

the norton messenger

May 2025



EDITORIAL

Please send any photographs contributions for the Messenger to the address below by the 15th of the previous month.

Best wishes, Diana

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NORTON VILLAGE HALL CLASSES

IP31 3LE

MONDAY	6.00pm - 6.45pm 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Paracise Jo's Fit4All
TUESDAY	9.30am - 10.30am	Serenity Yoga
	10.45am - 11.45am	Silver Swans Over-55s Ballet Class
	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Song Circle Ladies' Choir
WEDNESDAY	5.15pm - 6.00pm	Dancing Sparkes Children's Dancing Class
	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Zumba
THURSDAY	9.30am - 10.30am 7.00pm - 8.00pm	SupaStrikers (ages 2-4) Rockfit with Bliss
FRIDAY	9.15am - 10.15am 10.45am - 11.45 am	Zumba Fitness with Yvonne

For further details please contact: nortonvhbookings@gmail.com



St Andrew's Church Norton IP31 3NB

Plants

Tombola



Tea

Cakes

Sunday 22nd June
2 - 4 pm



Fun Dog Classes and Prizes
Dog Class Registration 2pm
Classes beginning 2.30pm
Fun for all the Family

St Andrews Church
Summer Dog Show and Fete
June 22nd

Donations for Tombola
required.

Please take any items you can
spare to **The Vicarage**
The Orwell, Woolpit Road,
Norton

Or leave in the Church by
Friday 22nd June
Martin Wood 01359 242367



Norton CEVC Primary School
School Close Norton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3LZ
Headteacher Mrs Lisa Sparkes
office@norton.suffolk.sch.uk 01359 230520



Norton School Easter Term Highlights

As I write this during the Easter break, I find myself reflecting on what a busy and exciting end to the term our children experienced.

All classes had the opportunity to attend *Experience Easter* at St Andrew's Church. The children visited various stations around the church, each focusing on a different part of the Easter story. These stations encouraged reflection and engagement, offering a meaningful opportunity to consider the true message of Easter. Events like this are particularly special for the school, as they allow us to work closely with the church community—it was heart warming to see members of the congregation leading each station with such care and enthusiasm.

The children returned to the church the following week for our two Easter services. It was wonderful to see the church filled with parents and family members as the children sang Easter songs led by Mr Cole. Each class also took part in reflecting on different parts of the Easter story, making for a joyful and thoughtful celebration.

On Tuesday 1st April, Mr Cole took Norton Singers, our school choir, to the Cathedral to take part in the Christian Aid *Big Sing*. The children took centre stage and performed a song they had written themselves about the environment and the importance of looking after our world. They sang with such passion and energy—it was a truly moving moment and one that filled us with pride.

As part of our PE enrichment programme, the children also enjoyed a session of orienteering and team-building. They had great fun solving problems and working together to complete challenges—it was fantastic to see teamwork and perseverance in action!

The final week of term saw Norton's very first *Art Week*, and what a success it was! Children from Key Stages 1 and 2 mixed with peers from other classes over four creative afternoons, working together to produce beautiful collaborative artwork. The week culminated in an art exhibition held in the glorious sunshine, providing the perfect opportunity to display their masterpieces and welcome parents and family members to admire the children's creativity.

In the classrooms, there has been so much wonderful learning taking place:

Our EYFS children have been writing and delivering letters, using positional language to describe where different places can be found.

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Banham Zoo as part of their science topic. They impressed us with their knowledge of animals and their habitats.

Year 2 had a fantastic day at Lodge Farm in Westthorpe. They planted seeds, explored each stage of plant growth, crushed seeds to make oils, and even had a go at making butter!

Year 3 linked their English and Geography learning by writing persuasive tourist guides encouraging people to visit Great Britain.

Year 4 explored the three states of matter—solids, liquids, and gases—in Science. They conducted a range of investigations focusing on melting, cooling, evaporation, and condensation.

Year 5 delved into the world of street art, inspired by the anonymous graffiti artist Banksy. They experimented with patterned stencils and created striking artwork based on Banksy's style.

Year 6 worked on their *Memory Projects* in art, creating beautiful pieces that reflected special memories with friends and family. It was lovely to see so many happy faces as they recalled and shared their stories.

It has been a vibrant and inspiring term at Norton School, and we are so proud of all that our pupils have achieved.

Mrs Sparkes





Norton Salvation Army

What's on at the Army in May?

Sunday 4 th	Breakfast Church (Enjoy coffee/tea/pastries in a relaxed Worship setting)	10.45am
Sunday 11 th	Morning Worship	11.00am
Sunday 18 th	Evening Praise (Led by: Rev. Reg Craig)	6.00pm
Sunday 25 th	Morning Worship (Led by Stuart Hendry: Youth Engagement Worker)	11.00am
<hr/>		
Mondays (School Term Time)	Toddlesong (Children 0-4yrs £1 per family/session)	9.00am – 11.30am
Wednesday 7 th	Friends Cafe (We are a dementia friendly group offering time out to include carers)	2.00pm – 4.00pm
Thursday's	Cameo Lunches (3 Course Meal £6.00)	11.45am – 1.30pm
Thursday 1 st / 15 th / 29 th	Choir Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm.
Thursday 8 th 22 nd	Band Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm
Saturday 24th	Coffee Morning	10.00am – 12.00pm
Friday 30 th	Craft Club	7.00pm – 9.00pm

Please feel free to come & join in with us at any time: You would be very welcome

Our Clothes Bank situated in the car park is available to you for all your unwanted clothes & shoes.
Available 24/7. Please help us to help others.

If you would like to make contact with Norton Salvation Army please e-mail:

Valerie.Ling@salvationarmy.org.uk OR Peter.Newson@salvationarmy.org.uk

We will be pleased to help you where possible with any questions/queries

A Christian Church and Registered Charity No: 214779, and in Scotland SC09359

The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, 101, Newington Causeway, London, SE1 6BN



CHURCH LIGHTS

If you would like to see the church lit up in 2025 please consider sponsoring the lights (£20 a week) to celebrate an event or remember a loved one.
Contact Philippa Wilding
pfwilding@btinternet.com Tel: 0777 6443004





Norton Baptist Church - May 2025

Check the information below for our services throughout
May and beyond



With Spring bringing everything out in vibrant colour we all love this time of year. The wonderful creation around us is amazing and we hope we will all find time to enjoy it throughout May.

Services at Norton Baptist are outlined below and it would be great to see you from 10am each Sunday for refreshments with all of our service starting at 10:30am.

On the 11th May we continue to run The Prayer Course as we look into the very familiar Lords Prayer but in a slightly different way. Why not join us to find out more.



If you need any more information, please email us and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

	4 th May	11 th May	18 th May	25 th May
Praise & Worship	10am			
Prayer Course		10am		
Praise & Worship			10am	
Café Church				10am

nortonbaptist@btinternet.com

For all the up-to-date information please “like” our Facebook page. Scan this code to go straight to our page



DOWN OUR STREET

It was not just 'Jam and Jerusalem!'

This month I thought it would be a good idea to look at the Norton Women's Institute, as I have kindly been lent their archive. So, firstly a little information about the National Federation.

While the first WI was set up in Canada in 1897, it only reached British shores in 1915 when it was formed to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. The first ever meeting was held in Anglesey (Wales) on September 16th 1915. Only two years later, the National Federation of WIs, a democratic, non-party political and voluntary organisation, was formed and mainly led by women who were involved in the suffrage movement. Their first resolution in 1918 was to urge local authorities to take advantage of the government scheme for **state-aided housing**. By the end of 1919, 1400 WIs had opened throughout England and Wales. The organisation had its own magazine and the early years saw campaigns **for free school milk for children, extra women police officers and more midwives for rural communities**.

In 1924 WI members sang "Jerusalem" for the very first time. Little did the WI members know that their "performance" at the Annual Meeting in London would start a tradition that continues to this day.

Developing the WI logo

The WI has only had a formal logo since the 1970s, when the 'Tree of Life' was introduced, and this was slightly adapted in 2003. Earlier, there had been a number of variations on the theme of the original 'FOR HOME & COUNTRY' badge, introduced in 1916. The development is shown in the pictures below.



In 1938, the British Government asked the Women's Institutes to help with preparations for the potential evacuation of children to the countryside in the event of war. Additionally, the WI, now a force of over 290,000 women, set up a Produce Guild to encourage members to produce **more home-grown food and preserve fruit and vegetables** and in 1940, the NFWI managed to obtain £1,400 worth of sugar which was distributed to Fruit Preservation Centres and prevented more than 1,600 tons of produce from rotting. The WI also carried out a famous survey among members called 'Town Children through Country Eyes' dealing with the issues of **housing evacuees from the war in the countryside**. The survey gained national attention and ultimately led to **the provision of family allowances** after the war.

It is also during the 1940s that a WI resolution demanded **equal pay for men and women**. Our late Queen Elizabeth II became President of the WI. In the 1970s and still mainly supporting rural life, the WI also challenged issues of a more political nature, such as requesting a policy for **recycling of waste**, raising concerns about increased **marine pollution** and urging that more **rented accommodation should be made available to alleviate homelessness**. During the Great Jam Debate, the NFWI successfully lobbied for members to be exempt from having to register with the local authority to sell jam to the public. In 2003, the WI attracted the attention of the media when the movie "Calendar Girls", starring Helen Mirren, was released.

Norton's branch opened in early May 1923 with five ladies attending the first meeting, which was held in a shed! I do know that one of the five was Betty Loker's mother, Mrs Page, the wife of a Norton baker who lived in what is now Brook Cottage. Archive material from the early days is rather limited as very few people had cameras but, I have researched my newspaper archive and found that soon after, most Norton meetings were held at Little Haugh. Perhaps this is not surprising, as Mrs Royce-Tomkin became the early President. Vice President was Mrs Pybus, wife of the Rector followed in this role by Mrs E Potter. At the beginning of 1925, a National Savings Branch was opened with Miss Lanyon (daughter of Norton School's Head Teacher) as secretary and Miss Mayhew as treasurer.

I am glad to say that in my early days of becoming Village Recorder I was lent some very early photos of Norton WI's drama group by Mrs Barbara Brown of Prospect Road, which I happily share. I have some names, but if anyone can tell me any of the others, I would be pleased to hear from you. Photo 1 is from 1932. Back Row. L-R Sabina Pleasance, Olive Bennett, Grace Peck, Mrs Crick. Seated. L-R Mrs Smith Mrs Brand, Emily Potter. Photo 2. I have no names.



Photo 3. The play was called 'Sanctuary'.

Back Row L-R. Miss Tyrell, Mrs Potter, Miss Turner, Mrs Pleasance.

Front L-R. Mrs Bennett, Mrs Smith, Miss Boreham.

Photos 4 & 5 were from a play which seems to be much more light-hearted. It was performed in the Old School, opposite School Close. Do you recognise any actor?

I can send larger copy if needed.

See e-mail address next page.



50th Anniversary photo 1973. Mrs G A Ford pins a birthday posy on Mrs Rattenbury.

Also recognised so far:- Lady with hat, Miss Tyrell. Just behind Mrs Ford with dark rimmed glasses Mrs Shirley Jennings. Far right Mrs Gladys Stiff. Next to her (full face) Mrs Betty Loker and then sideways Mrs Olive Wordley. Can anyone help with other names?

I hope to post some more recent photos of Norton's WI next month. I realise that this will include some members who may still live in the village. If you have any objections, please would you kindly message me on bg55599@hotmail.com or pass a message to Andy at the garage. Thanks.

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Rector: Revd Katherine Valentine Tel 01359 235095 Email: kavalentine677@gmail.com

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com Benefice Church magazine www.vcnews.org.uk

May 2025 Church Services

Open daily for visitors and private prayer. St Andrew's Norton services are highlighted below.

4 th	3 rd Sunday of Easter	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family@Church Risen Jesus	Norton Pakenham
11 th	4 th Sunday of Easter	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 11.00am Family Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
18 th	5 th Sunday of Easter	9.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion 6pm Evening Prayer and Praise	Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Tostock
25 th	6 th Sunday of Easter	9.30am TOAST 11am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion	Great Ashfield Tostock Norton
29 th	Ascension Day	7.30pm Deanery Communion Service	Westhorpe

All are welcome to come along to this service when we get together to celebrate with churches all around the Deanery. Westhorpe has a friendly parking system - look out for the flags in people's driveways to indicate you can park there!



Thanks to Deb and Phil Williams for sending this in – a view of the sharp right hand bend on Ashfield Road (as you head away from the village) in 1950 – looks a bit different now!

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd March 2025

PRESENT in the Chair: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J Bolus, Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. G. Walton, Mr. N. Winstanley

Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

District Councillor H. Richardson

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

APOLOGIES: Mr. J. Morgan,

The Council consented to accept the apology and reasons, which will be recorded in the attendance register.

District Councillor D. Bradbury

County Councillor A. Mellen

1.	The Chair welcomed all to the monthly meeting.	
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests a) To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) and personal interests in items on the agenda inc. gifts of hospitality exceeding £25- none b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters - none c)To receive requests for dispensations - none	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM —to receive reports for information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the public—to receive questions and matters of concern from those in attendance - none Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email Mr. Moland stated other villages having decorated their war memorials and wondered if Norton had considered this for our memorial. He also felt the memorial could do with a clean. It would need to be done by a specialist firm to protect the wording. Councillors felt advice and quotes should be sought.	
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen – noted Mr. Bolus commented on the Active Travel Fund Award of £3.7m to encourage various schemes and whether this could be accessed for traffic calming and crossing points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson and David Bradbury Mr. Lenko asked about local government reform. Cllr Richardson stated plans were requested by 21 st March which was a tight timescale, so Consultants were used to produce the plan, final plans requested by September. The new Authority would become established in 2028. Cllr Richardson confirmed Norton PC has been added to the list of consultees for the land development at Elmswell (see last month's minutes).	
5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To RESOLVE minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd February 2025 are a true and correct record. Mr. Aket proposed, Mr. Lenko seconded, all in agreement.	
6.	COOPTION - To consider cooption to the vacant post -ongoing	
7.	MATTERS ARISING	
	7.1 Parish Tree and Wildflower planting scheme – Still ongoing	Mr. Winstanley
	7.2 UKPN update – Following the £6000 fee stated by FIT to site the substation near the recycling bins, discussions had taken place between the various parties. Mr. Walton stated that UKPN has offered two options a) if the lease fee is dropped each year they will pay the £6000, or b) they will resite it on the grass verge owned by Highways, which could accommodate a smaller transformer but this would not give the system a robust future. Mr. Walton stated he had found FIT to be unhelpful and not in a mind to drop the £6000 fee. He had spoken to Richard Spooner who wishes to see all the emails. The Council felt the bigger transformer would benefit the village, hall and pre-school	Mr. Walton

	7.3 Low Road, Tostock. Mr. Aket stated he had written to Tostock PC and their Chair as a private individual and received replies. Details of the problem is logged on the Highways website. He was concerned about the state of the area to the left which is overgrown and flooded, and needs to be cleared. Mr. Walton stated that unfortunately the water has nowhere to go even if the area was cleared. The SWT own some of the land and want to create a wetland.	
	7.4 New Electricity Poles – Cllr Richardson had forwarded the reply received from Planning. Mr. Walton confirmed that the poles have now been cancelled and cabling is being put underground.	
8.	PLANNING	
	8.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/00480 2 Prospect Road, Norton, Erection of a single storey rear extension The Council had no objection.	
	8.2 DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) DC/25/00325 Land South West of Rose Cottage, Ashfield Road, Norton Discharge of Conditions for DC/20/03255 - Conditions 7 (Archaeology) and 8 (Archaeology)	
9.	FINANCIAL MATTERS	
	9.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: Clerk's salary and expenses £416.00 + £129.14 = £545.14 LGA1972 s112 SALC training Courses £127.50 LGA1972 s112 Norton Baptist Chapel, Hall Hire, £180.00 LGA1972 s133 HM Signs, (No vehicles) £39.80 LGA1972 s133 HMRC £104.00 Santander chq no 522587 LGA1972 s112	
	9.2 The Clerk confirmed repayment of Loan on 09/02/25 for £2967.13	
	9.3. The Clerk confirmed receipt of grant for Neighbourhood Plan £4123.00	
	9.4 Review of Internal Control Statement for year end March 2026. The Council RESOLVED TO ACCEPT as being fit for purpose.	
	9.5 The Clerk confirmed submission of recycling claim (Aug 24 – Jan 25) £500.33	
	9.6 Water to Allotments and access track. Mr. Walton commented on the boreholes being inadequate. One pump was not working as it was clogged, but has now been cleaned and working better. Hand pumps may not be adequate for a larger borehole, but using a submersible pump would require power. He wondered if mains water should be investigated again, and the bill for the year could then be divided between the holders. The Clerk will take this to the Charity Trustees for discussion. Mr. Walton stated the access track is deeply rutted so he has obtained a price from Ticehurst Gravel for 4 ton delivered crushed concrete £155 and he offered to lay along the track and consolidate it down. This offer will be taken to the Trustees.	Mr. Walton Clerk
10	REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS, POLICIES, PROTOCOLS:	
	10.1 Dispensation Policy, Environmental Statement, Equality and Diversity Policy, General Privacy Notice, Health and Safety Policy, Protocol for Public Participation in Council Meetings, Social Media Protocol, Internet Banking Policy. Councillors RESOLVED to approve and accept all.	
	10.2 CCTV Policy will need rewording due to the village hall upgrade.	Mr. Walton & Prof Jaggard.
11.	DEVOLUTION	
	11.1 SALC devolution updates emailed to all Councillors.	
12	SPEEDWATCH	
	12.1 Update on Speedwatch. ANPR confirmation for later this month.	
	12.2 Parish Council strategy to combat speeding. Mr. Lenko stated there are a range of possible gating but the better quality is expensive. He felt it would be around £5000 for two pairs of good quality plastic gates, with no signs on them. Mr. Walton felt on an A road they needed to be impressive, with perhaps an arched top and village name. Mr. Aket enquired about applying for locality budget. It was agreed that good quality gates are required so Mr Lenko will investigate further.	

13	VILLAGE HALL	
	13.1 Update on additional items required – no update. The contract for the coffee shop has been signed, but the kitchen still needs to be fitted out. The final invoice is awaited from Oakes. Bookings are up. There has been disappointment with the solar gain but the weather has been poor. The recent fire inspection came back as 5* report.	
14	PLAY AREAS	
	14.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall - all OK	
	14.2 Play area in Prospect Road – equipment OK. A small sign has been obtained.	
15	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	
	15.2 The Clerk reminded about the Open Meeting 13th March 7-9pm Village Hall. Mr. Poole dropped of notification leaflets which have been put in the March edition of the Messenger. Information boards will be delivered at 6pm.	
16	CORRESPONDENCE	
	16.1 Litter pick. The Clerk enquired about arranging a village litter pick. This will be considered at a later date.	
	16.2 SWT magazine- noted	
17	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	17.1 Mr. Walton commented on the area around the bins being untidy and requiring a work party to clear up.	
	17.2 Mr. Walton felt the floor of the new bench will require paving.	
	17.3 The DC had sent information about fruit trees available from District Council	
18	To confirm the date of next meeting : 7 th April 2025 Annual Parish Meeting – 28 th April 2025 7.30pm	
19	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.38	

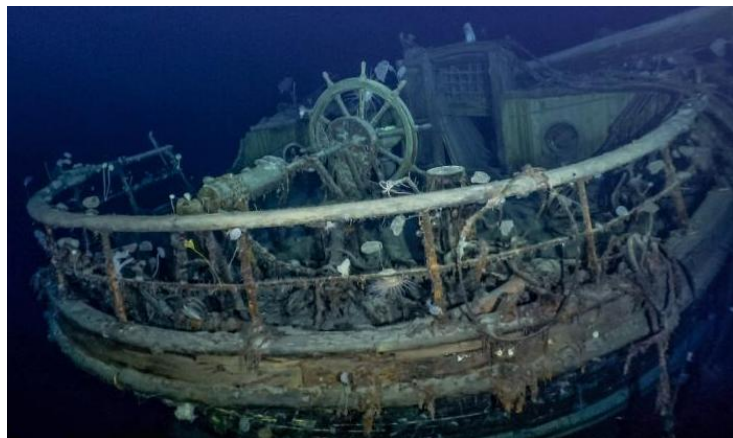
ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

We celebrated our 25th birthday at our April meeting when we heard an enlightening talk by Lydia Franklin of “**SAVE Britain’s Heritage**” which celebrates its own 50th anniversary this year. Established in 1975 to give new life for remarkable buildings, this is a national heritage charity which campaigns for the protection and re-use of historic buildings of all types and ages, enlisting the expertise of planners, architects, engineers, historians and entrepreneurs. We were given an overview of some of their past successful campaigns throughout Great Britain, e.g. South Yorkshire’s huge edifice of Wentworth Woodhouse, Liverpool’s ‘Welsh Streets’ row of Victorian houses successfully and beautifully brought back into use, London’s Smithfield Market (designed by City architect Sir Horace Jones in 1866) which has been transformed into what will be the London Museum in 2026, and London’s M&S building at the corner of Oxford Street, as well as up-dates on numerous East Anglian ones, e.g. Brandon’s “flint” Railway Station (now Grade 2 listed) and Norwich’s Anglia Square project to replace the 1960s shopping precinct. We were encouraged to visit their website, www.savebritainsheritage.org, and view their Buildings At Risk (BAR) Register which details about 2,000 buildings, including two sites in Ipswich. Our evening culminated very sociably with refreshments and enjoyment of a superb birthday cake (with many thanks to the talented baker, Casper, who supplies most of the goodies at the Wesley café – highly recommended).

This year on **8th May** will be the **80th Anniversary of V.E. Day**, so let's see that bunting flying!

Also on **8th May, 7.30pm** in the **Wesley Hall (IP30 9EE)** will be our next meeting when we look forward to welcoming Claire Jowitt of the University of East Anglia and her talk "*The Last Voyage of the Gloucester: Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck, 1682*" (a.k.a. 'Norfolk's Mary Rose'). Having been discovered in 2007, this 17th-century wreck is historically and archaeologically unique as it sank off the Norfolk coast shortly after hitting a sandbank while carrying James Stuart, Duke of York and heir to the English throne, with many lives tragically lost.

The talk will explore the causes of the disaster and why it matters historically, as well as introducing some of the amazing artefacts which have been recovered from the wreck site. Claire is the UEA's Professor of Renaissance Studies and, since 2019, has been researching the history of the *Gloucester*, and she co-curated the 2023 exhibition of the same name at Norwich Castle Museum. Do join us then for what should be a truly fascinating and eye-opening evening.



For further information about our History Group, please visit our website – www.elmswell-history.org.uk – or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601



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