

NORTHSTOWE

News

ISSUE 39

JUNE / JULY 2025

By Northstowe's Community – For Northstowe's Community



NEWS AND UPDATES

EDITORS' WELCOME

The days are longer, and the evenings are brighter. Fire up the barbecue, because summer has arrived!

There's so much going on here in Northstowe, and you can experience the best of it all at the Midsummer Festival on Saturday 21st June. Last year's celebration drew over 800 people, and this time it's set to be even better with live music, drama, dance, and a whole host of other community fun. Come see what Northstowe has to offer – we'll be there, and we can't wait to see you!

WANT TO ADVERTISE IN NORTHSTOWE NEWS?

Over 1700 copies of each issue are delivered, a free magazine to every residence in Northstowe. If you want your business to be included, contact janetpendrill@gmail.com for more details.

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

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

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

HOUSEHOLD BIN COLLECTIONS

Friday 6 th June	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 13 th June	Black Bin
Friday 20 th June	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 27 th June	Black Bin
Friday 4 th July	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 11 th July	Black Bin
Friday 18 th July	Blue and Green Bins
Friday 25 th July	Black Bin



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

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Front Cover photo by Nicky de Groot
Goldfinch in Northstowe

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



MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
SAT 21ST JUNE

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- PHOENIX
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- greenbelt

OWLS COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

The OWLS Community Car Scheme has seen an unprecedented demand for its service over the last few weeks and some requests for medical appointments have had to be refused due to not having enough drivers. We urgently need more volunteer drivers especially with the holiday season limiting the availability of the drivers we have. As yet we do not have any volunteer drivers in Northstowe so would love to hear from residents who could help out.



Drivers receive a total of 45p a mile, do not have to commit to regular days and can always say no to requests. Our elderly and vulnerable customers call it a 'lifeline' and say they don't know how they would manage without it. Please consider volunteering your help to enable this much valued and needed local community service to meet demand. A DBS check (free) will be needed.

For more information, without obligation please ring OWLS on 07505 254363.

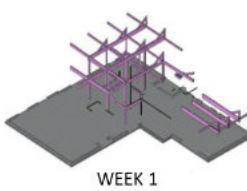
We are also keen to recruit additional coordinators.



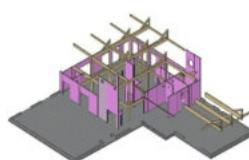
NORTHSTOWE UNITY CENTRE



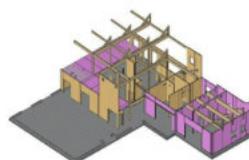
From early May residents will begin to see quick progress in the development of the Unity Centre. The super-sustainable Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) frame will begin to be delivered and installed. We expect the installation process to be complete in July, when residents will see the complete shell of the building and the full scale of this new community facility.



WEEK 1



WEEK 2



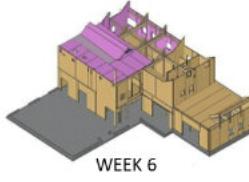
WEEK 3



WEEK 4



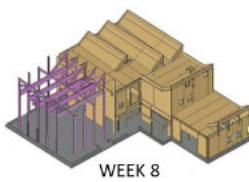
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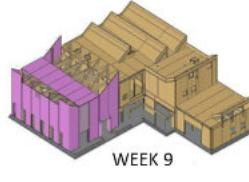
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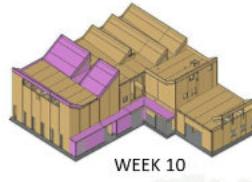
WEEK 7



WEEK 8



WEEK 9



WEEK 10



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

IAN SOLLOW MP



Member of Parliament for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed getting out across the constituency listening to and speaking with residents on their doorsteps in support of our brilliant County Council candidates, who stood for election on 1st May. Thank you to everyone who took the time to speak to me about issues that matter to you. The Liberal Democrats gained 11 seats and are now the majority party on the Cambridgeshire County Council.

EMERGENCY PIP FORUM

I have received many concerned emails from constituents about the Government's plans to cut Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and the impact this will have on them. In light of this, I recently hosted an emergency forum, bringing together local charities and organisations to discuss how best we can support disabled people and their carers in our community if these cuts are to go ahead.

Representatives from Citizens Advice Bureau Rural Cambs and Cambridge & District, as well as both St Neots and Cambridge City Foodbank, Switch Now, Cambridgeshire ACRE, Money Advice St Neots, and Carers UK all participated in the forum. But it is clear that these cuts are going to have a huge impact on their services, and indeed on the residents they are helping. Using the testimony from this meeting, I will be challenging the Government at every opportunity and pressing them to make urgent changes to the proposals to ensure disabled people get the support they need.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK UK

From the 12th to 18th of May, the Mental Health Foundation will be leading Mental Health Awareness Week. This year, the theme will be 'community'. We are incredibly lucky to have such dedicated support systems already in our community – as demonstrated by the dedication of the organisations who attended the PIP emergency forum above. During the week, I am planning to meet even more community champions and local groups who are doing so much to look after mental health in our area.

NORTHSTOWE LEARNING COMMUNITY VISIT

Continuing with the theme of community, I recently visited Northstowe Learning Community's sixth form and primary school for a tour of their new facilities. I was particularly impressed by the school's inclusive approach to teaching, as well as the student leaders who told me all about the school's extra-curricular offerings. I look forward to seeing much more of their fantastic work soon.

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

DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN



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

Summertime and I'm happy to welcome our new County Councillor Cllr Luis Navarro to the ward and to thank Cllr Firouz Thompson for working so closely with me over the past 2 years. Firouz has been a strong champion as we deliver

Northstowe and Luis has a tough act to follow. Well done Firouz and thank you for working so closely with me and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) to manage the development of Northstowe.

My focus on this edition is on the environment since in June we celebrate The Great Big Green Week and World Environment Day:

COMMUNITY GROUPS INTERESTED IN OUR ZERO CARBON COMMUNITIES GRANT

SCDC's popular Zero Carbon Communities Grant are open for applications from Monday 5th May and will close on Tuesday 1st July 2025. Parish councils and voluntary/community organisations are invited to apply for grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 for projects that reduce carbon emissions or foster greater community engagement on climate issues and encourage sustainable behaviour change. An online workshop was held in May about this. Email zcc@scambs.gov.uk for more information about outcomes and activities related to this.

COMMUNITY GROUPS INTERESTED IN ALLOTMENT IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

This grant funding can provide up to £10,000 in funding to support projects that enhance the productivity, sustainability, and social value of allotment spaces. Applications open on Monday 5 May and close in late August 2025 and parish councils and allotment societies are invited to apply. More information is on SCDC website.

NEW SCDC WEBSITE LAUNCHED

SCDC's new website is now operating, which has a new, more user-friendly look and feel and is optimised for both desktop and mobile devices so that it's easier for residents to find critical information and services. It allows residents to get personalised, local information at a glance. By entering your postcode, you can get information on bin collection dates for your street, local street cleansing schedules, nearby planning applications, District Councillor details and local events of interest. Try it on the new homepage: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/>

NEED HELP FROM SCDC?

In addition to contacting me (see below), for any resident needing help from SCDC, the new website is excellent and intuitive. For specifics about how to contact a service, go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/contact-us>. Also, a useful SCDC contact number for all the District Council services is 01954713000. This is open 8am to 5:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and on Wednesday, from 8am to 6:30pm.

Contact: cllr.warren@scambs.gov.uk.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON



After four years serving as your County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington & Westwick, and Over, it's time for me to step aside and pass the baton. It has been an incredible journey, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone across our community for the support, collaboration, and trust you've shown me since 2021.

When I first stepped into this role, I promised to stand up for our area and work hard to make a difference — and it's been a privilege to do exactly that. Along the way, I've learned a great deal, met some truly inspiring people, and been fortunate to work alongside so many residents, community groups, and local organisations committed to improving life for all of us.

One of the real highlights of my time as County Councillor has been working on the development of the Northstowe Learning Community. I have had the privilege of sitting on the Children and Young People's Committee for the last four years and on the Cambridgeshire Music Board for the past two years — roles that have deepened my understanding and passion for education and youth services. It has been exciting to watch the ambitious vision for Northstowe come to life — a vibrant education campus that now provides an outstanding, seamless journey for children and young people right here in Northstowe. The opening of the new Northstowe Sixth Form College, the expansion of Northstowe Secondary College, the creation of a brand-new Northstowe Primary School and Northstowe Nursery, and the dedicated Martin Bacon Academy for students with special educational needs have transformed the opportunities available for families in our area. It's an investment that will shape lives for generations to come especially with the planned gym, café and heritage spaces that are yet to come, and I'm proud to have played a part in making it happen.

There have been many other milestones too — from supporting improvements in local transport links, helping secure funding for community infrastructure, and by sitting on the Northstowe Delivery Group to ensure the town's

growth is matched by the facilities and services our community needs. A particular highlight has been working alongside Ian Sollom MP, as I've had the opportunity to attend a range of meetings with Ian, including discussions with our local GP practice, Homes England, Keepmoat and Stagecoach, to ensure that all these services meet the needs of our growing community. None of this has been possible without the strong partnerships and tireless work of so many residents — who have been raising complaints with me, volunteers, community groups/organisations and District and Town Councillors. Thank you for your dedication and determination.

As I step down, I'm delighted to share that Luis Navarro has been elected as the new County Councillor. Luis received 1,329 votes (42.30%) in the recent election, reflecting strong community support for his vision and dedication. His background in community leadership, business, and youth engagement positions him well to serve our area effectively.



In a broader context, the 2025 Cambridgeshire County Council elections marked a significant shift. The Liberal Democrats secured a majority for the first time, winning 31 of the 61 seats. As a result, we have taken leadership of the County Council — an exciting opportunity to shape a forward-looking, community-focused agenda for the whole of Cambridgeshire.

While I may be stepping back from the County Council, I remain committed to our community. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve — it has truly been an honour.

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



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***** (5* Facebook Review) Amy Moran

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

***** (5* Google Review) Jo Eadie



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUMS 2025



The next Forum will be on Wednesday 4 June at Western Park Pavilion starting with a drop-in at 6:30pm and presentations at 7pm. Agendas are usually advertised the week before and questions can be asked during the evening by attendees as well as submitted in advance to

northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk. The meeting will be broadcasted live on Microsoft Teams. The link will be available on the forum page nearer the time
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-forums/northstowe-community-forum>



DROP-IN SESSION WITH THE CDOS

We offer monthly drop-in sessions for residents, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. No appointment is needed just pop in for a chat over a cup of tea at The Cabin, in the café area. We are also available if residents would like to set up a meeting, whether this is within working hours or not. Most people drop in on an ad-hoc basis and we are always happy to make time to see them.

NEW COMMUNITY GROUP

60+ Group, 'Come and Say Hello', Northstowe

This new group welcomed people over the age of 60, it had its introductory sessions in May, at The Cabin. The group discussed events and activities in Northstowe and surrounding areas, and how they would like the group to progress. Future dates will be advertised on community noticeboards and on Northstowe Facebook pages.

DIGITAL ASSISTANCE

The digital assistance sessions are designed to offer support such as using/downloading apps, searching information online, email accounts and more. We have agreed on regular digital assistance sessions on the first Wednesday of every month 1-2pm. The service extends to parents at the local schools.

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COGNITIVE TRAINING FOR THE ELDERLY

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

MENOPAUSE MEETINGS

The meetings in April and May were full of chocolate tasting and potions. In June there will be a local doctor attending to talk about menopause symptoms and answer questions. The meetings are free and take place monthly on a Wednesday evening. Future meetings will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community noticeboards. Please contact Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing Group if you would like to help run the group or have any questions about attending [nouthstoweswgroup@gmail.com](mailto:northstoweswgroup@gmail.com)

SOCIAL WALKING GROUP

The Easter painted rock hunt was enjoyed by many families on Saturday 12 April. The walks are free to attend, the next dates are Friday 13 June and Friday 18 July, starting at The Cabin at 10:15am. Future walking dates, routes and themes will be advertised on the Northstowe Community Facebook pages and the noticeboards at The Cabin and Western Park Pavilion.

GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

We will celebrate the GBGW 7-15 June together with Sustainable Northstowe. Events taking place that week will be advertised on social media soon. If you'd like to support sustainable initiatives in Northstowe, please get in touch: Sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com.

HALLMASTER

All room bookings for The Cabin are made through Hallmaster, if you would like to see room availability, size and capacity or make a booking please go to:
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/temporary-community-centre/>

If you would like to get involved in any projects or activities, or help with other volunteering opportunities please contact us on northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk

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NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR

Hi Northstowe. As this lands on doorsteps, the Town Council will have selected a new Town Mayor in our May meeting. After two years of serving as Town Mayor, and two years before that as Deputy Town Mayor, I feel it's the right time for the council to elect a new chair. It's been an absolute honour to serve through the Council's first four years at the front, and know that whomever the Council selects as our new Town Mayor, it will be in safe hands.

On April 29th, we held our Annual Town Meeting at The Cabin, where we updated residents and community groups on what we have been working on over the past year and our plans for next year. We also received updates from community organisations that have been recipients of our Grant Scheme, highlighting the importance of the projects and events that this has supported in building our local community.

We also presented an update on our bid for operation of the Unity Centre, which can be seen being constructed next to The Cabin. This building, and its operation, is a major change for the Town Council and there has been significant work by our Officers, Councillors and other members of the community who have helped shape the bid that we submitted to the District Council in March. Whilst at the time of the meeting, and writing this column the outcome of that process has not been decided, I'm confident that the bid that we have submitted demonstrates the value of the Town Council being the building operator and how that maximises value to the community.

In my April column I reported that we had a further councillor vacancy arise, and that was filled by co-option in our March, and we welcome Cllr Hughes to the council.

As always, if there are any topics you would like to raise with the Town Council do get in touch with myself (cllr.littlemore@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk) or Mark our Town Clerk (townclerk@northstowntowncouncil.gov.uk), there is always our standing Public Participation item on our agendas. As a reminder, Full Council meetings run on the 4th Tuesday of the month, starting at 19:00 in the Cabin.

Cllr Paul Littlemore

TOWN CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK

Dear Northstowe residents! By the time you read this summer will have started; I wonder if the great weather at the time of writing will last.

The Annual Town Meeting took place on Tuesday 29th April 7-9 pm at The Cabin. This was a summary of what had taken place during the period of April 2024 - March 2025 for Northstowe Town Council, and was presented by the Town Mayor, Cllr. Littlemore, The Town Clerk & Finance Officer and an update on the Unity Centre from the Asset and Estates manager. We also had guest speakers from Northstowe Arts, Northstowe Running Festival, Northstowe News and Northstowe Hub, also representing Northstowe Food Bank.

NORTHSTOWE MONTHLY MARKET – FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

The market dates in 2025 are: **1 June – 6 July – 7 Sept. – 5 Oct. – 2 Nov. – 7 Dec.** Our traders will be on The Green and inside The Cabin, from 10 am – 2 pm.

Thank you for your continued support with the Northstowe Market. Over three hundred people attended the markets held in March and April. Following the departure, in March, of our Market Manager, it was agreed in April's Full Council meeting that we have Phoenix Event Management run the market for the next 4 months.

The market traders look forward to your presence throughout 2025; will we see you there?

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY LOUNGE – EVERY THURSDAY EVENING

The Community Lounge secured further funding which has been used to purchase a new Mahjong table and other games.

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

MOBILE FOOD HUB – EVERY FRIDAY MORNING

This is run by the Non-Profit Organisation Hope CIC. They operate on The Green every Friday morning from 10:30 – 11:30 am. Fresh produce and essential items are on offer – some of which are free; everything else offered at below retail price – to help residents with rising food prices.

NORTHSTOWE – LONGSTANTON PARKPLAY – EVERY SATURDAY MORNING

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

PRIDE MONTH AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Medieval views of sexuality and sexual identity do not perfectly map onto our own and it is difficult to describe historical figures using the terms we use today, but nonetheless it is becoming increasingly recognised that there certainly were people throughout history who today would be described as genderqueer.

For example, Coptic texts from the 400s to 800s contain multiple mentions of people who were assigned female at birth living as men, often by joining monasteries as monks. For

example, a monk who was originally named Hilaria dressed as a man and was accepted by fellow monks as Hilarion, using asceticism to change his body as best he could without medical intervention.

Meanwhile, a grave from the 900s in Birka, Sweden, has long been considered the archetypical grave of an elite male Viking warrior, but DNA tests in 2017 demonstrated that the skeleton found in the grave had two X-chromosomes, leading to much re-evaluation of gender roles among medieval Swedes; the actual gender identity of the person in the grave is unknown and they may have been a female warrior, a trans man, or intersex.

Evidence of gender dysphoria can also be found in medieval literature, such as the 1322 book Even Bohan, in which Kalonymus ben Kalonymus, a Jewish philosopher from modern Provence, France, lamented being born a boy and expressed a wish to have been created a woman. Again, the correct interpretation of this is uncertain since we can't look directly into Kalonymus' mind; some historians have put forward the theory that he was writing in a tradition that lauded women and may have been purposefully taking this to extremes, possibly even as satire. Others speculate that he was actually gay but, living in a time of different views on gender roles and sexuality, could only conceptualise the desire to love and be loved by men as a desire to be a woman.

Even Bohan is not the only piece of medieval literature to explore gender identity and feature transgender characters; others include Le Roman de Silence, a French poem from the early 1200s with a main character - Silence, described by a narrator as "the boy who is a girl" - who is assigned female at birth but raised as a boy up to the age of 12. At that point, he is told the truth about his body but continues to live as a man, though he is returned to a feminine identity at the end of the poem with a dress and marriage, in accordance with the contemporary view of gender as a strict binary. During the poem, the pronouns used for Silence switch depending on the gender Silence is currently presenting as. In a third example, Christine de Pizan's Livre de la mutation de Fortune from 1403 opens with the protagonist declaring, "I who was formerly a woman, am now in fact a man ... my current self-description is the truth. But I shall describe by means of fiction the fact of my transformation".

There are also some medieval traditions around gender identity that still exist today: Albanian sworn virgins are people assigned female at birth who take a vow of chastity and live as men, including being referred to with masculine pronouns and being treated as men for the purposes of law. This is a tradition dating back to at least the 1400s and according to National Geographic there were still up to 102 Albanian sworn virgins left in 2002.

Becca Edney



Silence between Two Minstrels
(University of Nottingham WLC/LM/6 f.203r)

MARKET Northstowe

First Sunday Of The Month

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2025	2nd February 2nd March 6th April	4th May 1st June 6th July	7th September 5th October 7th December
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NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Community Lounge

A FREE WARM WELCOMING SPACE FOR EVERYONE

The Cabin, Assembly Room 1

1 The Green, Pathfinder Way, Northstowe CB24 1FD

Join us every Thursday 6 - 8 pm

Other Activities : Board Games, Table Tennis, Mahjong
Free refreshments, Food from Community Pantry
Children under 18 should be accompanied by an adult at all times



HOMES ENGLAND UPDATE

HONOURING OAKINGTON AIRFIELD IN NORTHSTOWE

A new granite memorial commemorating the rich wartime history of Oakington Airfield has been installed in Northstowe. Delivered by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT) and supported by Homes England, the government's housing and regeneration agency, the marker ensures that the stories of those who served at Oakington - the site on which Northstowe's growing community now stands - will endure for future generations.

A PLACE TO REFLECT

Unveiled in March 2025 before local residents, historians, former service-people and community leaders, the memorial stands on Rampton Road, east of Longstanton at the entrance to Homes England office, Northstowe House. Crafted from granite to ABCT's national standard, it joins over 200 installations across the UK which honour major former airfields. The marker invites quiet contemplation of the lives once centred here.

STEEPED IN HISTORY

Oakington first opened in July 1940 as a purpose-built RAF bomber station, quickly becoming home to the No 7 Squadron and the first Short Stirling planes in service. RAF Oakington had connections with the Great Escape. In peacetime, Oakington was initially transferred to Transport Command control before Flying Training Command took over in 1950, mainly for use by No 5 Flying Training School. HRH King Charles III learned to fly at RAF Oakington and chose to spend his 21st birthday taking to the skies over what is now Northstowe in a Basset aircraft.¹

After a busy career, Oakington closed in March 1975. It then went on to host British Army units and later operated as an immigration reception centre for a short while, before its transformation into today's Northstowe.

Now, the new memorial stands as a tangible link between the town's vibrant present and the airfield's storied past.



¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5grBNWfb8>

GREENBELT GROUP

Every summer Northstowe experiences a renewed sense of community, inspired by a full programme of outdoor activities and local events. These fun festivities also underpin a more enduring benefit: the improvement of our health and wellbeing through active community participation.

Northstowe residents are increasingly embracing the opportunities presented by longer days and warmer weather. From local festivals to arts gatherings and casual walks through extensive green spaces, these shared experiences are contributing to a stronger, healthier and more cohesive society.

Greenbelt Group, a long-standing supporter and sponsor of events in Northstowe, is of the key advocates for this form of community wellbeing. As long-term steward of many of Northstowe's open spaces, we view community interaction not just as a social good but as a foundation for long-term wellness.

"Our modern world can seem a whirlwind of changing news, social media hits and non-stop digital interruptions. It's refreshing, therefore, to find Northstowe's residents embracing the quiet power of community," says Nick Upton, Greenbelt's Community Liaison Officer.

"Thanks to our operational work on the ground, as well as the events we help sponsor, we consistently see the huge and positive difference it makes when people come together in a beautiful place – whether that's for the Running Festival, the Great Big Green Week, and Northstowe Midsummer Festival or simply a walk and a chat."



"Northstowe's events are among the most welcoming I've encountered in my role as Community Liaison Officer," Nick confesses. "The sense of togetherness is palpable and it's a real privilege for us to help nurture that spirit."

Residents considering greater involvement in local activities are encouraged to take the first step, whether by joining a group, exploring a new hobby or simply spending more time outdoors. The rewards, both personal and communal, are significant.

Greenbelt Group can also help bring your own ideas to life through funding and expert advice. Find out more at greenbelt.co.uk

In fact, numerous studies demonstrate regular social interaction, particularly in outdoor, natural setting, can indeed reduce stress, improve mood and contribute overall to better physical health. Activities as simple as a group walks or shared hobbies can trigger the natural release of key hormones linked with emotional wellbeing.

The benefits extend further. Strong social networks have been linked to increased life expectancy and lower incidence of chronic illnesses. Participation in community groups, such as gardening clubs or fitness sessions, encourages more active lifestyles and provides the motivation needed to maintain healthy habits.

Northstowe, with its deliberate emphasis on green infrastructure and accessible public spaces, is uniquely positioned to foster these kinds of connections. Family-friendly events and neighbourhood gatherings are not only enjoyable but also represent a collective investment in everyone's long-term health.

At Greenbelt Group we remain committed to supporting such initiatives in 2025 and far beyond. As custodians of many of Northstowe's communal green spaces, we play a pivotal role in maintaining and facilitating access to these vital resources and promoting their use for community benefit.





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SPORTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING



POSTNATAL YOGA

It's not just stretching: the nervous system benefits of Postnatal Yoga

Having a baby changes everything—your routines, your identity, even how your body and brain respond to the world. It's common to feel overwhelmed, overstimulated, or "on alert" much of the time. While yoga is often associated with flexibility and fitness, postnatal yoga offers something deeper: a space to reset, to breathe, and to feel more like yourself again.

The nervous system takes a hit in the postnatal period. After the intensity of pregnancy and birth—and the round-the-clock demands of caring for a newborn—it's easy to get stuck in survival mode. This can lead to anxiety, irritability, and exhaustion that rest alone doesn't fix.

Postnatal yoga helps regulate this response through grounding movement, breath work, and a gentle approach to rebuilding strength. These aren't just "nice extras"—they're essential for long-term wellbeing.

Unlike regular exercise classes, postnatal yoga is designed for recovery, inviting you to meet your body where it's at. Movements accommodate abdominal separation, pelvic floor weakness, and the lingering effects of relaxin. There's no pressure to perform or "bounce back"—just permission to move at your pace.

Many classes include elements of Baby Yoga too: gentle movements that support your baby's development and strengthen your bond. You're free to feed, change, or soothe your baby as needed—there's no expectation to do it all.

Most importantly, Postnatal Yoga offers a space to connect—with your body, your baby, and others in the same stage of life.

You're welcome whether your baby is asleep, wriggling, or crying through the whole class. The class adapts to your baby's cues, helping you find moments of calm in the chaos. You might not do every pose—and that's okay.

You don't need to be flexible. You don't need to be calm already. You just need to come as you are.

Cristina Freniche, Baby and Postnatal Yoga teacher at My Yoga Corner, Northstowe





Join ParkPlay, FREE every Saturday morning!



Make friends, have fun, get moving!

ParkPlay is two hours of FREE community play every week, with active and inclusive games for all generations to play together! SATURDAYS from 10:30am, on the MUGA behind the Western Park Sports Pavilion. Feel free to come along to try it out and join in there and then. See you soon!

Northstowe-Longstanton ParkPlay



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SURGERY CLOSURE

Please note the surgery will be CLOSED from 1pm on WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY for whole staff training.

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TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

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

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

CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS

Please let us know if you change your name, address or telephone number. A change of address may mean that you are outside our practice area and our reception team will advise you on this. It is important we have your up to date contact details in case we need to contact you at any time. You are able to update us by visiting <https://www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/practice-information/change-of-personal-details/> or popping into the surgery and completing a change of details form for you and other members of your household, remembering to bring your photo ID for identification.

DISPENSARY TELEPHONE LINES

To avoid any delays, we politely ask that you do not use our reception team as a first port of call for your dispensary enquiries. Instead, please telephone our dispensary team directly on **01954 207602** for any medication queries or hospital discharge concerns. Any questions will be dealt with as swiftly as possible, however you may still require an appointment with the GP if a medication needs authorisation. Our dispensary telephone lines are open **DAILY** from **10-12pm and 3-4pm** but please note that we do not take orders for repeat medications over the telephone.

ANNUAL MEDICATION REVIEWS

ALL patients who are prescribed repeat medication are required to have an ANNUAL MEDICATION REVIEW. Regardless of the number of medications on your repeat prescription, it is a legal requirement to review your medications annually with a GP. Not only is the GP legally responsible for prescribing your medication, this is also a good opportunity to discuss any concerns or ask any questions you may have. If you fail to attend this appointment it may affect you receiving your regular monthly medication. Please note that, even if you are under a hospital consultant for any condition, you will still be required to attend this appointment.

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

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) MEETINGS

The PPG brings together patients, GPs and staff from a GP practice. They meet to discuss issues relating to their surgery and the services provided to patients. This allows GPs and staff to work with patients to plan services which best meet the needs of the people who use those services. All of our patients are welcome.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9th July, 1.30–3.30pm** at the **Longstanton Surgery**.

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CARERS MEETINGS

If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please come along to our carers support meetings on **Wednesday 4th June** and **Wednesday 2nd July**, at the **Wilford Furlong Centre in Willingham**, where we will be holding drop in sessions **between 2pm and 4pm**. Please come along and get some support from other people in the local community. Refreshments are provided, there's no need to pre-book and it's completely **FREE!** Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month and for more information please contact susan.lawson7@nhs.net

Willingham Medical Practice – June/July 2025

**Sunday
29th June 2025**


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There's a choice of three rides, so there's something for everyone: marked 100km 'challenge'; marked 50km 'have a go'; 13km for family & casual riders. All start points at Over Community Centre.

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www.overdaycentre.co.uk/fundraising/bike-ride-2025
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WHAT'S ON IN NORTHSTOWE

MULTIPLE DAYS

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Come to meet our council Community Development Officers, drop-in any time between 9:30am–4:40pm on Tuesdays–Thursdays, or to make an appointment email:

northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk

MIDWIFE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

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

FOOD TRUCKS

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

MONDAYS

MAKE & MINGLE

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

BABY MASSAGE 5 WEEK COURSE (£)

Learn techniques to help you bond with your baby, soothe them, help with wind and colic, as well as calming ideas and other topics. Suitable from birth. 1pm at Longstanton Village Hall. myyogacorner.uk

TANG SOO DO (£)

Family-friendly martial arts club. Classes for children ages 6–14, at 4:30pm in WPP. Email enquiries@Northstowetsd.co.uk

BEAVERS

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Adults social badminton. 18:30–20:00 at NSC.

CUBS

Excitement and adventure for Cub Scouts aged 8 to 10½, be creative and get involved in your local community. 19:00 – 20:15 at NSC. Email info@1stnorthstowescouts.org.uk

FOOTBALL (£)

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NETBALL CLUB (£)

Meet a great group of women of all abilities who are learning to play netball. 7pm–8pm at WPP. Search Facebook for Northstowe Netball Club

TAI-CHI (£)

Weekly relaxation and inner peace. 19:30 at the PFPS. To book please email malcolmsavannah23@gmail.com

SOCIAL RUN

Longstanton and Northstowe Limpers social run meeting on The Green at 19:30 facebook.com/LandNLimpers

BOOK CLUB

Meet to discuss books on Monday evenings once per month. New members always welcome. www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785

NORTHSTOWE JETS BASKETBALL (£)

Ball handling, shooting, positioning, attacking, defending, fitness. All skill levels welcome. 20:00–21:00 at NSC. northstowebasketball@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

MICRO LIBRARY

Drop in at the Cabin any time 9:30–4pm, borrow a book or grab a drink from the hub café coffee machine

STAY AND PLAY GROUP

Weekly play-based activities for families with children age 10 months or walking. 10–11:30am in the Cabin. Phone 01954 284 672 to book.

BABY GROUP

Weekly play-based activities for families with babies up to year or crawling. 1–2:30 pm in the Cabin. Phone 01954 284 672 to book.

GUIDES (GIRLGUIDING) (£)

A group for girls aged 10 to 14 to explore the things they love and do stuff they've never done before. Activities, crafts, games and more. guiding@thehays.net

FASTBREAK BASKETBALL (£)

Indoor sessions in the NSC Sports Hall, 12 & Under at 6pm, 14 & Under at 7pm northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk

HUNTINGDON AND NORTHSTOWE HOCKEY CLUB (£)

NSC Astro turf, 7pm – 8:30pm All abilities welcome. Contact hello@huntingdonandnorthstowehockeyclub.com

FIREFLIES NETBALL CLUB (£)

A friendly 16+ netball club training 7:00–8:30pm year-round at NSC. Try first month free. FirefliesNetballClub@gmail.com

PREGNANCY YOGA (£)

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

NORTHSTOWE CHORUS

A new community choir for anyone who enjoys singing. 7pm one Tuesday a month at NSC, check dates at northstowearts.co.uk

NORTHSTOWE BOARD GAMERS

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

WEDNESDAYS

NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

Make new friends – Take your time and relax – Meet with others. Open 9am–12:30pm and 3:30–5pm in the foyer at the Cabin.

THE BABY HUB

Feeding and weaning, slings and carriers, cloth nappies and pottying, or just come along for a chat even if you don't need any specific support! 10:30–12pm alongside the Northstowe Hub Cafe in the Cabin. babyhub@northstowehub.org

LITTLE STARS (£)

Preschool ballet and dance with Stardust Dance Academy. 10am–11:15 in the Cabin. Book at www.stardustdanceacademy.com

YOUTH DROP IN AT NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

Youthwork run by Romsey Mill and Northstowe Youth Hive for school years 7–9. 4–5:30pm termtime. Free snacks, or add low cost treats from the café.

RAINBOWS

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

OVER POWER (£)

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

KARATE CLUB

Family friendly – Age 6+, children and adults welcome. 6:30–7:30pm in the Cabin. www.northstowekarate.com

MAKE & MINGLE

Bring your latest craft projects and meet up with other crafty locals. 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm at Tap & Social. northstowearts.co.uk

LONGSTANTON AND NORTHSTOWE LIMPERS

Session starting at 7.30pm for people that are new to running or getting back into it. facebook.com/LandNLimpers

DANCE FIT (£)

Adult class with Stardust Dance Academy. 7:30–8:30pm in the Cabin. Book at www.stardustdanceacademy.com

THURSDAYS

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Time for you, your child, and God. Breakfast from 9:15, main session 9:45–10:45am in PFPS www.northstowe.church/little-explorers

MICRO LIBRARY

Drop in at the Cabin any time 9:30–4pm, borrow a book or grab a drink from the hub café coffee machine

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS

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

SLING LIBRARY

Collection of slings and baby carriers, available to try and to hire. Ran by experienced babywearing consultant. 13:30–14:30 at Tap and Social myyogacorner.uk

GYMNASTICS (£)

Preschool gymnastics with Stardust Dance Academy. Book at www.stardustdanceacademy.com

TANG SOO DO (£)

(See Monday's entry for details) 4:30pm in WPP.

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY LOUNGE

Socialise with neighbours and have access to free Wi-Fi, hot drinks and refreshments. 6–8pm every Thursday at the Cabin. Free for everyone. We're planning well-being sessions, language classes, games night and more activities. www.northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk

SUSTAINABLE NORTHSTOWE

Making Northstowe a green, clean, biodiverse and interconnected place for current and future residents. 4th Thursday of the month, 7pm in the Cabin. For more info see facebook.com/sustainablenorthstowe or email sustainable.northstowe@outlook.com

NORTHSTOWE CRICKET CLUB

Outdoor season underway. Net practice at Fen Ditton Recreational ground, contact northstowecricket@gmail.com northstowe.play-cricket.com/home

FASTBREAK BASKETBALL (£)

Indoor sessions in the NSC Sports Hall, 10 & Under and 16 & Under at 7:15pm, Adult sessions at 8:20pm northstowe@fastbreakbasketball.co.uk

OVER POWER (£)

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

SCOUTS

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

NORTHSTOWE'S COMPLINE (NIGHT PRAYER)

Stop, Breathe, Pray. Alternate Thursdays 8–9pm. www.northstowe.church/compline

FRIDAYS

ACROBATICS AND DANCE

Pre-school class with Studio Fogg Dance. 9:45–10:45 in the Cabin. Book at studiodogg.co.uk

WALKING FOR ALL

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

MOBILE FOOD HUB

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

BABY AND POSTNATAL YOGA (£)

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

BABY MASSAGE 5 WEEK COURSE (£)

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

MOBILE LIBRARY

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

ARTS CLUB (£)

Children's activity with Artastic Kids Club. 4–5pm in the Cabin, book at www.gorgeouslittlethingsuk.com

SEWING AND DESIGN (£)

Children's activity with Artastic Kids Club. 5–7pm in the Cabin, book at www.gorgeouslittlethingsuk.com

JUDO (£)

Ages 5 to 105 from beginners to Dan grades. On Fridays at PFPS, 5–6pm (under 8s) and 6–7pm (over 8s). For more info contact colinappidojo@gmail.com

NORTHSTOWE BADMINTON CLUB (£)

Adults social badminton. 18:00–19:30 at NSC.

SATURDAYS**BUG HUNTER WATERS PARKRUN**

A free, fun and friendly weekly 5k. 9am at Bug Hunter Waters, near the bridge. Please register at www.parkrun.org.uk/bughunterwaters

PARKPLAY @ WESTERN PARK SPORTS PAVILION

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

MY YOGA CORNER WORKSHOPS (£)

Birth rehearsal - Breastfeeding - Babywearing and sling library - Starting solids. 10am–12 at Longstanton Village Hall. myyogacorner.uk

CATHOLIC MASS

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

SUNDAYS**NORTHSTOWE MONTHLY MARKET**

Brought to you by Northstowe Town Council. Variety of food and non-food traders. 1st Sunday of the month, 10 AM – 2 PM, inside (The Cabin) and outside (The Green) – YOUR local market! www.northstowntouncil.gov.uk

NORTHSTOWE HUB CAFÉ

Drop in for a chat, use the micro library and have a drink! 10am–2pm in the Cabin

EMMANUEL CHURCH NORTHSTOWE

A growing gospel-centred church serving a growing new community. Sunday morning services for all ages at 10:30, at NSC. www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

PATHFINDER CHURCH SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

Youth group from Emmanuel Church Northstowe for anybody ages 11–14. 5pm alternate Sundays in the Cabin. Email ignite.ecn@gmail.com or check emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org

LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

Cabin The Cabin, 1 The Green, CB24 1FD

NSC Northstowe Secondary College, CB24 1DJ

PFPS Pathfinder Primary School, CB24 1AA

WPP Western Park Pavilion, CB24 1DA

KEEP US UPDATED PLEASE! Spotted any errors, changes, or more groups to be included? Please email northstowenews@gmail.com

Northstowe Community Forum

Find out about ongoing development in Northstowe



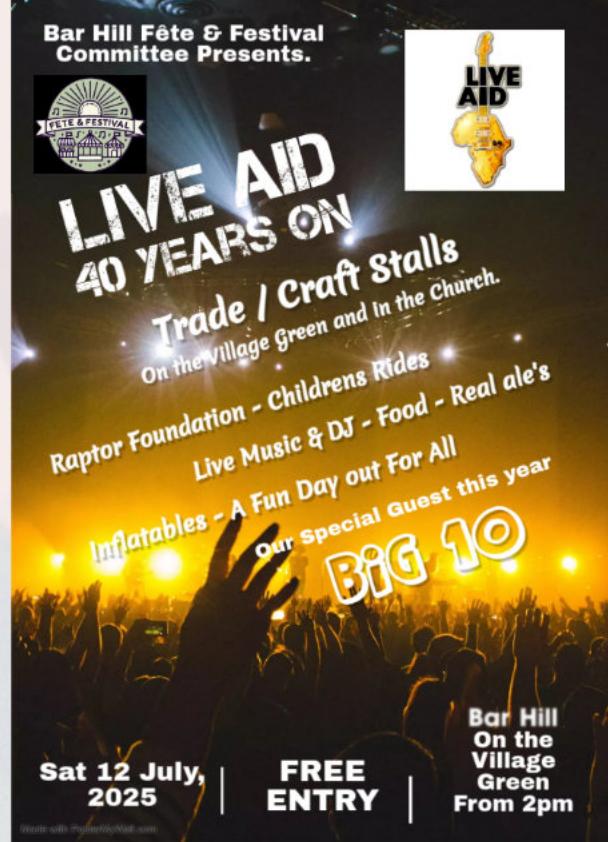
Wednesday 4 June

Drop in: 6:30pm | Forum: 7pm
Western Park Pavilion,
Peppercorn Drive, Northstowe, CB24 1BF



South Cambridgeshire District Council

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



Midsummer Festival, NSC

Café and Baby Hub!



New Hub Café at Northstowe Secondary College - volunteers needed!

In the coming weeks we're planning on expanding our Hub Café community project to the brand new facilities in the reception area of the Northstowe Secondary College campus, where they'll be open to all to relax, meet friends and enjoy a full range of coffee shop drinks and snacks! We are looking for more volunteers on Tuesdays between 5-7pm to kick start this project - please get in contact with us if you'd be interested in helping out!



Northstowe's Midsummer Festival 2025

Following its amazing launch in 2024, Northstowe's Midsummer Festival is back this summer! You're invited to join the whole of Northstowe and the local area's awesome community in celebrating the longest day of the year together, with an event packed with ace live music, showcases from local groups, delicious street food, toy swaps, craft workshops and more!

We're proud to be once again collaborating with Northstowe Arts and our many local partner groups and organisations to bring you this day full of feel-good community spirit on Saturday 21st June, 12-8pm on The Green and at The Cabin on Pathfinder Way - save the date and see you then!



Baby Hub support group - a welcoming space for everyone on the parenting journey

Whether you're a Mum, Dad or Grandparent - Baby Hub is your weekly dose of community, connection and support.

Mix and mingle with other families in a safe and comfortable space, swapping stories (the sweet... and the sleepless) ideas and advice - this is your time to feel heard, feel seen, and feel supported. Every Wednesday morning from 10.30am to 12.00pm alongside the Hub Café at The Cabin community centre.

Hub Café at the Cabin - pop in on Wednesdays 9am-12:30pm & 3:30-5pm and Sundays 10am-12pm (10am-2pm on Market Sundays) for a warm welcome, hot drinks and snacks!



northstowehub.org



info@northstowehub.org



northstowehub

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

THE NORTHSTOWE PLAYERS

Meet The Northstowe Players!

We're the town's newest troupe of theatrics enthusiasts, here to sprinkle a bit of madness and magic across Northstowe! 

First Act Alert:

Catch our debut performance of Alice in Wonderland on 21st June at the Midsummer Festival – expect whimsical costumes, quirky characters, and a rabbit hole of fun! (Look for the ones in 'mad' hats and striped stockings – we'll be hard to miss!)

After the final curtain?

We're taking a short summer break, but come August, we'll be back, meeting weekly to dream up more drama, craft wild sets, and stitch together show-stopping costumes. No acting experience needed – whether you're a backstage wizard, a music maestro, or just fancy a creative natter, there's a spot for you!

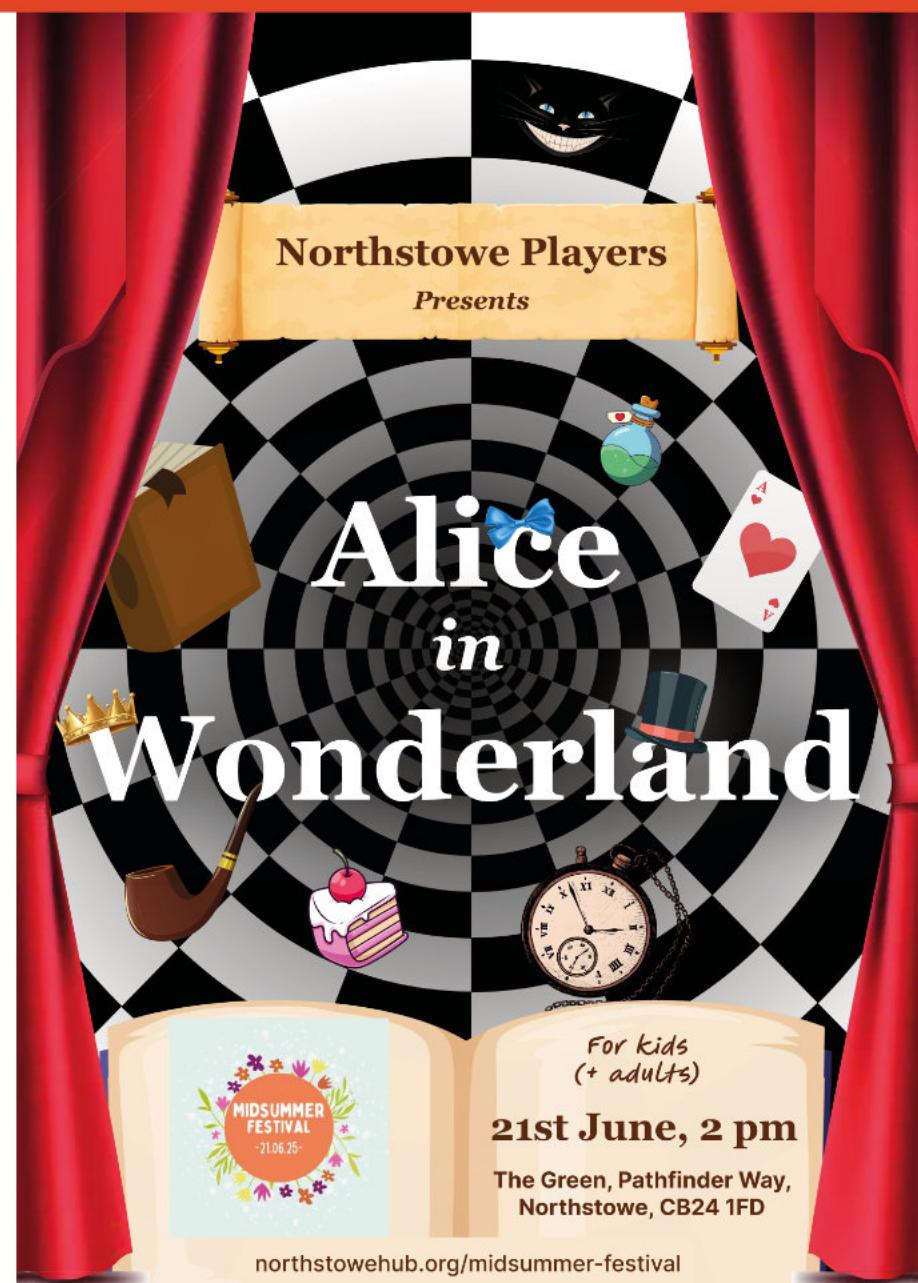
Started small, dreaming big:

Since our February 2025 launch, we've been brewing a love for all things stagey – and now we want YOU to join the adventure! Swing by after the show to chat about how you can bring your skills (or newfound curiosity) into the mix. Let's turn Northstowe – and maybe a few nearby villages – into a hub of community creativity!

P.S. Adults, tea-party enthusiasts, and curious cats all welcome. 

Follow the laughter – that's where you'll find us!

Get in touch: hello@northstowearts.co.uk



NORTHSTOWE CHORUS

The brand-new community choir, Northstowe Chorus, will soon step into the limelight for the very first time!

Since January we've been preparing a range of songs – from a 16th century madrigal, to rock hits of the 1960^s and '70^s, taking in a classic ballad or two along the way.

Join us for our debut performance at the **Northstowe Midsummer Festival** on **Saturday June 21st** on The Green, we'd love to see you there!

We'll be on stage from around 5pm, don't be late!



HERITAGE SOCIETY UPDATE: June - July 2025

LDHS Supports Exciting New Research

Recently, the Heritage Society announced that a local resident had carried out research on one of the Grade 2 listed structures in Longstanton and that her research had led to an interesting and important discovery. LDHS was pleased to have been able to contribute information to support this research and we have undertaken to pay the costs of printing, so that copies of this research can be lodged with the Cambridgeshire Collection, the Historic Environment Record, Longstanton Parish Council, the LDHS Archives and elsewhere. Once the copies are ready to circulate, the Heritage Society will try to ensure that those responsible for maintaining this listed structure carry out the urgent repairs that are needed.

Yet again, the Heritage Society has shown a commitment to the protection and promotion of heritage assets within our communities and we encourage new members to join the Society so this work can continue. We hope that you enjoy this summary of the research kindly produced by the essay's author Heather McVey. We aim to upload the full essay to the LDHS website shortly.

The Solar Alignment of St Michael's Well

Dear Northstowe Neighbours,

I am delighted to share my research on the solar alignment of St Michael's Well, Longstanton, undertaken as part of my master's degree in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology at the University of Wales Trinity St David.

Archaeoastronomy and its emerging subfield Skyscape Archaeology, combine astronomical fieldwork with historical and ethnographic research to explore how different cultures designed structures in alignment with celestial bodies. The archaeoastronomy module of my master's required that I investigate a for the potential deliberate alignment of a structure to a specific and meaningful point in the sky. This investigation comprised of fieldwork measurements and observations, supported by historical and ethnographic research and analysis.

While well-known sites such as Stonehenge (UK), Newgrange (Ireland), and the Pyramids of Teotihuacan (Mexico) are well known prehistorical sites that reveal intentional alignment to the cycles of the Sun and Moon, I chose to focus my research closer to home by studying the more modern, modest, and intriguing St Michael's Well, located within St. Michael's Churchyard, Longstanton.

Folklore surrounding St Michael's Well can be traced back to the late Phyllis Brown, who, alongside her husband Alfred Brown, restored the well in 1986 and hosted a well-dressing festival that September. Anecdotal claims of Victorian baptisms emerged from the well-dressing festival, and which were later embellished to suggest that a cross-shaped sunbeam would have shone through the well-canopy's cross-shaped window during baptisms at the well, illuminating the head or body of the baptand.

The presence of an aperture in the well's structure, combined with folklore of a symbolic sunbeam during ritual provided an excellent basis for investigating potential solar alignment at the site. Despite a lack of historical records in local, county, diocesan, and council archives, it was through antiquarian journals, Ordnance Survey maps, and archaeological society records, that new insights into

St. Michael's Well and its timeline were offered. The new chronology outlined by this research highlights how broader cultural shifts—such as the Reformation, Gothic Revival, and Arts and Crafts movement—may have influenced its development.

Additionally, an architectural essay written in 1910 by the former Rector of St Michael's and All Saints' Church, Reverend Horace Bernard Woolley (1865–1929), reveals that the deliberate use of sunlight to illuminate specific targets within religious structures was a known consideration among local clergy—coinciding with the period when the brick canopy was likely constructed.

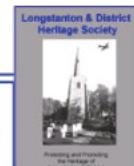
On 21 June 2024, close to the Summer Solstice, I conducted fieldwork at St Michael's Well to observe the Sun at its most northerly rising point on the horizon. Arriving at 3:50 am, equipped with sighting rods (bamboo poles), white wool, a compass, and a clinometer, I set about my measurements and observations—hoping my early-morning presence wouldn't alarm any early risers!

Excitingly, I was able to document a cross-shaped sunbeam that was projected through the aperture of St. Michael's Well during sunrise at an astronomically and theologically significant time of the year. My research underscores how human cultures well into modernity, have integrated celestial phenomena into architecture, using sunlight, symbolism, and timing, to create meaningful experiences.

I would like to express my gratitude to Hilary Stroud and the Longstanton & District Heritage Society for supporting this research through its publication and for providing historical photographs of St Michael's Well. I hope this work reconnects the community with its fascinating holy well and contributes to its ongoing preservation as a cherished part of Longstanton's heritage for future generations.

Heather McVey

PG Cert, Cultural Astronomy and Astrology (Distinction)
MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology (In Progress)
heathermcvey@gmail.com



NORTHSTOWE NATURE

Oakington Garden Centre, a family-run nursery based our neighbouring village of Oakington, is creating a mini garden to champion pollinators for the Sainsbury Laboratory Cambridge: Blooming Numbers exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025.

The Oakington team is collaborating with the University of Cambridge's Sainsbury Laboratory to highlight plant science research – with a focus on the flower.

While flowers are beautiful to us, their true purpose is to attract pollinators. Through co-evolution, both the flowers and pollinators have developed specialised traits that benefit one another. The Blooming Numbers exhibit, which is in a new science and technology focused section of the Great Pavilion called GreenSTEM, will explore the growth and development of these specialised plant organs.



Melanie Sadler designed The Pollinator Patch to showcase the incredible diversity of plants that can be grown in a small area to support bees, butterflies, and other important pollinator species. Melanie has been instrumental in fostering wildlife-friendly spaces for decades at the Garden Centre that she and her husband Philip established in 1981.

Their nursery has championed wildlife conservation, including the creation of an orchard and wildlife-friendly gardens surrounding the centre. In 2024, they hosted their inaugural Pollination Festival, an event aimed at educating the public on the importance of gardens in supporting pollinators. The festival will return this year on 21 June 2025.

"As a gardener, I've always been passionate about creating spaces that support wildlife, particularly pollinators. We also had bee hives and learned a lot about how to care for bees and what pollinators need," Melanie said. "The Pollinator Patch is an opportunity to showcase the incredible diversity of plants that can be grown in a small area to support bees, butterflies, and other important species. We also wanted to demonstrate other simple things that everyone can do to support pollinators, such as providing resources for them to build their nests, housing and, most importantly, a safe source of water."



Joining Melanie in this ambitious venture are her daughter Patricia Sadler, who is overseeing the coordination of the project, and Oakington's nursery manager Ali Chappell-Bates, a Northstowe resident who is growing all of the plants featured in The Pollinator Patch and planters forming the Fibonacci spiral of the exhibit.

Ali has expertly curated the plant selection for the exhibit: "Growing the plants for The Pollinator Patch has been a rewarding experience. Every plant has been carefully selected to ensure it not only thrives in this environment but also provides sustenance for pollinators. We are growing a mix of native and ornamental plants that meet the needs of different pollinators. I have an allotment filled with wildlife-friendly plants, and observing what plants pollinators like has helped me select what plants to take to Chelsea."

Patricia Sadler spoke about the family's dedication to this project: "It's been an incredible journey to see The Pollinator Patch come together. My family and the team at Oakington Garden Centre have all worked tirelessly to make this a reality. This garden represents everything we stand for as a business – our commitment to nature, sustainability, and community. We hope visitors will leave with a renewed appreciation for the importance of pollinators and how we can all contribute to their protection."

Cut out and keep me!

Pollination Festival²⁰²⁵

Celebrating nature

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE 9AM-4PM

FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Flower Crowns, Face Painting,
Willow Weaving,
Live Bee Hive,
Scavenger Hunt,
Community Flower Show,
Meet Princesses Rapunzel & Moana!

CRAFT & FOOD MARKET

Arts, Crafts, Gifts
Seasonal Fruit Bread, Cakes,
Local Honey and much more!

Plus, learn about our exhibit at RHS Chelsea Flower Show!

at...
OAKINGTON GARDEN CENTRE
~FAMILY RUN SINCE 1981~

NORTHSTOWE ARTS UPDATE

NORTHSTOWE'S MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH FOOD, FUN AND COMMUNITY MAGIC!

Saturday 21st June is the date to remember, as Northstowe's much-loved Midsummer Festival returns 12-8pm on The Green and at The Cabin on Pathfinder Way. It's a full day of local flavour, free fun and feel-good community spirit, whether you're coming for the street food, the live music, the craft workshops or just to soak up the sunshine with your neighbours.

There'll be food trucks, a toy swap, community group showcases, and stalls from local makers and organisations, all celebrating the creativity and diversity of life in Northstowe. Everyone can get stuck into free drop-in workshops, performances and games, or take things at a slower pace with a wander round the stalls or a picnic with family and friends.

As well as working with Northstowe Hub to organise the event, Northstowe Arts will be sharing the findings of the 'Crafting Our Creative Northstowe' mapping project; a visual celebration of the creative life of the town.

Whether you're new to the area or a familiar face, this year's Midsummer Festival is all about connection, creativity and celebrating the longest day of the year... together.

If you're the crafty type, don't miss our Make & Mingle sessions at Northstowe Tap and Social, held twice a month; a friendly, informal meet-up for makers of all kinds to chat, stitch, knit or noodle on new ideas.

For more details on the above and much more, visit northstowearts.co.uk – and sign up to our newsletter to receive everything directly in your inbox!



Upcoming Theatre Events at St. Michael's Church, Longstanton

Come and join us for theatre events with a difference:

Sun 24th August 6:30pm

Quill and Inking present *Perseus and Andromeda*



Tickets available: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/longstanton-cambridgeshire/st-michaels-church/perseus-andromeda/e-goybev>

Friday 12th September 7pm

This is My Theatre present a special Audience Choice event:

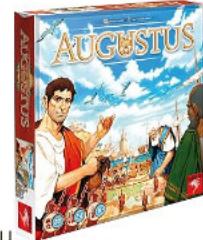
Emma or *Pride and Prejudice*



Tickets available: <https://www.tictailor.com/events/cuemarketing/1633148>

NORTHSTOWE GAMERS

The year is 27 BC, and Imperator Caesar Augustus has become the first Roman Emperor, dividing his vast empire into provinces. In *Rise of Augustus*, each player takes on the role of a governor, competing for power and prestige. If you can impress Caesar by asserting control over provinces and gaining influence in the Senate, then you might just become the next Consul.



Rise of Augustus is designed by Paolo Mori and published by Hurricane Games

You start the game with an army of seven legions, and three objective cards each with various requirements to be met (some number of swords, shields, chariots and so on.) As the game starts, one player draws a token from a bag and calls it out; then **all** players can move a legion onto a corresponding space on their objectives. We sometimes call this game "Roman Bingo" because this process feels a bit like marking off numbers that have been called out on a bingo card. When you have filled all the spaces on a card, you shout "House!" "Ave Caesar!" to declare it complete. You get all your legions back, you activate any special effect on the card, you might get a bonus tile if you have completed enough objectives, and then you choose a new card to replace it. The game continues like this until someone has completed seven objectives, and then whoever has the most points is declared the winner.



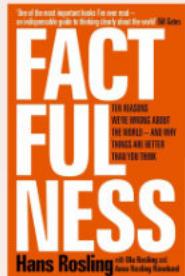
Rise of Augustus is a fairly simple game, but quite engaging because it moves fast and you never have to wait much – you don't have to take turns all around the table. Mostly you'll concentrate on how to complete your own objectives quickly, but there is some interaction as you race to finish certain bonus missions, and there's a push-your-luck element of when to choose bonus tiles. Some of the card effects can sabotage other players too, although they aren't so powerful as to feel unfair. We like the balance between luck and strategy, and the suspense of whether the next tile will finally be the one you needed...



Andrew and Sarah Collier

Do you have the ambition to seize power, or will your influence run dry? Find out by joining us from **7:30pm on a Tuesday evening** to play *Rise of Augustus*, or any of our other games! For details email northstowegamers@thecolliers.uk or search FaceBook for "Northstowe Gamers"

BOOK REVIEWS



Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think by Hans Rosling

Factfulness was our Book Club choice for April. It isn't a book I would have otherwise read, but I'm glad I did.

Hans Rosling was a Swedish physician, professor of international health and statistician. The main premise of the book, that most people are overly negative about the state of the world, and believe that the world is poorer, less healthy and more dangerous, is examined and disproved in ten chapters. He maintains that we have a natural bias towards relying on instinct rather than facts.

Rosling's style is very readable, even for the non-scientist. The book is full of charts and images, summaries and questions, interspersed with personal anecdotes about his work as a young doctor. There is humour and honesty and an admission that he sometimes could have done better.

Although unfailingly optimistic, Rosling admits that there are challenges the world needs to face including poverty, global warming, financial collapse, pandemic and war.

I would love to read an updated edition, but sadly Rosling died of pancreatic cancer shortly before the book was published in 2018.

Kathy Fountain

BOOK CLUB

We have started to meet again in person. If you are someone who requested this do join us. We meet in different venues, as there aren't enough of us to warrant hiring the Cabin, so send a message to find out where we are next month. We read lots of genres, children's books, contemporary novels, classics and a wide variety of non-fiction. Do feel free to come along regularly, or when a particular book we are reading appeals to you.

Email: northstowebookclub@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/groups/607693023324785



The Five by Hallie Rubenhold is a deeply-researched set of biographies of the five canonical victims of Jack the Ripper: Mary Ann Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes, and Mary Jane Kelly. The book tells the entire life story of each woman in turn, up to her last known movements, trying to explain how they went from - in many cases - ordinary working- or middle-class lives to being murdered in the alleys of Whitechapel.

As the subject matter would suggest, the book is often harrowing and upsetting, but it's very sympathetically and carefully written. Rubenhold deliberately doesn't go into any depth on questions of the identity or motives of Jack the Ripper himself, keeping the focus entirely on his victims. She also refrains from any graphic description of the murders. The point of the book is to describe the lives of the five women as human beings and explain the societal pressures that surrounded them. As such, the book contains a lot of fascinating detail on Victorian society, including the nature of poverty, issues of women's rights, and attitudes towards women who - for whatever reason - did not conform with societal expectations.

Again, by the nature of the topic, there are some very heavy scenes and topics, including physical and sexual violence, domestic abuse, alcoholism, child death, suicide, human trafficking, and the constant pressures of sexism and classism. While tastefully written, it is not for the faint of heart. I would recommend it for adults with an interest in Victorian history.

Becca Edney

NEXT MEETINGS

Books we plan to read this year

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 16 th June | The Great Darkness
by Jim Kelly |
| 14 th July | The Salt Path
by Raynor Winn |
| August TBC | Possibly Middlemarch
by George Eliot
or The Ides of April
by Lindsey Davis |



- LANDSCAPING
- DRIVEWAYS

- PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
- INTERNAL RENOVATIONS

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A weekend away?**

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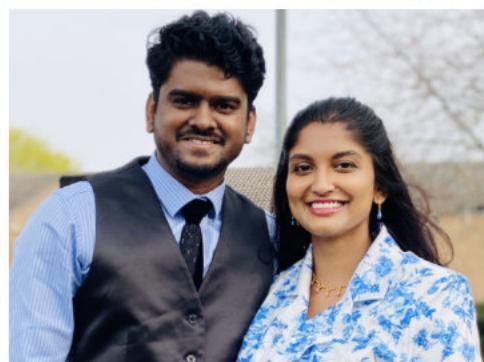
BETHEL REVIVAL CHURCH

New church announcement!

As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.' - 2 Corin 6:16

We were all created with a divine purpose to experience the fullness of God and glory of his presence. It was never his intention for us to live life without him.

We invite you to encounter our Lord Jesus Christ and be revived and transformed by his grace through the power of the Holy Spirit. Please join us as we start our church services from Sunday 6th July 2025.



Hello Northstowe Family, we are delighted to introduce ourselves and Bethel Revival Church. We are excited and humbled that God has guided us to start a new church in Northstowe to serve our local community.

-Joel and Reena

Services: Every Sunday starting 6th July 2025

Service Timings: 4:30pm to 5.45pm

**Venue: Western Park Pavilion, 42 Peppercorn drive, Northstowe,
CB24 1BF**

Contact Us:  bethelrevivalchurchuk@gmail.com ☎ 07399467660

GOOD NEWS FOR NORTHSTOWE

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

When the prophet Jeremiah wrote to Jews carried from Jerusalem to Babylon as prisoners, he encouraged them to seek to bless the city they now lived in.

2600 years later, these words still encourage Christians, including at Emmanuel Church Northstowe, to seek the peace and prosperity of the places we live. We pray for God's blessing on the places we live, and we work for peace and prosperity for all. Because if the community we live in prospers, we all benefit. If Northstowe prospers and there is peaceful community, we all benefit.

So whatever your beliefs or practices, please know that we pray for you to be blessed in Northstowe. We pray for your peace and prosperity. We also pray for you to have the ultimate blessing of knowing God himself, and his love for you, shown in Jesus. If you want to find out more about Jesus, or have questions about spirituality and faith, then whatever your background, please get in touch. We'd love to help you get to know the God of love who made each of us. And everyone is welcome to visit us any Sunday.



Real Lives and Real Questions

One Friday evening per half term, we offer a free event, with excellent dessert, and a chance to hear from different people's lives, or think about a big question of life or faith.

Questions this year have included "Do Jesus and Joe Rogan read the same Bible?" and the Real Lives have included "To Northstowe via death's door" and "Crossing cultures: To Hong Kong and back".

FREE YOUTH GROUPS

Our youth groups meet fortnightly Sunday 5–7pm and are open to all young people, regardless of faith background.

IGNITE is a youth group for anyone in school years 7–9. We play games, eat snacks, learn from the Bible and discuss important questions.

Resolved is a group for 15–18 year olds (school years 10–13). We play games, eat pizza and discuss the Bible and life.

[The verse at the top of the article can be found in Jeremiah 29:7. The picture is modified from an outdoor Easter morning service.]

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

There are a range of children's groups for 0–11yrs during the sermon, unless it is an all-age service when children stay in throughout. There is usually live music during the service, and free refreshments after the service. If you have any questions about Emmanuel or want to get involved, please visit us any Sunday.

You can find more information on our website: emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org or email contact@emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org



NORTHSTOWE CHURCH NETWORK

praying, exploring, and sharing
Registered Charity Number 1206577



This Easter, we didn't just hear the story — we stepped into it.

A Palm Sunday trail with Ice Cream "Palm Sundaes" and campfire songs began our journey. We shared candlelight, questions, food, and creative reflections through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Then Easter Sunday burst into colour, music, and shared bread and wine.

Now, Revd Beth and everyone here would love to welcome you into what comes next as we keep sharing life, hope, and joy across Northstowe.



A New Rhythm



New Sunday Morning Pathfinder Church at The Pathfinder School: creative, reflective, and open to all.
Curious? Come and see — 9.30am on Sundays



Little Explorers continue to share breakfast, song, play, and resurrection stories with pre-schoolers and carers at 9.15am on Thursdays



Compline offers quiet reflection through seasonal poetry and stillness at 8pm on Thursday evenings



All Saints Church, Rampton Road, Longstanton is the neighbouring parish church of Pathfinder Church, Northstowe, within the Church of England.

Sunday services in All Saints are held at 9.30am as follows:

All Age service on 1st Sundays
Holy Communion on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays
Morning Praise on 3rd Sundays

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



Pentecost Kite flying – 8 June
9:30am – Celebration Worship
11:00am – Community Kite-Flying & Picnic on The Pathfinder School field.
Bring a kite, bring lunch: everyone's welcome!

Midsummer Festival – 21 June
Find us at the Deckchair Listening Project
Real conversation, community art, and space to share what matters.



Afternoon Tea and Gospel Music Celebration – 6 July, 3:30–5:00pm

Cambourne Community Gospel Choir are visiting Northstowe on their 10th anniversary tour and will be joined on stage by the amazing School Choir from The Pathfinder Primary School!

Expect joy, harmony, and a celebration of community.

Free entry.
Refreshments provided.
Open to everyone.



T 01954 261 181 E contact@northstowe.church W www.northstowe.church

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Phone: (01223) 704640

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

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

NORTHSTOWE MUSLIMS

Celebrating Community Through Faith and Togetherness

To mark the end of a beautiful period of Ramadan in March, where we met every evening for Taraweeh prayers and shared the joy of Iftar gatherings, our community came together in April to celebrate Eid al-Fitr. Our event at the Western Park Pavilion brought together residents from Northstowe and surrounding villages in a vibrant celebration of faith, food, and friendship.



Art and Craft



Family and Friends

It was heartwarming to see so many in their finest clothes enjoying traditional treats, engaging in fun activities, and strengthening the bonds of community.



Delicious cuisines



Traditional Clothing

As we look ahead, we're excited to invite you to our second major Islamic festival of the year: Eid al-Adha, coming up in June.

Understanding Eid al-Adha & the Season of Hajj

Eid al-Adha, or the "Festival of Sacrifice," commemorates the story of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham), peace and blessings be upon him, and his unwavering faith. As he prepared to sacrifice his son in obedience to God's command, God intervened and provided a ram instead. This profound moment is honoured through the ritual of animal sacrifice, with the meat shared among family, friends, and those in need—highlighting values of compassion, charity, and community.

Eid al-Adha also coincides with the sacred Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, a spiritual journey that Muslims undertake at least once in their lifetime if able. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, and includes rituals that symbolise unity, humility, and devotion. While only a few may travel for Hajj, millions around the world mark this time with reflection, prayer, and connection.

What's Happening This Eid al-Adha?

For the first time, we are planning to organise Eid al-Adha prayers in Northstowe, followed by a community event filled with family-friendly activities, games, and a range of food trucks offering diverse cuisines. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together, learn more about each other's cultures, and enjoy a joyful day as a community.

Looking Ahead

As our community continues to grow, we're also beginning to plan for future events and we hope these gatherings will foster greater understanding, respect, and unity among us all.



Website: www.northstowemuslims.org

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

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

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/northstowe_muslims/

Hindu Samaj Northstowe (HSN)

Highlights from Northstowe Holi Mela

What a joyful spring it's been in Northstowe! Our Holi Mela, held on 26th April, was a vibrant celebration that brought together **over 500 registered participants** from across the town and neighbouring villages. The day was filled with colour play, music, dance, food, and fun activities for all ages—from craft stalls and games to cultural performances and community dancing.

We are grateful to **Homes England** for supporting the event through Northstowe Community Activation Fund and the town of Northstowe for giving us the opportunity to share our culture with the wider community. We're also deeply grateful to the volunteers, performers, stallholders, and partner organisations whose efforts made the day truly special.

What's Next?

We're already looking forward to more community celebrations later this year—stay tuned for updates!



Photos By - JPC Photography Northstowe

Nurturing Young Minds in Northstowe

Hindu Samaj Northstowe is launching a new community enrichment programme for children and young people. In collaboration with **Bright Sparks Lab** and **CamCare UK**, the initiative will offer hands-on workshops designed to spark curiosity, confidence, and an interest in science and technology.

Dharma Club Summer Camp

Coming soon is Dharma Shivir (camp) a 1-week summer camp by our Dharma Club, where children will explore values and traditions through fun, stories, discussions, and creative learning. Contact Vindhya or Aparna for details.

Get Involved

Join our monthly Satsang in Northstowe—a soulful gathering with bhajans, stories, prayer, and prasad. Everyone is welcome. Hosted by Hindu Samaj Northstowe every first Saturday of the month.

Through every celebration, seva project, and shared moment, we grow stronger as a community rooted in tradition and open-heartedness. We are grateful for your continued support and participation. From helping at events to supporting youth programmes, we welcome volunteers to join us in building a stronger, more connected Northstowe.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

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VIDYAFOUNDATIONUK@gmail.com
HINDUSAMAJNORTHSTOWE@gmail.com

VIDYA
HSN
SEVA

Sri Hanuman Chalisa

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

- [HSNorthstowe](#)
- [hindusamajnorthstowe](#)
- [fb.me/hindusamajnorthstowe](#)
- hindusamajnorthstowe@gmail.com
- [hindusamajnorthstowe.org](#)



YOUTH AND SCHOOLS

BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

With the longer evenings, our Beavers have been enjoying getting out and about more, including planting seeds at the allotments and taking part in some fantastic games in partnership with Park Play. We have celebrated events such as St Patrick's Day, Chinese New Year and St George's Day, when we joined other sections from across the Crafts Hill District for a sunny afternoon of archery, bouncy castles and far too much cake.

Cubs have likewise been marking some key occasions, such as Holi and Mother's Day, as well as joining the Beavers for a giant Easter egg hunt. For their 'Taskmaster' session they completed all sorts of strange challenges, including an indoor sandcastle competition! In addition, they teamed up with Scouts to provide support on the finishing line of the recent Northstowe Half Marathon. We really enjoy enabling young people to give back to their community through Scouting, so please do get in touch if you have any upcoming events or potential partnerships.

Our Scouts have been incredibly busy, with such diverse activities as JuJitsu, treasure hunts, discussions around disability awareness, building cardboard catapults and a Bake-off competition. Over Easter, they enjoyed attending the District Easter Scout Camp, where they honed skills such as bushcraft and campfire cooking.

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

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

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

SUMMER COLOURING



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Emmanuel Church Northstowe are hosting a free holiday club for children ages 4-11 on 30th July-1st August at the Cabin in Northstowe. There will be fun and games, snacks and crafts and Bible stories. The link to sign up and more information will be available at www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org/holidayclub from July. Be quick as places are limited!

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With your help we are raising money to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies.

You can shop from our in person stall at the Bar Hill Fete and Festival from 2pm on Saturday 12th July. There are stalls in the church hall and on the village green.

Alternatively we are sharing our extensive catalogue on our facebook page so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts and warm clothing and accessories for special friends and family. By using our online stores you will be avoiding the crowded shops and keeping yourself safe. You can shop for new items on our website <https://www.rosieinstitches.org.uk> or donated items in our rosieinstitches2010 eBay charity store, and vintage knitting patterns on our facebook page.

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Friends of the Rosie Hospital with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 8,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to book your summer holidays - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up and share <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> today.

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

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

Stay safe
Avril Williams
 07493692010
avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk
 and **Jo Hall**
 01954 780304



NORTHSTOWE YOUTH HIVE



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

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



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

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

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

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

Read more: www.northstowe.hub/youth



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Northstowe

Learning Community

As we head towards the new academic year, it has been lovely to think back to everything we've done this year as Northstowe Learning Community!

NORTHSTOWE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Summer Term is set to be an exciting one, full of memorable experiences and key milestones for our young learners. As our Reception pupils prepare for their transition to Year 1, we are supporting them in building confidence and independence for the next step in their learning journey. At the same time, we are eagerly preparing to welcome our next cohort of Reception pupils, ensuring they feel comfortable and ready to embark on their school adventure with us.



April saw the opening of our new wraparound care with Premier Education, providing families with greater flexibility and additional support for their children throughout the school day. In May, we enjoyed celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special afternoon tea with our families - a wonderful opportunity to come together in remembrance and appreciation.



June brings the excitement of a trip to South Angle Farm, where children will have the chance to explore and engage with the natural world through hands-on experiences. And, of course, we are gearing up for our sports day in July, a fantastic chance for our pupils to showcase their energy, teamwork, and enthusiasm!

NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE

We are looking forward to so many events coming up, including our Meet the Tutor evening, where our new Year 7's will be able to meet their tutor as well as fellow tutees. It will be a lovely opportunity to meet them and their families ahead of September.

Our Year 11's have almost completed their GCSE exams, and we are so proud of them for all of their hard work. It will be lovely to celebrate with them all at their Leavers Day and their Prom in June. Our Year 10's sat their GCSE Ethics exams in May, and they are also preparing for a week of work experience in July. Work Experience is an important part of the Year 10 Curriculum and is an excellent opportunity for young people to gain an insight into the 'World of Work' and to help prepare them for the responsibilities and opportunities of adult life.



We have had such a wide array of trips over the year and have even more coming up as we head towards the end of term. Our Year 7's are looking forward to their day trip to Warwick Castle and their first residential trip and our Year 8's will be exploring Harry



Potter World! Back in April, a group of our Year 7s took part in The Colour Run at Milton Country Park, alongside 24 other schools across the county. They had great fun and were able to explore all kinds of different physical activities including laser tag! We also took some Year 8s to the Meridian Trust Science Fair, where each group had to present their scientific investigation poster to expert judges from the Wellcome Sanger Institute and Johnson Matthey. Out of all the schools in the Trust, we are delighted that our girls team won the overall prize with their project using chromatography to analyse the colour pigments in flowers!

NORTHSTOWE SIXTH FORM

As we move into the Summer Term, our sixth form continues to flourish, providing Year 12 students with a fantastic space to learn and grow. This term brings a host of enriching experiences, including a Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition, where students were able to develop key outdoor and teamwork skills.



In July, Year 12 will embark on their work experience placements, gaining invaluable insights into the professional world and preparing for their future careers. Meanwhile, preparations for the transition to Year 13 are well underway, ensuring students feel confident and ready for the next stage of their journey.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 11 offer holders at our Welcome Day in July and send our best wishes to all students for the remainder of their GCSE exams. We also wish them the best of luck for results day in August!



It has certainly been a memorable year for us transitioning into an all-through school.

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

**LITTLE EXPLORERS
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www.northstowe.church/little-explorers
contact@northstowe.church





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