

# *Northstowe News*

By Northstowe Community – For Northstowe Community

Issue 18

*November / December 2021*

## Seasonal Festivals of Northstowe

Onam, Christmas, Advent,  
Chanukah, Remembrance



... plus News and Updates  
from all Northstowe's  
social clubs and groups

# News and Updates

## EDITORS' WELCOME

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Shubh Diwali, and Season's Greetings. In this issue we're glad to celebrate all kinds of traditions and festivals, from Onam to Advent , Hanukah and Christmas – all coming to Northstowe from around the world.

Because Northstowe is a brand new town, everybody who lives here has necessarily moved from somewhere else. Whether you've come from a neighbouring village or from another continent, we hope you find Northstowe a warm and welcoming place to call home. We love to see Northstowe become a town where everyone can feel included and not isolated, where diverse people can learn from each other and embrace the things that make each person unique. In the words of former President of Argentina, Mauricio Macri, "There is more that unites us than divides us".

## Want to advertise in Northstowe News?

Over 1000 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*)

Ad Size	B&W Only	Colour
<b>Eighth Page</b> 95 mm x 64 mm	<b>£18 (£97)</b>	<b>£23 (£124)</b>
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<b>Full Page</b> 194mm x 269mm	<b>£144 (£776)</b>	<b>£184 (£992)</b>
<b>Full Page Prime Position</b> 216mm x 303mm	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£240 (£1296)</b>

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

The submission deadline for the January / February issue is **December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

*The printing and distribution of this magazine was supported, in part, by the National Lottery Community Fund and the Northstowe Developers Community Fund.*

## HOUSEHOLD BIN COLLECTIONS

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Blue and Green Bins</b>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Black Bin</b>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Blue and Green Bins</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Black Bin</b>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>Blue and Green Bins</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Black Bin</b>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Blue and Green Bins</b>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>Black Bin</b>



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



## A WINTER FESTIVAL IN NORTHSTOWE

Northstowe's community groups and organisations are coming together this November and December in a celebration of all that is wonderful about winter! From lantern parades and community carol singing, festive food trucks and sustainable toy swaps, to the Christmas lights switch-on on the Green, we hope you'll join us to celebrate in your own way across the festive period.

You can find the latest information about all the events, including any changes needed due to covid restrictions, at [northstowewinterfestival.co.uk](http://northstowewinterfestival.co.uk).

Already confirmed events include lantern-making workshops with Northstowe Arts during November; Diwali celebrations with Northstowe Jashn; the Christmas lights switch-on organised by Northstowe Town Council on Saturday 4th December, including a Santa's Grotto with Northstowe Social and food and drink trucks from Northstowe Foodies; a Christmas craft fair at Pathfinder School; Emmanuel Church's nativity and traditional carol services; swap events from Sustainable Northstowe; and community and campfire events from Pathfinder Church.

With more events still being added, head to [northstowewinterfestival.co.uk](http://northstowewinterfestival.co.uk) to find out more!

## REDUCTION OF BUSWAY TICKET PRICES

If you are using the Guided Busway to travel either to Cambridge or to St Ives, then you may be interested in the new Flexi tickets which have just been introduced by Stagecoach.

You can buy bundles of 5 or 10 tickets, which are similar to the Dayrider tickets and allow unlimited travel in the Cambridge MegaRider Zone – but these Flexi tickets also are valid on the Busway between Cambridge and St Ives bus station.

A Flexi 5 ticket costs £18, and a Flexi 10 costs £31.50. If you travel into Cambridge five days a week, the Flexi 10 is 37% cheaper than buying two weeks of "Cambridgeshire Plus" 7 Day MegaRider tickets at £25 each, and if you travel irregularly it's even better value because each bundled ticket can be individually activated on any day within 12 months.

For more information on the new ticket type, how to purchase, where these can be used and T's and C's, visit: [www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/east/new-flexible-bus-tickets](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/east/new-flexible-bus-tickets)

## MISSING MAIL?

There have a couple of posts recently on the Northstowe Pioneers Facebook page regarding missing post deliveries.

Royal Mail have informed us that they cannot raise an issue on a community level - instead, each individual household will need to contact them on 03457 740 740 to raise a complaint.

Please do report if you have not received your mail. Only if enough complaints are raised will Royal Mail pass the information on to their Security team to perform an undercover investigation.

## TRADERS WARNING

Unfortunately we've been contacted by some readers who paid for gardening services from a company that had advertised in the Northstowe News, but the company neither completed the work nor returned the deposit.

If anything similar has happened to you, please get in touch ([northstowenews@gmail.com](mailto:northstowenews@gmail.com)). We regret that Northstowe News cannot offer legal assistance, but there may be some benefit in connecting customers of the same companies, and where there is a pattern of non-delivery we will avoid printing their adverts in future.

## GREENBELT LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

On the 5th October the community was invited to meet with their new



Landscape Management firm, Greenbelt. Greenbelt are taking over, from L&Q, the maintenance and management of green areas in Northstowe. These areas may include the sports pitches on Western park, play areas, amenity public open spaces such as "the Green", bowling green, kingfisher pond, the drainage ditches and street lighting. Greenbelt will be responsible for all maintenance including repairing after graffiti, clearing up dog fouling and replacing dead trees. We, as residents, will be billed for these maintenance costs; the total bill is not confirmed as it will depend on the amount of repair needed but is estimated to average £100-120 a year. Residents will receive their first bills this November.

When Greenbelt take over from L&Q they will assess the state of the green areas, and at this point residents will not be charged for any replacement of dead trees and plants. Any subsequent damage or dead plants will be billed to residents for replacement. Annual management charges will increase with inflation and you should have been told about this by your developer/solicitor when you bought your house.

Greenbelt pride themselves on high quality services and their contractors will visit fortnightly to carry out maintenance and repairs. Monthly inspections will also happen and Greenbelt are keen for residents to point out problems should they occur. They pride themselves on diversity and good wildlife management and are aware of the controversies surrounding Kingfisher pond. They are also keen to support community events and organisations such as the horticultural society.

The waterparks are not currently part of their contract, and there is a possibility that these areas may be taken over by Anglia water – particularly as residents are keen to have outdoor swimming at one of the lakes in phase 2.

If you are concerned about the amount of vandalism or dog fouling in Northstowe please join the Neighbourhood Watch, who have a facebook page and are keen to tackle these issues. If you spot someone vandalising Northstowe please report to the police, not Greenbelt.

## NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Hi Northstowe!

The Phase 1 water park officially opened in September, welcoming the Northstowe Running Festival as their first public event. The festival was a wonderful celebration of the community, with over 550 runners taking part across the 10k, 5k and Family Mile events, alongside group stalls and food trucks which kept us all entertained throughout the day, with lots raised for community schools. Marcin Lis did an amazing job organising the festival and we're looking forward to seeing it grow even further next year, with the addition of the first Northstowe Half Marathon!

At our September meeting, we agreed to form a working group with members from both Northstowe Town Council and Longstanton Parish Council on the continuing issues around water levels in Longstanton and the ecology of our local ponds. It is clear that around phase 1, the water levels in the gravel seam are still substantially below where they should be, and we are conducting a data-driven study to understand the causes of this and what can be done to mitigate the problems. In addition, the levels of vegetation in the Kingfisher Pond are causing excessive uptake of water, drying it out even further. We will be providing input into SCDC's action plan to understand the causes of the water level drop and restore the pond to an ecologically sustainable state which will remain a habitat with rich biodiversity in the long term.

The Events and Markets committee of the council has formed a working group to help develop a pilot market for Northstowe. To help us understand what you'd most like to see, look out for the survey coming through your door soon, as well as drop-in sessions with councillors on the Green over the next month. Thinking ahead to events occurring towards the end of the year - for Remembrance Sunday, we are planning to carry out an Act of Remembrance ceremony (led by Revd Beth Cope) and wreath laying at the water park on 14th November, with the wreaths then being taken across to the war memorial in Longstanton. We are also working with Northstowe Arts on a Northstowe "Winter Festival" of events throughout November and December, including the Christmas tree lighting-up on the Green on 4th December. More information about these events to follow!

Members of the public are always welcome at our meetings - full council is on the 4th Wednesday of each month (3rd Wednesday in December) at the Community Wing. Let me ([cllr.owen@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.owen@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk)) or Mark ([townclerk@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk)) know about anything you'd like to bring to our attention!

**Cllr Richard Owen**

... And hello from your new Clerk!

Hello everyone; my name is Mark Nokkert, your new Clerk to Northstowe Town Council. I started in August and - by the time you read this - I hope to have at least one foot properly under the table, so to speak.

The job is very varied, certainly as I am the sole employee to the Town Council at this stage. Undoubtedly the staff team will grow in the future, along with the continuous expansion of the town and more funds coming in (through the precept, the 'parish element' of your Council Tax) and through other income streams such as developer funds and grants that the Council may pursue.

I appreciate not everyone may understand what a Town Council does, let alone the Clerk. So, in a nutshell this is what I do on a day-to-day basis: I deal with the management of the Council's business and ensure legal compliance with all relevant laws and regulations (HMRC; payroll; health and safety; etc); administer all internal and external communications, such as the Council's comments made on planning applications; prepare and coordinate and follow-up on decisions made at all Full Council and Committee meetings; draft new policies and carry out other research where needed; advise the Council on its duties and powers; advise the Council on financial matters, manage and prepare budgets and report on financial transactions; coordinate Councillors' representation and join in at a number of external partnerships; and lead on website, social media and other community engagement (such as this article!). And those are just the core roles as a Clerk.

For now, I try to keep all the plates spinning. One of the things I keep up is the Northstowe Town Council website: the Council's aim is to use this to promote what is happening across Northstowe, and I endeavour to regularly add information on the News section – see [https://www.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk/News\\_38183.aspx](https://www.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk/News_38183.aspx) – about the Town Council and our many partners' work that may be of interest to Northstowe residents.

You may see me out-and-about, so by all means ask me questions when you do. Or email me at [townclerk@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk) for any ideas, questions or concerns you may have. You can also find me and contact me through our Facebook and Twitter accounts. You are also more than welcome to sit in any of the Council's meetings, for details see [https://www.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk/Your\\_Council\\_38184.aspx](https://www.northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk/Your_Council_38184.aspx)

I look forward to meeting you.

<https://twitter.com/NorthstoweTC>

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

**Mark Nokkert, Town Clerk.**

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

We're now well into autumn with wonderful colours but fading light at either end of the day. Please take care with changing road and path conditions and set out to travel safely wherever you go.

Here is my update of County Council matters at the time of writing in September:

**ACTIVE TRAVEL:** One of my priorities for Northstowe is to look at the active travel as a part of our Healthy New Town strategy. As most roads and paths will not be adopted by the County Council until 2026, we will be looking at safe walking and cycling routes in and around Phase 1 and 2. Over the last few months I have met with County Council colleagues in the Transport Development and Strategy team, Road Safety team for Education and Think Communities. One of our biggest hurdles we believe is changing the behaviour of residents that currently park their cars on cycle paths. We will be looking to capture resident's feedback in the coming months via a pop-up event.

**WILSON'S ROAD PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY** section from the bridge to A1307. Concerns were raised by representatives of local equestrians and Longstanton Parish Council in May over the proposed surfacing of this public bridleway. We the new administration agreed to upgrade the surface that was recommended to a new surface used successfully by The Lake District National Park, a World Heritage Site, and the methodology of the new surface is compliant with British Horse Society published guidance. The new surface will benefit the local community and be truly inclusive for all abilities of walkers, ramblers, cyclists, wheelchair users and pushchairs. This will allow families to enjoy leisurely walks, ride their horses and cycles thus promoting health and wellbeing, as well as being a practical route for journeys to and from the area. It will also be more accessible and improve the connectivity and will join all the planned Non-Motorised Users within the area for a circular route to/from Bar Hill, Longstanton, Northstowe and beyond to Eddington and Cambridge. Work should have been completed by mid-October depending on the weather.

**JOINT ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** The new County Council Joint Administration has been taking stock of the council's financial position and ways of working. We are examining how to go forward with less income and a continuing need to 'make savings' while dealing with inflation and the economic costs of Covid to the council. Our job as a council is to provide the best possible services for our residents. The next round of committee meetings is in September, and all meetings are live-streamed <https://www.youtube.com/user/CambsCountyCouncil>

**DECENTRALISATION OF SERVICES:** One of the new Joint Administration's major commitments is to decentralise council services, making decisions closer to communities. This might include

Joint decision making with other local councils, local communities, voluntary and faith groups; to identify priorities how best to deliver to them.

Service relocation to within the heart of communities where there is an evidenced need.

Delegation of funding, service delivery, and/or decision making. A progress report will be made to the December meeting of the Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee.

**FOSTER CARERS:** Cambridgeshire County Council needs more foster carers. Fostering means caring for one or more children or young people in your own home when they are unable to live with their family. Foster carers provide a safe and secure home for children and young people of all ages, and come from a wide range of ages, cultures and backgrounds. Becoming a foster carer normally takes four to six months. Foster carers could earn up to £44,720 plus benefits for looking after two children aged eleven or over, subject to experience, training, and assessment. Further details:

<https://tinyurl.com/ype7bezh>

**COVID-19 VACCINATIONS:** Information about walk-in vaccination clinics is available at [thevaccinators.co.uk](http://thevaccinators.co.uk) Alternatively, appointments can be booked online at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

**COVID-19 TESTING:** Mobile rapid testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot lateral flow tests as well as test kits to take away and complete at home. You can also order kits to use at home. More information at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting)

**THANK YOU TO OUR GP SURGERIES:** GP surgeries are under unprecedented pressure with an enormous backlog of patient need, in many cases with medical conditions having worsened through time and Covid-inflicted delay. We would like to say thank you to everyone supporting our GP practices, from nurses and GPs and dispensary staff to receptionists answering incoming calls.

Please use the '111' phone service as a first port of call for non-emergency concerns. The 111 service is well-resourced to manage this role. In an emergency, please ring 999.

Highways report any problems:

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Follow us on Facebook:

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

Contact me with your questions, views or issues by email:

[Firouz.Thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Firouz.Thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Firouz Thompson**

Cambridgeshire County Councillor

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

This will be our final Northstowe News update of 2021. This year has again been a difficult one as we continue to live with the Covid 19 pandemic and other challenges. We have again though been so impressed to see the community at Northstowe grow this year and by the wonderful community spirit that continues to develop. We have enjoyed taking part in events like the running festival and seeing you finally get your own Town Council. We wish all Northstowe residents the very best for the festive season and for 2022!

### Local Plan – Council Update

A list of potential development sites was recently published in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The new Local Plan, which will set out where new homes and jobs would be developed to 2041 and beyond, aims to minimise carbon emissions, maximise biodiversity, and green space improvements, social inclusion and create great places to live and work. As a result, sites have been chosen close to high quality public transport and within walking and cycling distance of local destinations and services. Along with the possible locations for development, the proposals also include suggested new green space and wildlife projects, initial policy recommendations for low-carbon building and water conservation, and proposals for affordable housing that developers should provide in the future.

Out of over 690 sites put forward by developers and landowners, and another 200 considered by planners, only 19 new sites are proposed to be taken forward into the new Plan.

### The Local Plan and Northstowe

There was incorrect information shared on social media that extra houses are being proposed for Northstowe as part of the new Local Plan. There is a proposal to speed up delivery of much needed new homes, particularly affordable housing, during the period but not to increase overall numbers of homes in Northstowe.

The proposals have gone forward to be reviewed by councillors, along with a clear warning sent to central government that delivery of new homes will depend on increasing the area's future water supply. A public consultation on the plans will run through November and December and we would encourage residents to share their views.

### Impact Piling Enforcement Action

In September, many residents were disturbed by the very noisy impact piling being carried out on the Hg Barratts Homes parcel. The developers did not have permission for this work, and they had indicated that there would be no need for piling in their planning submission.

Following a call to the site manager by ourselves, piling was stopped for half a day before beginning again. An enforcement officer did then visit the site to investigate and the following day a Temporary Stop Notice was issued to the developers. This specifically bans them from piling work for 28 days. They will be required to reapply for planning permission should they wish to do further piling work and will need to fully justify why this work is required.

We were disappointed at the initial slow response from the Council's enforcement team and have fed this back to senior council officers and our Lead Member for Planning. The enforcement team are now pursuing legal action against the

developers for failing to abide by the planning conditions. We fully support this action and will continue to call for more robust action by planning enforcement. Developers must abide by the planning conditions, and we hope this action serves as a deterrent for other housebuilders in future. If anyone has video or audio of the piling work which can be used as evidence in this case, please send it to [enforcement@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:enforcement@scambs.gov.uk)

### Northstowe Civic Hub

A relaunch meeting for the Civic Hub development took place on 30th July 2021. The Civic Hub will form part of the Phase 2 Town Centre development and be home to services like the health centre and GPs. Plans for this were delayed due to Covid and the fact that key stakeholders, in particular the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, have had to focus on the pandemic response but we are pleased to see the project progressing now.

An organisation called Civic has been asked to produce a 'Blueprint' for the Civic Hub and agreed to do this with a 10-week period. The immediate next steps will involve more 1 to 1 work with key stakeholders. During September there will be three working groups looking at: The Offering and Experience, Operating and Business Model and Governance. The Blueprint will be presented and reviewed at further workshops in October (these have not happened at the time of writing). We will keep Northstowe residents updated on ways in which you can get involved in consultations on these plans.

### Northstowe Waterparks and Paths Opening

The Northstowe Phase 1 Waterpark is now open! There is a bridge over the largest lake, and a wide cycle path through the Waterpark which we hope residents will enjoy for walking and cycling. The Greenways that have now opened are meant to be wild areas and so may still look a little scruffy at present; it can take wildflowers up to 2 years to establish. A reminder that open water swimming, and canoeing/kayaking will be allowed in the new waterpark to open in Phase 2.

You can find a map showing the location of the Phase 1 waterpark and details of a nature trail walk around Northstowe here: <https://www.facebook.com/northstowe/> The new paths along the Greenway will be a good cycle route to Northstowe Secondary College and Martin Bacon Academy, avoiding some Stirling Road construction traffic. Please do encourage your children to cycle down these paths, it is a safe alternative and with lovely views.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

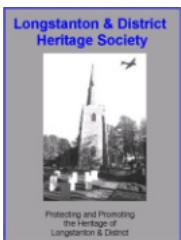
### Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson

District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Northstowe

Contact details:

Sarah Cheung Johnson: [cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk)  
Alex Malyon: [cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk)

## LDHS UPDATE: NORTHSTOWE – September / October 2021



LDHS is proud of its status as an independent heritage organisation, set up by local residents in May 2007, to protect and promote the rural, social and military heritage of Longstanton and Oakington. We have spent a considerable amount of time and effort lobbying to ensure that the heritage of our communities was preserved, not just for the existing villages, but for Northstowe too. The rare, Oakington Pillboxes have Grade 2 listed status as a result of our work and our lobbying for the retention of RAF Oakington buildings and a heritage strategy for Northstowe, has paved the way for the progress we are making towards a heritage building. This building will not only contain the LDHS Archives but it will also showcase archaeology from Northstowe, Oakington Airfield and the A14 Upgrade.

These achievements could not have come about without support from our nationwide network of members and local residents. **Currently LDHS membership is being offered FREE OF CHARGE from now until 1 April 2022.**

By joining LDHS you will be not only be supporting our work but can help shape the future direction of the Society. More information can be found on the LDHS website at [www.ldhs.org](http://www.ldhs.org) or on our Facebook page. Copies of the 2021 Newsletter will be given to all new members but extra copies have been left at The Wing so they are available to all residents of Northstowe.

This year our newsletter records two historic moments in the history of Northstowe, with 2021 seeing the creation of a boundary for the new town and the formation of a new Town Council. We were delighted that Northstowe Mayor, Cllr Richard Owen, helped us to commemorate this important year by providing the newsletter with a few words of introduction. His words are repeated below so they can be appreciated by all Northstowe residents.

### Words from Northstowe's First Mayor

*I moved into one of the first houses to be completed in Northstowe in June 2017. Following three years representing Northstowe residents on Longstanton Parish Council, I was one of fifteen councillors elected to the first Northstowe Town Council, and at our first meeting I was honoured and humbled to be elected as Town Mayor.*

*As a Town Council, our priorities are shaped around making Northstowe a great place to live, work and visit. The council comes into being at a critically important time: development of our first commercial and employment areas is imminent, key decisions are being taken about the approach to management of open spaces in the town, and we have an increasing number of young people in need of local activities. With the development of residential areas near to Rampton Drift, we need to ensure that their interests are represented. Furthermore, we are committed to making Northstowe a sustainable place to live, nurturing biodiversity across our green spaces and ensuring we live up to our standing as a Healthy New Town. The next few years will be an exciting time as we add a new chapter to the rich history of the area!*

*Cllr Richard Owen, Town Mayor*

**Hilary Stroud (Secretary)**

Secretary, Longstanton & District Heritage Society, c/o The Manor, Woodside, Longstanton, Cambridge. CB24 3BU

### NORTHSTOWE OLYMPIC PHOTO CHALLENGE



With thanks to the wonderful photographers who have taken these striking images of objects in Northstowe featuring the colours of the olympic rings;  
*Blue:* Michelle Kemp,  
*Yellow:* Andrew Collier,  
*Black:* Neena Suresh,  
*Green:* Neena Suresh,  
*Red:* Michelle Kemp



It has been wonderful to welcome our young people back to us at the start of term. The Northstowe family has now grown to over 300 children, and the school is buzzing with the excitement of young voices. We also welcomed 17 new staff this year, including 7 new teachers, 7 support teams members and 3 TAs. It is lovely to see our family grow over time. Year 7 had a fabulous first day back to school on their own, with the chance to get a tour of the school, meet their tutor and tutor group as well as undertake some team building activities. Our year 8 and 9 returned on the second day, with year 9 starting their GCSE option choices.

It is nice to see the start of normality in schools, with all year groups going out on year group based trips, to do some team building and outdoor activities at the start of October and year 7 going to the Space Centre in November. Trips and visits allow children to extend their learning and are a full part of our enrichment programme. We are also planning two residential for the New Year.

Auditions are underway for our Christmas show. We are recruiting actors, singers, dancers, costume and set designers as well as lighting technicians and back stage leads. We are excited at the prospect of our first big show, since the school opened. Please follow us on Facebook to find out more about dates. We also have plans for our annual remembrance service on the 11th November, and our charity morning on the 17th December.

We will also have had our Open Evening for prospective parents and Open Morning for the community in October, we hope lots of you managed to come and have a look around.

We have appointed Katie Reid to lead on our lettings, as we expand our offer, hoping to offer more classes for the community, as well as working toward opening our café and gym.

There are lots of things to look forward to over the next academic year and we look forward to welcoming families and the community to enjoy more of what we have to offer as the year progresses.



## Looking for childcare near Northstowe?

Bellaclaire Childcare is a privately run nursery offering first class childcare in Longstanton. We offer a modern purpose built well administered and well managed childcare facility. Creating a safe, caring and stimulating environment where each child can develop their social, emotional, educational skills and potential whilst becoming independent and active long term learners.



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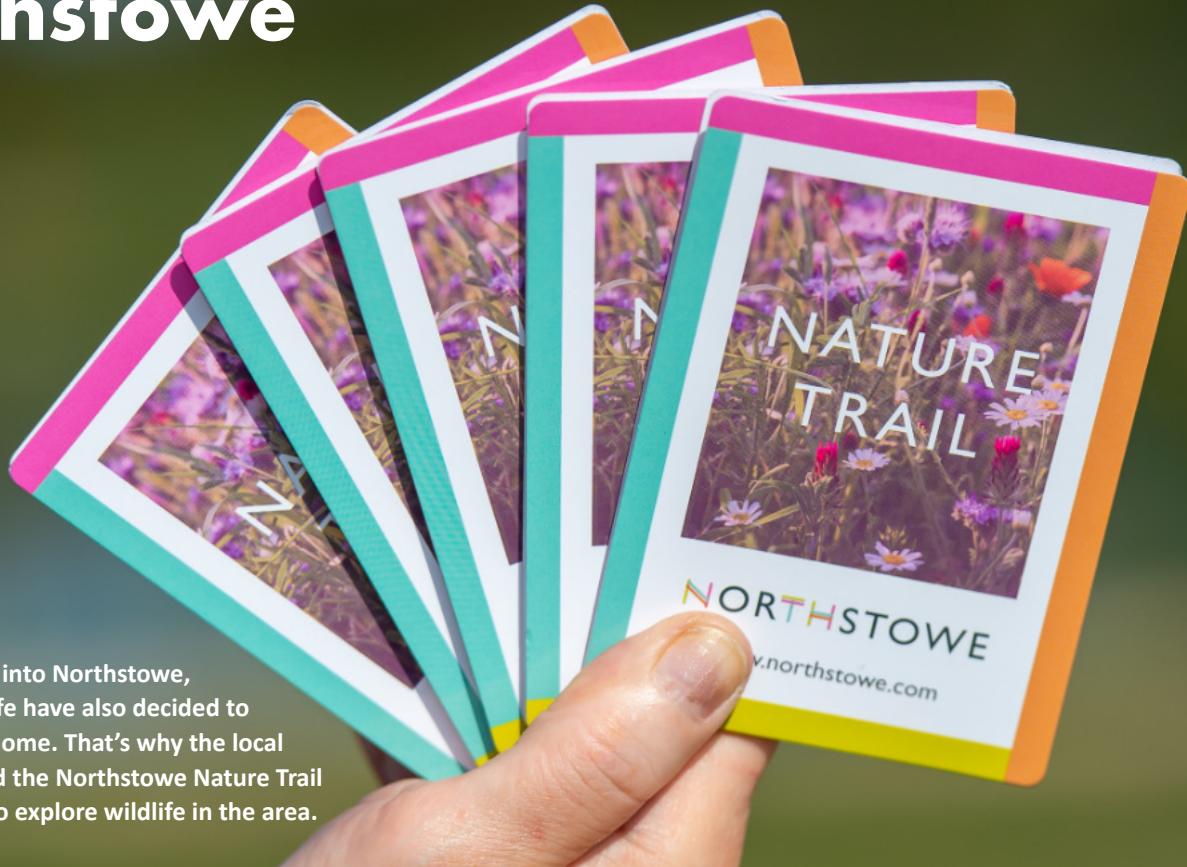
 [office@whitehallschool.com](mailto:office@whitehallschool.com)

 +44 (0) 1487 840966

Enquiries: Deborah Parker, Whitehall School,  
Somersham, Cambridgeshire PE28 3EH



# New wildlife trail gets local people exploring nature in Northstowe



It's not just people moving into Northstowe, numerous species of wildlife have also decided to make the new town their home. That's why the local housebuilders have created the Northstowe Nature Trail – a guide for local people to explore wildlife in the area.

Available in a handy pocket size map, the Northstowe Nature Trail pinpoints the town's nature hotspots and includes a checklist for identifying local wildlife.

From the waterpark to the allotments, residents can enjoy spotting lots of creatures in their natural habitat. Look out for Emperor dragonflies and great-crested grebe ducks on the water, blooms of wildflower at Western Park, water voles at Kingfisher Pond and kestrels flying overhead on the Greenway.

The map has been created by Bovis Homes, David Wilson Homes, Domovo Homes, Linden Homes and Taylor Wimpey and delivered to each new occupied home in Northstowe. It can also be downloaded from the @NorthstoweTown Facebook page.

On behalf of all the Northstowe housebuilders, Will Phair, Sales Director at David Wilson Homes said, "We are thrilled that so much wildlife is thriving in Northstowe, just like the new community that has settled here."

"Spotting local wildlife can be exciting but we are asking people to always explore safely and carefully so not to disturb the insects and animals as you go. We hope the new Northstowe Nature Trail brings enjoyment to local residents and gives them something fun to do when they go out walking around the town."

Northstowe is a new sustainable development of 10,000 homes, just five miles from Cambridge and with excellent transport links to the city, including a guided busway. As well as being a great place for people to call home, the new town will provide for a mixed and balanced community with an accent on health and wellbeing. Northstowe offers a variety of housing types, including affordable homes, to suit a range of buyers and budgets.

For more information visit [www.northstowe.com](http://www.northstowe.com) @Northstowe on Facebook or @NorthstoweTown on Twitter.



## NORTHSTOWE SOCIAL CELEBRATES LOCAL EVENTS

The Lock Down is over and Northstowe Social is back providing free events to the community!

Matt, Kathy and Shola attended the Northstowe Running Festival in September. As part of the activities on the day, they ran a free human fruit machine and got residents playing along. Winners were given the choice of a piece of fruit if they were successful in matching three fruit (bananas, oranges and apples). It was Matt's first event as a member of Northstowe Social. Matt and his girlfriend moved to Northstowe in August from Cambridge. He said: "I really enjoyed attending my first Northstowe Running Festival and first event as part of the committee. As a new resident I wanted to join it to get to know the area and meet new people. It's great to be involved

Marzia with her wife Sam and little one William arrived in Northstowe one year ago. She met Kathy and Shola, who were organising events as members of Northstowe Social. They involved her positively and she started to know the community. The group organised again the International Bring&Share Picnic, a popular and loved event. Marzia, who moved from Italy 5 years ago, learnt how to play rounders with the adults and children of Northstowe.



A community group with a vision to make Northstowe a green, clean, biodiverse and interconnected place for current and future residents



### Monthly Meetings

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month  
7pm, The Wing



email: sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com  
facebook: @sustainablenorthstowe



in what's happening locally and I hope more people join the Social as Northstowe grows". The group were pictured as part of the Running Festival round up in the Cambridge Independent newspaper and on their website.



The group shared stories along with international food from UK, Italy, India, Syria, Czech Republic and much more. At the end of the day, Marzia proudly described Northstowe as her new hometown. During the Great Big Green Week, the group collaborated with the Sustainable group by donating free herb seeds to swap, providing colours for the little ones and refreshment for all at the Wing café. On this occasion Marzia had the opportunity to know other residents and she felt motivated to give her contribution.

*Northstowe Social promote and organise free events with the aim of having fun, getting to know each other, sharing cultures and ideas, shaping a tolerant, vibrant, happy, open and diverse community! They would like to know what people love and which events they would like to look forward to. If you want to share your story and ideas or simply be part of Northstowe Social, send an email to [northstowesocialcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:northstowesocialcommittee@gmail.com)*



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# Sports, Health and Wellbeing

## RESEARCH STUDIES ON TRAVEL IN NORTHSTOWE

We're researchers based at the University of Cambridge and we're running two studies based in Northstowe: one focussing on children and their journey to school (called STEP) and another on financial incentives for alternatives to the car (called iCAN-Northstowe). We've been working in partnership with other Universities as well as South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. If you would like to hear more, we'll be at the Community Forum, visit our website <https://www.mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk/research/studies/travel-in-northstowe/> or read on and get in touch using the email addresses.

### STEP

In this study we're working with children and families to understand how the environment influence travel choices. We'd like to interview families who live in Northstowe who have children aged 8-12 years. There'll be opportunities to take part in interviews as parents, for children to take photos of their journey to school and for go-along interviews. Families take part in 2 different interviews will receive a £30 voucher. We're working with Durham University and researchers there are running interviews with families there as we want to see how people's experience of living in new towns differs. If you're interested in taking part, please contact Emma: [Emma.Lawlor@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Emma.Lawlor@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk).

### iCAN-Northstowe

The Incentives for alternatives to the car in Northstowe research study is exploring the use of the Northstowe travel benefits (for example, walking and cycling equipment vouchers or busway vouchers) available to all Northstowe residents as they move to the town. It aims to understand whether changing the way these incentives are issued and their size influences walking, cycling and public transport use in the town. The study started in October 2021, after a delay due to the pandemic.

We'd like to thank all everyone who took part in the first stage of the study. Next year, we'll be getting back in touch with everyone who took part for the next stage of the research. Any questions, please email Kate or Jenna: [ican-northstowe@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ican-northstowe@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk)

## CAP Money Course

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**Northstowe Community Wing**



Book online at [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) or email  
[info@capuk.org](mailto:info@capuk.org)



## Northstowe School Travel Environments Project

Families with children aged 8-12  
 Be part of a new research project!

- Talk to us about your journey to school
- Take photos of things you do/don't like on your route
- Help us find out what matters to families in your area
- Parents/guardians please visit:

<https://www.mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk/northstowe-step/>

or get in touch for more information



Receive a £30 family shopping voucher for taking part



Contact Dr. Emma Lawlor

Email: [emma.lawlor@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk](mailto:emma.lawlor@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk)

Telephone: 01223769173

Scan for more info!

## NORTHSTOWE CUBS/ BEAVERS/ SCOUTS

The last year has been a busy time for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of Northstowe. We have been able to keep in touch and deliver a varied programme virtually and in more recent months face to face sessions have returned outdoors and a return to sessions at the Northstowe Community wing.

During these unprecedented times the leaders and volunteers have been creative in keeping the programme young person focused in a virtual world, with virtual camps and various guest speakers attending, the beavers were even visited by a local guide dog on zoom. The Beaver group also did a great project along with Libby from the Parish council in reaching out to different people in the community and writing letters to them during the winter time which was a difficult time for all. The letters were well received by people in the community.

The groups have been working towards their activity badges as normal and building on a range of skills and participating in activities such as camp fires, cooking S'mores, learning how to light a fire, setting up a tent and how to use a fire

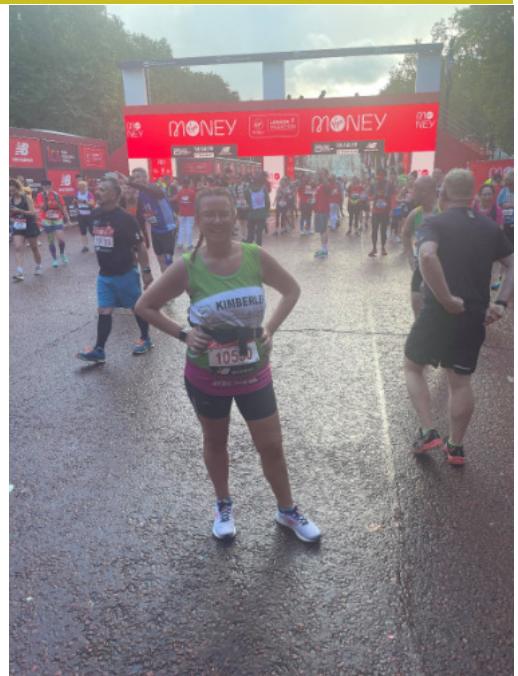
## LONGSTANTON AND NORTHSTOWE LIMPERS

Our Summer Challenge was a fantastic success. We raised £1000 which will be shared between our four local schools and had a great range of entrants with 76 adults and 47 children taking part, who covered an amazing total of over 7000 miles, and with some totals still to be submitted the full total must be much higher! Summer finished off nicely with the fantastic Northstowe Running Festival which was enjoyed by many Limpers and their families.

Two of our members have taken on the London Marathon and have described the experience as tough - but they enjoyed the support from the noisy crowds and are exhilarated with their achievement. Very well done to Kim, Lizz and Neil, enjoy your medals. Time to celebrate!



Looking ahead into autumn, we've used funding from Living Sport to get more qualified run leaders trained, and with three new volunteer run leaders stepping forwards we've been able to put on more sessions. By the time you read this two of our new run leaders Ed and Emma will have completed the Manchester Marathon – good luck!



Our Monday social run at 19:30 is meeting on The Green now that the nights are darker and we've added two sessions on Wednesdays, one for beginners where anyone is welcome, and a members-only coached training session - so we've really got something for everyone. Parkrun has returned and it's been great to see some of our members volunteering and running down at the new event at Storey's Field, Eddington which is worth a visit so things are getting back to normal.

Our membership is still free for the rest of the year as we're trying to do our bit to keep people active as we come out of Covid conditions, (you can make a voluntary donation if you want to) so get in touch if you want to start running, get back into it, or just meet some friendly runners for a group run! Give us a wave if you see us out and about.

**Chris Poultney**

striker. Local walks have also featured for all exploring Northstowe and Longstanton discussing wildlife and seeing the changes happening within the local area to the landscape and season changes, conkers have been popular.

In the brighter weather the Scouts supported the Northstowe Running festival which was a really hot day, it was all hands on deck in the set up and marshalling. Well done to the Scouts and all the runners!

If you are interested in finding more information about the groups for your son or daughter please do not hesitate to get in touch and email [info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk](mailto:info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk)

From all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts  
**Hannah Cornish**



Girlguiding is delighted to welcome new girls and volunteers to start **Rainbows (5-7 years)** and **Brownies (7-10 years)** in Pathfinder School, Northstowe in the new year.

We need your support – volunteer with Girlguiding and make a difference to the lives of girls - while benefiting from the adventure and opportunities guiding has to offer adults.

Meet new people, gain skills and help girls discover their full potential with Girlguiding.

**Please come along to an Girlguiding Open Session to meet us and find out more:**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021, from 5.00pm - 6.00pm, at Pathfinder School**  
**We look forward to meeting you 😊**

For more information, please contact Di Gunton, District Commissioner  
[di.gunton@outlook.com](mailto:di.gunton@outlook.com)

**Hungry? How to GET HELP**

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

Food bank vouchers are available from local agencies such as citizens advice, schools, and churches.

Vouchers can be redeemed at Distribution Centres across Cambridge, including the new Northstowe centre.

Each gives you a parcel of three days of emergency food, providing non-judgemental support at the point of crisis.

**Looking to donate?**

The nearest collection point is at Bar Hill Tesco

**Want to volunteer?**

Get in touch!

Read more: [cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk](http://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk)  
One contact is Revd Beth Cope (Pathfinder Church)  
07720 330 272 [contact@northstowe.church](mailto:contact@northstowe.church)

**SPORTS AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE**

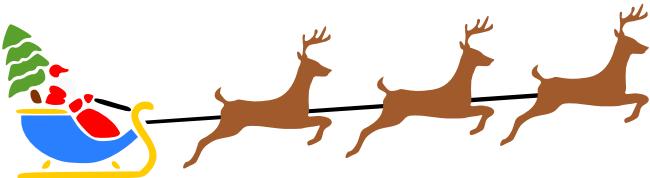
**Do you enjoy sports and want to look after yourself?**

**Would you like to get involved with your local community?**

The Northstowe Sports and Wellbeing Committee is a group run by residents and supported by Living Sport and South Cambridgeshire District Council that aims to bring sports and wellbeing activities for all residents to Northstowe.

The group meets every 1–2 months (meetings are currently held online via Zoom) and has contributed to a range of activities for the community including badminton, table tennis and taster sessions for archery, dance, meditation and yoga.

If you're interested in finding out more, would like to suggest some ideas, or are keen to join the committee, please e-mail [nouthstoweswgroup@gmail.com](mailto:northstoweswgroup@gmail.com). We also have a Facebook page - search for 'Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing'. Everyone is welcome.



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**Out of hours cover: Ring 111 Website: [www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk](http://www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk)**

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

### **Flu Vaccinations**

As you may have seen reported in the national press, we are currently experiencing delays to the supply of flu vaccines. This is a national issue and not specific to this practice. At the time of writing we are unable to confirm when our supply of vaccine will be available but will keep the community as updated as we can through social media and on our website.

Please do not contact the surgery regarding this, rest assured our staff will contact you if your appointment has been affected.

### **Blood test bottle shortage**

At the time of writing we continue to experience shortages in the supply of blood test bottles. This is a global supply issue which has been widely reported on in the national press. Due to the continuing shortage through September this will inevitably affect appointment bookings for blood tests for some time to come including once supply is re-established. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time.

### **DoctorLink**

The DoctorLink service is available to all patients as an alternative to 111 when a GP appointment is unavailable. Doctorlink connects you to your GP practice allowing you to check your symptoms online, gives medical advice based on your symptoms and provides access to GP services.

Download the app or visit the website: <https://www.doctorlink.com/patients/>

### **Online Appointment Booking**

We would like to remind you that online appointment booking are available to all patients who have signed up to our online booking service. This can be particularly useful during busy times when there can be long waiting times on the phone lines. If you wish to sign up for this service please visit our Reception in person bringing two forms of photo ID with you. Please note that at this time this service offers telephone appointments only.

### **Welcome back Dr Fay Stevens**

We would like to welcome back Dr Faye Stevens who returns from Maternity Leave this month.

### **Patient Participation Group and Patient Feedback**

After placing these initiatives on hold during the Coronavirus pandemic, we are looking to relaunch our patient engagement activities over the next few months. Please look out for more details on our social media and websites as well as in future newsletters and in the surgery waiting area.

### **Carers**

If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please contact Sue Lawson at [susan.lawson7@nhs.net](mailto:susan.lawson7@nhs.net) or 01954 260230.

### **Unattended Appointments**

Our Did Not Attend (DNA) rate for August 2021 was 505 slots which equates to 8.5 hours of lost clinician time.

We would like to kindly remind our patients of the importance of attendance at appointments or being available for scheduled telephone calls. Timely cancellation of appointments you are unable to attend is equally important as it frees up a slot that can potentially be used by another patient.

Amy Wilson- Practice Administrator, Sept 2021



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# Community Groups and Social Events

## WHAT'S ON IN NORTHSTOWE

### MONDAYS

#### **Tang Soo Do (£)**

Family-friendly martial arts club. Tiny Tigers class for 4-6 year olds at 4pm followed by a junior class for 7-11 year olds from 4:45pm. Email [enquiries@Northstowetsd.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@Northstowetsd.co.uk)

#### **Tai-Chi (£)**

Weekly relaxation and inner peace. 19:30 at the Pathfinder Primary School. To book please email

[malcolmsavannah233@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmsavannah233@gmail.com)

#### **Book Club**

Meet to discuss books in Monday evenings once per month. New members always welcome.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785>

### TUESDAYS

#### **Stay and Play (£)**

Sessions for children from around 10 months or walking. 10-11:30am at the Community Wing. To book please email [ChildAndFamilyCentre.South@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ChildAndFamilyCentre.South@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

#### **Baby Group (£)**

For parents of pre-mobile babies. Meet other parents and access support from and advice from the Child and Family Centre team. 1-2:30pm at the Community Wing. To book please email

[ChildAndFamilyCentre.South@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ChildAndFamilyCentre.South@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

#### **Huntingdon Hockey Club (£)**

Northstowe Secondary College Astroturf, 7pm - 8:30pm

All abilities welcome. Contact

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

#### **Fastbreak Basketball (£)**

Indoor sessions in the Northstowe Secondary College Sports Hall, 12 & Under at 6pm, 14 & Under at 7pm

[northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk](mailto:northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk)

#### **Over Power (£)**

Fitness, Strength, Conditioning circuits. We help ladies to tone up, lose weight and feel great. Pathfinder School Hall Tuesdays 6-7pm and 7-8pm

[overpowerfitness@outlook.com](mailto:overpowerfitness@outlook.com)

#### **CAP Money Course**

A free course that makes managing your money simple. 3 weeks starting 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7:30-9:30pm in the Community Wing.

#### **Northstowe Board Games**

Join us Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm to play modern-style strategy and tabletop games, anything from Alhambra to Ziemlich Zügig! Email [northstowegamers@thecolliers.uk](mailto:northstowegamers@thecolliers.uk)

### WEDNESDAYS

#### **Pioneer Cafe (£)**

Serving teas, coffees, cold drinks and snacks 10:00-12:30 at the Community Wing

#### **Cardio Conditioning Fitness Class (£)**

A mix of aerobic (low or high impact) and strength & resistance training to improve your heart health. 12:40-13:30 at the Community Wing. Advance booking only, [cependlebury62@gmail.com](mailto:cependlebury62@gmail.com)

#### **Sustainable Northstowe**

A community group with a vision to make Northstowe a green, clean, biodiverse and interconnected place for current and future residents. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7pm at The Wing.

[sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com](mailto:sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com)

#### **Chicken Soup for the Soul**

Stop, Breathe, Pray – 1st Wednesday of every month, 8pm. Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close ([www.northstowe.church](http://www.northstowe.church))

### THURSDAYS

#### **Sweaty Mama (£)**

New Sweaty Mama classes starting at Northstowe Community Wing from Thursday 9th September 9.30am, see booking details

<https://midcambridgeshire.sweatymama.com/book-on-a-class/>

#### **Fastbreak Basketball (£)**

Indoor sessions in the Northstowe Secondary College Sports Hall, 10 & Under and 16 & Under at 7:15pm, Adult sessions at 8:20pm

[northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk](mailto:northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk)

#### **Tang Soo Do (£)**

Family-friendly martial arts club. Tiny Tigers class for 4-6 year olds at 4pm followed by a junior class for 7-11 year olds from 4:45pm. Email [enquiries@Northstowetsd.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@Northstowetsd.co.uk)

#### **Clubbercise (£)**

Easy to follow dance routines, toning and combat moves with disco lights and glow sticks. 7:15pm at Over community centre.

[marilynsq@icloud.com](mailto:marilynsq@icloud.com)

### FRIDAYS

#### **CAP Job Club**

A friendly place where you will get practical help as you seek employment. 10:30am at the Community Wing (during November). Email [johannascoones@capuk.org](mailto:johannascoones@capuk.org) for details

#### **Judo (£)**

Ages 5 to 105 from beginners to Dan grades. On Fridays at the Pathfinder school, 5–6pm (under 8s) and 6–7pm (over 8s). For more information contact [colinhappidojo@gmail.com](mailto:colinhappidojo@gmail.com)

### SATURDAYS

#### **Sustainable Saturdays**

Information stands, swap events and popup Refill Station with zero plastic waste. 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, on The Green [sustainablenorthstowe@outlook.com](mailto:sustainablenorthstowe@outlook.com)

### SUNDAYS

#### **Breakfast Gatherings**

Community breakfast with activities for all ages, regardless of faith background, including an optional communion service in a side chapel. 1st Sunday each month, 10.30am Pathfinder Primary School. [www.northstowe.church](http://www.northstowe.church)

#### **Community Litter Pick**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month at 10:30am. Meet outside 6 Woodpecker Close, bring gloves! [bit.ly/NorthstoweLitterPicks](https://bit.ly/NorthstoweLitterPicks)

A partnership of Northstowe Town Council, Plastic Free Longstanton and Northstowe, and Pathfinder Church Northstowe.

#### **Emmanuel Church Northstowe**

A growing gospel-centred church serving a growing new community. Sunday morning services for all ages at 10:30, at Northstowe Secondary College.

[www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org](http://www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org)

#### **Pathfinder Church Northstowe**

Your local Church of England church with an inclusive ecumenical welcome: praying, exploring, and sharing. Sunday Gatherings 3.30-5pm (normally at Pathfinder Primary School, but check [www.northstowe.church](http://www.northstowe.church))

#### **Ignite Youth Group**

Youth group from Emmanuel Church Northstowe for anybody ages 11-14. Runs term-time alternate Sundays 5pm at the Community Wing. Email [ignite.ecn@gmail.com](mailto:ignite.ecn@gmail.com)

#### **KEEP US UPDATED!**

Spotted any errors, changes, or more groups to be included? Please email [northstowenews@gmail.com](mailto:northstowenews@gmail.com)



**community Café at The Wing**

**takeaway available!**

**Pioneer Café**

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Youth Group (11-14s)

# IGNITE

All are welcome!

Sundays, 5-7pm

- Bible study
- Discussion
- Games
- Snacks

19th Sept  
3rd Oct  
17th Oct  
31st Oct  
14th Nov  
28th Nov  
12th Dec

Northstowe Community Wing  
Pathfinder Way CB24 1AA

[www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org](http://www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org)  
[ignite.ecn@gmail.com](mailto:ignite.ecn@gmail.com)

## Community Litter Picks

Third Sundays at 10.30am  
Nov 21st; Dec 19th

Meet outside  
6 Woodpecker Close

Bags, pickers, gloves,  
hoops and jackets provided  
[bit.ly/NorthstoweLitterPicks](http://bit.ly/NorthstoweLitterPicks)



#NORTHSTOWEADVENTWINDOWS



## Can we guess your favourite Festive Food from your Advent Window?

Sign up to decorate your windows over the advent period and light up Northstowe!

DEC 1ST - DEC 26TH

CONTACT: ADVENT@NORTHSTOWE.CHURCH

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## NORTHSTOWE ADVENT WINDOWS 2021

In our life-size advent calendar, each day, somewhere in Northstowe, a new window will be unveiled.

### Fancy decorating a window?

Send us your road number, road name, date preferred and festive food suggestions. Or, we can just assign you a date and festive food. Slots fill up fast so sign up ASAP. First come, first served. Get full details and sign up to do a window by emailing [advent@northstowe.church](mailto:advent@northstowe.church)

Unveil your design on your day, leave it up until boxing day, and help share some festive fun.

### Prefer just spotting Northstowe's Festive Favourite Foods?

We'll provide an interactive google map showing the roads with windows (no numbers or names). How many can you visit?

We'll also be posting them on the Facebook Group - [bit.ly/NorthstoweAdventWindows](https://bit.ly/NorthstoweAdventWindows)

### Need some inspiration?

Here's what Northstowe's schools did with last year's "Films with a Christmas Twist" theme:  
Can you guess the films?



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## SEASONAL FESTIVALS OF NORTHSTOWE

### ONAM

Onam is a harvest festival celebrated by the people of Kerala, a Southern State in India. Though the festival origin has religious underpinnings, Onam is a community festival celebrated by all Malayalees (people from Kerala) across the globe symbolising generosity and togetherness. Like Christmas, this is a time for family get together, celebration and gifting.

The Onam festivities last ten days, with the first day Atham when the first layer of the flower carpet is laid and the tenth day is Thiruvonam which we celebrate as Onam. The highlight of the Onam celebration is a grand feast (Sadya) with more than twenty vegetarian dishes served on a banana leaf.

This year we brought Onam to Northstowe!

The organising committee members Cllr. Shola Delip, Neena MS & Rejani Mohan Raju wanted everyone in Northstowe to



take part in the celebration and experience Onam, but Covid restrictions meant the attendees had to be limited to 30 including children!

Most of the attendees wore the traditional Kerala costume and enjoyed the feast (Sadya).



Guests also enjoyed interesting games and entertainment which included flower picking for making flower carpet, Sundariku pottu (the husband puts bindi on the wife blindfolded), song dedications, Storytime on Onam followed by quiz & games for Kids & dance floor.

We tried our best to make the event sustainable. Being inspired by sustainability, team made sustainable place cards, food was served on banana leaf and eaten by hand. We did not use any one-time plastic material throughout the event.



The committee would like to thank South Cambs team, especially Ellen Bridges for all the help and support we received throughout the process.

Looking forward to Onam next year!



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## **CHRISTMAS**

Although the nights are darker and winter is in full swing especially these past weeks, there is always a sense of excitement and feel good factor for many people leading up to Christmas. As the song goes it's the most wonderful time of the year. It is a time for tree decorations, street lights, carols, presents, food, fun and festivities. A time to get the Michael Bublé CD out, and it's most certainly the only time of year you can buy a "ginger bread" latte. But most importantly I would say it is a time for family and friends.

As a child growing up in Sierra Leone, Christmas Day always started with church service, singing beautiful carols and after the service being given couple of Leones (local currency) in an envelope, for which I used to be so grateful and that would make an awesome Christmas for so many other children.

Some of these aspects of Christmas have become tradition for many of us and that is all brilliant. Another tradition is that of the nativity and most of us will know the story of Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Many of us would have seen our children, nieces or nephews, grandchildren play a role in their school play of the Nativity (which are nowadays becoming more modernised and distant from its Christian heritage). But I believe this story should remain at the heart and centre of all the sparkle and red bows. It is the true meaning of Christmas in which God became a human and dwell among us. This is what brings joy and hope to so many people worldwide, that someone will be so kind to trade places with us, taking away our anger, shame, bitterness and pains on Himself and giving us freedom, peace, love and joy.

The weeks leading up to Christmas can sometimes seem like a long marathon with all the preparation (unless you are very organised and started your planning boxing day the previous year), and by the time we get to the day itself we've more than likely exhausted ourselves. There is also the added pressure and stress to having a "perfect" Christmas which can all result in our mental health taking a hit. For some people this time of year may be difficult for many different reasons, especially with COVID-19, it could be painful memories, a loss, a loved one being taken ill or that they may be alone during this time. Remember not everyone has the perfect family Christmas that we're told we should have.

We therefore need to be mindful of how this time of year can impact us and other people. We need to take the steps needed to make it as stress free as possible...i.e. taking time out for yourselves, sharing tasks where you can, do not feel pressure to attend every event, budgeting and spending wisely, exercise (this can just be going for a walk around the Northstowe park), spend time with a friend or loved one. Getting engaged with all the festivities that is being planned around Northstowe.

Think of those alone at Christmas and ask yourself could you invite someone over, is there an extra space at your table with caution and government rules apply. Let's make Christmas a day that no one spends alone.

Whatever you are doing this Christmas, explore the blessings of hope, joy, love, and peace that will connect you back to the heart of the holiday.

Be the gift this Christmas, give love, spread kindness and give a smile.

Have a glorious Northstowe Christmas

**Emilton Barzey**

## **ADVENT**

One of the great things about living in a new town is that we get to participate in, and help to shape, its brand new traditions and customs. One such tradition in Northstowe is the Advent Windows, which my wife and I have been very pleased to take part in ever since we moved here. The whole town is turned into a giant Advent Calendar: each day from December 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, a new display lights up somewhere around the town, and a map is published so that people can go out to find them.

Last year there was a theme of "Films (with a Christmas twist)" so we decided to depict Marvel's "Ant-Man and the Wasp" [right] as it gave us an excuse to play around with the sense of scale, and depict an enormous Christmas Tree as though it were reaching up through the ceiling into the room above.



Previously we've done a display based on Japan (including the KFC bucket which so typifies Christmas celebrations there), and before that a mathematically-inspired nativity scene [left] using Golden Spirals to represent Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.

As well as putting up our own display, we've always very much appreciated the chance to walk around Northstowe and see the results of everyone else's creativity and effort. This year the theme is Favourite Festive Foods, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what ideas people will cook up!

**Andrew Collier**



## CHANUKAH

Ma'oz Tzur Yeshu'ati Lecha Na'eh Leshabeakh... these words welcome one of the most joyful and well-known Jewish holidays: Chanukah. Sometimes referred to, though inappropriately, as "Jewish Christmas," it takes place at the end of the Hebrew month of Kislev, in November or December, beginning this year on November 28th. There are many reasons behind this slightly unfortunate comparison. Chanukah is celebrated "near" Christmas in the middle of winter, accompanied by a very uplifting mood, unusually "public", and it is associated with hope and optimism.

In every city of the world inhabited by the Jewish people, from Warsaw to New York and from Sydney to Cambridge, tall, nine-armed candlesticks, around which Jewish people and their non-Jewish guests will gather for eight consecutive winter evenings, will soon be erected to kindle another Chanukah light together. The ninth candle serves as the "shamesh" (the so-called "servant candle") to light the remaining eight lights. Blessings will be said, songs sung, greetings made, and in some cities, jubilant processions will move through the streets. Hopefully

there will also be Chanukah balls and plays, though sweet donuts and latkes (potato pancakes) will be eaten for sure.



This unusual "religious exhibitionism" (displaying candlesticks in windows or doors is required even in private homes) is connected with the Pirsum haNes commandment, i.e. the order to proclaim a miracle. The word "Miracle" (in Hebrew, Nes) appears in every Chanukah song and prayer, and Nun is one of four letters (Nun, Gimel, Hey and Sham/Po) spinning on each Chanukah dreidel (spinning top) - a popular game forming part of the festival tradition. Nes Gadol Haya Sham! The Great Miracle Happened There! (in Israel: Haya Po! Happened Here!) Which of the many divine interventions is this Festival of Lights about?

In 167 B.C.E., during the Syrian rule over Judea, the Temple in Jerusalem was desecrated

by the army of King Antiochus IV. The Holy Tabernacle was demolished, a huge statue of Zeus was forced onto the altar, and non-kosher animals were sacrificed all over. Jewish teachings and worshipping the Jewish God were prohibited by law. The traditional dreidel game was born when Jewish students began carrying coins and spinning tops to religious schools, so they could pretend to gamble whenever they saw Syrian soldiers. The introduction of uniform Hellenic customs and cults was intended to consolidate the territories of the Seleucid kingdom. According to historical sources, some Jews were tempted to assimilate, so the war that followed was also very much a civil war. The most religious Jews rallied under the Hasmonaean family (led by the High Priest Matathias and later his son Judah Maccabee, known as the Hammer), who started an armed uprising at the end of which, in 164 BC, Jerusalem was liberated and the Temple rededicated.

It was then that the MIRACLE happened. The victorious insurgents entering the Sanctuary's devastated cellars found a sole remaining jug of kosher oil; the Menorah was lit in the expectation that it would burn out in one day. However, for reasons unknown, it kept burning for eight days - just as long as it took to produce the next batch of fuel. Chanukah, ("Rededication") was established to commemorate the regaining of national independence and Jewish identity, but it quickly became a celebration of freedom and hope. Just as the



Jews lighting the Menorah in Jerusalem thousands of years ago put their faith in obeying the commandments, so today their descendants all over the world gaze hopefully towards the candlelight that dispels winter darkness.

The book of the Maccabees (despite Chanukah being an integral part of the Jewish calendar) is not included in the officially recognised 24 books of the Written Torah. It forms, however, part of the canon of the Christian Bible, as descriptions of Jesus celebrating Chanukah can be found in the Gospel of St. John (J. 10: 22-3). Soon, a huge Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah) will be erected in London and possibly also in Cambridge. As every year, Jewish people will gather around it, dancing, singing and blessing the world with peace. Significantly smaller Chanukiot will be lit in the windows of many private houses across the UK; you may even spot some in Northstowe! This year, as the world slowly emerges from the darkness of the pandemic, the lights of Chanukah will seem brighter than ever.

**Aviya Cahn**



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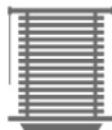
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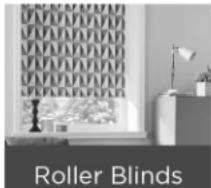
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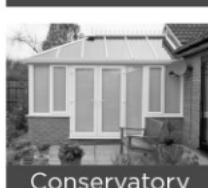
Roman Blinds



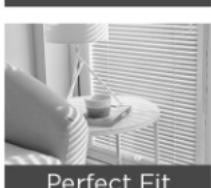
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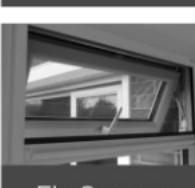
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### LDHS MEMORY LANE

**Right:** A 7 Squadron Stirling bomber crew preparing for operations out of RAF Oakington, October 1941.

**Below:** Aerial view of the former site of RAF Oakington showing the original WW2 hangars and the proximity of the buildings to Longstanton village. The spire of All Saints' church can be seen in the top left-hand side of the photograph. The image was taken by Richard Flagg (2008) before demolition of the site was carried out to make way for the new town of Northstowe.



### OVER AND DISTRICT BRITISH LEGION

**Over Branch of the Royal British Legion** was formed in 1922, subsequently forming a joint branch with Longstanton and Willingham when their own branches closed.

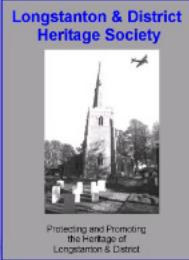


We have a small committee who organise the annual Poppy Appeal, fundraise through different events during the year and support veterans and their family where needed.

Two years ago we restarted a door to door Poppy collection in both Northstowe and Longstanton which was warmly supported. We also supply poppies to Pathfinder School and this year poppies will also be available at Northstowe Secondary College.

If there are any residents of either village who would be interested in helping with the Poppy Appeal this year, if you have an odd hour to spare during the week or over a weekend then please do get in touch.

If there are any Veterans living in Northstowe or Longstanton who would like us to get in touch, please do.



## ARMISTICE DAY AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Along with the Act of Remembrance which are taking place in both Northstowe and Longstanton it is most likely that the usual service of Remembrance held in All Saints Church, Longstanton on Remembrance Sunday will be moved to Armistice Day, Thursday 11th November, due to remaining cautiousness with numbers in church.

If confirmed a notice will be placed on the Northstowe Board and on village facebook groups to inform who may be interested in attending.

Contact:- Jane Matthews 07983630265 or [overanddistrictrbl@yahoo.com](mailto:overanddistrictrbl@yahoo.com)



Join other Northstowe residents, town councillors, local schools, and uniformed organizations at Northstowe's first

## Act of Remembrance with wreath laying Sunday 14th Nov 10.45 AM



## EMMANUEL CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

# Emmanuel

CHURCH  
NORTHSTOWE

As the days shorten and the nights become longer and colder, people of all faiths and none enjoy bright lights and parties, a sign of hope in the physical darkness. But physical darkness is not our biggest problem as human beings. There is a soul darkness that affects humanity, a sense of being overwhelmed by brokenness and shame, and helplessness in the face of death.

In the Bible's account of Jesus' birth, and the Christmas Carols that celebrate it, we find ringing out good news that Jesus is the light for our soul darkness.

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in your streets is shining the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*

So whether you just want to enjoy Christmas trees and carols and mince pies, or are looking for the light to drive out your own soul darkness, we'd love you to join us in our Christmas activities and gatherings.

**12th December 9:30am** Christmas Crafts (especially for under 10s)

**10:30am** Christmas Nativity Service (feel free to come dressed as a character from the nativity)

**19th December 6pm** Traditional Carol Service around the tree on The Northstowe Green.

**25th December (time tbc)** Christmas morning service on The Northstowe Green



Emmanuel Church Northstowe meets every Sunday 10:30am Northstowe Secondary College. Including music, children's groups and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Find more details of our activities on our website: [emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org](http://emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org)

Contact Pastor Josh Monteiro by email: [josh.monteiro@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org](mailto:josh.monteiro@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org)

or post: 45 Eaton Way, Longstanton, CB24 3ET

## LONGSTANTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH

*"To everything there is a season...  
A time to weep and a time to laugh,  
A time to mourn and a time to dance." (Ecclesiastes 3:1,4)*

The coming two months which close the year consist of many different milestones in the church calendar: All Saints Day and All Souls Day; Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday; Advent and Christmas to name a few. We will move from 'a time to weep' and 'a time to mourn' in November to opportunities for praise and celebration, laughter and dancing in December.

It has been encouraging to gather for Sunday worship in All Saints Church since Easter. For many, the opportunity to engage in congregational singing has been a particular joy. We hope to mark the Remembrance, Advent and Christmas seasons in more recognisable ways this year, compared to the lockdown restrictions of 2020. As we see covid-19 evolve from pandemic to endemic, we continue to adapt to co-existing safely with the virus. Given this reality, our plans are understandably fluid and subject to change.

Services are held in All Saints Longstanton on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month at 9.30am.

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

Rev'd Lucy Cleland, Team Vicar in the 5folds Group  
Longstanton with Northstowe, Over, Swavesey and Willingham.

At the time of writing (30 September 2021) we are arranging the following events:

**From 2 November 2021**

**A Service for All Souls 2021**

*A reflective video for All Souls as we remember loved ones who have died*

Visit: <https://5folds.online/YouTubevids>

**Sunday 14 November 2021**

**Remembrance Sunday**

*In the light of Covid, the two communities of Northstowe and Longstanton will this year hold short, separate, equivalent Acts of Remembrance, both at 10.45am. After the Northstowe service, the Northstowe wreaths will be moved to Longstanton's War Memorial to show our unity. Please contact Revd Beth Cope for details of the Northstowe event. [PioneerMinister@northstowe.church](mailto:PioneerMinister@northstowe.church)*

*A reflective video for Remembrance may also be released at <https://5folds.online/YouTubevids>*

Details of our seasonal events for Advent and Christmas will be released nearer the time.



# PATHFINDER CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

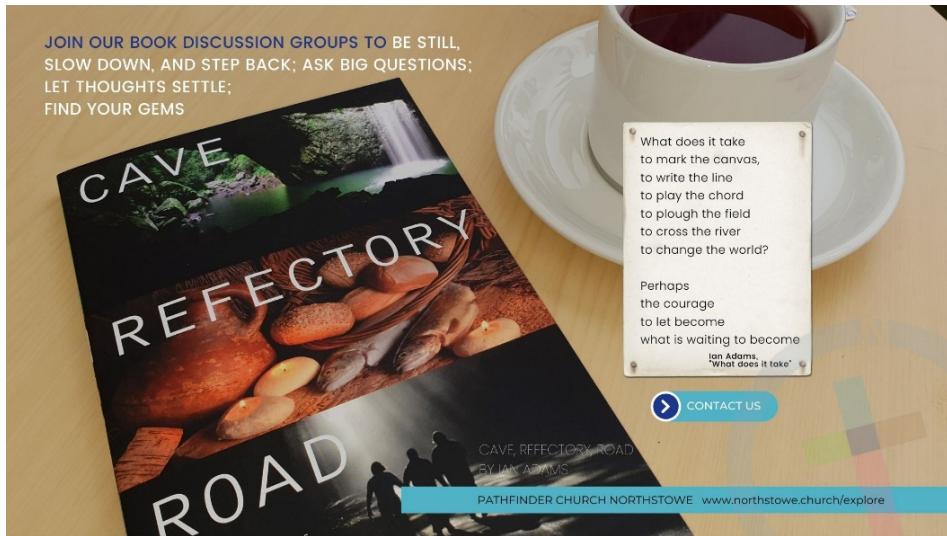
*praying, exploring and sharing*

## Ancient wisdom: contemporary spirituality

For many of us, the pandemic forced us to re-consider our rhythms of life. Here at Pathfinder Church, we've been reading Ian Adam's book "Cave Refectory Road" uncovering ancient monastic wisdom for contemporary spirituality. Through this term, the opportunity to explore new spiritual practices, including silent contemplation, has helped us connect with God and each other. And, from that place of rest and connection, to be ready to make a difference in the places we find ourselves, giving us the strength to focus some of our other favourite themes: community and social justice

Read more here... and maybe try it yourself? We'll re-run these sessions next term too if there is enough interest:

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



## Pathfinder Church's Term Time Pattern

Join our Sunday Afternoon Gatherings at 3.30pm

- **1st Sunday of the month off-site:** prayer-walk in Northstowe
- **Other Sundays:**  
Join us for interactive all-age conversation, prayer, exploration, and worship. Experience rooted faith, shaped for this time and this place. Church, but not as you know it.  
Pathfinder Primary School Hall/Field: 3.30-5pm

Or our monthly special events:

- **Community Breakfast Gatherings:** 1st Sunday of the Month  
Whatever your faith, bring the whole family to share in breakfast, activities, and gentle chat, with an optional communion in a side chapel. Pathfinder Primary School, 10.30am – 12 noon
- **“Chicken Soup for the Soul”:** 1st Weds of the month, Stop; Breathe; Pray. Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close. 8pm

*Check our social media for holiday patterns*

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**Revd Dr Beth Cope** is the Pioneer Minister (“Vicar”) and Priest for Northstowe: your first port of call for Church of England Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals in Northstowe. She works closely with Revds Lucy and Simon in the surrounding villages (the 5 Folds Family of Churches). Contact her at Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close, Northstowe, CB24 1AW (01954 261 181)

**contact@northstowe.church**; [www.northstowe.church](http://www.northstowe.church) Follow our social media ([fb.me/PathfinderChurch](https://fb.me/PathfinderChurch))

or newsletter ([bit.ly/PathfinderChurchNews](https://bit.ly/PathfinderChurchNews)) to see pictures, news, and more.

## Christmas with Pathfinder Church

*As well as partnering in many of the community events listened on the Whats On page, we're also coordinating these events, open to all, at Pathfinder Primary School unless otherwise stated. Online alternatives should Covid require.*

### All through Advent:

Visit the Stable Scene outside 6 Woodpecker Close

### 5<sup>th</sup> December:

10-2pm Christmas Craft Fair

#### Pop-Up Band:

Bring an instrument and join our community jamming session. Or simply pull up a chair and listen.

### 19<sup>th</sup> December:

3.30pm Campfire Christingle:

Bring the family to our Reimagined Christingle, with a fire-side moment of wonder (inside if wet)

### 24th December (Christmas Eve):

6.40pm Early Christmas Night Campfire Communion

11.45pm Streamed Midnight Communion (YouTube)

### 25th December (Christmas Morning):

9.30-11.30am Community Breakfast with Carols and more. Don't be alone unless you want to be! Those of all traditions and none are invited to join us for a free breakfast (sponsored by local organisations) and light-hearted carol singing, followed by an optional reflective space to sing, pray and celebrate Christmas in an informal setting.

**The Wing (possibly outside)**

## BOOK REVIEWS

### The Raven in the Foregate by Ellis Peters

Peters is a medieval murder mystery from the Cadfael series. A new priest has arrived in the parish of the Foregate, near Cadfael's abbey, and he rapidly becomes extremely unpopular. When he turns up dead on Christmas morning, most of the parish had a motive to kill him, including Benet, a young man who came with him and has been working in Cadfael's garden. Cadfael and his friend the sheriff Hugh Beringar have to find out what really happened.

As usual for the Cadfael books, the central murder mystery is combined with other mysteries and character interactions. The result is a very sweet story which feels firmly set in the political context of the 1100s but never loses the sense of being a small interpersonal narrative.

It's not my favourite of the Cadfael books, but I like Benet and Cadfael's interaction. It makes sense that Cadfael is able to guess his secrets and he comes across as a genuinely good and trustworthy guy.

The story as a whole also plays out very well, with twists and turns that make sense and show a great variety of personality and motivations among the secondary characters. The ending also has an interesting twist that resolves the mystery in a very satisfactory way. Peters is also very good at writing a vivid winter; sometimes I forgot while reading that it wasn't snowing outside!

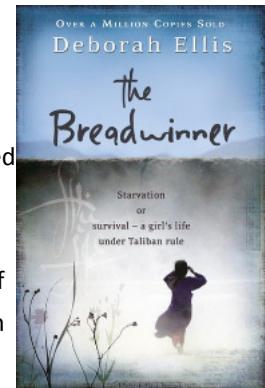
I recommend it for slightly older YA and up

**Becca Edney**



### The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

Ellis is a Young Adult novel set in Afghanistan during the 1990s. Women and girls have been ordered to stay at home and Parvana's father has been arrested and imprisoned by the Taliban. Tired of living confined to one room, eleven year-old Parvana cuts her hair and dresses in her dead brother's clothes to venture out and earn money for food to support her mother and siblings. At first Parvana is a little resentful at having to be the family breadwinner, but she quickly realises that it is more exciting than staying at home bored.



Far from being a dark, depressing novel, the author portrays Parvana as a normal curious child having fun and new experiences without shying away from the stark reality of life under a strict repressive regime. There are tragedies under the surface and older children will pick up on these, but it is possible to read this book as an adventure story with an engaging heroine.

This is the first in a series of four novels aimed at upper primary and lower secondary pupils. The Canadian author interviewed many Afghan women in refugee camps as research for the book, and although published in 2000, it is still relevant and worth reading today.

**Kathy Fountain**

## NORTHSTOWE BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets monthly on Monday evenings, currently on Zoom. Look for our Facebook Page if you are interested in joining. It isn't essential to come every month, but we would love to see some new people at our meetings.

November 8th *Just One Damned Thing After Another* by Jodi Taylor

December 6th *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

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## NORTHSTOWE GAMERS

Christmas is approaching once again, and so we turn our attention to all things cold, wintery and icy – and usually in the tabletop gaming world that means penguins! This month we feature **Ice Cool**, a quick and fun dexterity game suitable for all ages.

It's close to lunchtime and the students are getting restless in their penguin high school (yes, their "ice cool"). Suddenly a race breaks out, and the game begins: (up to) 3 players rush about trying to duck under doorways, where they can collect fish. The remaining player is the do-gooder Hall Monitor whose job is to collide with each of the other penguins before they can finish. Each player takes turns to flick their penguin with one finger. They move a little like Subbuteo players, being weighted at the bottom, so you can either aim directly at the doors, or (with a little practice) you can hit them off-centre and make trick shots to slide around the corners. You can even jump over the walls if you hit them just right. It takes some practice to master all the shots but it's a lot of chaotic fun even when players are off-target.

For each fish or tagged student you collect a card worth 1-3 points. The lower-scoring cards aren't entirely bad news, however, because you can reveal two 1-point cards and immediately take an extra turn. At the right time, this might help you to finish your targets and surprise your opponents. The round continues either until one of the students has picked up all of their fish, or the monitor has tagged each of the others. Then it's the next player's turn to be the monitor and a new round begins. The game is fast-paced and each round only takes a few minutes to play.

We like Ice Cool because it's easy to learn, and fun however good or bad you are at moving the pieces. We also wanted to note that the physical components are quite clever. The game's box itself becomes part of the playing surface (there is a stack of boxes inside, and they hold together with white fish-shaped clips. Simple but effective). The artwork is also very good; quite detailed, with scratches from ice-skates all over the floor and other humorous little touches showing daily life in the penguin school.

Too school for cool, or are your other plans on ice? Join us online on Tuesday evenings – for details search FaceBook for "Northstowe Gamers" or email [northstowegamers@thecolliers.uk](mailto:northstowegamers@thecolliers.uk)

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*Ice Cool is designed by Brian Gomez and published by Brain Games*



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## HELPING HEDGEHOGS

As the colder weather takes hold, mature hedgehogs will continue to feed as much as possible and begin building their nests in preparation for hibernation. It is crucial for them to gain enough weight to survive hibernation (650g). We can continue to help them by leaving food and water out for them. For help and advice on hedgehogs contact Liz Dams on 07912 988898 or Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital 07505 651968.

Out of hours Emergency line 07771 457693.



Tiger, from Harston, was found trapped in fencing.

*Hedgehogs have a really long snout to help them hunt. It is even ahead of their mouths as it makes it easier to forage for their staple diet of insects, worms, caterpillars and berries.*

Hedgehogs in the UK are in serious trouble. Repeated studies have shown that the nation's favourite animal is being wiped out. But there is something we can do to save them.

I'm an ecologist and author and I've been studying hedgehogs for over 30 years. I know that a key cause of them dying out is that our landscapes are being fenced off into ever smaller fragments. We need to make sure new housing developments include 'hedgehog highways' - a 13 cm hole in the bottom of a fence that allows hedgehogs to move freely between gardens to find food and find a mate.

This simple move would have a big impact on the UK's hedgehogs - and it's cheap and easy for developers to carry out.

So I'm calling upon government to ensure every new housing development builds in these holes for hedgehog highways. This will allow gardens to be connected, creating the pathways they need to survive.

We can't sit back and let hedgehog numbers keep plummeting. It's estimated that numbers are already down 95% since the 1950s. We have to act now.

Please sign my petition to call on the Ministry of Housing and Planning to make hedgehog highways a legal requirement of new builds.

**Hugh Warwick**



## RSPB FEN DRAYTON

The closing of the year presents a good time to summarise the wildlife goings-on that have taken place over the past 12 months. Overall, it has been an exciting year; however varied water levels posed a challenge for some species to overcome.



Early winter flooding meant the reserve effectively became one giant lake. The ducks were having a great time with large numbers of wigeon, tufted duck, pintail, shoveler and goldeneye counted. Wading birds that like shallow water struggled to find higher ground, but the few areas that were suitable resulted in large counts of black-tailed godwits and lapwing, amongst others.

Fluctuating water levels are not good for species which nest close to the water, as proved to be the case when spring flooding in April resulted in many of the nesting islands for gulls, waders and terns being washed out. It was really fraught to watch the birds trying to build up their nests with twigs so that their eggs remained out of the water. Most couldn't do it in time, but a few managed to build up their nests over a foot higher. Once the water receded somewhat, these birds were sat proud on towering nests.

Our reedbeds are managed with the hope of scarce breeding birds using them. This year, a pair of bittern were observed to be likely breeding on site. Although we often hear a territorial male in the spring, this is the first time we recorded nesting evidence. Bearded tits are also likely to have nested on site for the first time after sightings of a family group with youngsters were reported. These are both good signs that the work we carry out in the reedbed is working and that it is in the right condition with habitat and food availability for our target birds.

Nightingales hadn't been heard on the reserve for a few years, but following habitat work that we have carried out over the past two winters, we were overjoyed to hear two males singing their wonderful lyrical song from deep within an area of scrub in the spring. A female was later seen with one of the males, suggesting breeding may have taken place.

Our other headline species is the turtle dove and surveys revealed up to five singing birds around the reserve. They went quiet after a while, but we confirmed breeding for at least one pair with a family group seen in August.

Following the breeding season, the reserve sees an annual build-up of mute swans which come here to moult their wing feathers. During this time, they are flightless and need large waterbodies to feel safe on. The counts achieved by our volunteers were huge with 233 counted in June.

Going into the winter months a murmuration began. Black silhouettes appeared en-masse in the sky before the setting sun. They wheel around and create wondrous shapes. These are made by starlings which fly into the reedbed to roost. We are lucky that most years they visit, but their presence is never guaranteed. A fitting finale to the year.

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

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

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



Starling murmuration at Fen Drayton Lakes – Gill Parish

## NORTHSTOWE NATURE NOTES

A big step forward was the opening of the Phase 1 Water Park. The lake itself was dug in 2015, with trees, reeds and other aquatic plants getting established since then. It adds a great place for walking or running and watching the wildlife. The Swan family is doing well, still with six cygnets and Tufted Ducks have just started joining the Coots. Tern rafts have been put out, but Common Terns won't be back until April. Fingers crossed they breed on them, there are plenty of small fish around. Willow Emerald Damselflies are around the lake and at Kingfisher Pond, laying their eggs into willow and alder branches overhanging the water.



*Left: Willow Emerald Damselfly, Right: Phase 2 lakes and bridges*

In Phase 2 the bridges have been put in around the next two lakes and the paths there will give a 5km loop around three lakes. The flood in phase 2 continues as an accidental nature reserve, with wildfowl numbers building considerably (400 geese of three species, 200 ducks, seven species), plus migrating waders heading south from Scandinavia and the high Arctic.

For local reserves, the new car park for Ouse Fen, by the B1050 near Earith is proving popular. It will get better as the water levels are raised in the reedbeds this winter, encouraging specialized birds such as Bittern, Bearded Tit and Marsh Harrier to spread from the established southern end of the reserve. It's been good to get back into volunteer days there and Fen Drayton helping manage the habitat.

**Hugh Venables**



## WILDLIFE GARDENING IN OCTOBER.

Some of our most beneficial insects can be assisted this month, by providing artificial nest homes for them. Ladybirds cluster together to spend the winter in dry frost-free places, and a bundle of hollow natural plant stems, bamboo canes or a purpose built wooden home will encourage them to stay around. You can also provide them and other insects including lacewings, with an overwintering place by leaving herbaceous vegetation uncut. Any branches or leaves that are around can be left in a dry place to be used by insects.



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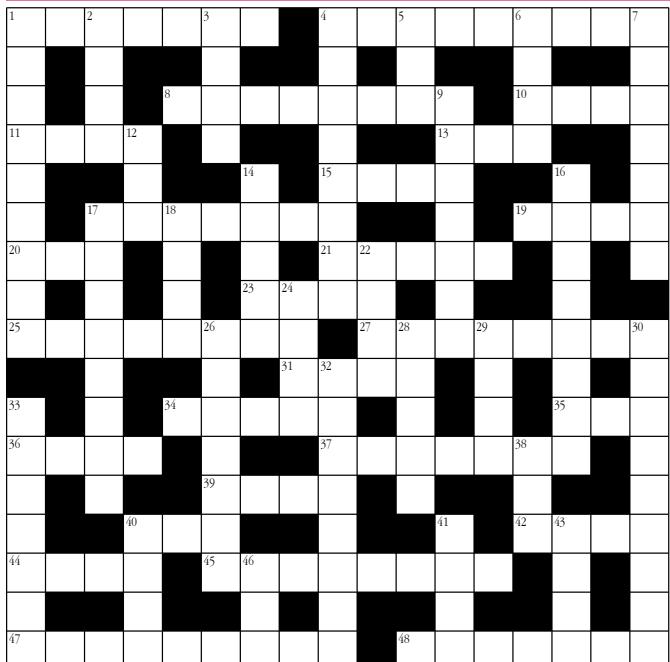


# Colouring and Puzzles



Line art by Janis Leigh

## CHRISTMAS CRYPTIC CROSSWORD BY PILGRIM



### Across

- 1 Seaside malaise may be a result of this (7)  
4 Tam's union is confused in this terrain (9)  
8 Armour allowed to be in the blood (8)  
10 In flax I locate type of joint (4)

11 Look through a small space either way (4)

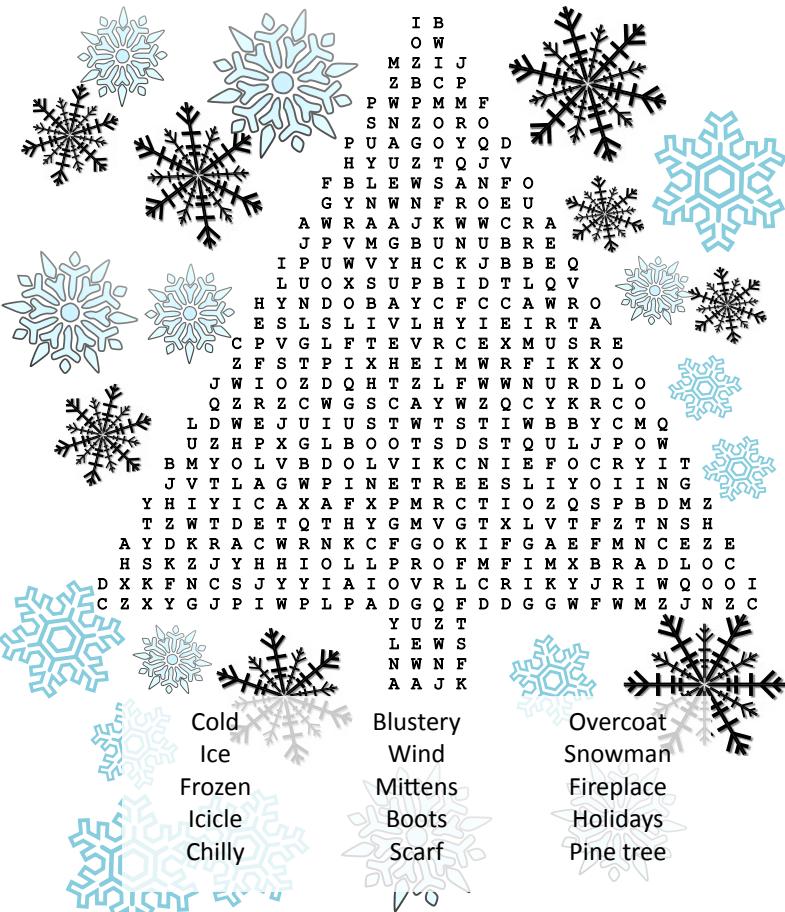
- 13 He's reflected (3)  
15 Headless head is a unique occurrence! (4)  
17 Professional note in food group (7)  
19 Could be found in 4, hopefully following test (4)  
20 Insubstantial song? (3)

- 21 Boudicca's tribe demolished French town before one (5)  
23 Every fruit or strand is beheaded (4)  
25 Round of cricket complete; cram to excess (8)  
27 I, artisan, have got in a muddle with my knitting (8)  
31 Bone found in ghoul naturalist's collection (4)  
34 Sounds as if most people need more of this herb (5)  
35 Toddler can add up (3)  
36 Insect flies back towards zesty flavour (4)  
37 A Scot's own among more glacial deposits (7)  
39 Broken idol enables leisure activities (4)  
40 Bow or sleeper (3)  
42 Cure mix-up has neutral result (4)  
44 Find this in gourd uttered in Asian language (4)  
45 Apparently fearful, but truly terrible (8)  
47 Chaotic rune dance requires determination and perseverance (9)  
48 Shout hidden among two parts of London without anyone knowing (7)

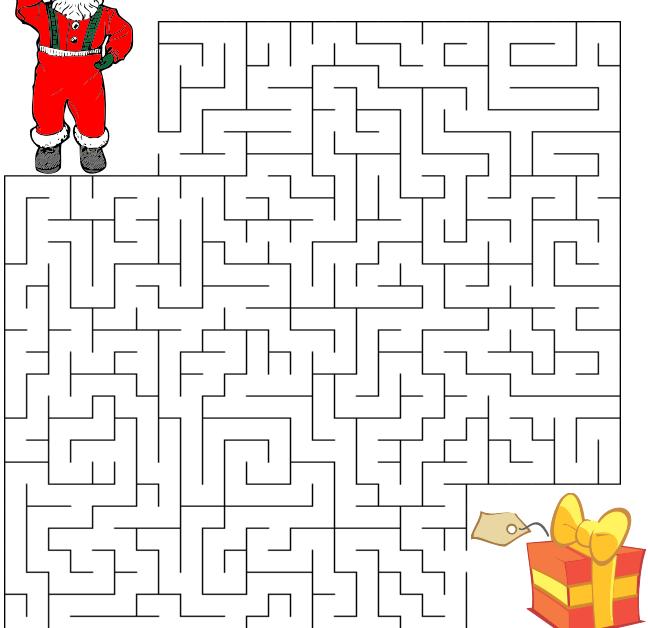
### Down

- 1 Bandit rasped ode painfully (9)  
2 Dimensions of stiffener (4)  
3 Unfinished kilts made from natural fibre (4)  
4 Conmen I'm trying to forget? Quite the reverse! (8)  
33 Country includes ancient city at height (7)  
38 Born at adjacent points of the compass (3)  
40 Archbishop found at ballet? (4)  
41 Reflect on Greek demigod (4)  
43 Company about the centre (4)  
46 Score or execute (3)

## Winter Word Search



## **Help Santa find the missing present!**



## Can you spot 5 differences?



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