE (NIGHT PRAYER)

Stop, Breathe, Pray. Alternate Thursdays 8-9pm. [www.northstowe.church/compline](http://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](http://studiofogg.co.uk)

## WALKING FOR ALL

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

## MOBILE FOOD HUB

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

## BABY AND POSTNATAL YOGA (£)

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

## BABY MASSAGE 5 WEEK COURSE (£)

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

## MOBILE LIBRARY

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

**ARTS CLUB (£)**

Children's activity with Artastic Kids Club. 4-5pm in the Cabin, book at [www.gorgeouslittlethingsuk.com](http://www.gorgeouslittlethingsuk.com)

**SEWING AND DESIGN (£)**

Children's activity with Artastic Kids Club. 5-7pm in the Cabin, book at [www.gorgeouslittlethingsuk.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/bughunterwaters)

**PARKPLAY @ WESTERN PARK SPORTS PAVILION**

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

**MY YOGA CORNER WORKSHOPS (£)**

Birth rehearsal - Breastfeeding - Babywearing and sling library - Starting solids. 10am-12 at Longstanton Village Hall. [myyogacorner.uk](http://myyogacorner.uk)

**CATHOLIC MASS**

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

**SUNDAYS****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](https://facebook.com/sustainablenorthstowe) or email [sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com](mailto: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.northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.northstowetowncouncil.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](http://www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org)

**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](http://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](mailto:ignite.ecn@gmail.com) or check [emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org](http://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](mailto:northstowenews@gmail.com)

**Northstowe Holi Mela**  
come join the fun

**Saturday, 26th April 2025**  
**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**Western Park Pavilion, Northstowe**

**Music DJ - Bollywood Dance Workshop**  
**Dance Performances - Indian Street Food**  
**Bouncy Castle - Art, Craft & STEM activities**  
**Handcraft Stalls - Henna & Face Paint**  
**Gulal (colour powder) play.**

**Tickets dropping soon!** hindusamajnorthstowe  
**Stay tuned to our** hindusamajnorthstowe  
**social media for updates.** hindusamajnorthstowe.org

Proudly supported by our amazing community partners!

**Family Friendly Easter Painted Rock Hunt**

**Saturday April 12 at 2:30pm**  
**Starting at The Cabin**  
The Green, Northstowe  
Everyone Welcome

- Pick up a map/question sheet from The Cabin
- Find the painted rocks in 3 set locations
- Answer the questions on the map
- Please leave the rocks where you find them
- Return to The Cabin for free refreshments
- There is a small prize for all correct answers

[northstoweswg@gmail.com](mailto:northstoweswg@gmail.com)

**Board Games Afternoon**  
**Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**2pm-6pm @ the Cabin, Northstowe**  
**Free. All welcome**  
(Under-16s must be accompanied by an adult)

# Your Community Needs You!



**We're looking for more volunteers to join our team and help us deliver our charity's projects in the community!**

Northstowe Hub is continuing to grow alongside the burgeoning community in this new town, and to help us to expand our projects to reach even more people we're looking to bring on board more volunteers! Volunteering with us is a great way to give back to the community and to support our projects including the Hub Café, Micro Library, Midsummer Festival and more. It's also fun and gives you the opportunity to meet other amazing local people, while also gaining valuable skills, confidence and experience in the charity sector! If you have a few hours each week that you could contribute it would make a real difference - here are the roles we are currently looking for help with, though if you feel you can contribute in another way please still do get in contact, we'd love to hear from you! [info@northstowehub.org](mailto:info@northstowehub.org)



## Marketing Coordinator

We're looking for someone who is enthusiastic and experienced with marketing, including social media, to join us in a volunteer role initially, with a view to joining our board of trustees in the future. As a trustee, you will play a key role in shaping the strategic direction of Northstowe Hub, with a specific focus on enhancing our marketing efforts to engage more of the community with our projects.



## Volunteer Coordinator

We're looking for someone with experience in volunteer coordination or team management in a professional setting to help us with the crucial role of directing and supporting our volunteers to deliver our projects in the community, and ensuring they have a positive and rewarding experience while volunteering with us.



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



[northstowehub.org](http://northstowehub.org)



[info@northstowehub.org](mailto:info@northstowehub.org)



northstowehub

Northstowe Hub CIO 1203787, The Cabin, 1 The Green, Pathfinder Way, Northstowe, CB24 1FD

## NORTHSTOWE ARTS UPDATE

CRAFTING OUR CREATIVE NORTHSTOWE – PICTURING THE PAST, FINDING THE FUTURE

Do you sing in the shower or dance down the street? Perhaps you're a natural storyteller or you unwind with some painting at the end of a stressful day, or enjoy jamming with other musicians? Or perhaps walking past some colourful street art or a sculpture simply makes you smile?

With researchers from the University of Cambridge and local creative practitioners Matt Wood and Chloe Leaper we're exploring the value of the arts and creativity on our lives here in Northstowe. Join us for one of two free workshops of collage and writing – help us make a map of Northstowe's creative life and imagine where the story goes next...

- 5–7pm, Sunday 6th April – Upstairs at Northstowe Tap & Social, Station Road or
- 7–9pm, Tuesday 6th May – The Cabin, Pathfinder Way

Book your free place now at [northstowearts.co.uk](http://northstowearts.co.uk)

**Make & Mingle** sessions at Northstowe Tap & Social continue! Join us with your crafty project, whether it's crochet, 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.

The next few dates are:

- 10am Monday 31st March
- 7pm Wednesday 16th April
- 10am Monday 12th May
- 7pm Wednesday 21st May

There's no charge for these sessions, we just ask you to support Northstowe Tap & Social by buying a drink!

For more details on the above and much more, visit [northstowearts.co.uk](http://northstowearts.co.uk) – and sign up to our newsletter to receive everything directly in your inbox!

**CRAFTING OUR CREATIVE NORTHSTOWE**

JOIN US TO MAKE A MAP OF NORTHSTOWE'S CREATIVE LIFE USING COLLAGE AND WRITING... AND IMAGINE WHERE THE STORY GOES NEXT

5–7pm, Sunday 6th April  
Upstairs, Northstowe Tap & Social, Station Road, Northstowe, CB24 3DS

7–9pm, Tuesday 6th May  
The Cabin, Pathfinder Way, Northstowe, CB24 1FD

BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE AT:  
[NORTHSTOWEARTS.CO.UK](http://NORTHSTOWEARTS.CO.UK)

**NORTHSTOWE: WHERE THE CREATIVE ARTS TURN SPACES INTO PLACES**

**Sunday  
11th May 2025**

**The Five Pub Challenge**

Back by popular request, the 5-pub Challenge walk. See old friends, make new ones; perhaps walk as a group. All proceeds go to the Over Day Centre, this year to help raise funds for client activities and capital items.

Meet at Over Day Centre, Drings Close, CB245NZ from 10.00am, for a 12.5 mile walk through the beautiful Cambridgeshire fens to the Pike & Eel, the Ferry Boat, the Three Tuns, the White Horse and back to the Over Community Centre.

Minimum donation of £15 per adult, children free. Under 18s are very welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The length of the route may make it unsuitable for younger children.

For details and to register, please view :

 [www.overdaycentre.co.uk/fundraising/5-pub-challenge-2025/](http://www.overdaycentre.co.uk/fundraising/5-pub-challenge-2025/)  
or call the Day Centre 01954 231807

You can register online and donate before the day, the quickest way, or you can print the form yourself and complete then donate with card payment or cash on the day. If you are unable to join us but would like to donate, please go to:

[www.justgiving.com/page/overdaycentre-5-pubs-may-2025](http://www.justgiving.com/page/overdaycentre-5-pubs-may-2025)

Event kindly supported by:  **Ash Croft Vets**

The Over Day Centre, 1 Drings Close, Over, Cambs, CB24 5NZ  
Registered Charity No. 1196202.

## THE OVER PLAYERS



In aid of  
**Blood cancer UK**

The Over Players are pleased to announce that our Spring Show is CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL!

**Wednesday 28th May – Saturday 31st May 2025** at Over Community Centre

Tickets £12. The Over Players will also be raising money for Blood Cancer UK at each performance.

For more information and to book your tickets, please visit our website:  
[https://overplayers.uk/](http://overplayers.uk/)

**www.northstowe-nursery.com**

**Northstowe NURSERY**

**Open 08:00-18:00**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**01223 982460**

Places available for full day and preschool hour sessions  
Funded hours for children aged 9 months +  
Our state-of-the-art facility offers early years education for up to 80 children within a warm and nurturing environment  
Conveniently located next to Northstowe Primary School  
Call us today to register your child and visit the nursery

[northstowe-nursery@outlook.com](mailto:northstowe-nursery@outlook.com)

**HERITAGE SOCIETY UPDATE: April - May 2025****LDHS Community Engagement Update**

The Heritage Society is pleased to announce that our community engagement work is going from strength to strength. Enquires via our Facebook page have covered a number of subjects; including family history and the history of local people and houses within the village. We are delighted that our social media posts are providing both useful and interesting information for this local area. One recent new visitor to the Facebook page remarked: 'Fascinating FB page!'

If you have not yet visited our Facebook page, please do take a look. You can find our page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068858171570>

Another example of our recent community engagement work has involved supplying information for research into a historical structure within Longstanton. At this stage we won't spoil the announcement of the results by publicising what structure the research relates to. Suffice to say though, what has been discovered is significant and gives us a whole new perspective and understanding about the heritage structure in question. We have been promised a copy of the research for the LDHS Archives in due course and it will be worth the wait. This structure may lie within the Longstanton village boundary as it is today, but we are sure that Northstowe residents will appreciate the results of this research once the details are made public.

Of course, we cannot help everyone with their queries but we do our best. If we cannot help we will suggest possible alternative sources of information. This might include advising people to contact the Record Office at Ely or the Cambridgeshire Collection, which is located within Cambridge Central Library.

**New Membership Year Begins 1 April 2025 -**

**Will you join us and help us with this  
Important Heritage Work?**

LDHS continues to work with the Northstowe and Longstanton Heritage Steering Group on issues such as a Heritage Strategy for Northstowe, the display and storage of the LDHS Archives and the local display of archaeological finds from the Northstowe site. This important heritage work means that the Heritage Society would welcome greater involvement from residents of the new town. This wider participation is important so that Northstowe residents can better contribute to discussions on the future of heritage provision within Northstowe. Of course, Northstowe is represented on the Heritage Steering Group by Northstowe Town Council, but the Heritage Society contributes a unique knowledge and understanding of the Northstowe site and the importance of its location close to the SW Fen Edge. As ever, our role is to help provide the information and understanding that others can use in their decision making; but it is always useful to base our work on the broadest knowledge and opinion possible.

Although the new membership year for the Heritage Society begins on 1 April, we are already seeing new members applying to join. If you would like to join the Heritage Society a membership form can be downloaded from our website. If you would like a membership form sent out to you, please message us via the Facebook page or by email. You can find all our contact information at the bottom of this page.

**Longstanton's Catholic Church**

(*The site of which is now in Northstowe*)

The Heritage Society recently posed a question on our Facebook page asking if residents knew where Longstanton's Catholic Church was once located. The information we have received to date has kindly been supplied by Homes England. The photo taken in 1999, shows a building close to the footpath by Rampton Road. Today if you look closely, you can find the remnants of what once must be been wooden steps. Closer to Rampton Drift and further back from the road is a concrete slab that many believe was the site of the church. This photo and the plan from 1964, suggest that this may not be the case.

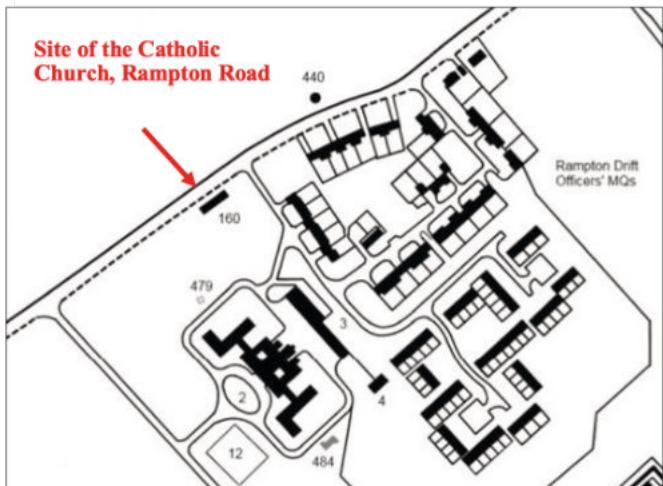
There is still more to find out about this little church. For instance which church did the nuns come from that were mentioned in the previous article? Why did the photo of the Rainsford brothers appear to have been taken in front of (or behind) a black timber building? Investigations are still on-going as it would be interesting to find out more about this little church. Please do get in touch if you have further information.



*Above: Image of the Catholic Church, Rampton Road, Longstanton taken in 1999. The building was demolished before 2004.*

*Below: Extract from a plan of RAF Oakington (1964) showing the location of the Catholic Church next to Rampton Road*

*Both images are from the RAF Oakington Gazetteer of Surviving Structure document produced for Homes England by the Airfield Research Group and are reproduced here with the kind permission of Homes England*



**Hilary Stroude**

## NORTHSTOWE NATURE MATTERS

I flicked back through old editions of Northstowe News and from Issue 30 I found Kirk Smith's close-up shot of a spider in his Peppercorn Drive garden. From the habitat, and patterns on the front of the abdomen and legs, I would reckon this to be *Araneus diadematus*, the Garden Spider. The indistinct markings suggest that this a male (Arachnologists please help me out if I am wrong). Thanks for sending this in Kirk. Can I encourage more sightings of wildlife from residents of Northstowe to be submitted and shared?

Unlike Kirk's report I am unable to furnish a photo of a sighting that thrilled back in the January cold snap. As we trundled our sleeping granddaughter past the inflow at the western end of Unity Lake my wife exclaimed "Kingfisher!" Even in the dim light of that day we were breathless witnessing the bird's iridescent blue-beyond-blue plumage as it flew away below us. Chatting sometime after to Peter, who runs the community café, he reported seeing his very first Kingfisher around the same date along the ditch near Western Park. A handy habit of Kingfishers I find is that they tend to announce themselves with repeated short 'pipping' calls. Once alerted I lift my gaze and invariably the visual treat of this surprisingly small bird assails my eyes. Such is their power over us that each encounter is as exciting as the very first.

From a familiar garden inhabitant to the sublime beauty of a wild bird may I now revert to a topic that is manmade, mundane, and arguably even ridiculous?

Plastic tree guards. Yes, they do protect young trees against rabbit and rodent damage but deer can still nibble the tops. Yes, they have long been a standard feature, indeed 'industry best practice' for tree planting schemes but surely the time is here for their use to be reconsidered? An interesting discussion on research was published in The Guardian in 2022<sup>1</sup>. It was found that on average 85% of trees survived with guards and 50% without. The conclusion was that to avoid future environmental problems trees should be planted without guards in the first instance only resorting to their use if grazing damage was too high. I would add that, if guards are used, planned removal should also be factored in at the start of a planting scheme. At Northstowe it appears that most tree mortality is due to drought and the empty tubes tend to scatter around the site with some ending up in the water bodies.



*Disintegrating plastic tree guards near to Longstanton Park & Ride*

I am very grateful to David Condon of Greenbelt, who are responsible for the management of public open space at Northstowe, for his response to enquiries about tree guards and other nature conservation measures. He reports that they would like to keep tree guards currently due to rabbit and deer pressures. He adds that some guards are designed as biodegradable but this does not seem to happen so the sub-contractor will be asked to remove damaged guards along with general litter in the hedges and plantings.

I am encouraged that Greenbelt are implementing a management regime sympathetic to nature at Northstowe and will include more details in future articles.

**MARK PRINA**

[halcyon.ecology2023@gmail.com](mailto:halcyon.ecology2023@gmail.com)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/24/trees-should-be-planted-without-plastic-guards-says-uk-study-aoe>



## An update from Fen Drayton Lakes



*A sign of Spring, Cuckoos usually return around late April, and their distinctive call can be heard all around the site. Photo by Edwin Parish*

With winter coming to an end and spring just around the corner, we can look back at a very wet few months here at Fen Drayton Lakes.

September through to the end of February is when we become busy with our habitat management tasks, going around the reserve carrying out work to maintain or enhance areas for our key breeding species. Most of this work is guided by the reserve species targets in our management plan. These targets detail the species, avian or otherwise, that we want to attract to the reserve to breed or overwinter. During this time the small islands on the lakes are cleared of vegetation, willow trees are removed from reedbeds and other wet areas, patches of scrub are coppiced, and many other tasks are carried out to provide the ideal habitats for our target species across the reserve.

This past autumn/winter period has not quite gone to plan with serious and prolonged periods of flooding starting in late September. Despite all the low-lying wetland areas of the reserve being inaccessible, we have still been able to get out with our dedicated volunteer group to carry out various habitat jobs around the reserve, as well as doing infrastructure repair work on livestock fencing and trails.

We now look forward to the breeding season throughout the spring and the arrival of many migrant species returning to nest. Many of these will have been in sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Europe during the winter months, coming back to the same patch of reed or hawthorn as they did last year to set up territory and nest.

The coming months are undoubtedly one of the best times to visit the reserve with April, May and June among the very best. To plan your visit, go to: [rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes](http://rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes) where you'll find everything you need to know.

### Wednesday Wander

Ever thought you'd like to know more about the reserve and its wildlife? Volunteer-led guided walks take place once a month, usually on the second Wednesday.

To see further details and book, please visit:

[events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes](http://events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes)

Email: [fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk](mailto:fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk)

### [Visit rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes](http://rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes)

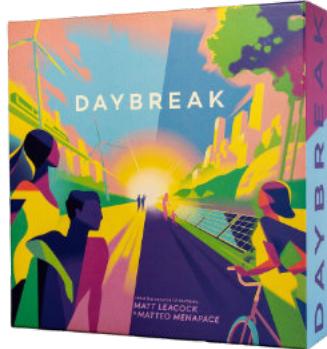
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

## NORTHSTOWE GAMERS

Earth Day is an international event which has been held annually for more than 50 years, to highlight the importance of protecting the environment and promote ecological sustainability. It's on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, so we thought that this month it would be appropriate for us to review **DayBreak** — a co-operative game about saving the world from disastrous climate change, which won the prestigious "Kennerspiel des Jahres" award in 2024.



Each player takes on the role of a regional government (America, China, Europe, or... literally everyone else in the world), all of whom have their own different situation and problems. Each region produces emissions from power generation and various kinds of industry, and although some of this is offset by healthy oceans and forests, at the end of each round any excess carbon causes the global temperature to increase and the effects of crisis events will get harder to deal with. The players must work together to reduce their emissions whilst still providing enough power, until finally the world reaches the point that more carbon is being drawn out of the atmosphere than put into it. If you can do that without society collapsing, then the game is won!



Daybreak is designed by Matt Leacock and Matteo Menapace, and published by CMYK.

Each round of the game, every player draws a hand of cards containing various technologies and initiatives. You can play and use them in any order — unusually, the players all do this at the same time, not having to wait to take turns. Often you can use a card either to activate a new ability or to power-up an existing ability, so there are a lot of decisions to make and priorities to be balanced. When everyone has played all they can, firstly the excess carbon is counted and the global temperature is adjusted, then some global effects occur as a result of the temperature rise and a number of crisis cards need to be revealed and dealt with. You can build up protections against the worst effects of these, but they can really take you off course if you're unprepared.

Opening the game, it's immediately apparent that the producers have put a lot of effort into manufacturing this game in accordance with the ethics and theme it espouses — there is no plastic at all; the wood and paper components are 100% FSC certified. Another notable feature is that every card has a QR code on it, which you can scan to get very extensive notes about the real-life technologies, statistics and effects that are being represented. This clearly is a game that is designed to educate people as much as to entertain, but it succeeds admirably at doing both: you do not feel that you're just being lectured at. There's genuine excitement and tension to see how each round plays out, and if you ever find the basic game becoming easy there are some extension cards which alter the starting conditions to make the game harder and provide almost limitless variation.

### ANDREW AND SARAH COLLIER



**Northstowe  
Gamers**

Online and in-person  
board gaming meet-ups

Tuesdays 7:30pm

[facebook.com/groups/northstowegamers](https://facebook.com/groups/northstowegamers)  
[northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk](mailto:northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk)



Can we still save the world? Join us from **7:30pm on a Tuesday evening** to play Daybreak, or any of our other games! (We're pausing the monthly Cabin evenings for now, and will be playing games at our home every week. For details search FaceBook for "Northstowe Gamers" or email [northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk](mailto:northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk)).

Plus! We'll be back in the Cabin to hold a **Board Games Afternoon** on **Saturday May 24th** – 2pm-6pm in The Cabin, drop in at any time and stay as long as you like. All welcome. (Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult). **FREE**. Whether you play many games already or not, you can enjoy trying out lots of different games and maybe discover your new favourite!



**AlphaCEC**  
Leading the Pack in Airport & Long Distance Travel

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

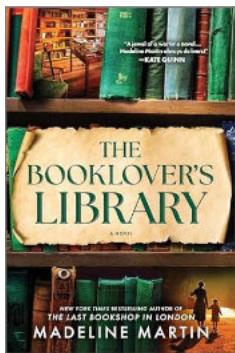
I've travelled with three different drivers from Richard's company this year. An extremely safe, comfortable, peaceful, punctual journey every time. I'm delighted to have found such a reliable service and look forward to using them for all my future journeys.  
\*\*\*\*\* (5\*) Google Review) Jo Eadie



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01954 232300 / 01954 720720



## BOOK REVIEWS



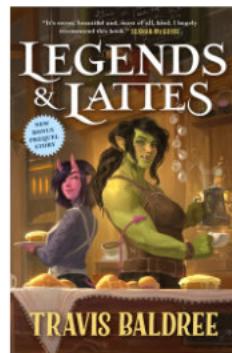
### The Booklover's Library by Madeline Martin

In Nottingham, young widow, Emma Taylor is looking for a job to support herself and her daughter, Olivia. She persuades the manageress of Boots Booklover's Library to employ her just as World War 2 is looming.

There are many excellent novels set during this time period, so it is difficult for an author to find something new to say, but I found this one had an interesting slant on the problems married or widowed women faced in finding jobs in the 1930s. Emma's struggle with the decision on evacuating her daughter was also well described.

The writer is American and perhaps aimed the book at a mainly American audience. There were therefore a few things in the novel that grated a bit, such as the constant references to tea-kettles rather than kettles and purses instead of handbags. I also wondered whether a British woman of the period would have been quite so surprised by the length of time her train took. I think she would have been better prepared and more stoical. That aside, I enjoyed the novel. It's an easy read, uplifting and I would recommend to all lovers of books, and historical romance.

**KATHY FOUNTAIN**



**Legends & Lattes** by Travis Baldree is a cosy fantasy novel following Viv, a retired orcish warrior, as she works on a new career: founding the first coffee shop in the city of Thune. Over the course of the story she has to make new friends, deal with a local crime boss, and get her business going in an environment where nobody has even heard of coffee.

Overall, it was a slow-moving low-stakes story and Viv herself was a very appealing character. I loved the idea of an orc warrior ending her adventuring career and starting something entirely new and I especially appreciated the character trait of being absolutely determined that she was going to hang up her sword and refuse to solve problems with violence despite the opinions of everyone around her. Some of the secondary characters were also fun, especially Tandri, the succubus Viv hires as an assistant.

My only complaint with the book is that the plot felt rather anticlimactic. Several times it felt like major conflicts were being set up only to be resolved quickly and with very little effort, even where the results of a problem should have been disastrous. The result was occasionally frustrating. However, the book is clearly intended to be low-stakes and relaxing, especially once Viv reaches Thune; before that there are a couple of violent scenes as she wraps up her adventuring work. It's a quick read and I'd recommend it for YA and adult readers looking for an easy popcorn book.

**BECCA EDNEY**

## BOOK CLUB

We have started to meet again in person. If you are someone who requested this do join us. We meet in different venues, as there aren't enough of us to warrant hiring the Cabin, 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.

Email: [northstowebookclub@gmail.com](mailto:northstowebookclub@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785](https://www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785)

NEXT MEETINGS  
 BOOKS WE PLAN TO READ THIS YEAR

- |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April | Factfulness by Hans Rosling      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May   | The Ipcress File by Len Deighton |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> June  | The Great Darkness by Jim Kelly  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> July  | The Salt Path by Raynor Winn     |



**NORTHSTOWE**  
**BOOK CLUB**

Meets once a month on Mondays  
 at 7.30pm

Email: [northstowebookclub@gmail.com](mailto:northstowebookclub@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785](https://www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785)

## Hindu Samaj Northstowe (HSN)

### Celebrating Spring together in Northstowe

Spring is a time of new beginnings, fresh energy, and coming together as a community. As the days get longer and brighter, it's the perfect moment to celebrate all the exciting things happening in Northstowe!



**Northstowe Holi Mela:** Mark your calendars for 26th April 2025 as HSN invites you to experience the vibrant Northstowe Holi Mela! This celebration will be a spectacular showcase of food, music, dance, culture, and colour play, bringing together people from all backgrounds to enjoy the spirit of Holi. Stay tuned for more details.

### Meet Our New Trustees!

We're thrilled to introduce our leadership team guiding Hindu Samaj Northstowe forward:



Aparna Nigam-Saxena  
Chair & Temple Project Lead



Neal Patel  
Secretary & Event Coordinator



Vindhya Desai  
Education & Outreach Lead



Deepika Chawla  
Interim Treasurer



Ravi Kiran Chaliki  
Trustee

**DHARMA** for children

Age : 5 - 15 years  
Every Friday - 3:45 to 4:45 pm  
Exploring the India Faiths, Shlokas, Stories, Games, Discussions, Art & Craft  
Free to join - Everybody welcome!  
Snacks and drinks available for all children attending.  
All our trainers have an enhanced DBS check.  
Take a look at our safeguarding policy for further details.

VIDYAFOUNDATIONUK@GMAIL.COM  
HINDUSAMJNORTHSTOWE@GMAIL.COM

**Sri Hanuman Chalisa**

First Saturday of Each Month  
5 - 6 pm @ The Cabin, Northstowe  
FREE to join - Everyone welcome

HSNorthstowe  
 hindusamjnorthstowe  
 fb.me/hindusamjnorthstowe  
 hindusamjnorthstowe@gmail.com  
 hindusamjnorthstowe.co.uk

## Ramadan: Fostering Compassion and Community

Ramadan is a special and sacred time for Muslims, a month where we abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to sunset. But fasting is more than just a physical act; it is a deeply spiritual practice that helps us grow in body, mind, and heart.

During Ramadan, we strive to become the best versions of ourselves. It is a time for self-reflection, offering us a glimpse into the person we can—and should—aspire to be. This includes not only how we treat ourselves but also how we interact with our loved ones and our community.



The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, said: "Verily, fasting is not only from eating and drinking. Rather, fasting is from vanity and obscenity. If someone abuses you or acts foolishly toward you, then say: 'Indeed, I am fasting.'"

These words guide us to embrace humility and grace, even in challenging moments. Ramadan inspires us to care for one another, encouraging good deeds, and setting an example of compassion in our daily interactions. It is a reminder that fasting isn't just about abstaining from food—it is about cultivating a heart of mercy, a spirit of generosity, and a commitment to uplifting those around us.

While Ramadan and Eid have now passed, the lessons we learned and the connections we forged should remain with us. This past Ramadan, the Northstowe Muslims came together not just to fast but to share meals, support one another, and strengthen bonds of community. Through shared Iftars and nightly prayers, we created a "found" family, a network of love and support that transcended our individual households. These connections reminded us that Ramadan is more than a personal journey; it is a communal experience that brings us together as a unified force for good.

Now, a month after Eid, as the hustle and bustle of the celebrations have settled, we are left with the lasting impact of the month of fasting. The spirit of unity, kindness, and reflection that Ramadan instilled in us doesn't have to fade. If we carry these values into our daily lives, we can continue to build stronger, more compassionate communities long after the month of fasting has ended.

Ramadan teaches us that through self-discipline, kindness, and empathy, we can create a world where unity and compassion are not confined to one month. Let us continue to nurture the bonds we've formed, both in our hearts and our communities, throughout the year.



Website: [www.northstowemuslims.org](http://www.northstowemuslims.org)

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

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

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/northstowe\\_muslims/](https://www.instagram.com/northstowe_muslims/)



## Holy Week & Easter

### Palm Sunday (13th April, 10am)

- Join us outdoors as we mark Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem - and the start of Holy Week

### Maundy Thursday (17th April, evening)

- A special Communion Meal as we remember Jesus' last supper.

### Good Friday (18th April, 10am)

- An interactive, intergenerational space to reflect on the events of Good Friday.

### Easter Sunrise Service (20th April, dawn)

- Experience the wonder of Easter morning as we gather in the open air to celebrate the resurrection.

### Easter Celebration (20th April, 10am)

- A joyful intergenerational communion service around a campfire (inside if wet)

For more details, visit: [www.northstowe.church/Easter](http://www.northstowe.church/Easter)



**NORTHSTOWE CHURCH**

**NETWORK**

*praying, exploring, and sharing*

Registered Charity Number 1206577



## A New Chapter for Revd Stephen

Big news from our wider church family – Revd Stephen has been appointed as Team Rector for the 5folds group of churches (Longstanton, Willingham, Swavesey, and Over).

During his curacy, Stephen played a significant role in shaping the life of Northstowe, not least through his work in The Pathfinder CofE Primary School and his support for our growing church network.

We will greatly miss him but celebrate with him as he takes on his first Inc incumbency. His induction service will take place on 8th May.



## Recent Highlights: Pancakes and Preparation

Lent is a season of reflection, preparation, and drawing closer to God. It lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays), echoing Jesus' time in the wilderness. Traditionally, it's a time for prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness—practices that help us make space for what truly matters.

Our Pancake Party brought together 120 local friends for a joyful afternoon of races, games, and, of course, plenty of pancakes. A huge shout-out to our chefs, who tirelessly flipped hundreds of pancakes. It was a real celebration of community, hospitality, and connection.

Ash Wednesday was marked in a more reflective tone with a beautiful Choral Eucharist with Ashing at Pembroke College Chapel. As we entered this season of preparation, the candlelit chapel, soaring voices, and deep tradition reminded us of the timeless call to renewal and the hope of Easter.

The Northstowe Church Network, led by Revd Beth Cope, is a partnership of the Church of England, United Reformed Church, and Baptist Union, and shares a vision with Methodists and Quakers.

*But we come from all Christian traditions as well as those new to Christianity: together we are pilgrims on a journey, asking questions and exploring the connections we find between everyday life and our spirituality. Why not walk a while with us?*



### 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*  
Alternate Thursdays during Term 8-9pm  
Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close

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



## EASTER WEEKEND

**Good Friday (18th April)**

All-age service

10:30am at Swavesey Primary School

**Easter Saturday (19th April)**

Family crafts and Easter trail

2:30-4:30pm at The Cabin, Northstowe

**Easter Sunday (20th April)**

All-age service

10:30am on The Green, Northstowe

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Designed by Freepik

Emmanuel Church normally meets every Sunday 10:30am at Northstowe Secondary College.

There are a range of children's groups for 0-11yrs during the sermon, unless it is an all-age service when children stay in throughout. There is usually live music during the service, and free refreshments after the service. 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](http://emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org) or email [contact@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
Morning Praise on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

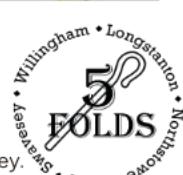
The primary contact person is:

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](mailto:admin@5folds.org.uk)



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Phone: (01223) 704640

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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.

# Emmanuel

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### GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

Where do you look for hope? For Christians, hope in suffering and injustice and facing death is found by looking to the Easter weekend. Good Friday reminds us that God loves us, and shares in our suffering. Jesus is God the Son become human, and as he is unjustly condemned, cruelly punished, and brutally executed, we know God sympathises with us in our own suffering.

But his suffering was not meaningless. His suffering was God's way of dealing with the wrong we have done- the wrong that needs justice, the wrong that needs repairing. Because Jesus died on the cross, every human is invited to reconnect to our Creator God. Suffering does not have to be meaningless.

And that leads to the evidence for this hope- on Easter Sunday Jesus rose from the grave, conquering death. That shows his death accomplished the reconnection plan God had. That shows that he can give us life forever beyond death- and so give us hope when facing death.

We'd love you to join us exploring the hope that the Easter weekend gives at any of our free Easter events.

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## YOUTH AND SCHOOLS

### BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

At time of writing, Beavers have just returned from an exciting sleepover at Shepreth Wildlife Park, where we got to sleep ten feet away from the tigers! We learned all about animal diets and endangered species, and got two guided tours of the park, including one after dark. For many of our Beavers, this was their first night away and they were excellent representatives of 1st Northstowe.

The Cubs have written some code which will be run on the International Space Station, sending the astronauts some nature pictures with changeable backgrounds. We also celebrated Shrove Tuesday by frying some pancakes of our own.

Scouts have also been busy in the kitchen, competing to win over the judges in our great Scout bake-off in February. We also worked in groups to write and perform our own plays. Further afield, we had a troop hike in Harston on 2 February, in preparation for the Forward10 hike on 8 March.

In May, we will be hosting our rescheduled Family Day at Copley Scouting Centre in St Ives, to celebrate the group's five year anniversary. All sections will be attending a sleepover or camp together at Skreens Park Activity Centre in the Summer, where we are again looking forward to a wide range of adventurous activities.

Over the coming year, we are also eagerly anticipating more hikes, camps, a sleepover at the National Space Centre and a hillwalking expedition in Wales.

Inspired? We are actively seeking volunteers to fill a range of roles to enable even more young people to take up Scouting in Northstowe. To find out more about what we do, please contact [info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk](mailto:info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk).





## NORTHSTOWE YOUTH HIVE



The Northstowe Youth Hive was created because young people in Northstowe wanted their voices to be heard. Our goal is to bring together young people from different backgrounds, cultures, and identities so they can have fun, grow, and make a positive impact.

The Youth Hive has pushed for professionally led youth programs. We raised money to test this out by working with the Connections Bus Project. Now, we're working closely with Romsey Mill. As a grassroots organization made up of young people, adults, and local groups, we play an important role alongside bigger organizations like the town council and Romsey Mill. We can help figure out what matters to our members and their friends, apply for grants, and connect with other small groups in Northstowe.

We've recently registered as a charity (#1210423) to help build trust in what we do – and apply for more grants!

Young people told us they wanted youth members involved from the very beginning – so they have shaped what Youth Membership looks like, and started meeting.

Now we're looking to recruit more youth, individual and organizational members to join us.

In addition, we are seeking two more trustees to help spread the load, with one to take on our treasurer role. Both can be behind-the-scenes work, in your own time... or could be combined with active youthwork too.

Read more: [www.northstowe.hub/youth](http://www.northstowe.hub/youth)



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# Northstowe

## Learning Community

It has continued to be a remarkably busy Spring Term for us here at Northstowe Learning Community!

### NORTHSTOWE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been such an exciting time, getting to know our four- and five-year-olds over the last two terms, and now being in our fabulous primary building. We are thrilled with how our children are progressing and learning. They have shown such confidence, bravery, and curiosity in getting to know their new



surroundings.

Highlights of this second term, for the children have been:

- Moving into our new school building from the nursery temporary setting, especially getting to play in all the new spaces!
- Making valentine's crafts and creating clay model owls
- Learning about the Lunar New Year with a range of activities and a parent coming in to talk about how they celebrate it in China
- Dressing up for World Book Day and Red Nose Day



We look forward to welcoming more children to Northstowe Primary School as it grows.

### NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE

We are beginning to prepare for our new Year 7 intake in September, of which we are oversubscribed. It has been lovely to start communicating with our new families already.



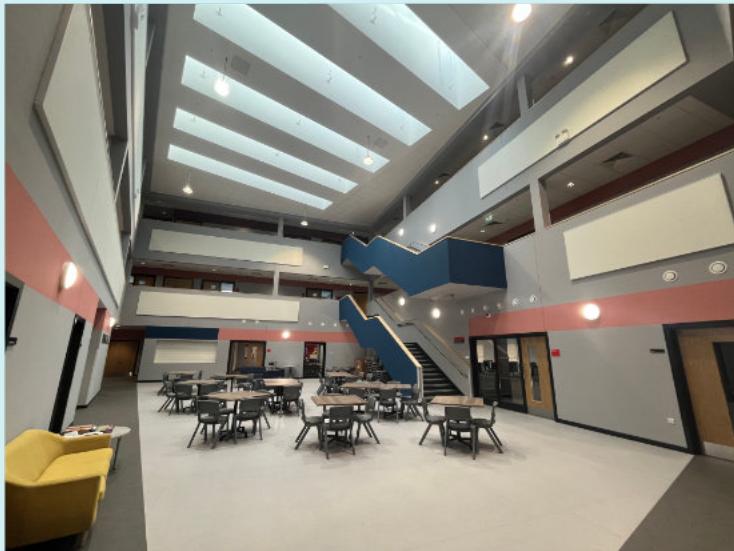
Our Year 11's have been working hard in preparation for their GCSE exams, slowly being rewarded "purple ties", and our Year 10's are also sitting their first GCSE exams soon! Our Year 8's have been busy choosing their GCSE Options this half term too.

Over February half term, some of our Year 9's and 10's headed to Falcade, Italy for NSC's annual ski trip! Lots of wonderful memories were made as well as skiing skills improved. We are looking forward to our upcoming Year 7 residential as well as more trips in the Summer Term.



Finally, just before the Easter holidays, our performing arts department put on an amazing Music Showcase. We are so proud of our students and how talented they are. We hope our families also enjoyed the show.

## NORTHSTOWE SIXTH FORM



Returning after February Half Term was particularly special this year as we officially opened our sixth form to our current Year 12 students. They now have their own dedicated space, and it truly is an incredible environment for them to thrive in. Following the building opening to our students, we had a grand opening at the end of March! We are so pleased to now be fully moved into all of our new buildings.



We are thrilled at the number of applications we received back in January and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting lots of prospective students ahead of September. We wish all Year 11 students' luck in their upcoming GCSE exams.

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



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