

Northstowe News

Issue 13

Jan/Feb 2021

Find out what's happening in Northstowe

Clubs, groups, news from the developers, events and much much more

See inside for the full round up and find out how you can get involved

More writers needed!

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Ad Size	Ad Cost Per insert
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HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2021

TO ALL NORTHSTOWE RESIDENTS
FROM THE LONGSTANTON & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY



Longstanton & District Heritage Society, c/o The Manor, Woodside, Longstanton, Cambridge. CB24 3BU.
For more information on the Heritage Society please contact us by post, our Facebook page or email us at ldhssec@hotmail.co.uk



Editor's Welcome



Happy New Year Northstowe! I think we can all agree 2020 was an odd year. Amongst the lockdowns and adjusting to a world on Zoom Pioneer park opened, the Western park was finished and hopefully by the time you read this the paths around the Water park will also be ready to explore. Our population has rocketed to over 650 houses occupied and the Martin Beacon academy opened. At the last forum we were told L&Q have sold the business land to a business developer so hopefully this year we will move one slow step closer to having shops in Northstowe.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas season however you ended up spending it. The social committee organised for Santa to light up the Christmas tree on Facebook live and Santa also left us his postbox so children of Northstowe could write to him their Christmas wishes and get a reply straight from the North pole.

Our hope for 2021 is that life in Northstowe may slowly start returning to normal. COVID isn't going anywhere but the speedy invention of vaccines by the worlds top scientists fills us with hope that we can get on top of this virus quickly. Meanwhile you know the mantra—hands, face , space. Keep safe.

Parish Council

Chairman's Update

So here we are, at the start of a new year, at the end of the second lockdown all trying to make sense of what is going on in the world. I hope that everyone is managing OK, and just want to confirm that if your Parish Council can help you, please feel free to reach out. You will have seen a leaflet through your door a couple of weeks back, and I'm pleased to say that many of the people whom provided help before are happy to help once more, a true testament to the community spirit of our community.

Given the level of activity and energy expressed through the Community Governance Review and other activities I hope that many of you will consider standing for election to become a **Town** Councillor in 2021, to help make a difference in your town as the new Northstowe Town Council is created in April 2021 (elections May 2021).

Until the next time, I'll wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to 2021, remembering Covid as it fades into history and getting back to allowing our community to grow and thrive.

Thanks

Dan delaMare-Lyon

Chairman, Longstanton Parish Council

District Council

We want to start by wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year. We hope that you had a good festive period, however you celebrated. We know that 2020 was an exceedingly difficult year and our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by COVID-19. We have been so appreciative of the response shown by the whole community during the pandemic. Everyone has pulled together and we would particularly like to thank all the volunteers, coordinated by the Parish Council, who continue to do an incredible job supporting vulnerable members of our community.

South Cambs District Council has dedicated pages with information for residents, communities and local businesses on coronavirus support: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

If you have suffered a loss of income because of the pandemic there are details of support available, including SCDC's hardship fund: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/benefits/hardship-fund/>

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

We are finally reaching the end of the Community Governance review process. Option A, with some amendments to the proposed boundary was approved at a meeting of the SCDC full council in November. We spoke strongly in support of this option. The changes will mean:

A new Town Council will be created for Northstowe

All Northstowe phases will form one parish, including land west of B1050 (Bloor and future Northstowe Phase 3b).

Land north of the Guided Busway will become part of Willingham Parish

The new Northstowe Town Council will have 15 Councillors, to be elected in May 2021 for a 1-year term, to bring it in line with parish and town council elections for the whole district in May 2022.

We will be running some taster sessions and training for prospective councillors early next year, so please do get in touch with us if you are interested in joining the new Town Council.

We will remain District Councillors for all residents, including those who live north of the Guided Busway.

You can read more about the decision here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/new-parish-to-be-created-to-govern-northstowe/>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We would like to thank everyone who donated to our fundraiser to provide free school meals during the holidays for children in our local schools. We were so grateful for the incredible generosity of our community, including the donations from Northstowe foodies of money raised from the food trucks. We are pleased to see that the government has now revised its policy on this, but we are still not clear that the money committed will cover all families in need. We will wait for more details and speak with the schools before deciding what to do with the money we have raised so far.

If you like to donate go to: <https://bit.ly/36owbkY>

WATER LEVELS AND THE KINGFISHER POND

The investigation into the reduced water levels locally has been carried out and we want to reassure residents that we have been committed to this being fully independent and transparent. The consultant carrying out this investigation was commissioned by SCDC following our requests to the council Chief Executive, but the consultant was chosen by the Parish Council to ensure independence. The Parish Council approved the brief for the investigation. We are expecting the consultant's report to be available before Christmas and we will inform residents of the findings from this. Most importantly, we are committed to ensuring that any findings or recommendations from the report are acted upon and, if necessary, enforcement action is taken.

CUTS TO LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS

The Cambridgeshire Chief Constable has announced a cut to Police Community Support Officers, driven by the need to save money. Our local PCSO comes from the Histon team. There are currently 5 PCSOs for our area and this will likely shrink to 1 or 2 officers. This is extremely concerning with the rise in rural crime and antisocial behaviour we have seen locally. We will be writing to our MP and Police & Crime Commissioner to express our dismay at these cuts and encourage residents who feel strongly to do the same.

We are looking forward to another year representing you as your District Councillors in 2021. As ever, feel free to contact us on these or any other issues:

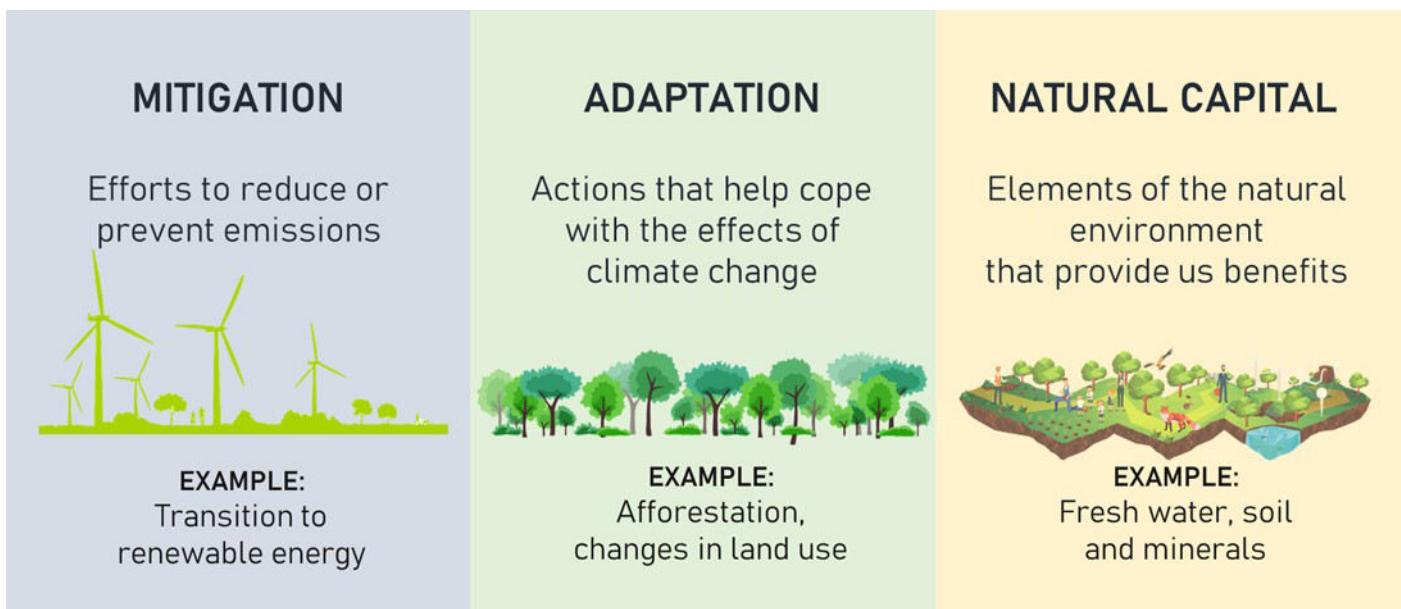
Sarah Cheung Johnson: cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk

Alex Malyon: cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk

CountyCouncil

County Council is highly commended for top climate emergency award

Cambridgeshire County Council's work to respond to the climate change emergency has been recognised after it was highly commended for a prestigious national award. The County Council's Climate Change and Environment strategy was highly commended at the *Leadership in responding to the Climate Emergency* category of the MJ Awards 2020. The County Council agreed in May 2019 to make a declaration of a Climate Emergency produced an evidence base of carbon emissions across the county..



The council used this evidence to develop its draft Climate Change and Environment Strategy, and a vision '*to deliver net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050*'.

This vision has already started to be translated into real action. The council has added a specific priority into its Business Plan which concentrates on helping Cambridgeshire reach this net zero carbon target by 2050 and set up a £16million Environment Fund to take all the Council's offices it owns and occupies off fossil fuels by 2025 and cut its organisational carbon footprint by 50% by 2023. The Council procures £450million of services every year for Cambridgeshire communities and it will be working with its supply chain to reduce carbon emissions.

The County Council has been leading the way in prioritising climate and environment issues for some time. Through its initial energy investments the Council has set up a self-financing unit to focus on energy project delivery. Initially this covered schools and a solar farm, but has now been extended to cover battery storage and smart-grid development. Since then the authority has invested £11m in schools to improve energy efficiency, resulting in energy bill savings of £910,000 a year.

In 2018 the Council won the British Renewable Energy Awards' pioneer category and in 2019 became a signatory to UK 100, to lead solutions for rural communities and commit to securing the shift to 100% clean energy by 2050. As a result, the County Council was asked to set up and lead a Countryside Climate Network of rural authorities to work to share best practice across the country, and develop nature based policy solutions to climate change. This excellent strategy is already a key part of our contribution to the Countryside Climate Network and is sure to be used by other authorities as they work together to tackle climate change and secure a cleaner future. Being recognised as highly commended for this award proves that Cambridgeshire's work is recognised on the national stage. The County Council also launched a Plastics Reduction Strategy - to eliminate single use plastics to protect the biodiversity of our oceans and marine life - and was also named 'East of England Council of the Year' at the 2019 Energy Efficiency Awards, having already invested £22m into carbon reduction schemes to benefit local people, identified £56m to work in partnership on more, and planted 25,000 trees.

County Council's Local Contact Tracing Scheme expanded across Cambridgeshire

A locally enhanced contact tracing service which has proven successful in Peterborough in reaching people the national service has not been able to will be expanded to cover the whole of Cambridgeshire from Wednesday 18 November. As part of their concerted efforts to drive down community infections, Cambridgeshire County Council, will be working closely with Test and Trace to contact people who have tested positive for Covid-19, giving those help and advice to self-isolate, in a further bid to crack down on the pandemic. Council Officers who have undergone special training in contact tracing, will be following up on people who have tested positive for Covid-19 but have not responded to a call or email from the national service, and getting details about their close contacts. The officers will initially make contact by phone, text or email asking people to call a local number - which earlier experiences in contacting shielded people, has been found to be more effective than a contact from a national number.

But if this fails, the officers, who will all carry local authority identification - will make house to house visits to reach those people who have tested positive. They will be given advice on how they can stay isolated to break the chain of infection, and prevent it spreading to their household contacts. They will also be asked to share details of others they have been in contact with. Anyone who is concerned by being contacted can call the council or local community hub to check the identity of the tracer on 0345 045 5219.

Support is available for people who need to isolate - and don't have friends, family or neighbours to help - through the network of support hubs run by councils. This information will be given to all those who are contacted. In addition, local councils are running a Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme which entitles people who meet certain criteria to a one-off payment of £500. Those who do not receive benefits, which is requirement to claim from the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme, but are still adversely affected as a result of not being able to work, can also apply for a £500 discretionary payment.

The most important thing is that we all keep caring for Cambridgeshire, the County Council will work with local people to deliver this locally enhanced test and trace service to make sure that we can stamp out infections and get our county Covid-free.

The County Hub

Children and families have been receiving meals over the school holidays from the Cambridgeshire countywide hub service The Countywide Hub, which is run by the County Council, has been providing free meals and support to local residents since the pandemic began, and this has continued throughout the recent school holidays. Between the start of half-term on Monday 26 October and Thursday 29 October, 113 requests for support were made to our

Contact Centre. 113 households, including 305 children, received food boxes. The hub has provided food packages to children and families who are eligible for free school meals as well as those who are not but may be struggling as a result of the pandemic. To contact the Countywide Hub, **call 03450455219**. The County Hub has been making sure food is readily available for those who need it and this support will continue. **No child should or will go hungry. Schools have also issued reminders of how to access help from the County Hub to the parents of all children eligible for free school meals in Cambridgeshire.**

County Council staff have once again been redeployed to maintain the hub's capability on supply, distribution, and support.

Peter Hudson

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



every mind matters

Now, more than ever

**For simple steps to look after your mental wellbeing
search [Every Mind Matters](#)**

STAY HOME ➤ PROTECT THE NHS ➤ SAVE LIVES

Northstowe Virtual Active Challenge

Over October half term we held the first Northstowe Virtual Active Challenge, this was an online physical activity challenge event hosted by Active New Communities on the platform Playwaze and supported by Pathfinder Church Northstowe and Northstowe Social. There were 12 fun virtual challenges for all ages to take part but it was predominantly pitched at primary aged children, families were encouraged to take part together and try to beat their personal best in a range of fun challenges. There were individual challenges aimed at beating your personal best score over 60 seconds, also some pairs and small group challenges involving skipping, jumping, throwing/catching, footwork and balls skills! A number of residents got involved in posting their demo videos on the site, thanks to everyone who got involved, I think we have a few budding Joe Wicks! The first 100 people to register and enter a challenge were eligible to collect free frisbees and slap bands, plus a free hot drink and yummy cake from The Rural Coffee Project on Thursday 29th October.



We had over 30 families register online and take part but unfortunately the technology was a bit clunky so some people may have found it tricky to register (apologies!), so in an effort to find a solution Beth Cope posted the videos and challenges on YouTube and this helped get some more engagement. It was a horrid wet and windy day on the 29th for the prizes and coffee/cake giveaway but Beth, Christine and Helen braved the weather under the gazebo and they were so delighted to see over 45 residents come down to claim their prizes and show off their frisbee skills! We hope everyone who took part enjoyed it and we plan to run some more virtual challenges next year!

The event was made possible by Northstowe Residents, supported by Active New Communities, Pathfinder Church Northstowe and Northstowe Social, with funding The National Lottery sponsoring prizes from the Rural Coffee Project.

60 Second Challenge
Skipping

The Physical Challenge
How many times can you skip in 60 seconds?
Both feet must land over the rope for the skip to count.

Equipment
Ping pong ball
If you do not have a do not worry, you can jump on the spot or a dressing gown or a rope!

StayHomeStayActive

Achieve Gold
70 skips

Achieve Silver
50 skips

Achieve Bronze
30 skips

Skipping Challenge.pdf

#NorthstoweActiveChallenge



Cycling Selfie Competition - #northstowehealthyselfie

The weather this time of year is not always the best but if it's dry and you dress up warm, cycling is a great way to get some fresh air and explore the local area. To encourage people to get on their bikes we are running a competition throughout January. We are asking residents to share their cycling photos on Facebook using #northstowehealthyselfie, and every photo shared on the new Facebook page 'I love Northstowe' will be entered into one of **three prize draws** - one for anyone sharing a cycling photo; one for anyone sharing a photo plus their 10-25mile Strava route; one for any hardcore cyclists sharing a photo plus their 25mile+ Strava route (Strava or equivalent route image to be included). We are running this competition with support from the friendly local Aero Bicycle Repair (www.aerobicyclerepair.com) and we will be giving away some prizes including x12 free mini bike services and x2 free gold services in the prize draws. Keep an eye on the new Facebook page 'I love Northstowe' for the promotion during January and we hope to see lots of you sharing your cycling selfies! #northstowehealthyselfie



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

NEW Boot Camp with Catalyst Fit

Coming Soon to The Green...starting 4th January

FREE Boot camp taster sessions on The Green at Northstowe 4th - 10th January 2021. Early mornings, evenings and weekends. All classes will be Covid-19 safe and 45 minutes.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 6.30am, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am & 3pm

If you are interested in booking or want more information, please contact Louise 07919 050261 or visit Facebook @Catalystfit21

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

Facebook @ActiveNewCommunities Twitter @Active_NC

Living an active lifestyle helps you to feel healthier, happier and more connected.

Friday walks

10:15am every week

meet on Green for a short walk round Northstowe.





FREE BOOT CAMP SESSIONS

STAY
SAFE ✓

4th - 10th January
2021

MON, WED & FRI 6.30am
TUES & THURS 7pm
SAT & SUN 10am & 3pm
ALL SESSIONS 45 MINUTES



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NORTHSTOWE
SOCIAL

Halloween Rock painting

2020 – Not the year anyone had imagined and by the time you are reading this it will be the new year.

Most of the events Northstowe Social had planned were of course cancelled due to Covid, but as soon as it was possible we offered an outdoor craft event of Halloween rock painting.

It was lovely to be able to invite people back to the wing – albeit outside and with the right covid secure measures in place.

We painted a dozen or so rocks which we later placed in the newly opened Pioneer Park for others to enjoy.

Hopefully we will be able to celebrate Halloween more freely this year.



Northstowe Book Club

The Book Club has now been running for two years. During that time many of you have joined our meetings, in person and via Zoom, or have read the books selected by our members. We would love to welcome new people in 2021, so if you enjoy reading and talking about books do try to read along with us. Our Northstowe Book Group Facebook page will give further details.

Our final selection for 2020 was *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. This novel is set in Shaker Heights, a middle class suburb of industrial Cleveland in the 1990s. Shaker Heights, where the author grew up, was planned as an integrated community and the two main families in the novel are the professional Richardsons, he a lawyer and she a journalist, and their tenants, the Warrens. Mia Warren is an impoverished artist, who lives an itinerant existence, working low paid jobs to support her daughter, Pearl and her art.

The book begins with the little fires of the title and then goes back in time to explain how they came about.

The themes of motherhood, class, and racial equality are well developed, and we find ourselves, along with the protagonists, drawn in to a custody battle between one of Elena Richardson's friends and one of Mia Warren's.

I really enjoyed this book and will look out for the author's first novel, *Everything I Never Told You*. Thank you, Susie for choosing this book.

Our next two choices are

Life of Pi by Yann Martel – January 11th 2021

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens – February 8th 2021

Book review

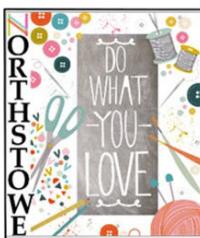
Becca Edney

The Scarlet Pimpernel by Emmuska Orczy is an adventure novella about a mysterious superhero-like English man who rescues aristocrats from France at the height of the French Revolution. The story mostly follows Lady Marguerite Blakeney, the wife of a foppish baronet, as she is threatened by a French diplomat who knows that her brother is connected to the titular Scarlet Pimpernel. Over the course of the book, she finds out the identity of the Scarlet Pimpernel and tries to help him rescue the father of one of her old school friends, while at the same time dealing with the rift in her own marriage.

It is, admittedly, "of its time" and there is a lot of influence from a worldview that the aristocracy are just better than everyone else, and that English aristocrats are the best of all. There is also some very unpleasant antisemitic stereotypes only made a little more bearable to read by the fact that they're part of a performance to play into the expectations of a very antisemitic villain.

With those caveats, this is a classic of the adventure genre, and while I'd not describe it as a great book it is very fun to read. It moves quickly and the mystery adds some spice, and once it's clear who the Scarlet Pimpernel is that mystery gives way to suspense.

I recommend it for the upper end of YA and up, provided you're not looking for anything especially serious.



Uniting Local Communities through the Love of Craft

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

Uniting Local Communities through the Love of Craft.



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



Are you looking to make new friends and/or for something creative to do? At **Craft4Smiles C.I.C.** we are passionate about the benefits of crafting for wellbeing having experienced these benefits for ourselves and want to enable as many people as possible to share in these. We are passionate about crafting and are building a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough-wide paper and mixed media crafting community. Our live, on-line, **Pop-up (2hrs), Short (5/10 week) and from Beginner to Advanced Crafter (1-2 years)** have just been launched.

We have **32 sponsored/free places funded by the Co-Operative Bank** on **4 Pop-ups*** for people from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will take place during the weeks of 4th and 11th January 2021. These will be allocated on a 1st-come-1st-served basis. See table below for the schedule.



Cost

Pop-Up Events Real Time Online: Course 1A			
Course		Cost per Person:1/ Group: 8 people £	
No.	Description	1	8
1A1	Bird House Gift Boxes with 'Stepper' Greetings Cards	36	288
1A2	Bird House Gift Boxes with Glitter by Stencil Greeting Cards	50	400
1A3	Cantilever Box with 'Stepper' and 'A' Frame Greetings Cards	37	296
1A4	Cantilever Box with Glitter by Stencil Greeting Cards	35	280
1A5	Quilling	38	304

The move to online delivery has increased course costs as each participant needs the equipment that we would normally bring to a group session. Tools and materials are posted in advance of each session and are the property of the participant. This has the advantage that participants are now able to engage in a meaningful activity and develop the skills they have learned after the event. Where more than 1 Craft4Smiles C.I.C. course is attended, a reduction for the second and subsequent courses for tools that are shared across courses will be made.

Course Dates and Booking – November 2020 – April 2021

We have an initial programme for all our courses starting between November 2020 and April 2021. Some courses have been scheduled beyond these dates. Dates for our Pop-ups are given below.

Pop-Up Events Real Time Online: Course 1A Programme: Nov 2020 – April 2021				
Course		Date/Time		
No.	Description	Jan/Feb 2021	March 2021	April/May 2021
1A1	Bird House Gift Boxes with 'Stepper' Greetings Cards		Friday 13.30 – 15.30 05.03.21	
1A2	Bird House Gift Boxes with Glitter by Stencil Greeting Cards	Friday 13.30 – 15.30 22.01.21	Thursday 14.00 – 16.00 11.03.21	
1A3	Cantilever Box with 'Stepper' and 'A' Frame Greetings Cards	Weds 19.30 – 21.30 04.02.21		Friday 13.30 – 15.30 30.04.21
1A4	Cantilever Box with Glitter by Stencil Greeting Cards			Weds 19.30 – 21.30 05.05.21
1A5	Quilling	T Thurs 14.00 – 16.00 11.02.21	Weds 19.30 – 21.30 17.03.21	Thurs 14.00 – 16.00 13.05.21

If you would like to commission an event on a date not shown, please contact us as above.

This leaflet will be updated to include dates for later in 2021 during January/February 2021.

Accessibility/Technology

At a minimum, participants will need access to a mobile phone with sufficient data to load and run Zoom. Access to a tablet, lap-top or computer will enable easier access. We have started to address the challenges of digital access and inclusion so that we can offer a solution.

* A £5 booking fee is payable on booking to secure a place

All materials and tools are provided in advance. Access to the internet - minimum via mobile phone -- is required.

During the event, we will talk to you about our courses and what we offer. If there is something that we don't currently offer that you would like to do, we will work with you to find ways for you to run it or for us to run it on your behalf – we are keen to hear from you – come along and we look forward to talking to you and working with you in the future.

For more information/to discuss with Fiona or to book, email info@craft4smiles-cic.org.uk or go to www.craft4smiles-cic.org.uk.

Game of the Month

by Andrew and Sarah Collier

7 Wonders sees each player as the leader of a great ancient city, competing to make their own the most valuable and racing to build the seven wonders of the world. It is one of our favourite games, and means a lot to us because it was the very first game we ever played together (we actually still have the scorecard, framed – and for the record, Sarah won). It has won many awards, including the prestigious Kennerspiel des Jahres (in 2011) and has just been reprinted in a new edition with new artwork, so we thought now would be a good time to write about it.



A deck of cards is dealt out, seven to each player. Each card represents a way to build up the city: producing raw materials and manufactured goods, increased abilities through commerce, getting points for civilian buildings and science, or becoming stronger in military power. Everybody at the same time chooses one card and builds it, which is great because there is no long downtime - unlike many games, you never have to wait for everybody around the table to take their turns one at a time. Some of the cards require materials; these are supplied by brown and grey cards you've already built, although if you haven't got the right factories you might be able to buy goods from a neighbour instead. Or you can use a card to build up your wonder, gaining points or various other unique abilities later.

All the other cards are passed around to the next player, and then from their new hand, everyone chooses the next card to build and so on. When all the cards are played, the next Age begins with a new hand of seven better and more powerful cards, and players continue to build up their cities until three Ages have been played in all. There are a lot of different ways to earn points, and you have to react to what cards come up early in each hand and watch what the players around you are doing. Other players can get in the way of your plans by taking cards you need, but sometimes you can ride on the coattails of their strengths by playing the Guild cards - which earn you points depending on what your neighbours have built.

7 Wonders works equally well with any number of players from 3 to 7, and doesn't take much longer to play with larger numbers - about 30 minutes with a bit of practice. For two players, there is an excellent separate game, "7 Wonders Duel" which works slightly differently but shares a lot of the theme and mechanisms. Both are also available online, where all the shuffling and counting is done for you and games can be played in as little as 15 minutes.

Will your city dominate its enemies through military conquest, become a prosperous trading hub, or be left behind as an uncelebrated backwater? Find out by playing 7 Wonders at boardgamearena.com, or join us online on Tuesday evenings – for details search Facebook for "Northstowe Gamers" or email northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk.

7 Wonders is designed by Antoine Bauza and published by Repos Production.

Northstowe Nature Notes

Hugh Venebales

There were 68 species of bird seen within Northstowe during the November lockdown. The standout sighting was a male Hen Harrier hunting over the Phase 2 floods beyond the secondary school, disturbing the Lapwings and ducks that are increasingly at home there. Hen Harriers are a fairly rare sight in Cambridgeshire away from their roost site at Wicken Fen. Unfortunately they should be more common but are illegally killed on grouse moors. It is fairly common for satellite tags on Hen Harriers to suddenly stop over moorland, much more so than in other habitats they frequent. A Golden Eagle tag that stopped suddenly was recently found in a river, wrapped in lead, gamekeepers having learnt from the eagle that was tracked doing 60mph down the A9 and found alive under branches near a layby, though with two broken legs from the snare trap. On a brighter note, a hunting Marsh Harrier in the same area was much more expected, with a good local breeding population, especially at Ouse Fen (north of Over).



Other notable birds around Northstowe have included a Black Redstart near the allotments (a robin-like bird with a red tail that likes new-build areas), a Great White Egret (increasingly common in the area), a Mediterranean Gull (roosting with 3000 Black-headed Gulls on the Phase 1 lake) and two Chiffchaffs, which appear set to winter around Kingfisher Pond.

It's good to see some nest boxes going up around the Phase 1 lake and we've had a very useful meeting with interested groups in and around Northstowe about the best options for local wildlife. With the work around the lake and greenways coming to a completion we now have areas for the long term, rather than fallow land waiting for development or landscaping, so now is the time to decide what we want from those areas, for both residents and wildlife.



Dungeons and Dragons

An online Dungeons & Dragons group will be starting for residents of Northstowe and environs. This will take place on Wednesday evenings and we will be using version 3.5. Anyone interested, please e-mail baroque.mongoose@gmail.com.

Northstowe Rocks!

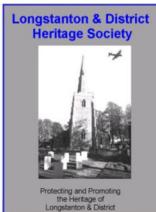


Join the hunt : Facebook NorthstoweRocks

Paint your own rocks and hide around Northstowe for people to find. When you find one put a picture on the Facebook page. Happy hunting!



LDHS UPDATE: NORTHSTOWE January - February 2021



AGM & SPRING TALKS 2021

The 2020 AGM for the Longstanton & District Heritage Society (LDHS) took place on Friday 6 November via a Zoom meeting. We are grateful to all those members who attended the meeting and helped us meet this constitutional obligation. During the AGM the Secretary advised that with the pandemic on-going it is not yet possible to make a definitive decision about the spring talks which should take place next year; however since the AGM took place there has been some positive information about a possible coronavirus vaccine so we remain optimistic. We will review the position in January when we will hopefully have a better understanding of the situation.

HERITAGE ANNEX

Just before the AGM started we were provided with an update with regards to the Heritage Annex. Unfortunately, the pandemic has caused problems which have impacted on both costs and timescales for the project. The only information we have at time of writing is that work is underway to resolve these difficulties and the Heritage Society will be updated regarding the outcome in due course.

Clearly any delay to the delivery of a heritage building for Northstowe is disappointing but we are assured that alternative proposals will be put forward. From the Heritage Society's point of view we are optimistic that any review of the building and its management may refocus efforts, so that the building can better accommodate LDHS and our archives. With the Homes England Section 106 commitment for the display and storage of the LDHS archives unfulfilled, this rethink may eventually help the Heritage Society find a proper home for the archives after all.

SPOTLIGHT ON TONY COWLEY

It is with immense sadness that we recently learned that Tony Cowley, formerly a long-term resident of Longstanton, passed away unexpectedly but peacefully in hospital. Many residents of Longstanton and members of LDHS will be aware of Tony's pivotal founding role in both *Longstanton Life* and the Longstanton & District Heritage Society. Tony's dedication to the Heritage Society and the preservation of the history of Longstanton and RAF Oakington was, in recent years, largely carried out away from the limelight due to on-going illness.



Artist's impression of what a Northstowe Heritage Core could look like if some of the former RAF Oakington buildings were saved. Artwork commissioned by Tony Cowley for LDHS, October 2010

However, Tony's passion and desire to safeguard a shared heritage for both Longstanton and Northstowe communities was unwavering. Of course his name will not be familiar to Northstowe residents but it is important that his contribution to safe-guarding the heritage of Longstanton and RAF Oakington is recognised by both communities. It is no exaggeration to say that without Tony's contribution there would simply be no Heritage Society. His work has, in the words of someone who met him, '*left a legacy and ripples*'. The heritage building on Northstowe, when it comes, will be his legacy. And the ripples? Who knows, but they are certainly there!

Many years ago, as part of our campaign to save some of the RAF Oakington buildings, Tony commissioned a piece of art to depict what a Northstowe Heritage Core could look like (*pictured left*). Tony was so proud of this piece of work, which he donated to the LDHS archives. It was first published with the words: '*Living Memorial or Fading Memory?*'

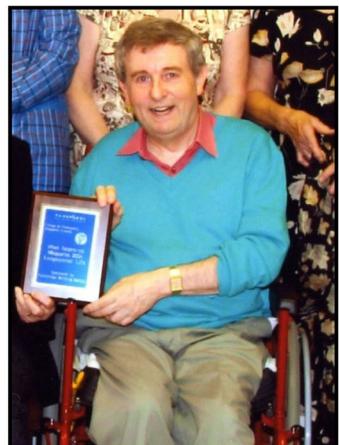
Our mission to fulfil Tony's dream of a living memorial continues. We have yet to achieve the LDHS goal of a heritage facility for our communities and so our work needs to continue. Tony dedicated the last fifteen years of his life to LDHS and this

project. The Heritage Society hopes we can all work together to finish the job that Tony helped to start all those years ago.

If anyone would like to find out more about LDHS and how you can help support our work please do not hesitate to contact us.

MEMORY LANE WHERE, WHAT, HOW AND WHY?

Following the death of Tony it is necessary to change the format of this section at least for the time-being. Information on the photograph shown in the last edition can be found elsewhere in this Northstowe News.



Longstanton & District Heritage Society, c/o The Manor, Woodside, Longstanton, Cambridge. CB24 3BU.
For more information please contact us by post, Facebook message or by e-mail at ldhssec@hotmail.co.uk



Northstowe Neighbourhood Watch



Happy New year to all of Northstowe! What a year 2020 has been - such a great challenge to cope with the Covid pandemic and its consequences. As we head into 2021 we are hoping for a return to some normality, having learnt a few lessons along the way! Over 2020 the Northstowe Neighbourhood Watch group has had regular meetings, all of which have been online to discuss issues of community safety. We have linked in with the police, local council and our local housing association (BPFA) which has been so helpful for guidance, support and information sharing. The meetings are an opportunity to think about what will benefit Northstowe and what is concerning us as a community such as some of the anti social behaviour that occurs at times.

With so much being online in 2020, we have had a think about our online presence and reorganised our Facebook group pages. It's great that over 200 people have joined and we aim to keep sharing relevant information, increase collaboration and work together about concerns. One issue that has been brought to our attention are the impending police budget cuts which will directly affect South Cambs police and are likely to halve the number of Police Community Support Officers. We have been encouraging our residents to write to our MP and police commissioner asking for them to reconsider. Please see our Facebook page for details or email them directly:

MP Anthony Browne: anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner: Ray Bisby: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk

It's such a concern that an already pressurised police force is having to cut back on its community staff and one thing we can all do is let the government know that we aren't happy about it. Heading into 2021 we hope to keep our regular meetings, our next one is this month: Thursday 14th January, 7pm, likely to be on Zoom, see our Facebook page for more details or email us directly at:

northstowe.nwatch@gmail.com Hopefully at some point this year we will be able to meet in person! We'll aim for a meeting every other month as last year. Do let us know what you want us to be doing as a group and if you want to get involved.

Best wishes, Lorraine



Bin collections

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

Monday 4th January 2021 Blue bin

Saturday 9th January 2021 Black bin

Thursday 14th January Blue and green bin

Thursday 22nd January Black bin

Thursday 5th February blue and green bin

Thursday 12th February black bin

Thursday 19th February blue and green bins

Thursday 26th February black bin

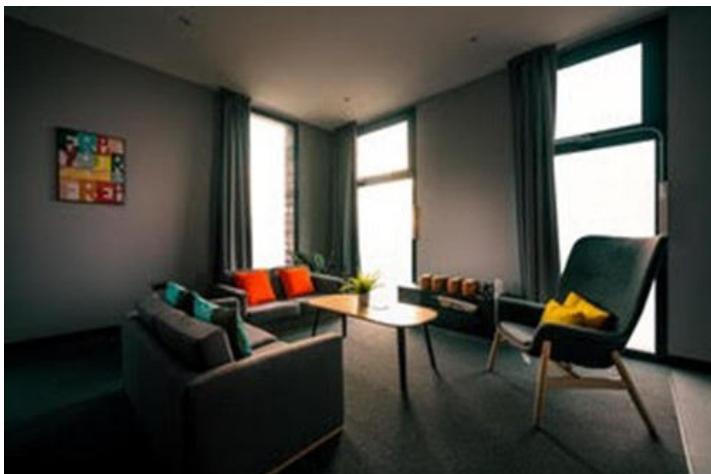
Thursday 5th March blue and green bins



Helping special needs students live and learn in style at Northstowe

An update from House by Urban Splash's Interior Design Manager, Rachel Thomas

I'm sure you have all seen by now the fabulous new sales pavilion we opened earlier this year at Inholm, but what you probably don't know is at the same time as fitting this out we were taking on our very own "Changing Rooms" challenge just over the road. We have given our neighbours at Inholm, Martin Bacon Academy a splash style makeover in their new independent-living flat.



For those that don't know, the Martin Bacon Academy is part of the Education Campus. It caters specifically for children and young people aged 3 to 19 who have a range of complex and significant learning needs in the area of cognition and learning (with other co-occurring conditions).

The new apartment is a space that will benefit hundreds of young people with special needs who are training in independent living. Students will stay at the flat during the day and overnight for different periods of time as part of their studies before hopefully moving into their own independent living space once they leave education.

The teaching apartment allows for all the pupils to learn and experience from a young age how to live and manage a home in a safe and secure teaching environment.

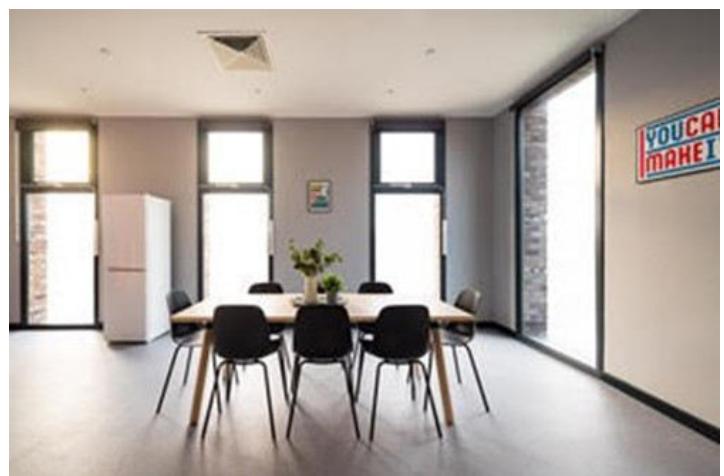
When we arrived the flat was empty, it was newly fitted out, but lacked colour and interest. It just wasn't very exciting.

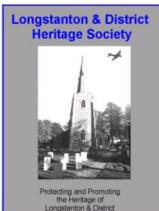
After creating a mood board including design ideas for the school to look at and choose from they have now fully fitted out the apartment ready for students to use from this new school term.

We wanted to make sure the furniture was practical for use in a school and we stuck to shopping with high street brands such as Ikea, John Lewis and H&M Home. We added colour with our choices of textiles and brought greenery into the space with low maintenance fake plants. The art work was sourced from The Make Bank - a social project which addresses issues associated with creative poverty.

Firms, including [AO.com](#) and [Loft-interiors.com](#), have provided goods for the project after we approached them asking for help with his special project.

It has been a real transformation for the school and a privilege to create such a wonderful, warm and inviting





LDHS MEMORY LANE

This is one of the earliest photographs scanned into the LDHS digital archives and was kindly donated to us by Dorothy Windon. Dorothy was a regular attendee at the 7 Squadron Memorial Service which is held each year in All Saints' church, Longstanton. Of course, due to the pandemic this year's service could not take place.



Longstanton & District Heritage Society via Dorothy Windon

Dorothy Windon was a MT (Military Transport) driver in the Women's Auxiliary Airforce (WAAF) based at RAF Oakington. This photo is just one of a number that she donated to LDHS. The image shows the WAAF hut in which she lived during the war. Nissen huts were scattered across Longstanton but hers was one of many that were located in the former Hatton parkland that used to stand behind the Village Institute - roughly where the houses of Thornhill Place and Magdalene Close stand today. Even in the midst of war the WAAF girls endeavoured to bring a sense of normality and some happiness to their lives.

If we look very carefully at the door at the end of the hut we can see the following message:
1945 A Happy New Year.

MEMORY LANE WHERE, WHAT, HOW AND WHY?



The postcard on the left depicts the Old Post Office which was sited in Long Stanton St Michael's on the corner of what are now called Mills Lane and Woodside. Some of the oldest residents of Longstanton remember the time when this lane was referred to by locals as Post Office Lane and not Mills Lane.

This lane was not always as quiet as we know it today. This route once provided access to RAF Oakington and would have been busy with men and women going about their business on the airfield and taking time out at The Hoops pub, which was just up the road.

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Monthly refill, zero-waste stall coming to Northstowe

Have you ever heard of refill shops, stations or points, and zero-waste shops? These are all places where you can buy products in containers you bring from home. The products sold include food and household and personal cleaning products that you would normally find being sold in single-use plastic packaging or containers.

As public awareness of plastic pollution and unnecessary packaging has increased in recent times, the options for this sort of shopping is on the rise. Some big supermarkets have embraced the idea and have introduced in-store refillable options and have started selling items free of plastic packaging. It also no surprise that local businesses that sell refillable products have been recently established in Cambridge, St Ives, Bluntisham, St Neots and Bar Hill. Some offer this as part of broader range of products, but others sell exclusively on refill basis. As our community grows, we felt that this would be a great time to have such alternative offer added to our very limited local market. And so, we set out to bring one of these businesses to Northstowe and introduce this new way of shopping and support the reduction in plastic and toxins. It is a small step towards a greener and healthier planet, but an important statement that Northstowe cares about our environment and supports local businesses.

After some months of preparation, on the 19th December we launched the first of a monthly stall, which will be pitched up **every third Saturday of the month from 10am—2pm , alongside the food trucks. So, save your empties and come along for a sustainable and local shopping!**

The benefits are not only because of zero-waste shopping, but also the products being offered are environmentally friendly, and in our monthly stall, they are supplied by a social enterprise based in Oxfordshire, and are vegan, cruelty-free, biodegradable, and sourced as local as possible. The products on offer at the moment are mainly for household and personal cleaning, but we will be looking at how we can expand the range of products available.

This will be the first move to bringing responsible and eco-friendly shopping to Northstowe. In the near future, with the new shops and community building in phase 1, we will work to have a permanently established re-fill, zero-waste, plastic-free shop for our community, for a variety of products.

Carla Bros Sabria, Northstowe Sustainability Group

Did you come to the launch on the 19th December? What kind of products would you like to have available in the monthly refill stall? Share your thoughts and experiences with refill shopping, plastic-free and zero-waste shopping at sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com.



PURE
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Your new community refill station and zero waste shop based in Bar Hill, Cambridge.

Bring your empty bottles and refill them with cruelty free, natural and sustainably sourced cleaning and personal care products.

We stock laundry products, antibacterial surface spray, washing up liquid, shampoo and conditioner, hand wash, body wash and 70% alcohol vanilla antibacterial hand rub. We have items such as bamboo cotton buds, reusable silicon food covers, biodegradable toilet roll and soap bars for sale.

We have a bottle drop basket outside each day for you to conveniently donate your empty cleaning and soap based product bottles.

Reduce, refill, reuse and then recycle as a last resort

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @PureBrilliantGreen for up-to-date stock and price list, regular updates and promotions.

45 The Spinney, Bar Hill, CB23 8ST. We're open Tuesday 9.30-11.30am and Thursday 19.30-21.30pm. Contactless payment only.

All Saints Church, Longstanton



'On Making Choices' is a little book written by Margaret Silf which is packed full of wisdom on decision making. She suggests that life is like a game of snakes and ladders as we seek to navigate our way through challenges and opportunities. Some choices seem to drop us at the bottom of a ladder. Things look rosy... chance throws us a good opportunity... we just need to climb. In other situations, the head of a snake hisses in our direction. If we're not careful, we may slide downwards where we never wanted to go. Sometimes we will find ourselves on a square at the foot of a ladder and the head of a snake.



Ladders invite us ‘up’, to go beyond the present, towards the best. It may not be the easiest option and may involve a climb into the unknown. Yet, if we embrace the adventure, it will form and grow us. The Bible is full of stories of folk who have stepped out in faith to follow God’s lead and have seen their life transformed for good.

Looking back, 2020 may well have felt like a game of snakes and ladders with more than its fair share of ups and downs (or a rollercoaster if you prefer that metaphor). In the new year that lies ahead, my hope and prayer is this: guide us Spirit of God to make good choices, to spot ladders and ascend them.

As one year closes many people reflect and some discern a word or phrase to guide them through the year ahead. For example, last spring, I met a Christian couple who had prayerfully chosen '*Breathe Deep*' to be their mantra for 2020. They would not have known what lay ahead. Looking back, I imagine that it has been a word in season and a bedrock through the tough times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

'Breathe Deep' – akin to *'drawing water from the wells of salvation'* (Isaiah 12:3) – echoes a call issued by the Anglican Archbishops of Canterbury and York. On the eve of lockdown 2.0, they urged and encouraged a threefold response: calm; courage; and compassion. I like memorable soundbites, so took these 3 Cs into lockdown seeking to instil them in my heart, my mind and my soul and to embed them in daily life.

I commend to you the practice of living with a watchword or strapline for the year, be it ‘Calm, Courage, Compassion’ or another. ‘Grace, mercy and peace’ - the opening greeting in Sunday worship and in many of St Paul’s letters in the New Testament – is a favourite of mine. What might yours be for 2021?

*Rev'd Lucy Cleland
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Looking back with thanks

I've noticed something about Northstowe. We work together make things happen!

So I want to give a huge shout of thanks to everyone who helped shared some light and hope over Christmas 2020!

I wonder what your highlight was? Perhaps...

The Tree go on the Green: a symbol of light and hope in our midst?

Spotting brilliant "Films reimaged with a Christmas Twist" Advent Windows?

(Check out www.facebook.com/groups/northstoweadventwindows)

Stopping by, or even stepping into, the Church House Nativity Scene, enjoying a moment of wonder?

Joining in our Light Trail, or Christingle Trail, noticing and wondering together as you explored Northstowe.

Meeting a friend for a frosty walk around the newly opened paths, spotting wildlife as you went?

Midwinter Stories of Hope and Light

Retelling such stories of community-connection, even at "social distance", gives me hope this winter. In many cultures, winter is a time to pause, reflect, and share stories together. Here in the UK, National Storytelling Week falls 30th Jan - 6th February, crossing the mid-point of winter (half way between the shortest day and the spring equinox). Traditionally, this midwinter point has always been a time for festivities; sharing stories and lighting candles. Within the Christian Tradition, we mark "Candlemas", telling the stories of how the child Jesus was recognized as the Light of the World by the prophets Anna and Simeon. It's a festival that brings together young and old, acknowledges grief and challenge, but ultimately looks forward in hope.

So how might you mark this midwinter season this year, with stories, honesty, and new hope?

Is there someone of a different generation that you can **swap stories** with? Perhaps arrange for grandparents to read a bedtime story to their grandchildren over the phone? Or start a letter exchange?

Is there some way you can **acknowledge the grief and challenge of this season**? Many people find journaling a helpful exercise: and, for those of us with faith, this often leads into prayer as we speak honestly to God about our fears and grief, following the example of the Psalmists. You may want to seek out a trusted friend who can listen. Or even arrange a walk with me.

What makes you feel spiritually alive? To help find new hope, try completing this sentence half a dozen times with different endings: "***I feel most spiritually alive when I/we...***"

Then make a 'date' to do each thing at least once between now and the start of Lent – the next significant "Season" of the church year, which starts on 17th February this year.

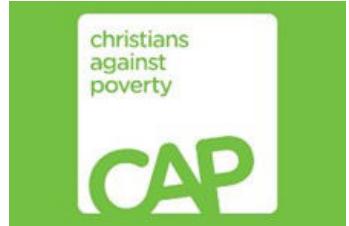
Praying, exploring, and sharing whether we're apart or together

January and February will see us marking Epiphany, Candlemas, Pancake Day, Ash Wednesday, and Lent, as well as fully participating in the life of Northstowe. Exactly how will depend on Covid restrictions. You can find out how to book into any in-person services or events we're running, or how to join us online, by visiting our website. Whether we meet online or in person, we are still here to walk with those of all traditions, supporting each other practically (e.g., litter picks, food banks, friendship) as well as prayerfully.

www.northstowe.church

Revd Dr Beth Cope is your local vicar, available to talk through the Big Questions of life, as well as for weddings, baptisms, and funerals whether you are a regular churchgoer or not. Contact her at Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close, Northstowe (01954 261 181) contact@northstowe.church

From January 2021 Emmanuel Church Northstowe is taking on Jo Scoones as a CAP worker one day a week to help us serve Northstowe better. Here's your chance to begin to get to know Jo.



Jo, what is a CAP?

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) is an international Charity which supports people in debt to become debt free. CAP also runs job clubs and life skills groups to help people make their money go further and to help prevent debt in the first place by securing employment and managing money well.

How will you be serving Northstowe?

I will be working with Emmanuel Church Northstowe to reach out into the community through running CAP groups and working with families or individuals who are in debt.

Who can use the CAP courses and help?

Anyone at all. We work with people of all faiths and none.

What excites you most about starting to work in Northstowe?

Being able to meet the people in Northstowe, to be able to offer a great service, enable people to get out of debt, manage their finances well and be able to move forward in life. In this way sharing the generous heart of God and seeing people becoming free.

If you want help with your debt, contact CAP central directly and they will link you with Jo <https://capuk.org/i-want-help/our-services/cap-debt-help/introduction>

If you want to express an interest in a CAP group (e.g. life skills) you can register your interest by emailing contact@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

Details of our Sunday church gatherings, whether in person or online, can be found at www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

Josh Monteiro (Pastor)



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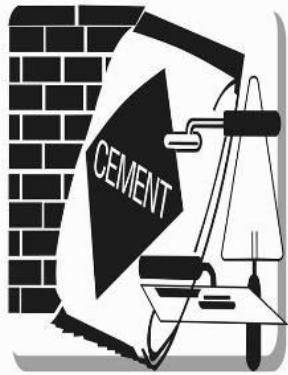
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Valentine's Day Crossword Puzzle

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

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

2



CANDLES BY KAYLEIGH

100% Soy Wax Candles with Wooden Wicks
Hand Poured in Northstowe

Prices start at £5
A range of essential oils and fragrance oils in floral, fruity, warm and sweet scents

Valentines collection coming soon!

Facebook: CandlesbyKayleighx
WhatsApp: 07947701636



WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES

Reception Tel: Willingham 01954 260230 Longstanton 207600 Dispensary 207602

District Nurse Team: 01223 726469 Option 2 Health Visitors: 0300 029 50 50

A&E is not an alternative to a GP appointment. If we are closed, please call 111.

'Lucky squares' Christmas Donations

Thank you to all those that kindly donated to our Christmas charity collection for Magpas. Due to COVID we were unable to manage the lucky squares raffle and hampers this year, but still plan on making our annual donation to Magpas Air Ambulance.

Staff and patient donations have been collected throughout December, and are welcome until the end of January 2021. You can donate via our 'just giving' page and the link can be found on Facebook and the practice website. Cash and cheque donations are also welcome at the surgery. The full amount raised will be announced in the March newsletter. Thank you for your support for this wonderful charity.

Stock up your medicine cabinet for winter

During the winter months patients are reminded to stock up your medicine cabinet with self care essentials.

Many winter illnesses such as colds, sore throats and upset stomachs can easily be treated at home with medicines available at low cost from your local pharmacy or supermarket - no GP appointment or prescription required.

Not only will this help save you time and to feel better quicker, but it will also help save the NHS much needed resources. Self-care essentials include:

- packet of pain relief (paracetamol)
- cold and sore throat remedies
- first aid kit
- thermometer
- upset stomach treatment
- rehydration treatment
- heartburn and indigestion treatment

Your local pharmacist can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets with many open evenings and weekends.

For further information on how to treat common winter illnesses visit www.nhs.uk

What to expect from your video or telephone consultation

The reception team will arrange a telephone call for you with a nurse or GP.

The GP will advise you if they feel a video consultation is appropriate and send you joining details. If you are unsure about using video please request a telephone appointment.

Things to consider ahead of your consultation:

- Please ensure you are ready to accept the telephone/online call at the allocated time
- Find somewhere quiet and confidential to have the call and, if this isn't possible or is tricky, make this clear when you are making your appointment.
- If you would like to have someone with you for your consultation, please ask a family member or friend can join the call with you
- It is a good idea to have a pen and paper with you so you can write down advice or next steps

If the GP or nurse decides they need to see you in person you will be offered a face-to-face appointment at the practice and they will confirm these details with you.

All the staff from Willingham Medical Practice and Longstanton Branch Surgery would like to wish our patients a Happy New Year!

You can still get Advice during Covid-19

We had an Outreach at **Willingham and Longstanton GP**. This is currently suspended, but you can still get help. You can speak to the medical staff for a referral or contact the Advisor directly:

Liz Banks
Cambridge and District Citizens Advice
Email:elizabethb@cambridgecab.org.uk
Phone:01223 222696

Please be patient with all services and staff at this time due to reduced staff and overwhelming number of visitors. The Guidance is always changing; please check online for current advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/>

In addition we've closed all of our face-to-face advice sessions but we are still **Open for Advice** as follows:

- General advice is available via our **Adviceline 0344 848 7979**. This is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm (we now have lots more people answering so it is easier to get through than before)
- You can **email us for advice** or to request a call-back by visiting the website at <https://www.cambridgecab.org.uk/help-advice/get-advice>
- Anyone seeking to make a new claim for Universal Credit should call our **FREE Universal Credit Help to Claim line on 0800 144 8444** (Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm)
- For advice on consumer issues (e.g. issues related to products or services you've purchased, cancelled holidays etc.) can contact the Citizens Advice **Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133 for FREE or chat online to an advisor.**

Clients in need of a **Foodbank voucher** should call or e-mail us. We can send a code-only referral to a mobile phone so there is no need for us to print and you to collect a voucher.

**STAY AT
HOME**

**PROTECT
THE NHS**

**save
lives**