

the nORTON messenger

October 2025



EDITORIAL

Back to a full length edition this month – with a spotlight on another worthwhile charity, and news of a local gardening club.

Please send me some photos of our village! I had to search the internet for the one above.

If you have anything you would like to see published send it to the address below by the 15th of the previous month. Including any new article ideas you have.

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	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Zumba
THURSDAY	9.00am - 10.00am 7.00pm - 8.00pm	Pilates with Paula 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

NORTON WI – NEXT MEETING

Well, it looks as if Norton may get a new W.I. After a very successful and positive meeting of the people who had expressed an interest in forming a new W.I. here in Norton, it was felt that we should move forward with our plans.

There are many things still to be discussed, when and where to meet for example, so it was agreed we should meet again on Monday October 13th at 7.30pm at my house so anyone else who is interested should phone me 01359 230601. So far we have about ten enthusiastic people so this is a very encouraging start to what we hope will be a very happy and lively group. If you want to make friends and get to know people in your village this is a good way to do it. Helen Taylor.



LATEST NEWS + LATEST NEWS + LATEST NEWS + LATEST NEWS



NORTON VILLAGE HALL IS NOW OPEN AFTER REFURBISHMENT!

We're excited to announce that **NORTON VILLAGE HALL** has undergone a beautiful transformation and is now open for bookings!

What's New?

- Fully refurbished Hall with modern facilities
- Extended facilities with new Changing Rooms for Sports
- Spacious and versatile layout suitable for all events
- Enhanced accessibility for everyone
- Whether you're planning a Party, Meeting, Class or Community Gathering, our Hall is the perfect place for your next event

To Book or Enquire, contact us at nortonvhbookings@gmail.com

Visit NortonVillageHall.com to book your event, or to look for other events

Come and experience your newly refurbished Village Hall
It's your community space - and it's better than ever!



And finally, don't forget that the new
Norton Village Coffee Shop
is now open for business
so do pay it a visit!





Norton Salvation Army

What's on at the Army in October?

Sunday 5 th	Breakfast Church (Enjoy coffee/tea/pastries in a relaxed Worship setting)	10.45am
Sunday 12 th	Morning Worship	11.00am
Sunday 19th	Evening Praise	6.00pm
Sunday 26 th	Morning Worship	11.00am
Wednesday 1 st	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 2 nd /16 th /30 th	Choir Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.00pm
Friday 17 th	Adult Craft Club	7.00pm -- 8.30pm

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:

Norton@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

SPOTLIGHT ON Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS)

SARS - Suffolk's Emergency Medical Charity is one of the county's most vital yet often unsung emergency response charities. Operating alongside other emergency services such as East of England Ambulance Service and Suffolk Fire & Rescue, SARS provides specialist medical care at the scene of serious incidents - often before an ambulance arrives.

SARS deploys highly skilled volunteer clinicians including anaesthetists, emergency medicine consultants, and critical care paramedics. These professionals respond to life-threatening emergencies across Suffolk and the surrounding areas, delivering advanced interventions that can make the difference between life and death. Between April 2024 and March 2025, SARS volunteers were mobilised 620 times. In over 25% of those cases, they were the first on scene. From cardiac arrests and traumatic injuries to complex medical emergencies, their expertise is a lifeline for patients in critical need.

Based in Woolpit, the charity is deeply rooted in the local community. In addition to emergency response, SARS also runs public education initiatives such as CPR awareness sessions - empowering residents with the knowledge to act confidently in a crisis.

Despite their impact, SARS receives no central government funding. Every piece of equipment, every training session, and every life-saving intervention is made possible through donations and fundraising. Whether you're a local business, community group, or individual, your support helps keep this vital service running.

Interested in supporting SARS?

You can volunteer, donate, or join the SARS Lottery to help sustain their work.

Visit www.sars999.org.uk to learn more



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (Part of the Benefice of Pakenham, Norton & Tostock, with Great Ashfield, Hunston & Stowlangtoft)

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

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

October 2025 Church Services

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

5 th	16th Sunday after Trinity	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family@Church Harvest	Norton Pakenham
12 th	17th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
19 th	18th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion 3pm Deanery Confirmation with Bishop Graeme Knowles 6pm Evening prayer and praise	Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Pakenham Tostock
26 th	Bible Sunday	9.30am TOAST 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Family Communion 11am Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Hunston Norton Tostock

MEMORIAL SERVICES - SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2025

All Saints' Day is on the 1st November and this time of year is traditionally the season when we remember and give thanks for the lives of those we have loved who have died. As in previous years we will be holding Memorial and Thanksgiving Services across the benefice. During the services names will be read out and there will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of each person, whether named or remembered in silence. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

All Memorial Service dates and times are:

St Mary's Pakenham 3pm (Stowlangtoft names will also be read at this service)

St Andrew's Norton 4.30pm (Tostock names will also be read at this service)

All Saints Great Ashfield 5pm (Hunston names will also be read at this service)

We will be sending invitations to the families of those for whom we have conducted funerals during the last two years. **However, all are welcome to come no matter how long ago you were bereaved.** In that case please let us know if you would like us to include your loved one's name/s in the service. Please contact Revd. Katherine Valentine with details (01359 235095).

(NB these memorial services are not to be confused with the Remembrance Service on November 10th when we remember those who died and suffered in war).



Norton Baptist Church

October 2025

Check the information below for our services throughout October and beyond



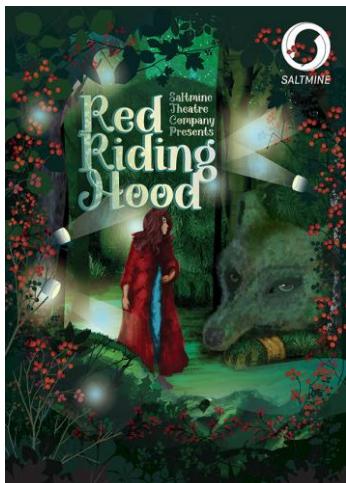

Autumn is most definitely with us as the leaves change colour, and the harvest is brought in from the fields. We will be holding our Harvest Service on the 19th and any donations will be passed on to a local Food Bank for distribution to those in need in and around our communities.

We will be hosting our annual “Light Station” outside the church on the evening of October 31st with all the usual activities, food, fun and Hot Chocolate!!

Our Sunday services continue throughout October with our doors open from 10am when tea/coffee will be available for everyone, and the services will start at 10:30am.

The Den meets on Friday evenings at 6:30pm and is open to anyone in school years 4-7.

Keep an eye out for news of our other events throughout the month – everything is posted on our Facebook page.



Advance Notice SALTMINES Theatre Company ARE BACK!!

Norton Village Hall
Sunday November 30th
2:30pm and 4:30pm

Ticket Information available soon

Book the Date in your diary NOW!!

	5 th Oct	12 th Oct	19 th Oct	26 th Oct
Praise & Worship (Alpha)	10am			
Praise & Worship (Alpha)		10am		
Praise & Worship (Alpha)			10am	
Café Church				10am

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

nortonbaptist@btinternet.com

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



NORTON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Bingo Night

September saw us answer demand and host our Bingo Night!

Thank you to all those that came and supported – we had a fabulous evening so if you would like another one, let us know!

We also drew the winners for our latest 100 Squares Draw...



100 Square WINNERS:

1st (£100): Liz Ball

2nd (£30): Shena Scholes

3rd (£20): Steve & Gaynor Baker

CONGRATULATIONS!



Looking ahead to 2026!

Our Association began in 1986, which means that 2026 is a big year as we celebrate our **40th Anniversary**!

If you or your family members have any memories to share of years gone by then please do get in touch – we would love to see as many pictures as possible of the last 40 years!



Dates for your diary:

- ❖ **8th October:** Annual General Meeting 7.30pm for 8pm start
- ❖ **14th November:** Cheese and Wine evening (members only)
- ❖ **21st March 2026:** Quiz Night



nortontwinning@gmail.com



Norton and District Twinning Association

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th July 2025

PRESENT in the Chair: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J Bolus, Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. Millen, Mr. G. Walton, Mr. N. Winstanley,

Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk) LGA 1972 s12 para 40

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. J. Morgan,

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

District Councillor H. Richardson

County Councillor A. Mellen

1.	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the monthly meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">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- noneb) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters - nonec) To receive requests for dispensations - none	
3.	<p>PUBLIC FORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members of the public—to receive questions and matters of concern from those in attendance Concern expressed at lorries over the weight limit with no permit still using the A1088 during the night while the A14 is closed. There are currently 103 HGVs with permits to use the road. Cllr Mellen stated there had been an ANPR van monitoring use and speed and he had asked for access to the ANPR data so misuse could be followed up, but it has been difficult to obtain this. National Highways have the data, Trading Standards monitors the weight limit and permits, and the Police fine the firms for misuse and speeding. However, getting them to work together has proved difficult. As the problem occurs at night the Police do not have the manpower to monitor all night. It was reported that houses are shaking and the road is beginning to break in places. Cllr Mellen agreed to follow up what he could. Mr. Moland clarified that speedwatch is not allowed to work at night so could not help with speeding issues. Mr. Millen felt rat runs are also occurring through other villages.• Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email Correspondence received concerning water leaks in Ashfield Road. In the past few weeks the road has been closed several times due to the number of leaks which have occurred as a result of the serious deterioration of the old pipe system. Request was made for the Council to raise this issue with Anglian Water and ask for a timetabled pipe replacement. The Clerk was asked to contact Anglian Water.Criminal damage to Evie's bench. Following emails from Mrs. Gleeson, she has reported the graffiti damage to the Police.Water to Allotments. Due to the recent hot spells, Mr. Walton has taken several water tankers to the area. The Trustees will investigate mains water for future use.	
4.	<p>REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen – notedMr. Aket commented on the Scrutiny Committee considering the educational attainment of children to be below the national attainment figures. He questioned the change from three tier to two tier a number of years ago.• Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson and David Bradbury.Mr. Aket commented on money given to Rattlesden Church which he understood was not permitted. Cllr Richardson stated CIL could be allocated provided the Church provides a service to the community i.e. a general meeting place. Cllr Mellen stated the Church is used Monday to Friday as a meeting place for the Community.Mr. Aket enquired about spending £3m for a footpath and cycle way from Elmswell and Woolpit. Cllr Richardson said he believed it was due to the large developments at both Elmswell and Woolpit. Cllr Richardson agreed to get details. Mr. Aket felt a footpath from Norton to Thurston should be considered.	Clerk
5.	<p>MINUTES</p>	
	<p>5.1 To RESOLVE minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd June 2025 as a true and correct record. Mr. Aket proposed, Mr. Lenko seconded. All Approved.</p>	

6	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 Bus stop at crossroads. Cllr Mellen stated he had requested markings.	
	6.2 UKPN – FIT update. The Clerk stated the request to FIT went to the Planning and Policy Committee on 4 th July and their decision was awaited.	
	6.3 Street lighting – lighting times. The Clerk outlined the costs of the upgraded and non upgraded lights. She will put together a spreadsheet of the lights and give suggestions as to which areas could be upgraded. The Clerk agreed to make enquiry as to whether funding is available from Greener Suffolk.	
7	PLANNING	
	<p>7.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02307 Land North Of Halfboys, Ixworth Road, Norton Erection of 1no residential dwelling, vehicular access and associated works. The Council had no objection to this application but made the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed dwelling appeared large for the plot • Being sideways on to the road did not present an aesthetic look and there is preference for front facing to fit the street scene. • Access and egress from the site needs to be clarified as there appeared to be limited turning and parking within the site. 	
	<p>7.2 FULL PLANNING APPLICATION - DC/25/02951 The Dog Inn, Ixworth Road, Norton Installation of pergola The Council recommended approval</p>	
	<p>7.3 APPLICATION FOR OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02900 Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton - Erection of 2 self-build dwellings (Access points to be considered, all other matters reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) The Council objected to this application.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More development along this stretch of open countryside gave precedence for further applications. 2. Village facilities as mentioned in the previous refusal by the Inspectorate were not a short distance but some distance away from these properties and would necessitate use of cars especially as the houses are listed as family homes. There was no footway near the development or provision to provide one. To allow ease of access to village facilities would require residents to walk along the roadside of the A1088. 3. There are no current bus routes running through the village to allow ease of access to facilities or larger shopping towns 4. The site is in the countryside and therefore in an unsustainable location 5. The scheme did not provide affordable housing (on the basis that the site should be aggregated with previous permissions) 6. It would mean additional vehicles accessing and egressing the site near the brow of a hill. 	
	<p>7.5 CONFIRMATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS 7 Prospect Road, Norton, DC/25/01735 Confirmation of Compliance with Conditions for planning permission 2258/16 and DC/19/05202 Erection of single storey rear extension (Following demolition of existing conservatory)</p>	
	<p>7.6 GRANTED - DC/25/02380 Sandalwood, Heath Road, Norton - Application for Works to Trees Subject to Tree Preservation Order WS333/T5- Fell 1 No Robina (T1)</p>	
	<p>7.7 GRANTED. Hill House, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/25/02166 Erection of a side Extension (following demolition of existing conservatory)</p>	
8	FINANCIAL MATTERS	

8	FINANCIAL MATTERS	
	8.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: Clerk's salary £624.00 Street Cleaner £38.88 Messenger, £363.00 SALC internal audit £830.40 ICO, £52.00 Vertas, grounds maintenance £407.23 Goodlife Landscaping, play bark, £648.00 HMRC £220.05 Cheque number 522597	LGA1972 s112 LGA1972 s112 LGA1972 s112 LGA1972 s112 GDPR Public Health Act 1875 s164 Public Health Act 1875 s164 LGA1972 s112
	8.2 To receive quote for Slab base to Evie's bench – ongoing, with consideration of astro turf or slabs to ensure the woodwork is protected.	
	8.3 To receive and consider work to playing field trees. Discussion and review of quotes received. The Council RESOLVED to invite Gadd Brothers to undertake the work. 8.3 Concern from SCC about tree near school fence. Part of it had been cut down to protect the school fence and for security reasons. Further measures will be investigated.	
	8.4 The Clerk confirmed loan repayment will be due on 9 th July of £11230.78	
	8.5 The Clerk had circulated the Internal Audit Report and produced a spreadsheet of required work, which will be slowly worked through.	
	8.6 To approve Financial and General Risk Assessment. The financial risk of the loan repayment was added to the Risk assessment as required by the Internal Audit, and APPROVED by Councillors.	
	8.7 Councillors APPROVED continued use of the BACS system for 2025-2027 as required in Financial Standing Orders and the Internal Audit.	
	8.8 The Clerk confirmed a refund from Clear Insurance of £137.44	
	8.9 Budget statement and reconciliation, APPROVED by Councillors.	
9	DEVOLUTION/REORGANISATION	
	Suffolk County Council Briefing on Local Government Reorganisation 6 th June 2025. Discussion of reorganisation proposals and options under review before being presented to Government. Concern expressed at the 6 th June meeting about the various options.	
10	SPEEDWATCH	
	10.1 Update report on Speedwatch from coordinator circulated to Councillors. Mr. Moland felt signage was an issue, important to remind drivers about the speed. He stated one of the poles has disappeared where the ANPR went last time. Mr. Lenko stated the new SID cannot be put where suggested as Highways did not feel it would be suitable as it needs to be flat and grassed. The new identified site is near The Gardens, and the owner has agreed. The SID requires full light to power the solar panel.	Clerk.
	10.2 Strategy to combat speeding – gating update – on hold due to cost. Mr. Lenko stated these were likely to cost around £8000 and asked for the Council's decision on spending this amount before he undertook full investigation. Mr. Winstanley felt this money could be better spent on a consultant to suggest permanent solutions for the village. Mr. Aket felt concern that any solution from a consultant would need to be passed by Highways but due to lack of resources may not be able to be undertaken. Mr. Lenko felt the advice sought could just be on gating.	Mr. Winstanley Agenda
11	VILLAGE HALL	
	11.1 To receive update on hall and Management Committee. The coffee shop should be opening shortly and the post of treasurer has been advertised.	
	11.2 Hand sanitizer held at Village hall. Mr. Walton agreed to remove and store.	
12	PLAY AREAS	
	12.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall – all good.	
	12.2 Play area in Prospect Road – all good.	

13	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	
	13.1 Review of working party meeting, update on survey. A reasonable number of surveys received and the comments collated.	
	13.2 Neighbourhood Plan withdrawal of government funding. Due to the withdrawal of Government funding it is anticipated that the working group will be required to take on more work and split the areas to investigate.	
14	POLICY AND FINANCIAL STANDING ORDERS	
	14.1 To receive and approve Reserves Policy 2025. The Council APPROVED the updated Reserves Policy as required by the internal audit.	
15	CORRESPONDENCE	
	15.1 Community Emergency Planning – noted. 15.2 EP Passenger Interest Group Meeting 23.05.25 – Minutes - noted 15.3 Suffolk View- noted 15.4 Suffolkonboard bus timetable updates - noted 15.5 Sizewell C Community Newsletter - noted 15.6 Suffolk County Council Briefings on Local Government Reorganisation - noted 15.7 West Suffolk Local Plan 2024-2041 - noted 15.8 Clerks & Councils Direct - noted	
16	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	16.1 Mr. Walton had received request for a litter bin in Ashfield Road or bigger bin at School Close.	
	16.2 The Clerk reminded about a mirror opposite the village hall entrance.	
	16.3 Mr. Lenko enquired about meeting in August. Mr. Acket proposed that the August meeting is cancelled, Mr. Lenko seconded. Councillors approved this proposal. The Clerk will call a meeting if urgent business arises.	
17	To confirm date of next meeting 1st September 2025	
18	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.03	

NORTON UNITED CHARITIES – HERE TO HELP

Applications are invited for grants from the Charity. The Charity Scheme states that “income is to be applied for relieving persons resident in Norton who are in condition of need, hardship or distress”. Grants are available for anyone who finds themselves in financial difficulty because of illness, rising prices, unemployment or some other personal difficulty. Applications can be made at any time of the year and are treated with the strictest confidence.

Applications forms are available from:

Mrs. J. Rowland,
Willowbrook Cottage,
Ashfield Road,
Norton,
IP31 3NN
(Tel 07947859741)

Completed applications forms to be returned by **17th November 2025** for consideration at the next meeting of the Trustees.

CHURCH LIGHTS

The St Andrew’s Church (Norton) floodlights for the weeks of 25th October and 1st November is sponsored by Brian and Rosie Nunnin memory of family and to celebrate family birthdays.

If you would like to see the church lit up please consider sponsoring the lights (£20 a week) or if you would like to celebrate an event or remember a loved one contact:

Philippa Wilding email pfwilding@btinternet.com
Telephone 07776443004



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th August 2025

PRESENT in the Chair: Mrs. S. Hill
 Mr. B. Aket, Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. N. Winstanley,
 Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk) LGA 1972 s12 para 40
 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Mr. J Bolus, Mr. G. Millen, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. G. Walton.

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

1.	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	
2.	PUBLIC FORUM	
	Representatives from the Village Hall management requested an informal meeting with Council representatives to discuss final financing of the hall refurb project.	
3	PLANNING 3.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) DC/25/03217 Three Bridges, Ashfield Gardens, Norton Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act for DC/22/06158 (1no dwelling) for the variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans and documents) The Council had no objection to this application and variation of Condition 2.	
4	FINANCIAL MATTERS 4.1 To approve the following accounts for payment: Clerk's salary £624.00 LGA1972 s112 Messenger, £363.00 LGA1972 s112 Clerk expenses: Driveway safety mirror at hall entrance £34.88 Highways Act 1980 s301 Clerk Expenses: Batteries for speedwatch guns £13.43 Highways Act1980s274A SCC, Replacement obsolete lantern Unit 28 Ashfield Road £851.12 Highways Act 1980 s301 SCC, post in Heath Road, £600.00 Highways Act1980s274A MSDC Dog and Litter bin emptying, £706.30 Public Health Act 1875 s164 HMRC £210.45 cheque no 522600 LGA1972 s112	
	4.2 Trees. The Clerk had received an additional quote from Gadd Brothers following their assessment of the trees on the playing field. There are dead branches overhanging the concrete path and a dead tree in the play area, all of which could pose a risk and need to be removed. It was agreed to accept this additional work. The tree near the fence could be removed but was felt not to present a problem at the moment. The Council agreed to all work being carried out. The Clerk will speak to Gadd Bros.	
	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	5.1 Request from Village Hall committee. Mr. Aket felt it should be a whole Council discussion open to the public, as it could involve public finance. This was agreed. The Council meeting on 1 st September will commence at 7pm with an open meeting.	Agenda
	5.2 Mr. Moland expressed concern about easy access to the playing field by vehicles, following illegal use of other fields in the area. Various options were discussed, including securing the car park area which could also be seen as an issue. In the interim, Mr. Walton will be asked to place a container of rubble to block access to the field.	Agenda
	5.3 The large gate to the play area will not close. Gadd Bros will be asked to repair.	
	To confirm the date of next meeting 1st September 2025	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.03	

ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

There was no meeting in August as the holiday season is in full swing, and club members have been enjoying time with family and friends, taking holidays, and of course, tending to our gardens.

This growing season has continued to be a tough one, with a hot, dry start, four heatwaves, and only one decent spell of wet weather in between. My own garden has been dry since April, and it has been interesting to see which plants have responded well to the conditions. Generally, those planted early in the season (March/April) have fared better than the annuals and perennials planted later in May and June. Vegetables have followed the same pattern, and trying to prevent bolting of salads has proved impossible. Recent news articles have reported farmers experiencing smaller crop yields this year, particularly cereals and brassicas. This makes me feel slightly better, as my broccoli has grown very small and scrappy this year—clearly not my crowning glori-floret.

On a more serious note, evidence shows that our winters are getting wetter while our summers grow hotter and drier. The RHS is currently researching which plants can adapt and thrive in these fluctuating conditions. While drought-tolerant plants may cope with dry spells, they may not withstand wetter winters, so plantings need to be resilient to both. If you're thinking of replacing plants in your garden next year or looking to make your garden more climate-resilient, there are lots of helpful tips on the RHS website.



At the beginning of July, club members visited Porters Lodge Garden and Tea Rooms in Cavenham. The garden, created by Craig Wyncoll and Lionel Sturgess when they moved to Porters Lodge 37 years ago, covers 3 acres plus an 18-acre woodland. It is divided into several rooms, each with different planting conditions and styles. It's a relaxing place with plenty of ideas to take home, and once you've had your fill, there is sampling to be had in the café.



Our October speaker is Chris Wiley, who will share his passion for snowdrops. Chris is a local plantsman who founded the Sustainable Plant Store in 2022 and also coordinates Bury in Bloom

Whether you are an experienced home gardener or just starting out there is always something new to learn or ideas to take home to your own garden. Non-members are always welcome and you may make some new friends.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 21st October at 7.30pm in The Wesley Hall.

Wendy

For Information
contact elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com or
Nick on 01359 242601



ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Our new season got off to a wonderful start last month with Zoe Adlam's talk, "Fool's Gold", which discussed whether the legislation pertaining to treasure needs to be changed to improve the protection of what are known as Portable Antiquities. Zoe undertook research relating to this topic for her undergraduate dissertation, and is currently training to become a barrister. She delivered a fascinating and very informative presentation that was understood by all the audience, irrespective of their level of knowledge of legal language and the intricacies of legislation. Zoe gave us an insight into the current legislation pertaining to treasure and its antecedents in Common Law. She highlighted that there are many gaps in the present laws which do not allow for many antiquities and objects of local, national and public interest to be regarded as treasure. These finds inevitably end up with private collectors, meaning that unfortunately many of them are never exhibited in public.

She went on to explain what is regarded as treasure from the perspective of precious metals (gold and silver) and that many significant bronze antiquities, such as the Sutton Hoo Helmet, have been and are not currently regarded as treasure, because they do not have the required precious gold or silver metal content! Zoe also highlighted objects found in Suffolk, such as rings and seals that have the relevant gold content to be classified as treasure. She went on to surprise the audience with facts such as the Coroner's System by law is engaged with the process of dealing with treasure, and that 90% of all antiquities finds are made by metal detectorists. To find out much more about local finds, visit the website of the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme – www.finds.org.uk



FROM THE ARCHIVE – 7th October 1920. The first female magistrates in Ipswich were sworn in. Both town councillors, they were Marguerite Jefferies, daughter of John Jeffries of Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, and Caroline Bird. (R.L.Cross, *Justice in Ipswich*)

Our next talk will be at 7.30pm on 9th October at the Wesley Hall (IP30 9EE) and is entitled ***Mildenhall's 1934 Air Race*** to be given by two volunteers of Mildenhall Museum. This impressive Centenary Air Race started at RAF Mildenhall and had 60,000(!) spectators descend on the town which was about 20 times its population at the time. Spanning about 11,300 miles, the event finished in Melbourne, Australia, with the winner's prize money of £15,000. Find out much more at our October talk (which will include many images of lovely vintage airplanes with their crews), and perhaps pick up the Museum's recently-published book, 'Memories of the Great Air Race', which includes residents' memories of that momentous day, together with the background and outcome of the race. We look forward to seeing you then – no need to join as a member, just £6 is payable as a visitor.



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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