

# NORTHSTOWE

## News

ISSUE 42

DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

By Northstowe's Community – For Northstowe's Community



# NEWS AND UPDATES

## EDITORS' WELCOME

Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Makar Sankranti, Yuletide Blessings, and Happy New Year!

After the lights and excitement of Light Up Northstowe, perhaps you'll enjoy a relaxing walk to see some of the community's Advent Windows, or just take a moment at home to reflect on the best moments of the last year. However you plan to celebrate, we wish for everyone in Northstowe to experience the best of everything this season has to offer.

## WANT TO ADVERTISE IN NORTHSTOWE NEWS?

Over 1900 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.  
Annual discount rates are available.

**Advertising Rates Per Insert (six issues annual discounted rate)**

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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 February / March issue is **January 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 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Blue and Green Bins</b>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Black Bin</b>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Blue and Green Bins</b>
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Black Bin</b>
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Blue Bin</b>
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Black Bin</b>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Blue and Green Bins</b>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>Black Bin</b>
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Blue Bin</b>



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

## NEWS AND UPDATES

Editors' Welcome	2
Household Bin Collections	2
Greenbelt Group	4
Cambridge Carbon Footprint	5
Northstowe Town Council	6
Community Development Officers	7
District Council	8
Member of Parliament	8
Cambridgeshire County Council	9
Smart Journeys	10

## SPORTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Northstowe Cricket Club	12
Bug Hunter Waters parkrun	14
Willingham & Longstanton Surgeries	16
Longstanton Tennis Club	18

## WHAT'S ON IN NORTHSTOWE

Northstowe Arts	23
Northstowe Over 60s Group	23
Heritage Society	24
Northstowe Nature Matters	25
Over Players	25
Northstowe Hub	26
Northstowe Gamers	28
Book Reviews	29
Book Club	29
Hindu Samaj Northstowe	30
Northstowe Muslims	31
Pathfinder Church (Northstowe Church Network)	32
Bethel Revival Church	32
Emmanuel Church	33

## YOUTH AND SCHOOLS

Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	34
Northstowe Youth Hive	36
Friends of the Rosie Maternity Hospital	36
1st Northstowe Rainbows	38
Northstowe Learning Community	38

Front Cover photo by Phil Mynott on behalf of Homes England

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



# HAVE YOU SEEN ANY ADVENT WINDOWS YET?

# JOY

Each evening in December, a newly decorated window will be unveiled somewhere in town, bringing light to the darkness with creativity, colour, and hope.

Whether your JOY is found in singing carols, twinkling fairy lights, time with loved ones, or the Christmas story itself — we'd love you to share it in your window.

- **Last few days left:** sign up at [advent@northstowe.church](mailto:advent@northstowe.church) then decorate your window with the theme of JOY
- Look out the map on our website [www.northstowe.church/advent](http://www.northstowe.church/advent)



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

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

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 Community Forum



**Wednesday 3 December**

Drop in: 6pm | Presentations: 6:30pm  
Western Park Pavilion,  
Peppercorn Drive, Northstowe, CB24 1BF



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

Community Forums are free, open to all, public meetings bringing together residents, planners, developers and other stakeholders to discuss and share information about new development.

**Please note the drop-in and presentation times have changed.**

## GREENBELT GROUP

### THE WONDER OF WILDLIFE

An important part of Greenbelt Group's habitat improvement and management programme is engaging with local communities through school workshops and community education walk rounds, facilitated by our own in-house team.

That's why we recently joined forces with a Badger Group to save a damaged sett and ensure a safe haven for its inhabitants.

Working under licence from Natural England, the nine-person team worked with Sarah Williams, Ecology & Biodiversity Manager at Greenbelt Group, to restore the exposed sett entrance, which had been left vulnerable following anti-social behaviour.



The team carefully reinstated the entrance by installing a protective pipe and covering it with deadwood and leaf litter sourced from the surrounding woodland. This has helped the sett blend back into its natural environment and offers safer access for the local badger population.

"It was a pleasure working with such a passionate group of people," said Sarah. "The improvements to the sett will leave a lasting impact for the badgers. It was a major success story for both the Badger Group and Greenbelt Group."

"We'll be keeping an eye on the badgers and monitoring their activity throughout the year."



The Badger Group is an experienced, volunteer-run organisation providing information and training to members of the public and organisations throughout the country. Its volunteers carry out rescues and surveys, while working to raise awareness of the issues badgers face locally and across the UK.

"It's great to be supported by Greenbelt Group," said the Group's Trustee and Sett Protection Officer. "Not only have they funded our protection works, they lent us their ecologist for the day! We hope this relationship will grow and we will learn from each other."

As the UK's leading land steward company, Greenbelt Group oversees the long-term management of open spaces for more than 80,000 households in 1,000 residential developments nationwide.

"This latest collaboration is a powerful example of how partnerships between volunteer groups and Greenbelt Group can make a real difference to local wildlife," said Sarah. "We encourage Northstowe residents to support or get involved with local groups to help safeguard the future of local wildlife."

As part of our Green By Nature podcast series, we have recorded a special episode with Sarah all about biodiversity and working with endangered species. Simply use the QR code on this page or the following link

<https://audioboom.com/posts/8797430-s2-ep1-habitat-management-with-sarah-williams> to listen for free.

For more information visit [greenbelt.co.uk](http://greenbelt.co.uk)



## CAMBRIDGE CARBON FOOTPRINT

### THERMAL IMAGING FOR A COSIER HOME

#### Cambridge Carbon Footprint



Once again, we're delighted to offer residents and organisations across Cambridgeshire the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free. Join a one-hour online training session to learn how to interpret thermal images, identify draughts, gaps in insulation, and heating problems, to make your home cosier and more energy efficient. Great for homeowners and renters.



**Book free tickets now!**

Wed 3rd December 7:30-8:30 pm  
Wed 7th January 7:30-8:30 pm  
Mon 9th February 7:30-8:30 pm



**"Really useful tool for assessing the home's heat loss and for planning improvements" – Borrower**

**free training and loans**

**December 2025–March 2026**



Thermal imaging can vividly reveal where your home is leaking heat, showing problems with insulation, draughts, damp and more. Our programme offers:

- 3 short online training sessions each year on interpreting thermal images
- 17 thermal cameras available to borrow for FREE from various locations close to you

**BOOK NOW**



A Cambridge Carbon Footprint project, with thanks to our funders and supporters:



We also encourage individuals or organisations to undertake training to survey multiple homes within their community. In 2024, volunteers from communities across Cambridgeshire undertook surveys of 113 neighbouring homes and community buildings.

#### **CAMERA BORROWING:**

We only lend cameras to people who have attended the training. Loan periods are: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, and cameras can be picked up from one of 18 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs, Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire.

**An excellent scheme – very much appreciate the opportunity to borrow the camera –thank you!**

## NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN MAYOR

#### Cllr. Carla Bros Sabrià

I was honoured to be elected as Mayor in October and am delighted to write my first column for Northstowe News! The past few months have brought exciting changes within the Town Council, including new appointments and preparations to expand our responsibilities as Northstowe continues to grow.

Firstly, I would like to thank our former Mayor, Jason Benedicic for his service as Councillor since Northstowe Town Council was established in 2021. Jason has contributed immensely to shape the direction of the Town Council, and we are grateful for his commitment, dedication, and leadership.

Congratulations to Councillor Birr-Pixton, who was elected Deputy Mayor in October, and a warm welcome to the several newly co-opted Councillors who joined us this autumn. Through the co-option process, it has become evident that Northstowe has a very dynamic population with a real drive to contribute to their community. I would like to encourage everyone to stay engaged as we approach May 2026 local elections.

The Council is proud to continue to support Northstowe's winter flagship event, **Light Up Northstowe 2025** event which took place in November. This year, besides the Christmas tree lighting, we also invited a few market traders to offer various products for sale alongside the buzz of all planned activities.

At the time of writing, we are in the final stages of recruiting a new permanent **Town Clerk**. When this issue reaches your doorstep, we should have welcomed the new key member to our team to drive the Council's work and help us deliver for the community.

One of our key priorities for the new year is preparing for the opening and management of our permanent community centre, the **Unity Centre**. The Centre, set to become visible landmark in the Green at the entrance of Northstowe, will feature a welcoming café, co-working spaces, meeting rooms, and flexible areas suitable for conferences, classes, and community events. It will also be available for private bookings. For **booking enquiries**, please contact our Assets and Estates Manager, Huw Walters, who joined the Town Council in September and is leading on the Centre's operational planning.

[Huw.Walters@northstowntouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Huw.Walters@northstowntouncil.gov.uk) or 07943 500315

Finally, our weekly **Community Lounge** sessions continue to run every Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at The Cabin. These are free, volunteer-run sessions offering a warm, welcoming space for all residents, with board games, table tennis, mahjong, and refreshments including hot drinks and donated pastries.

The **Mobile Food Hub** operates every Friday from 10:30 to 11:30 am, in the Green outside The Cabin. It provides fresh produce and essential items, some free and others at below retail prices. No vouchers or referrals are needed, and payment is accepted by cash or card. Everyone is welcome to use the service, whether occasionally or regularly.

If you would like to get in touch, feel free to contact me directly at [cllr.brossabria@northstowntouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.brossabria@northstowntouncil.gov.uk) or email our Locum Clerk [jack.turner@northstowntouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jack.turner@northstowntouncil.gov.uk).

You are also invited to speak at the Council meetings under our Public Participation item on every meeting agenda. Full Council meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Cabin.

#### 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 Welcome 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, Revd Beth of Northstowe Church Network (Pathfinder Church, Little Explorers, Compline) can give vouchers during office hours : 01954 261 181 [contact@northstowe.church](mailto:contact@northstowe.church)

## NORTHSTOWE Community Forums 2026

Find out about ongoing development in Northstowe



4 February  
15 July  
25 November

Drop in: 6pm | Forum: 6.30pm  
Venue: To be confirmed

Community Forums are free, open to all, public meetings bringing together residents, planners, developers and other stakeholders to discuss and share information about new development. The forum is open to everyone including young people/students who live in Northstowe or attend one of the schools. The venue is accessible.

→ [www.scamps.gov.uk/northstowe-forum](http://www.scamps.gov.uk/northstowe-forum)

To join our mailing list, request agenda items or raise questions for discussion, please email the team.

✉ [northstowe.community@scamps.gov.uk](mailto:northstowe.community@scamps.gov.uk)



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Mihaela Stan and Michele Eidevik-Skinner



We have enjoyed hosting, supporting and engaging with community events and celebrations over the autumn months, and are now looking forward to being part of new ones throughout the winter.

### NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUMS 2025

The next Forum will be on Wednesday 3 December at Western Park Pavilion starting with a drop-in at 6:00pm and presentations at 6:30pm (please note these are earlier than previous forums). 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 be broadcasted live on Microsoft Teams. The link will be available on the forum page nearer the time

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-forums/northstowe-community-forum>

### NORTHSTOWE ART SHOW

(supported by the Homes England Community Activation Fund)

We worked with Northstowe Arts on the first Northstowe Art Show which took place at The Cabin (community centre) at the end of September. Over 40 artists submitted a mixture of paintings, ceramics and sculptures, 100 pieces were on display during the event. The preview evening and main exhibition attracted over 200 visitors. Feedback has been very positive, we are hoping to have another exhibition in 2026. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped build and dismantle the display. We really enjoyed being part of the exhibition, it was the first time that either of us had displayed our artwork in a public setting.



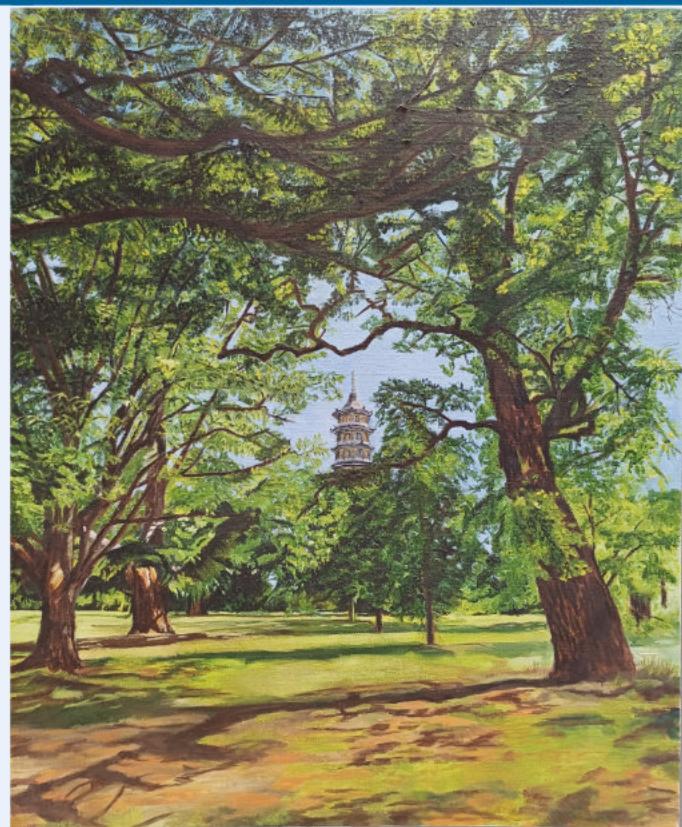
### NORTHSTOWE OVER 60S GROUP, 'COME AND SAY HELLO'

For anyone 60 or over. The group meets every couple of weeks on a Thursday morning in the Café area at The Cabin. It is open to residents from Northstowe, the surrounding villages and anyone interested in finding out more about the area. The next dates are: December 11, January 8 and 22, February 12 and 26, these will also be advertised on community noticeboards and Northstowe Facebook pages.

### YOUNG PARENTS GROUP

This is a new group for parents aged 25 and under with children aged 0-5 years. They meet every Monday at The Cabin in Northstowe from 1pm - 2:30pm. It is free to attend, no booking required. For more information, email:

[childandfamilycentre.south@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:childandfamilycentre.south@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



### DIGITAL ASSISTANCE

The digital assistance sessions are designed to offer support such as using/downloading apps, searching information online, email accounts, filling in and finding forms online and more. Regular digital assistance sessions take place on the first Wednesday of every month 1-2pm at The Cabin.

### COGNITIVE TRAINING FOR THE ELDERLY

Drop-in sessions for elderly focused on preventing cognitive geriatric illnesses with a local volunteer who has experience in cognitive training. Sessions are held every Tuesday 10-11am in the café area at The Cabin.

### MENOPAUSE MEETINGS

The 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 [hello@northstoweswgroup.co.uk](mailto:hello@northstoweswgroup.co.uk)

### NORTHSTOWE PLAYERS

This drama group meet every Thursday at The Cabin from 7pm - 9pm. Please get in touch if you'd like to join the group. Email: [northstoweplayers@mail.com](mailto:northstoweplayers@mail.com)

### HALLMASTER

All room bookings for The Cabin are 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)). We are currently taking bookings up to the end of February 2026.

If you would like to talk to a CDOs, 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)

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

### IAN SOLLOW MP



Member of Parliament for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

#### CUTS TO ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE – DELIVERING OUR PETITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Over the past month, I have received countless messages from constituents concerned about cuts to funding at our local Arthur Rank Hospice. The hospice is set to lose £829,000 in funding from Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH) NHS Foundation Trust due to pressures on its budget, which is allocated by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System. This cut will force the closure of nine out of 23 beds, leaving more than 200 patients a year without access to hospice care and placing further pressure on already overstretched hospital wards.

My Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrat colleagues, Charlotte Cane and Pippa Heylings, and I wrote to the Secretary of State, Wes Streeting, and we visited the hospice itself. We then launched a petition to show the Government just how much the service that Arthur Rank provides means to people locally. The petition gained over 10,000 signatures in its first 24 hours, and at the time of writing that number now sits at over 16,000.

On the 3rd of November, I joined my constituent Vivien, whose husband was supported by Arthur Rank before he died from a rare cancer in November 2024, to deliver the petition to 10 Downing Street. We called on the Prime Minister and his government to restore the cut funding and ensure that all 23 beds at Arthur Rank remain open; to provide long-term, sustainable funding for the hospice's palliative care services; and to properly roll out nationally the move from hospital to community care, with hospices and GPs at its heart.

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition and continues to support our campaign – I will continue to share any updates on its progress on my social media pages.

#### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE FUNDING CUTS AT IMPINGTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

In late October, we heard news that funding would be pulled for the Large Programme Uplift from 2026, which funds the International Baccalaureate Diploma Provision at 20 state schools across the country, including Impington Village College. At a time when the Government was conducting a major review of the curriculum (which has now been published) and has spent much time touting its plans for a "broad and balanced" curriculum, there is a heavy and disappointing irony in its decision to cut funding for one of the broadest curriculum choices a young person can choose.

I visited Impington Village College recently, and they reassured me that they are absolutely committed to continuing to offer the IB after 30 years of excellence, but the loss of £2,400 per student will require difficult decisions about staffing, class sizes, and the breadth of subjects they can offer in the Diploma Programme.

I have raised this multiple times with the Government – writing to the Secretary of State for Education and challenging Education ministers in Parliament at a debate and in Oral Questions. I will continue to do my utmost to press the government to reverse this funding cut, and I will keep staff, students and parents informed of how things develop.

#### GET IN TOUCH

I continue to hold both 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 policy matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at [ian.sollow.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.sollow.mp@parliament.uk)

I also send out a regular email newsletter with updates on my work, which you can sign up to at [www.iansollow.org/emails](http://www.iansollow.org/emails).

## DISTRICT COUNCIL

### CLLR. TOM BYGOTT



Contact: [cllr@bygott.net](mailto:cllr@bygott.net)  
South Cambridgeshire District Councillor  
for Longstanton, Northstowe,  
Oakington and Westwick

#### GREATER CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN

The next consultation for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is due this winter. This has been an extremely long process with the very first consultation being almost 5 years ago.

The government sets the deadline and mandatory targets, and a change in government at the last general election meant that we were hit with changes and higher house building targets. The deadline is very tight with the Local Plan expected to be submitted by December 2026.

We have a tough job ahead of us to meet this deadline and ensure that we get it right. It is important that we have the services and infrastructure in place to support any new developments, and it's really important that these new development sites are in the right places. Our residents must benefit from the plan and have their views heard. We will work to make sure your views are heard by the administration.

#### GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PARISH COUNCILS

If you are from a local community group or parish council, we are encouraging you to make the most of the council's available grant schemes. The GrantGrabber service, <https://funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcambs>, helps you search for available grants – all in one place.

This month, the council launched the Service Support Grants with up to £300,000 per year for eligible local organisations. It's focused on six key areas

- Mental health and wellbeing - £50,000 a year
- Advice services
- Independent living
- Support for the voluntary and community sector
- Cost-of-living support
- PLACE-based Initiatives

For further information on this grant or information on other grants available for a community project from the council, please visit Grants and Funding - South Cambs District Council: [www.scambs.gov.uk/grants-and-funding](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/grants-and-funding)

#### VILLAGE HERO AND COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARDS

At the District Council meeting on October 2nd, councillors debated a proposal from one of my colleagues to reinstate the much-loved Village Hero and Community Pride awards. These awards, which ran for many years until 2017, recognised the exceptional voluntary work done by residents and groups across South Cambridgeshire – from fundraising and caring for neighbours to running community projects and supporting those in need. The Housing Department's had also run a Best Kept Garden competition that was last held in 2019.

The motion proposed reviving the Village Hero and Community Pride awards in 2025/26, with categories for outstanding individuals, community groups, and young volunteers under 25, and invited nominations from parish councils and residents. The ruling group voted against the motion and it was defeated, citing the costs, which were about £1,000 per year, as being "not value for money". In my view, the value of promoting civic virtue and community spirit far exceeds the insignificant and trifling costs involved. In November 2023 the administration approved plans to continue spending £1 million on an upgrade project of the council offices – including painting the walls and fitting new carpets and furniture. The administration also has its "Transformation programme" which by our calculations by March this year, had cost over £10 million yet only saved £1.7 million.

Promoting civic virtue is one of the core functions of local government. Bureaucracy and lavish council offices, on the other hand, are only a means to an end. The penny-wise, pound-foolish nature of modern decision making is one of the many reasons why our civilisation is in decline.

## CLLR. NATALIE WARREN-GREEN



District Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington & Westwick. SCDC Cabinet Member for Environment

Hi Northstowe, what a fantastic summer we've had. In this edition I'm highlighting some consultations for you. Please do have your say:

### DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

The draft Local Plan and supporting evidence has just been published ahead of a public consultation which will run between 1 Dec 2025 – 30 Jan 2026. The Local Plan identifies the need for new homes and jobs, the services and infrastructure to support them, and guides where this development should happen. There is a useful little video to help people understand what the Local Plan is and its importance: *What is a Local Plan for Greater Cambridge?*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa9MrnoELU0>

If you have any questions about the Draft Local Plan, please contact the Planning Policy Team: [localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org)

### ANGLIAN WATER (AW) FEN RESERVOIR CONSULTATION

The third phase of Anglia Water's non-statutory consultation for a new Fens Reservoir DCO commenced on 15 October and will run for 8 weeks until 10 December 2025. It can be accessed here:

<https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents/>



### STREET TRADING

Proposed changes to street trading in South Cambridgeshire aim to help small local businesses work in more places whilst giving local communities more of a say. The District Council has just launched a public consultation into changes that could be made to its Street Trading Policy. The consultation runs until to Monday 24 November 2025.

<https://engage.scamps.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/street-trading-policy-autumn-2025-consultation>



### 'HOW ARE WE DOING?' SURVEY

SCDC has recently launched a new 'How Are We Doing' Survey to give residents, businesses and other stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the Council's services – both positive and negative – to ensure that we are delivering the best services possible. The feedback received will be reported to the Leadership Team and the appropriate teams. If you wish to comment, please use the QR code below or follow this link: [www.scamps.gov.uk/leave-feedback](https://www.scamps.gov.uk/leave-feedback)

Official complaints or service requests should still go through the usual channels.



## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## CLLR. LUIS NAVARRO



County Councillor for Northstowe Division  
FULL COUNCIL

### COUNCIL COMPOSITION

The council has seen changes in group leadership and composition. The Liberal Democrat & Independent Group now holds 33 seats, followed by Conservatives (10), Reform UK (9), Labour (5), Greens (3), and one Independent.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Full Council voted to submit Option A to Government. Other districts are submitting different options, with some internal opposition. The process appears to be driven by central government priorities, with limited weight given to local opinion.

### ADULTS & HEALTH

#### BE WINTER WISE CAMPAIGN

The council's winter campaign offers advice and support for staying safe and warm, including help with energy costs and food vouchers.

#### STAY PROTECTED THIS WINTER – GET YOUR FLU VACCINE NOW

Flu season has arrived earlier than usual this year, and infection rates are already significantly higher than at the same time last year. Health experts warn that this could be one of the most challenging flu seasons in recent years, with the dominant strain causing more severe illness, especially among older adults and those with underlying health conditions.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and those around you. The flu jab is safe, effective, and available for free to eligible groups, including:

- People aged 65 and over
- Those with long-term health conditions
- Pregnant women
- Children
- Frontline health and social care workers

Please book your flu vaccination as soon as possible through your GP, local pharmacy, or NHS booking system. By taking this simple step, you help reduce pressure on our health services and keep our community safe.

Don't wait, get protected today.

### ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

#### FLOOD RESILIENCE CAMPAIGN

The council launched a campaign to improve flood preparedness. More info: Flood Prepare

#### EV CHARGING AT ST IVES PARK & RIDE

Nine solar-powered EV chargers are now available, supporting council services through renewable energy revenue.

### HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

#### NORTHSTOWE UPDATES

##### • Cycle Route: Longstanton to Bar Hill

Progress continues on the cycle route connecting Longstanton to Bar Hill. This will benefit Northstowe residents by improving safe, sustainable travel options and enhancing connectivity between local communities.

##### • Busway Works and Fencing

Speed restrictions are being introduced on the guided busway to improve safety. I am maintaining clear communication with the relevant authorities to ensure that fencing along all busway sections in Northstowe, current and future, is designed to prioritise safety while preserving the town's open and welcoming character.

The fencing is required by the Health and Safety Executive following a court ruling against Cambridgeshire County Council. I am working to ensure that these safety measures are implemented in a way that avoids overly high or imposing barriers.

## SMART JOURNEYS



smartjourneys

Smart Journeys are the Travel Plan Co-ordinators for Northstowe, implementing travel initiatives along with offering sustainable travel incentives to support in reducing the number of private vehicle trips in and around the local area. If you have any questions, or need any travel advice, contact [northstowe@smartjourneys.co.uk](mailto:northstowe@smartjourneys.co.uk). You can also visit the Northstowe Travel website <https://www.northstowe.com/travel> for travel information in your community. Travel updates and news can also be found on the 'Northstowe Community' Facebook page.

### ENTERPRISE CAR CLUB

The Enterprise car hire is back! After a hiatus to replace the Nissan, Smart Journeys in partnership with Enterprise Car Club continue to provide a discounted car hire membership scheme exclusive to Northstowe residents only. Locals have access to a 1-year's membership at a discount price of £10 (from £60) plus £10 free driving credit and 10% off Enterprise Rent-A-Car. The vehicle is located at Longstanton Park & Ride, Station Road, CB24 1DD. Take advantage of this great scheme and sign up now. To sign up go to:

<https://EnterpriseCarClub.co.uk/NSTOWE10> and quote the offer code, NSTOWE10.

### NORTHSTOWE LIFTSHARE COMMUNITY

- Be a Liftshare Legend and sign up now!

Liftsharing (or car sharing) is when two or more people travel together in a car. Smart Journeys have partnered with Mobilityways to provide a platform for residents to share car journeys. The Community Liftshare Scheme enables organised liftsharing by connecting those travelling in the same direction so they can arrange to travel together and share the costs. You can post your journey as either a passenger, driver or both.

By joining you may save hundreds in travel costs every year.

- Access priority Liftshare parking.
- Reduce your environmental impact.
- It's flexible (simply share when you can).
- Guaranteed Ride Home (ensuring you always get home).
- A great way of networking (get to meet new colleagues, neighbours, and establish friendships).

More sign-ups mean more matches. To sign up, scan the QR code or enter the URL [northstowe.liftshare.com](https://northstowe.liftshare.com), to join today.

### FREE BIKE REPAIR SERVICE

Smart Journeys continue to provide free bike repair sessions, exclusive to Northstowe residents. A bike mechanic will conduct a full check of your bicycle and carry out minor repairs on site. The offer is on a first-come first-served basis, and due to limited slots available, it is advised to book early.

The next slots are scheduled on:

- 21st February 2026
- 21st March 2026

The service is held at the Northstowe Cycle Hub, located at the rear car park at Longstanton Park & Ride. To book a place, or for more information, contact [northstowe@smartjourneys.co.uk](mailto:northstowe@smartjourneys.co.uk).

## Ready, set, drive

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Northstowe residents

One year's membership  
**£10** (usually £60/yr)

Free driving credit worth  
**£10\***

Quote offer code **NSTOWE10**

[Join now](#)



\*One year's Standard Annual Plan membership included for £10 (usually and thereafter £60/yr). £10 driving credit, expires after 30 days and can only be applied to time and not for mileage or other fees. Applied once application is approved. For Northstowe residents only. Offer valid until 06/03/2026. For full terms and conditions please visit [www.EnterpriseCarClub.co.uk/offer](https://EnterpriseCarClub.co.uk/offer). ©2025 Enterprise Car Club. NC2301-0825. EH

## Become a Liftsharing Legend today

Add your journey, connect with colleagues, friends, family, or your neighbours, share the cost, the stress, and the playlists!



### Northstowe Liftshare Community

1. Download the Mobilityways app
2. Select 'Join a community' and search 'Northstowe Liftshare Community' to join

mobilityways



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# SPORTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## NORTHSTOWE CRICKET CLUB

### NORTHSTOWE NINJAS WOMEN'S INDOOR CRICKET – JOIN US THIS WINTER!

Looking for a fun way to stay active and meet new people this winter? The Northstowe Ninjas, the women's softball team from Northstowe Cricket Club, would love to welcome you!

The Ninjas are running indoor cricket sessions at Hills Road Sports & Tennis Centre in Cambridge from 7 November to 19 December, New year sessions details to follow later. Sessions are relaxed, social and full of energy – perfect for both beginners and experienced players.

Women of all ages and abilities from Northstowe and surrounding areas are invited to come along. Don't worry if you've never played before – everyone is encouraged to have a go! Free taster sessions are available, so why not give it a try?

Join a growing, supportive community of women who play for fun, fitness, and friendship.

- 📍 Venue: Hills Road Sports & Tennis Centre, Cambridge
- 📅 When: Fridays, 8-9pm  
– 7 November to 19 December



If you have any query or would like to join for a taster sessions, contact: [northstowecricket@gmail.com](mailto:northstowecricket@gmail.com) or DM on Facebook: Northstowe Cricket Club

Northstowe Cricket Club is a friendly, growing community club offering cricket for all abilities. The club has adult and women's teams and is proud to bring people together through the game.

## ADHD + Autistic Ives!



We are a support group in St Ives for autistic and/or ADHD adults and people who know an autistic/ADHD adult.



Are you autistic and/or ADHD like us?



Would you like to meet up with other neurodivergent adults in St Ives?

Do you know a neurodivergent adult and would like to know more about their lived experience?



If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', we would love to hear from you.

Please let us know if you would like to join us at our regular meetings. There are lunchtime and evening meetings.

Thanks,  
Kevin and Sarah



Please email [autisticives@outlook.com](mailto:autisticives@outlook.com)

Do you have or think you have ADHD?  
You are invited to a FREE ADHD Peer Support Group to CONNECT & EMPOWER ADHD adults of marginalised genders NO DIAGNOSIS NEEDED! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Second Thursday of the Month @ 7pm  
Western Pavilion, Peppercorn Drive, Northstowe, Cambridge. CB24 1BF



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## BUG HUNTER WATERS PARKRUN

As the mornings turn frosty and the festive season approaches, Bug Hunter Waters parkrun keeps running every Saturday at 9am. Whether you're chasing a personal best, catching up with friends, or enjoying a winter walk, it's a brilliant way to start the weekend and stay active through the colder months. Each week we welcome around 240 participants, supported by a team of volunteers. Every cheer, click, and barcode scan helps keep our parkrun community thriving.

We're also proud to host 5k Your Way, a support group provided by the Move Against Cancer charity. It's open to anyone affected by cancer — those living with and beyond it, their families, friends, and healthcare professionals. The

group joins us on the last Saturday of each month, encouraging movement and connection. You'll spot them by their blue flag and t-shirts, and they always welcome a friendly hello before or after the event. After the event, they head to the Tap & Social for coffee, cake and conversation. Please spread the word to anyone who might not know, we'd love to see them.

While parkrun events usually take place on Saturdays, the UK has the option to hold extra events on 2 special days in the year. While we won't be running on Christmas Day, we're planning a special New Year's Day parkrun to start 2026.

If you'd like to run or walk, just come along any Saturday and we'll show you how it all works. Under 11s need to stay within arm's reach of their accompanying adult. There's always room for more if you fancy giving volunteering a go too.

You can find us on Facebook or Instagram, or alternatively email us at: [bughunterwaters@parkrun.com](mailto:bughunterwaters@parkrun.com).



### Walking for all in Northstowe

**Social walks are an ideal way to meet old and new friends enjoy the fresh air and get some exercise**

Walks in December and January will be advertised on local Facebook pages and noticeboards in Northstowe They are usually on a Friday morning and start at The Cabin

The Cabin, (Community Centre) The Green, Pathfinder Way, CB24 1FD  
Free to attend - Everyone Welcome

**northstoweswgroup@gmail.com**

### Are you 60 or over?

Would you like to meet other residents and have a chat over a tea or coffee?

If yes, come and say hello on:

- Thursday 11 December
- Thursday 8 and 22 January
- Thursday 12 and 26 February

10am - 11am  
**The Cabin, Northstowe**  
(Community Centre, Pathfinder Way, CB24 1FD)

Meet old friends and make new ones. A lovely place to share information and ideas.

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





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## WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES

Willingham 01954 260230 Longstanton 01954 207600 Dispensary 01954 207602

Website: [www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.net](http://www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.net)

Community (District) Nurses: 0330 726 0077 Health Visitors: 0300 029 5050

### A&E IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO A GP APPOINTMENT

WHEN THE SURGERY IS CLOSED PLEASE CALL 111 FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, OR 999 FOR A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY  
FOR URGENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, PLEASE CALL 111 AND SELECT OPTION 2

## CHRISTMAS 2025 – SURGERY OPENING HOURS

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

Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication. The last date for ordering repeat prescriptions in time for the Christmas holidays is **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. The last date for collection before Christmas is **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** by 4pm at Longstanton Surgery and 6pm at Willingham.

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

## IMPORTANT PATIENT UPDATE

You don't have to join the morning rush to reach us



### Use the NHS App

It's quick and safe to contact us via the NHS App. Switch on app notifications to also receive messages about your care.



### Visit our website

Get in touch via our surgery's website. It's fast, secure and your request is delivered straight to our team.

### Call or visit us

If you cannot contact us online, you can still telephone or visit the surgery. We process all requests in the same way.

As from 1st October 2025, all GP practices in the UK must follow new requirements set out in the GP contract. We are required to make changes to the way our booking system currently operates. This means there are changes to how you will access appointments at the Willingham Medical Practice and the Longstanton Branch Surgery. Please visit our website for further information:

[https://www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/](http://www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/)

## NEW SURGERY OPENING TIMES

Willingham Medical Practice		Longstanton Branch Surgery	
Monday	8am – 6.30pm	Monday	8am – 6pm
Tuesday	8am – 6.30pm	Tuesday	8am – 1pm
Wednesday	8am – 6.30pm	Wednesday	8am – 1pm
Thursday	8am – 6.30pm	Thursday	8am – 1pm
Friday	8am – 6.30pm	Friday	8am – 1pm

## 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.

## 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.

## THINK PHARMACY FIRST!



## WEIGHT MANAGEMENT INJECTIONS

Our GPs are currently unable to prescribe weight management injections directly to our patients. Only a very small number of people will meet the strict eligibility criteria for the initial NHS roll out of this medication. These criteria have been set nationally:

- You have a BMI of 40kg/m<sup>2</sup> or above (or 37.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean ethnic backgrounds)

**AND at least FOUR** out of the following five health conditions which have already been diagnosed by your GP or other health professional:

- Established Type 2 diabetes
- Hypertension requiring blood pressure lowering therapy
- Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
- Obstructive sleep apnoea where treatment is indicated i.e. continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)
- Dyslipidaemia requiring treatment

If you meet these criteria, your GP can refer you to the Tier 3 Weight Management Service provided by Healthy You. Patients not meeting the criteria listed above should not seek referral for Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) at this time.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December** and **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**, at the **Wilford Furlong Centre in Willingham**, where we will be holding drop in sessions **between 2pm and 4pm**. Please come along and get some support from other people in the local community. Refreshments are provided, there's no need to pre-book and it's completely **FREE!** Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month and for more information please contact [alaine.bunce@nhs.net](mailto:alaine.bunce@nhs.net)

**ALL STAFF AT THE WILLINGHAM AND LONGSTANTON SURGERIES WISH OUR PATIENTS  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2026**

*Willingham Medical Practice – December 2025 / January 2026*



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## NORTHSTOWE CHESS CLUB

please email: chessnorthstowe@outlook.com  
if you plan to join

<https://www.northstowechessclub.com>

WHERE: Tap & Social Upstairs mezzanine

WHEN: Every Tuesday September 2025 to May 2026  
7 - 9 pm

3 tables booked  
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## NORTHSTOWE TABLE TENNIS

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Fee: £5/individual £10/family  
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## LONGSTANTON TENNIS CLUB

At Longstanton Tennis Club, we believe that tennis isn't just a ball and a racket; it is a thrilling sport that allows you to build on your fitness as well as making lasting connections and memories. We take pride in our loving community of players and leaders, who work hard to make the club an exciting place where everyone can enjoy the game that they love and get involved in various events such as friendly or competitive matches. The club's competitive teams have had great success, with our men's team winning the Business House League trophy in 2024. Whether you're a beginner or Jannik Sinner, everyone can get involved! We offer weekly coaching sessions for aspiring players of all ages.



### Longstanton Tennis Club

Social & Faster Play – Weekly Schedule  
No Bookings Required — Just Turn Up and Play

● All Abilities Social Tennis  
Open to everyone – relaxed rallies & friendly play!

- Tuesday: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Sunday: 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

● Friday: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
Perfect for casual players!  
Not feeling competitive? This is your time!  
Short sets to 4 games, organised by a club member to group players by ability and ensure enjoyable matchups.

● Intermediate–Advanced / Faster Play

- Friday: 7:00 pm – 09:00 pm  
For players who prefer a quicker pace and a slightly higher standard of play.

We always welcome new members and we're excited to see you on our courts! For more information, visit our website at  
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/longstantontennisclub>



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Instagram: @msscarpentry

## 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 & MINGLE**

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

**YOUNG PARENTS GROUP**

Weekly play session for young parents 25 and under with children 0–5 years. To book email [childandfamilycentre.south@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:childandfamilycentre.south@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) 1pm–2:30pm at the Cabin.

**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)

**ADULT DANCE (£)**

Explore a mixture of dance styles. 17:45–18:35 at Tap & Social. Book: [app.classfit.com/Studio/179657](http://app.classfit.com/Studio/179657)

**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.

**BODYBURN (£)**

Low impact workout. 18:45–19:35 at Tap & Social. To book visit [app.classfit.com/Studio/179657](http://app.classfit.com/Studio/179657)

**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 [malcolmsavannah23@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmsavannah23@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

**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)

**NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ**

Make new friends – Take your time and relax – Meet with others. 4:15pm–6:30pm at NSC.

**FASTBREAK BASKETBALL (£)**

Indoor sessions in the NSC Sports Hall, 12 & Under at 6pm, 14 & Under at 7pm. [northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk](mailto:northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.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 Zugig! 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.

**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.

**1ST NORTHSTOWE RAINBOWS**

For girls aged 4–7, 5:15–6:15pm in Hatton Park School, Longstanton.

**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 & MINGLE**

Bring your latest craft projects and meet up with other crafty locals. 3rd 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 PPFS [www.northstowe.church/little-explorers](http://www.northstowe.church/little-explorers)

**BPHA DROP-IN SESSIONS**

Second Thursday of the month at the Cabin 9:30am–11:30am. To talk about any community matters, difficulties, challenges, suggestions or feedback.

**MICRO LIBRARY**

Drop in at the Cabin any time 9:30–4pm

**THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS**

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

**OVER 60S GROUP**

Meet old friends and make new ones. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays each month, 10–11am in the Cabin

**SLING LIBRARY**

Collection of slings and baby carriers, available to try and to hire. Run by experienced babywearing consultant. 13:30–14:30 at Tap and Social [myyogacorner.uk](http://myyogacorner.uk)

**NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ**

(See Tuesday's entry) 4:15pm–6:30pm at NSC.

**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.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

**SUSTAINABLE NORTHSTOWE**

Making Northstowe a green, clean, biodiverse and interconnected place for current and future residents. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:30pm in Tap and Social. 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.

**ADDAF+ PEER SUPPORT GROUP**

ADHD Peer support group to connect and empower ADHD adults of marginalised genders. Second Thursday of the month, 7pm in WPP

**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. 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 rehearsals - 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****WESTERN PARK JUNIOR PARKRUN**

A free, fun, 2k event for juniors aged 4 to 14. Meet at Western Park near the pavilion (WPP) for a 9am start. Please register at [parkrun.org.uk/westernpark-juniors](http://parkrun.org.uk/westernpark-juniors)

**NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ**

Drop in for a chat, use the micro library and have a drink! 10am-12pm in the Cabin

**PATHFINDER CHURCH SUNDAY MORNINGS**

'Praying, exploring, and sharing' intergenerationally. 9.30am PFPS (Church of England, United Reformed Church, Baptist Union) [www.northstowe.church/pathfinder](http://www.northstowe.church/pathfinder)

**BETHEL REVIVAL CHURCH**

You're warmly invited to join us for our Sunday services. Every Sunday 10am 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)

**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)

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## NORTHSTOWE ARTS

### CELEBRATING NORTHSTOWE CREATIVITY!

What a wonderful start! Our first ever Northstowe Art Show, a collaboration between us and SCDC with funding from Homes England, brought together local artists, neighbours and art-lovers—and we estimate nearly 200 people joined us across the weekend, filling The Cabin with energy, smiles and creative atmosphere. We couldn't be more delighted with how it came together: thanks to every exhibitor for sharing your work, and to all the visitors for making it such a warm and buzzing experience.

And now the exciting part: we're already planning for the next chapter. We're exploring setting up an Art Show committee to help shape future shows, and we're keen to involve volunteers who can help with tasks such as powering our social media & promotion, attracting and managing sponsors, and organising the submission process for participating artists. If you have a little time and enthusiasm for this creative community, we'd love to hear from you.



Photo credit: Ziren Shang Media



Photo credit: Ziren Shang Media

Meanwhile, the creative fun keeps rolling with our upcoming sessions. Our next Northstowe Makers workshop will be on Thursday 11th December, 1-3pm at The Cabin, where we don't yet know the craft but welcome suggestions for what you'd love to try. And for Make & Mingle, note the December dates: Sunday 7th December (10 am at The Cabin), Monday 8th December (10 am at Northstowe Tap & Social), and Wednesday 17th December (7 pm at Northstowe Tap & Social). Bring along whatever you're making and enjoy a relaxed creative session and friendly company.

So thank you once again to everyone involved in the Art Show—and here's to building on that momentum, gathering new helpers, new creatives, and new moments of inspiration. We hope you'll join us in whatever way suits you best.

## NORTHSTOWE OVER 60S GROUP

The Northstowe Over 60s group started in May 2025 and has attracted residents from Northstowe and the surrounding villages. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the café area at The Cabin (community centre on Pathfinder Way) at 10am. It is a lovely way to meet new people and catch-up over a hot drink and snacks. We love chatting about everyday things and hearing about new ideas, local information and experiences. As we find out what people enjoy doing, we hope to expand our activities, play games, have jigsaws, and organise outings etc.

Do come and join us and get to know the more senior members of Northstowe and its surrounding villages. We would like to thank Cognition Land and Water for kindly offering to support the group with funding for refreshments. Our next meetings are Thursday 11 December and Thursday 8 & 22 January. For more information email:

[northstowe.community@scamps.gov.uk](mailto:northstowe.community@scamps.gov.uk)



## HERITAGE SOCIETY UPDATE: December 2025 - January 2026

### *Winter photos of*

#### *Old Longstanton and Oakington Airfield*

#### *- all now within the Northstowe planning area*

As the Heritage Society continues the wait for display and storage of the LDHS Archives within Northstowe, we are aware that the digital photographs in the archives need greater public access. It is important to finalise this work whilst we have access to the historical information that accompanies the photographs. As with all the work undertaken by the Heritage Society, we need greater support and assistance from across our local communities to ensure that this work can be done. Northstowe and the surrounding villages will benefit educationally and culturally from the LDHS Archives if we can successfully establish both local and on-line public access to the material. Consideration will be given to a number of options but we welcome all suggestions and offers of help. This way we hope to produce something of long-term historical and educational importance for residents of (and visitors to) Northstowe, Longstanton, Oakington and surrounding communities.

If you have an interest in local heritage and have the skills and time to help us, please do let us know as soon as you can. You may contact us by messaging us via the LDHS Facebook page.

In the meantime, here are some winter photographs of Old Longstanton and Oakington Airfield. All have been chosen as these areas now lie within the Northstowe planning permission area. A reminder that this designated planning area encompasses land that now lies within both the Northstowe and Longstanton boundaries.



Images all taken during the winter of 2005-2006, except where stated.  
From top to bottom:

*Longstanton Station;  
Manor Farm paddocks;  
main entrance to RAF Oakington;  
H blocks that lay behind the former  
Station HQ;  
the paddock by Long Lane formally  
designated as public open space for  
Northstowe.*

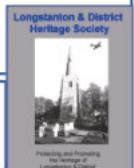


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**SEASONAL  
GREETINGS TO  
ALL NORTHSTOWE  
RESIDENTS AND  
BEST WISHES FOR  
THE NEW YEAR**



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

## NORTHSTOWE NATURE MATTERS

If I was to say to you the words "Fat Hen" you might assume that I am referring to overweight poultry before enquiring why I have started a conversation on such a matter. Actually, the name refers to a common plant that grows wherever people disturb the soil – in gardens, farms and, at Northstowe, building sites and roadworks. I imagine that the name may refer to the plant being useful for fattening up your broilers but it turns out that it was also a good substitute for spinach on human dinnerplates in times past. Nowadays it is pulled up as a weed.

I was asked to lead a nature walk recently for the Northstowe Walking Group and on a chilly, bright October day we gathered together a good crowd of diverse ages – from a baby, children both home-educated and off school on an INSET day, up to folk of advancing years (like myself!). Our first port of call was the new traffic islands at the start of Stirling Road which was where I uttered the two words quoted above. I pointed out that the sea of 'weeds' were an example of how nature floods into any gaps we leave and supports a myriad of animal life. I have since found that I could have added the words 'Plain Pug, Bright-line Brown Eye and Dark Spinach' as examples of three common moth species whose larvae feed on Fat Hen. I love the English common names of our wildlife species!

The next stop on our walk was by the wild area destined for the bulldozer when the time comes to build the commercial district at Northstowe. Much needed employment will ensue but, for now, nature holds sway. I picked some leaves of another 'weed' and invited the walkers to rub the rough, hairy leaves against their skin. "Who has ever been licked by a cow" I asked the throng. A hand went up, "I have" said one of our youngsters. "What did it feel like?" I added. "Like this leaf" he replied. And so we got to discovering that the plant in question was very aptly named 'Bristly Ox-tongue'. What's in a plant name? Quite a lot it transpires.

We ambled on with our end of season ramble and compared natural regeneration of trees with tree-planting schemes and how the latter could look so much more 'natural' if redundant plastic tree-guards were removed. Please Greenbelt, I really appreciate how the grasslands and ditches are managed for nature but could we have a plastic removal day at some point? I would certainly volunteer for such a project.



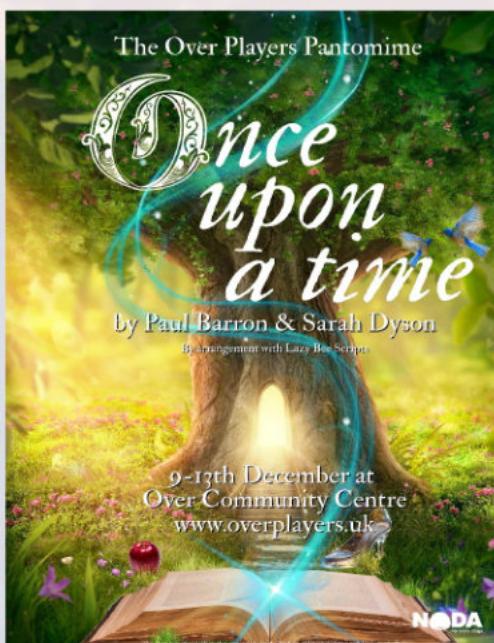
A late season view of a tree plantation.  
Could the plastic tree guards be dispensed with?

As we made our way back to 'The Cabin', along the gravel path behind Eagle Way our hawk-eyed young people excitedly pointed out a small hairy beast trundling alongside our group. As it had been a quiet morning for birds and other animals this was a bonus. Nature is always there (even if depleted in modern landscapes) but often hides its delights. I was glad of something moving to enthuse about and this animal was a caterpillar of the family including the 'tigers' and 'footman' moths. More wonderful names. With its shiny black head and tufts of brownish hairs I am confident that it was a Ruby Tiger Moth. I'll let readers know next edition if the reviewers at the iRecord database (where all my species records are submitted) agree. Anyone can submit their sightings and setting up an account is easy. We can all play a part in protecting nature by gathering knowledge of the whereabouts and abundance of UK species.

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



Ruby Tiger Moth Larva



## OVER PLAYERS

Sound the trumpets! Tickets are now on sale for The Over Players 2025 pantomime: Once Upon A Time.

Panto Land is celebrating the upcoming royal wedding between Cinderella's daughter, Princess Lottie, and Snow White's son, Prince Marvellous. Their union is foretold to break the last hold of darkness forever. Evelyn, a wicked witch in charge of Panto Land, vows to stop the marriage, fearing the prophecy banishes evil from Pantoland forever. But Prince Marvellous embarks on a quest to rescue the princess. Along the way he is helped by many folk from fairy land, all ready to battle against Evelyn's schemes and ensure a happy ending.

Expect magical chaos, theatrical flair, and at least one villain who's possibly a bit misunderstood (and probably just needs a hug).

9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December at Over Community Centre

<https://overplayers.uk/>



## The Hub Café - brewing connection and community! Have you dropped by?

Join us at Northstowe Secondary College on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15pm to 6:30pm, or at the Cabin Community Centre on Wednesdays from 9:00am to 12:30pm and 3:30pm to 5:00pm, and on Sundays from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

**Your community. Your café. Your Hub.  
We'd love to see you!**



### Micro Library @ The Cabin

Exciting changes ahead – Our Micro Library is moving to the brand-new Unity Centre - Coming soon!



**Open to browse from Monday to Thursday 9:30am-4:30pm  
and Sunday 10am-2pm**

## INTERESTED IN BEING A TRUSTEE...

We're seeking new Trustees to help guide our vision, support decision-making, and shape exciting projects and events for local residents.

If you've got ideas, leadership skills, or simply a passion for making a difference – we'd love to have you on board! Could this be you? Get in touch to find out more.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help bring our activities and events to life – from lending a hand at the Hub Café to supporting festivals, projects, and local initiatives.

Whether you can give a few hours a month or help occasionally, your time makes a real difference.

**Northstowe Hub connects people, supports neighbours, and celebrates community spirit.  
Together, we're building a community where everyone belongs.**



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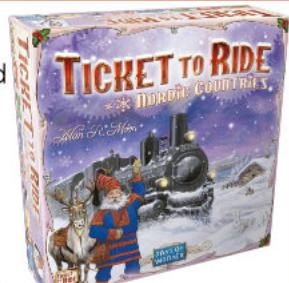
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[Info@odellrenewables.co.uk](mailto:Info@odellrenewables.co.uk)



## NORTHSTOWE GAMERS

It's December and we're rapidly approaching the coldest part of the year. I don't know if we'll get a White Christmas here in Northstowe, but if you want to get a taste of the snow and wintery weather you could do a lot worse than snuggling indoors with a cup of hot chocolate and playing a game of **Ticket to Ride: Nordic Countries**.

This is a game about building up the train network of Scandinavia. Each player starts with a few Ticket cards which name two cities on the map (and you can get more later). Your aim is to build links between those cities using your own train pieces. You'll see that on the board, each route between adjacent sites is drawn with a specific colour. You must trade in cards of the same colour, in order to place your pieces along that route. Only one player can build each link, so if someone else places a route you're interested in, you'll just need to find another way round! Players score points for the links they place, and for the destinations they have joined (but lose points if they take a destination ticket and have not joined those cities by the end of the game!).



*Ticket To Ride: Nordic Countries is designed by Alan R. Moon and published by Days of Wonder*



There are several Ticket to Ride games available, all of them have the same basic rules with a few variations. You may have heard of the series already because it has become very popular (over 18 Million copies sold) and is generally considered one of the most significant "Gateway" games - an excellent introduction to the world of modern tabletop gaming, with simple rules that can be learned quickly but also having enough strategic depth to satisfy seasoned players.

This particular version is very streamlined, with the simplest possible version of the rules. It plays a bit faster than some of the other versions, and seems particularly well suited for two players. They've done a splendid job with the artwork, the snow covered train carriages are very evocative of the frozen North with its fjords and glaciers. Plus you can play as purple, which is oddly popular in some groups!

We would also recommend **Ticket to Ride: Europe** for a slightly longer game with up to five players.



Can you jump straight into the tabletop gaming hobby or do you need to Train first? Find out by joining us from 7:30pm on a Tuesday evening to play **Ticket To Ride: Nordic Countries**, or any of our other games! For details email [northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk](mailto:northstowe.gamers@thecolliers.uk) or search FaceBook for "Northstowe Gamers"

**ANDREW AND SARAH COLLIER**



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*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**

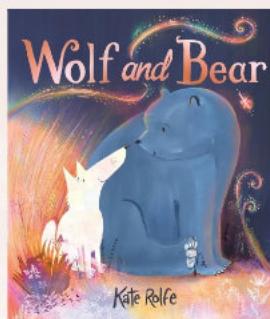


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## BOOK REVIEWS

This month I am reviewing 3 beautifully illustrated picture books purchased for the Microlibrary by Northstowe Hub. To borrow any of these please sign them out in the loans book and date them back in when you return them. Bringing them back promptly ensures that everyone can enjoy them.



**Wolf and Bear** written and illustrated by Kate Rolfe

Wolf and Bear are good friends, but at the moment Bear isn't in the mood to play. Wolf tries to persuade her friend to match her energy, but has to retreat from his aggression and give Bear some space. Wolf is sad without her friend and howls out her sorrow. The song reaches Bear and lifts his mood a little. He still doesn't want to play, but is happy to listen to the song.

This is a sensitive book about how to be a true friend to someone suffering mental health problems.

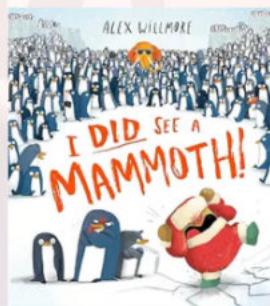


**The Thing at 52** written by Ross Montgomery and illustrated by Richard Johnson

A little girl makes an unusual new friend. The Thing lives on mustard and gravy and seems very lonely. They spend time together, have lots of fun, discover other Things and have a party, but in the end the Thing has to leave.

This is a lovely book about connecting with those who are different, about friendship, saying goodbye and dealing with change. It could have

been a sad story, but the writer ends with a feeling of hope as the girl sees new people move into the Thing's house and she connects with new friends.



**I Did See a Mammoth** written and illustrated by Alex Wilmore

A group of explorers are in the Antarctic studying penguins, but one young explorer decides instead to search for a mammoth. The others explain that mammoths are extinct and didn't live in the Antarctic, but the youngster persists. As his claims become more and more extreme in this hilarious romp, we discover, of course, that he was right all along.

KATHY FOUNTAIN

## BOOK CLUB

Northstowe Book Club has been running since late 2018. We read lots of different genres, children's books, contemporary novels, classics and a wide variety of non-fiction. We would love to welcome some new members. Do feel free to come along regularly, or when a particular book we are reading appeals to you. We meet in different venues in Northstowe, so send a message to find out where we are next month.

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

## NEXT MEETINGS

December 8<sup>th</sup> *The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper  
 January 19<sup>th</sup> *The Happiest Man on Earth* by Eddie Jaku



**A Master of Djinn** by P. Djèli Clark

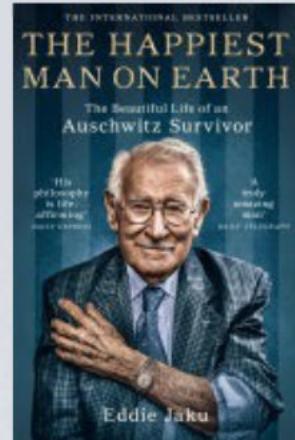
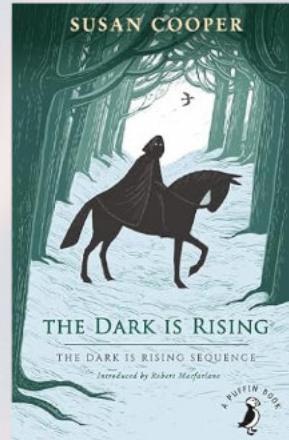
*A Master of Djinn* is an urban fantasy novel following the adventures of Fatma, an agent of the Egyptian Ministry of Alchemy, Enchantments, and Supernatural Entities, as she investigates the mass murder of a secret society called the Brotherhood of Al-Jahiz: admirers of the long-dead mystic Al-Jahiz, who reintroduced magic to

the world. In the process she, her new partner Hadia, and her girlfriend Siti find themselves mixed up in a much larger plot apparently masterminded by a resurrected Al-Jahiz.

The novel is set in 1912, against the backdrop of rising tensions in the run-up to a potential world war which in this world would be fuelled by magic. However, the main focus is on the murder mystery, discovering the true identity of the murderer, and dealing with ongoing social unrest due to the murderer's other activities. It all culminates in an epic magical showdown. Fatma is an interesting and entertaining character with a great deal of depth and dynamic relationships with Hadia, Siti, and the other characters she meets; Hadia rapidly became my favourite character. The worldbuilding is also extremely complex, with a fascinating interplay of magic, steampunk technology, and reality.

The book can be violent and even gory in some places and contains scenes of explicit racism and casual sexism, as could be expected given the time period of the setting. I would recommend it for the older end of YA or adults looking for a tight-knit fantasy adventure based in investigation and mystery.

BECCA EDNEY



## Hindu Samaj Northstowe (HSN)



It's been a wonderful few months in Northstowe, with our community coming together to celebrate Navratri, Sharad Utsav, and Diwali. These festivals brought colour, music, and joy. It reminded us how special it feels to share traditions and celebrate together.

### Navratri (celebrating the Goddess)

For nine evenings, families and friends gathered to celebrate Goddess Durga. Each night followed a different colour theme, creating a sense of anticipation and togetherness. The celebrations ended with garba, music, and aarti



Our Sharad Utsav was a joyful highlight. It's a celebration that brings together diverse traditions from across our shared heritage. With music, dance, and devotion, it beautifully reflected the unity of all Dharmic faiths and the richness of our cultural roots.



This month, we held fun and creative competitions as part of our Diwali celebrations in Northstowe and received some wonderful entries. The winners will be announced in the next edition of Northstowe News so stay tuned!

We also loved taking part in Light Up Northstowe, sharing light and joy with the community. Visit us on Facebook or Instagram to see photos from the celebrations and the beautiful decorations made at our stall!

Wishing everyone a joyful festive season and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year!



## Finding Light and Purpose in the Winter Months

As winter settles in and the days grow shorter, many of us feel the natural pull to slow down and reflect.

The darker, quieter months can be challenging, but they also bring space for rest, gratitude, and renewal.

For the Muslim community, this season offers a chance to deepen our connection with faith and intention. Islam teaches that every action begins with *\*niyyah\**—a sincere intention.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “Actions are judged by intentions.” It’s a reminder that meaning comes not only from what we do, but from why we do it.

While the new calendar year inspires resolutions, setting an intention goes further. It transforms ordinary acts—helping a neighbour, learning something new, caring for family—into purposeful deeds. The stillness of winter is the perfect time to realign our goals and values, whatever our beliefs may be.

At Northstowe Muslims, we find comfort in how faith traditions of all kinds use winter as a time for reflection and compassion. The Qur'an reminds believers that “With hardship comes ease” (94:6)—a message that resonates across communities.

In darker days, small acts of kindness and connection shine even brighter.

As we look ahead, we also begin to prepare for Ramadan, which will arrive at the tail of the winter months.

For Muslims, it is a season of spiritual renewal, self-discipline, and community unity. Northstowe Muslims are planning a meaningful programme for this special time, aiming to spark a spiritual renaissance within our growing community and strengthen the bonds that unite us all.

We extend our warmest wishes to everyone in Northstowe—whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, the New Year, or simply spending time with loved ones. May this season bring peace, light, and togetherness to all.

## BETHHEL REVIVAL CHURCH

EMBRACE | SURRENDER | SHINE



"Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind." Psalm 66:5

This Christmas season, discover the greatest gift of all, "Jesus" at Bethel Revival Church. As we approach the end of this year and prepare to enter 2026, no matter what you are seeking or missing: resolution in relationships, physical healing, deliverance, love, peace, family, a secure future, remember that nothing is impossible for the Lord. Trust Him, and He will never fail you.

We are a new and small fellowship but we are passionate about one thing: to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to be complete in love toward each other so we can serve the Lord together, grow together, and belong forever within God's family.

Every service, every song, and every prayer is an expression of our worship to our God who has done so much for us, who continues to hold us in the palm of His hand and when he steps into a heart, everything changes.



You are invited and welcome:

- If you've ever wondered if God is real
- If you feel distant, lost, or tired
- If you've ever longed for peace, purpose, or love,
- If you've been a mature believer for years or have lost your first love for God.
- If you never stepped inside a church before
- If you have recently moved to Northstowe and are looking for a born-again church.

Join Us every **Sunday** at 10:00 am- 11:30 am

at **The Cabin**, Pathfinder way, Northstowe, CB24 1FD.

Please contact us to know about our midweek services as well as our Christmas and New Year Service.

Contact us at: [bethelrevivalchurchuk@gmail.com](mailto:bethelrevivalchurchuk@gmail.com) or Visit: [bethelrevival.com](http://bethelrevival.com)



## NORTHSTOWE CHURCH NETWORK

*praying, exploring, and sharing*

Registered Charity Number 1206577



T 01954 261 181 E [hello@northstowe.church](mailto:hello@northstowe.church) W [www.northstowe.church](http://www.northstowe.church)

From **Harvest** gifts shared with the Foodbank to songs around the campfire, tasty treats at **Apple Day**, School visits, **All Hallows' Eve** fire and creativity, and moments of quiet by the lake at **Remembrance** — thank you to everyone who's joined us this season. Together we've celebrated life, remembered with love, and glimpsed the light that still shines in the darkness.

Now, as nights draw in, **Northstowe's Advent Windows** will soon begin to glow — celebrating what brings us **JOY** one window at a time.

As **Christmas** approaches, everyone's warmly invited to our festive gatherings: moments of wonder, reflection, and community for all ages.



### Friday 19th December (on the Green)

- 7-7.45pm: **Northstowe's Beer and Carols** led by the Northstowe Chorus and Brass Band around the Christmas Tree on The Green, with Food and Drink trucks (5-8pm),

### Sunday 21st December (at Pathfinder Primary)

- 9.30am: **Scratch Nativity** Adults and children alike are invited to come dressed as a Nativity character

### Christmas Eve: 24th December (at Pathfinder Primary)

- 6pm **Christingle** - A moment of candlelit wonder
- 11.40pm-12.20am **Midnight Campfire Communion**

### Christmas Day: 25th December (at Pathfinder Primary)

- 9.30-10.30am **Christmas Celebration** with pastries, carols, and storytelling

[www.northstowe.church/christmas](http://www.northstowe.church/christmas)



## PATHFINDER CHURCH

*praying, exploring, and sharing*

Sundays 9.30-11am  
The Pathfinder School

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



## LITTLE EXPLORERS

*time for you, your child, and God*

Thursdays 9.15-10.45am  
The Pathfinder School

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



## COMPLINE COMMUNITY

*stop, breathe, and pray*

Thursdays 8pm  
Local Homes

Contemplative gatherings, alternating between poetic prayer evenings and spacious discussions, with regular communion meals

## The Christmas we didn't expect

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas, but how would you feel if we said that we also hope you don't get the Christmas you expect? The Christmastime people look forward to is full of good things. But we believe that God wants to give you something even better: himself. So, we invite you to join us at any of our Christmas services in thinking about, "The Christmas we didn't expect."



*We warmly invite you to join us at our Christmas services this year.*

**Sunday 14th December, 4:30pm at  
St Andrew's Church, Oakington  
Traditional carol service**

**Sunday 21st December, 10:30am at  
Northstowe Secondary College  
Family carol service with children's crafts**

**Sunday 25th December, 10:30am at  
Northstowe Secondary College  
A short, informal Christmas morning service**



*'An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'*

Matthew 1:20-21

**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

Team Rector:  
Rev'd Stephen Dove  
serving Longstanton, Over, Willingham and Swavesey.  
T: (01954) 203459 E: [admin@5folds.org.uk](mailto:admin@5folds.org.uk)



### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr. Simon Blakesley  
St Laurence's Church, 91 Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1XB

Phone: (01223) 704640

Live streaming available.

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

1st Friday of each month, House Mass locally 7.00pm.  
Please ring on above phone number for details of where this is being held.

## YOUTH AND SCHOOLS

### SQUIRRELS, BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

We are very excited to announce the launch of a new section at 1st Northstowe: a Squirrel Drey. Squirrels is a new branch of Scouting for children aged 4 to 6 years old, and will be focused on learning, outdoor adventures and making friends.

Over the Autumn, we have had plenty of new Beavers settle in, with sessions on Diwali, computing and a visit to Pets at Home. We have also had a fantastic visitor come to talk to us as part of our disability awareness badge. In September, many of the Beavers had a brilliant time testing their limits at Clip n' Climb, with an evening climbing session, film night, sleepover and then another session of climbing in the morning! This was their first sleepover for many of our Beavers, and they were excellent representatives of 1st Northstowe.



Cubs have also been trying some new skills, planning and cooking up a two-course meal as part of their Chef's badge.



At the time of writing, we are in the final stages of preparation for a joint sleepover at the National Space Centre for both Cubs and Beavers. Everyone is very excited to explore the centre by torchlight and try some experiments. Cubs will be following this up with a visit to the Institute of Astronomy, where they will hopefully be able to do some stargazing (fingers crossed for a clear night!). You may also have spotted members from all our sections representing the community at the Remembrance Ceremonies at both Northstowe and Longstanton.

This term, Northstowe Scouts have taken part in a mix of creative, outdoor, and community activities. They cooked fish over campfires, built planters at the Northstowe allotments, and tried their hand at soap and pumpkin carving. The Scouts celebrated Diwali with a guest-led session and made poppy woggles ahead of the Remembrance Day parade. They also joined the Northstowe Running Festival, went to gliding camp in September, and completed a troop night hike. The next night away will be a winter sleepover early next year.

We are still actively recruiting keen volunteers to enable more children to join the Scouting movement. This could include becoming a trustee or supporting the running of sessions. Please contact [info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk](mailto:info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk) to find out more about volunteering with us.



## Emmanuel CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

**IGNITE**  **RESOLVED** 

The Youth Groups of Emmanuel Church Northstowe meet on alternate Sunday evenings during school term time for fun, food, games and Bible teaching. Please see the church website for more details.  
[www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org](http://www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org)

### LITTLE EXPLORERS

NORTHSTOWE

[www.northstowe.church/little-explorers](http://www.northstowe.church/little-explorers)  
[contact@northstowe.church](mailto:contact@northstowe.church)





**LITTLE EXPLORERS**  
NORTHSTOWE  
[www.northstowe.church/little-explorers](http://www.northstowe.church/little-explorers)  
[contact@northstowe.church](mailto:contact@northstowe.church)

**Time  
for you,  
your child,  
and God**

Thursday Mornings  
at The Pathfinder CofE Primary School  
9.15 - 10.45 am  
starting with breakfast

For babies,  
Pre-schoolers,  
and their  
Parents or  
carers.

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**E-mail: elinadp@yahoo.com**



Fifteen young people from Northstowe have transformed a plain storage unit near the sports pitches into a vibrant street art mural — designed and painted with Splash and Dash Creations.

The project began when the group made their own video to apply for funding, then worked together to shape a design inspired by what it feels like to grow up in a half-built town — surrounded by mud and scaffolding, yet full of high hopes for the future.

Their mural celebrates Northstowe's story: the former golf course and RAF base, the wildlife and school logo that connect so many families, and the joy of being outdoors (especially on dog walks!).

Supported by the Northstowe Youth Hive and Romsey Mill, with Cambridgeshire County Council funding, this colourful collaboration shows what happens when young people help shape the place they call home.



The Northstowe Youth Hive was established to ensure that the voices of young people in Northstowe are recognized. Our mission is to unite youth from various backgrounds, cultures, and identities, fostering an environment where they can enjoy themselves, grow, and make a positive difference. Read more: [www.northstowe.hub/youth](http://www.northstowe.hub/youth)



## NORTHSTOWE YOUTH HIVE

Could you be our next treasurer and help secure more opportunities like this?



## FRIENDS OF THE ROSIE MATERNITY HOSPITAL



We wish all our customers and supporters an enjoyable winter and the run up to Christmas celebrations with the family

With your help we are raising money to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. So far in 2025, with your help, we have raised £600.

We are sharing our extensive catalogue on our RosieinStitches facebook page so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts and warm clothing and accessories for special friends and family. By using our online store you will be avoiding the crowded shops and keeping yourself safe. You can shop for new items at [www.rosieinstitches.org.uk](http://www.rosieinstitches.org.uk) or donated items in our rosieinstitches2010 eBay charity store, and vintage knitting patterns on our facebook page. Please take a look at our extensive selection of jumpers and cardigans ideal to keep babies and children up to 4 years old toasty and warm through the winter using coupon sleeves50. If you don't find what you are looking for we do accept commissions.

For all your other online shopping, please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to The Friends of the Rosie Hospital, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! This means you can raise FREE donations for The Friends of the Rosie Hospital no matter what you're buying.

If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. Some stores are now donating when you shop in store in person, follow the instructions on the app. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forh>

Our next in person stalls are at:

**Longstanton Community Market**  
on Saturday 29th November New time 12pm to 3pm  
Usual spot on the village green

**Bar Hill Community Market**  
on Saturday 6th December 2pm to 6pm  
in the Church Octagon

**South Cambs Indoor Christmas market**  
on Sunday 7th December 10am to 4pm  
Cambourne Village College

**Waterbeach Community Market**  
on Sunday 21st December from 10am to 3pm  
at the Old Barracks

THE FRIENDS OF THE ROSIE MATERNITY HOSPITAL ADDENBROOKES NHS TRUST - 1036092 are registered with the Benefact Group. The Benefact Group Charity Heroes Awards celebrate amazing individuals and organisations. Benefact Trust's purpose is to make a positive difference to people's lives by funding, guiding and celebrating the work of churches and charities; empowering the most vulnerable and giving people, communities and places a renewed opportunity to flourish.

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters, join our committee, provide transport for our volunteers or display a small selection of our wares. If you would like to donate some of your spare time check out our website's volunteering page for some ideas.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all the very best for the winter.

Stay safe

Avril Williams  
07493692010  
[avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk](mailto:avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk)

and Jo Hall  
01954 780304

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Somersham, Cambridgeshire PE28 3EH



## 1ST NORTHSTOWE RAINBOWS

It's been a busy start to the year for 1st Northstowe Rainbows. We've welcomed four new Rainbows and a young leader to our unit, bringing the total up to seventeen girls and four volunteers. This term we have been working towards our First Aid badge, learning how to care for minor injuries, how to contact 999 in an emergency, and about the importance of hand hygiene. We have also taken time to enjoy the season: Unit Helper Vindhya talked to us about Diwali and helped us to make some lovely lanterns. We also enjoyed getting outside and collecting leaves for some art work.

We're looking forward to making gifts and cards as part of the new Present Maker interest badge later in the term, celebrating Saint Andrew's day, and (of course) earning more badges and awards.

If you'd like to come and join the Girlguiding family, visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/> to find out how you can help us.



As we move through the first term of the academic year, there's a wonderful sense of energy and excitement across the Northstowe Learning Community. From our youngest pupils settling into Reception to our Sixth Formers preparing for life beyond school, it has been a term full of learning, growth, and achievement.

### NORTHSTOWE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Back in September, we were delighted to welcome 21 new Reception pupils, bringing our total number of children to 51. It has been such an exciting time getting to know our four- and five-year-olds, setting up inspiring learning spaces, and establishing new routines. The children have settled beautifully, making friends, and embracing their daily phonics lessons with Mrs Huggins.

Our Year 1 pupils have also made a great start to the year with Mr Aguda, building on everything they learnt last year. In October, we were thrilled to meet families interested in joining us next September at our Primary Open Evening.

Highlights of this first term for the Reception and Year 1 children have been:

Reception pupils explored The Everywhere Bear through storytelling, drama, and a fun science investigation into which materials are waterproof.

Reception pupils created colourful string prints in art and developed independence by changing for PE for the first time.

In Year 1, children learned how to write clear instructions through the book How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth, using "bossy verbs" and command sentences.

Year 1 children experimented with monoprinting in art, using carbon copy paper to create imaginative mark-making designs and unique prints.

We look forward to welcoming more children to Northstowe Primary School as it grows. If you are a parent or carer of a child who will turn five in the school year 2026-27, please do come and join us.



## NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE



This September, we were proud to welcome 168 new Year 7 students to Northstowe Secondary College. Our Year 6 Open Evening saw a fantastic turnout, with over 240 families visiting to explore the school. It was especially heartwarming to see so many of our current students volunteering as guides and ambassadors for their school community.

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

It has been great to be able to get some of our students out on some trips and visits already this year. Our GCSE Geographers enjoyed a memorable field trip to Iceland, where they visited glaciers, volcanoes, black sand beaches, and even saw the Northern Lights! We are looking forward to more trips as we get further into the year.

As the festive season approaches, our Performing Arts department have been working hard to prepare for our winter showcase on the 11th December, and for our upcoming musical, Back to the 80s, in February. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to see the shows.

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



## NORTHSTOWE SIXTH FORM

We were delighted to welcome 70 new Year 12 students in September, taking our total to 115. Our new students have settled brilliantly, embracing Sixth Form life, and helping represent us at post-16 events across Cambridgeshire.



Our Year 13 students are making the most of their final year, working hard, supporting one another, and planning for life beyond Sixth Form. They are preparing for mock exams in early December and are now beginning to refine their plans for what comes next, whether that's university, an apprenticeship, a gap year, or employment. It has been wonderful to see students make new friends, and continue to uphold the welcoming, family feel that defines our Sixth Form community.



We recently held our Sixth Form Open Evening in November, which was a great success, and we are so proud of our students who helped showcase everything our Sixth Form has to offer. For any Year 11 students reading this, the deadline to submit MyChoice16 applications is Tuesday 13 January 2026. We hope that the applications received reflect the enthusiasm and dedication our students demonstrated during the event.

Overall, it's been a fantastic start to the academic year across all three phases of the Northstowe Learning Community. We're so proud of our students' hard work, enthusiasm, and achievements so far.

Here's to an exciting and successful year ahead for all our Northstowe learners, from our youngest Reception pupils to our Year 13 students progressing through their final year.

We wish our families a joyful festive season and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.



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