

THE NORTON MESSENGER

May 2026



EDITORIAL

Thank you for the lovely photos sent in this month. I only had space for one on the front this month, but will hope to include more in future editions.

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.

Diana

CONTENTS

Village classes	2
Woolpit health centre	2
St Andrew's Church	3
Norton WI	3
Norton Primary School	4
Parish Council Minutes	5-7
Salvation army	8
Baptist Church	8
Twinning Association	9
Elmswell Garden Club	9
Down our Street	10-12
Elmswell History Society	13
Local Business Adverts	13-16



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VILLAGE EVENTS AND NOTICES

Norton Village Hall is very much a community building which also hosts parties, weddings, fund-raising events and a number of classes every week for all abilities and ages.

Visit our website (<https://nortonvillagehall.com/>) to take a virtual tour of our recently improved building.

Our village hall has undergone extensive redevelopment and we now also have an attached cafe (currently open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm) serving home-made seasonal food and drink, and will hopefully soon be open weekends too. The building features the main hall for indoor sports and social functions, a large commercial kitchen, a bar facility, changing rooms and meeting rooms for hire.

We have full air conditioning and central heating in all areas. There is a Bose sound system which uses Bluetooth to connect to your device for events.

The whole building and surrounding playing fields have free WiFi. There is a large car park too.

To make a booking, please use the booking request form on the website or contact: bookings@nortonvillagehall.com

We always welcome new members to help us run and improve this important village amenity. If you are interested in getting involved, please email committee@nortonvillagehall.com.

Activities at Norton Village Hall

For the latest information, please see our website, nortonvillagehall.com, where you can take a virtual tour of the hall, see the calendar, hire prices, activities, news and more.

Monday	9:00 - 10:00am Main Hall 6:00 - 6:45pm Main Hall 7:00 - 7:45pm Main Hall	Pilates Jo's Fit 4 All Paracise
Tuesday	9:30 - 10:30am Main Hall 10:45 - 11:45am Main Hall 7:15 - 9:15pm Main Hall	Serenity Yoga Silver Swans Song Circle
Wednesday	10:30 - 11:30am Main Hall 6:30 - 7:30pm Main Hall	Hula with Abs Zumba
Thursday	9:00 - 10:00am Main Hall 7:00 - 8:00pm Main Hall	Pilates Rockfit with Bliss
Friday	9:15 - 10:15am Main Hall 10:45 - 11:45am Main Hall	Zumba Yvonne's Keep Fit Class
Saturday	9:00 - 12:00pm Field (football season only)	Stowmarket Youth FC U9s
Sunday	9:00 - 12:00pm Field (football season only)	Stowmarket Youth FC U12s



Within our Health Centre, we have a number of healthcare professionals, each with distinct roles and specialist skills. When you contact us with a medical request, we will assign you to the person best suited to help you.

Medicines Management Team

Clinical Pharmacists

Clinical pharmacists work directly with patients. They use their expert knowledge of medicines to assess and treat conditions. They have completed training to become independent prescribers.

They work in the general practice team, supporting patients with long-term conditions and undertaking structured medication reviews with patients on multiple medications and complex health needs.

Pharmacy Technicians

Pharmacy Technicians complement the work of clinical pharmacists, applying their knowledge of medicines in tasks such as audits, prescription management support, medication reviews, new patient reviews and medication changes after hospital discharge or referral.

First Contact Physiotherapists (FCPs)

Muscle and joint problems are very common, and a major reason people visit their GP. FCPs can help patients with musculoskeletal issues such as back, neck and joint pain by:

- Assessing and diagnosing problems.
- Giving advice on how to manage pain and improve movement.
- Referring them onto specialist services if necessary.

Quicker access to diagnosis and treatment, helps patients manage their conditions more effectively and recover faster, so they can get back to normal life quickly. Our FCPs help to reduce GP workload and reduce the need for onward referrals.

Social Prescribing Link Worker

Our Social Prescribing Link Worker helps with non-clinical needs, helping people improve their wellbeing. They connect people to community groups and services for practical and emotional support.

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

May 2026 Church Services

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

3 rd	5 th Sunday of Easter	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family@Church Ascension	Norton Pakenham
10 th	6 th Sunday of Easter	9.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
14 th	Ascension Day	7.30pm Deanery Communion	St Peter and St Paul Bardwell
17 th	7 th Sunday of Easter	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion 6pm Evening Prayer and Praise	Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Tostock
24 th	Pentecost	9.30am TOAST 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Family Communion 11am Morning Worship 4pm Pentecost Praise Norton Churches together with the Salvation Army Band. Bring a picnic – in Village Hall if wet.	Great Ashfield Hunston Norton Tostock Norton Playing Field
31 st	Trinity Sunday	10am Benefice Communion	Stowlangtoft

NORTON WI



It's now official - Norton once again has a WI and a HUGE thank you to everyone who has shown an interest and supported us. Special thanks must go to Helen Taylor, who started the ball rolling.

The next meeting is on Monday, 11th May at 7.30pm, in the Baptist Church and Helen Taylor will be our Speaker with a talk about her career in nursing titled "And 16 Aprons".

For further information on Norton WI please contact: nortonwisuff@gmail.com.



As we return from the Easter break, there is a real sense of spring in the air. The longer days and recent sunshine have been most welcome, and I hope many of you were able to enjoy time outdoors with family and friends.

We ended the Spring Term with a wonderful sense of celebration, busyness, and fun. It was lovely to welcome so many families to our Mother's Tea. Our fantastic kitchen team organised three sittings, and the delicious spread was greatly enjoyed. One guest described it as "a truly special event," which was lovely to hear.

Our Lower Key Stage production, Spring Chicken, was a real highlight. The children performed with confidence, enthusiasm, and joy—it was a pleasure to watch.

We also came together as a school community for our Easter service at St Andrew's Church, where each class contributed and sang beautifully, led by Mr Cole. Our choir represented the school superbly at the Big Sing, joining pupils from across Suffolk. They sang with great energy and were praised highly for their performance and conduct.

It has been wonderful to see the children return for the Summer Term, reconnecting with friends, sharing their holiday experiences, and quickly settling back into routines. This term brings a range of exciting learning opportunities across the school, from planting and growing in EYFS, to seaside studies, transport through time, ocean exploration, the Romans, and the Ancient Maya.

There is also much to look forward to beyond the classroom. We will be taking part in the TCS Mini London Marathon in Schools—an exciting opportunity for children to be active, challenge themselves, and enjoy taking part together. This half term's PE enrichment activity is Flag Football, which promises to be great fun.

We also have some memorable experiences planned, including a Year 4 residential visit to Burwell House and a Year 5 East Coast Adventure Day at Sutton Hoo. In addition, we are looking forward to a clarinet performance, where pupils will showcase the progress they have made since beginning lessons in September.

Finally, we currently have places available in our Reception class for September. If you or someone you know is looking for a school place, we would be delighted to welcome you for a visit and share all that Norton has to offer. Mrs Sparkes (Headteacher)



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on 2nd March 2026

PRESENT in the Chair: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. G. Millen, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. G. Walton, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)
LGA 1972 s12 para 40

One member of the public, County Councillor A. Mellen

APOLOGIES: Mr. J. Bolus, Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. N. Winstanley The Council consented to accept the apologies and reasons given. District Councillor D. Bradbury, District Councillor H. Richardson,

1.	The Chair welcomed everyone	
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 agenda and their nature inc. gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 - none Mr. Aket asked for clarification that if anyone had connection to Stowmarket Football Club an interest should be declared. The Clerk confirmed a non-pecuniary interest should be declared if this was the case. b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda - none c) To receive requests for dispensations- none	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM <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 - none 	
4	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen. Mr. Aket commented on Cllr Mellen’s outstanding service to this Parish and to all constituents in his area, and felt regret that he would not be standing again as County Councillor. Reiterated by all present. Cllr Mellen stated that press released today, through FOI, letters showing the CC tried to block consultation on 3 unitary authorities. Mr. Aket enquired about the bus situation following the Zoom meeting. Cllr Mellen commented that officers from the Bus team stated there is more likelihood of funding if an operator is on board and is in discussion process. Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson and David Bradbury -noted 	
5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To RESOLVE minutes of Council meeting held on 2nd February 2026 are a true and correct record. Mr. Aket proposed acceptance, Prof Jaggard seconded with all in agreement.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING from Meeting held on 2nd February 2026	
	1. Bus stop hatching at crossroads & bus sign – on going. The Clerk will follow up.	Clerk
	PLANNING	
	7.1 APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS - DC/26/00442 Land West Of Suffolk House (Plot 4) , Ixworth Road, Norton Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following grant of Outline Permission DC/22/01941 (following Appeal APP/W3520/W/23/3316136) Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Submission of details for Layout, Scale, Appearance and Landscaping, Access points to be considered - Erection of 9No self-build/custom build dwellings in relation to Plot 4 only The Council had no comment to make.	
	7.2 DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) Sycamore House, School Close, Norton DC/25/05385 Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for 0188/07 - Condition 2 (Materials)	
	7.3 Planning reform details circulated, namely decisions on applications must follow national policy, the NPPF will include policies for determining planning applications, with restrictions on consideration by committee and more decisions by officers.	

8.	FINANCIAL MATTERS	
	8.1 The following accounts were approved for payment: Clerk's salary £624.00 LGA1972 s112 Clerk Expenses, cabinet for Vhall £101.99 LGA1972 s112 BT – vhall wifi £35.94 LGA 1972 s133 Tectonic Web domain, £12.00 LGA 1972 s142 Hall Hire £150.00 LGA1972 s133 T. Edwards. hedge and Ditch at VHall £1848.00 Public Health Act 1875 s164	
	8.2 The Clerk confirmed that a loan repayment for £2967.13 had been made on 10/2/26	
	8.3 Litter bin near pre-school. Clerk had circulated suggestions. Agreed on 90L bin in yellow.	Clerk
	8.4 To receive budget statement. Budget APPROVED .	
	8.5 Update on Council subscription to Gov.uk. - ongoing	
	8.6 To receive and approve cost to replace 2 Street light outages. Councillors agreed to the two street lights (units 30 and 32) being upgraded and replaced.	
	8.7 Annual price increase for litter and dog bin emptying service for 2026/2027 to £51.50 per bin. This is significantly subsidized by MSDC as the full cost would be £175 per bin.	
	8.8 Request from NADTA to fund 40th anniversary plaque for gift to Muirds. The NADTA will be presenting a planter to Muirds and asked if the Council would fund the cost of the plaque to be attached. Two prices had been given - £235.00+VAT for Stainless steel and £247.00+VAT for brass. Mr. Aket proposed funding of the steel plaque, Mr. Morgan seconded. Councillors APPROVED .	
	8.9 The Clerk confirmed she had submitted a recycling claim for August 2025- January 2026 for £540.71. After this there will be a final lump sum payment of £2396.00 for February 2026 – January 2028 due to the changes in recycling.	
	8.10 Mr. Aket enquired about the cost of the Messenger, which showed expenditure of £4338, but receipt £1567.00. He enquired how the gap could be closed. It was pointed out people tend to advertise on FB.	
9.	REVIEW OF POLICIES	
	9.1 The Clerk forwarded the following policies for review: Councillor Code of Conduct. Protocols for Public Participation in Council Meetings Internal control statement for year ending 31 March 2027. Social media protocol. Dispensation policy. Health and safety policy. Reserves policy 2026. Environmental policy statement. Equality & diversity policy. Subject access request (SAR) procedure. CCTV Policy. Councillors APPROVED all policies.	
10	REORGANISATION/DEVOLUTION –	
	10.1 The Government had confirmed that SCC election will be held in May 2026	
11	SPEEDWATCH	
	11.1 Strategy to combat speeding – consultant led investigation – Update awaited	
	11.2 Mr. Lenko reported that the additional SID had been ordered.	
12	VILLAGE HALL - nothing to report	
13	PLAY AREAS	
	13.1 Play areas adjacent to Village Hall and Prospect Road – all OK . Mr.Lenko has met with a representative from Playdale to discuss replacement of the wooden train.	
	13.2 Gate lock – Mr.Walton has this in hand.	Mr. Walton
14	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	
	14.1 The Clerk presented an estimate of cost from Mr.Poole to complete the NP totalling £10275.00. £2000.00 of this will fall in 2027-2028 plus there is potential for a further £6000 Environmental Assessment if requested. The Clerk will factor these figures into the budget for 26-27.	6

15	CORRESPONDENCE	
	15.1 Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Review - noted	
	15.2 Suffolk Highways – Town, Parish Council & Parish Meeting Survey. The Clerk was asked to complete.	Clerk
	15.3 Suffolk Preservation Society - Neighbourhood Planning Study Day - 16th May -noted	
16	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	16.1 The Clerk confirmed APM on 20 th April 2026	
	16.2 Mr. Morgan enquired about the call for sites map. It was explained it showed those submitted last year as well as those submitted this year. Planning had not been passed but sites had been submitted as potential building land subject to Planning and evaluation.	
17	To confirm the date of next meeting 13th April 2026 (6 th April Easter Monday)	
18	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.35	

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on 25th March 2026

PRESENT in the Chair: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J. Bolus, Prof. K. Jaggard, , Mr. G. Walton, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk) LGA 1972 s12 para 40

APOLOGIES Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. G. Millen, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. N. Winstanley. The Council consented to accept the apologies and reasons given.

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 and their nature inc. gifts of hospitality exceeding £25. Mrs. Hill declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning item 2.1 b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda- none c)To receive requests for dispensations - none	
2.	PLANNING	
	2.1 Land West Of Suffolk House (Plot 9) , Ixworth Road, Norton Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following grant of Outline Permission DC/22/01941 (following Appeal APP/W3520/W/23/3316136) Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Submission of details for Layout, Scale, Appearance and Landscaping, Access points to be considered - Erection of 9No self-build/custom build dwellings in relation to Plot 9 only. The Council had the following comments to make: 1. It was understood this was applied as self-build, but the Council did not feel confident that there was evidence to support this. 2. Sufficient parking for a four-bedroom house did not appear to be demonstrated. 3. Access driveway should be shown for consideration. 4. It was felt that the layout and scale of the building appeared to be bordering on overdevelopment of the plot.	
	2.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/00906 5 Woods Pightle, Norton - Conversion of existing garage and single storey extension to form store, car port and front entrance porch all with supporting alterations. The Council objected to this application on the following grounds: 1. There did not appear to be sufficient available car parking spaces required for a house of this size. There was concern that visitors would likely be required to park on the road. 2. Taking away the garage for residential further diminished car parking for this property. 3. Overdevelopment of this site	
3.	FINANCIAL MATTERS	
	3.1 To approve the following account for payment: HMRC (February) £221.65 (cheque no 522617) LGA1972 s112	
4.	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	4.1 Cars parking on the pavement has been reported to the Council. This will be added to the April agenda for discussion.	
5.	There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.18	7



Norton Salvation Army

A Christian Church and Registered Charity No: 214779, and in Scotland SC09359
The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, 101, Newington Causeway, London, SE1 6BN

What's on at the Army in May?

Sunday 3 rd	Breakfast Church (Enjoy coffee/tea/pastries in a relaxed Worship setting)	11.00am
Sunday 10 th	Morning Worship	11.00am
Sunday 17 th	Evening Praise	6.00pm
Sunday 24 th	Morning Worship	11.00am
Sunday 24 th	United Pentecost Service	4.00pm
Sunday 31 ST	Morning Worship	11.00am

Wednesday 6 th	Friends Cafe (We are a dementia friendly group offering time out to include carers)	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Thursday 14 th /28 th	Choir Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm
Thursdays	Cameo Lunches (3 Course Meal £6.00)	11.45am – 1.30pm

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



Norton Baptist Church - May 2026

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.

May 24th will be the annual Norton Churches Together Service to celebrate Pentecost. Join us in Norton Village Hall at 4pm. As the 31st will be the 5th Sunday we will not have a service on that day.

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

nortonbaptist@btinternet.com

	3 rd May	10 th May	17 th May	24 th May	31 st May
Praise & Worship	10am				
Praise & Worship		10am			
Praise & Worship			10am		
Churches Together				4pm	



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



NORTON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



LATEST TWINNING EVENT: QUIZ NIGHT HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2026

The quiz night was one of the Association's social events which was open to all. It was very successful, great fun and raised funds towards holding future events and contributing to local charities.



Dates for your diary:

- ❖ **23rd-27th May 2026:** Exchange visit to Muirds
- ❖ **12th July 2026:** 40th Anniversary Celebration



nortontwinning@gmail.com



Norton and District Twinning Association

ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

This month's speaker was Paul Hansord, a passionate gardener and compost enthusiast who retired from Thompson and Morgan in 2018. Paul took us through the history of compost production from the development of John Innes products in the 1930's, which we still see today in many bags of compost at the garden centre, to the peat free products being developed ahead of the peat ban in 2030.

Paul is a fan of coco-based peat free composts, so much so that he has developed his own product, Eazy Grow Compost and came out of retirement to run his business in conjunction with his daughter. The results of trials with Eazy Grow were impressive and has won the product five Which? Best Buy awards. The photo shows the difference compost quality can make to one petunia plant. Needless to say, the bags of compost he brought with him to the meeting sold like hot potatoes! I am also going to give it a try for potting on my veg and flower seedlings currently growing in the greenhouse. Our speakers for the next few meetings are:

May 19th – Ian Bedford 'Insects, Six of the Best'

June 16th – Jim Paine 'Trees for all Seasons'

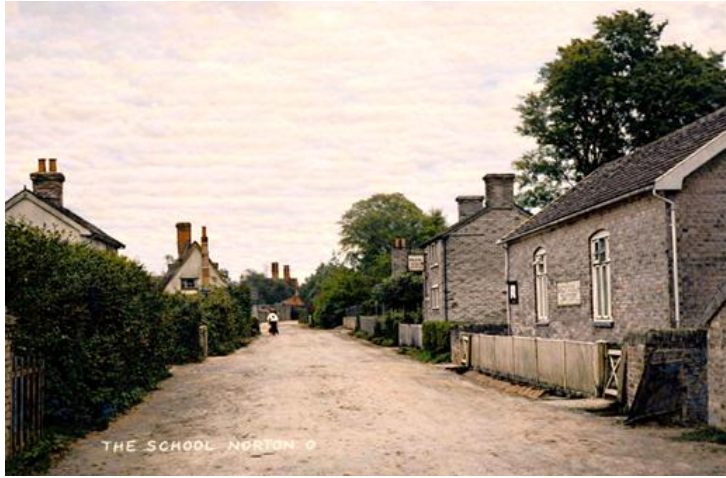
All meetings start at 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel, School Road. Whether you are an experienced home gardener or just starting out there is always something new to learn or ideas to take home to your own garden. We also hold a raffle, have a donation table and provide refreshments at each meeting. Non-members are always welcome and you may make some new friends. There is a small fee for non-members of £5 for each meeting.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing our passion for gardening. Wendy

For Information contact elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com or myself on 07748 442951.

DOWN OUR STREET

Continuing to look at old views of Norton in colour.



Above left is a view of The Street looking east. The old school is on the right hand side.



Above left is the view from Church Lane looking west along The Street. J Bridges was the butcher who sold beef and lamb etc (Stinsons, further along, was the pork butcher)



Above. The entrance to Church Lane with snow piled up 1 metre deep. Photo, February 1987.



Above right is a colourised photo of the Sunday School children and some parents at The Rectory in the years between the World Wars. Rev Pybus is on the left next to the window.

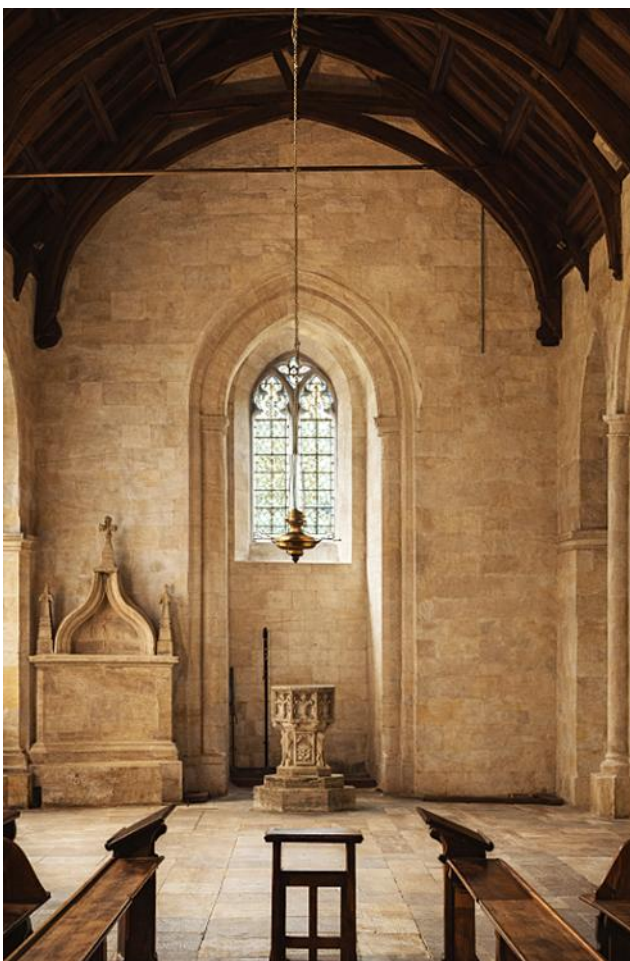
The evacuation of Britain's cities at the start of World War Two was the biggest and most concentrated mass movement of people in Britain's history. In the first four days of September 1939, nearly 3,000,000 people were transported from towns and cities in danger from enemy bombers to places of safety in the countryside. It was known as Operation 'Pied Piper'

Most were school children, who had been labelled like pieces of luggage, separated from their parents and accompanied instead by a small army of guardians - 100,000 teachers. By any measure it was an astonishing event, a logistical nightmare of co-ordination and control beginning with the terse order to 'Evacuate forthwith,' issued at 11.07am on Thursday, 31 August 1939. Few realised that within a week, a quarter of the population of Britain would have a new address.

For a boy named George Turner, his journey led him, with many others, to Stowlangtoft Hall and finally to Norton, where it was arranged for him to stay with a fifty-year-old couple, Edward and Kate Brand. They lived at No 4, Church Lane. (Now Summer Barley Cottage). Edward was a gardener and also the organ pumper at the 10 church at the time when George Pybus was Rector.



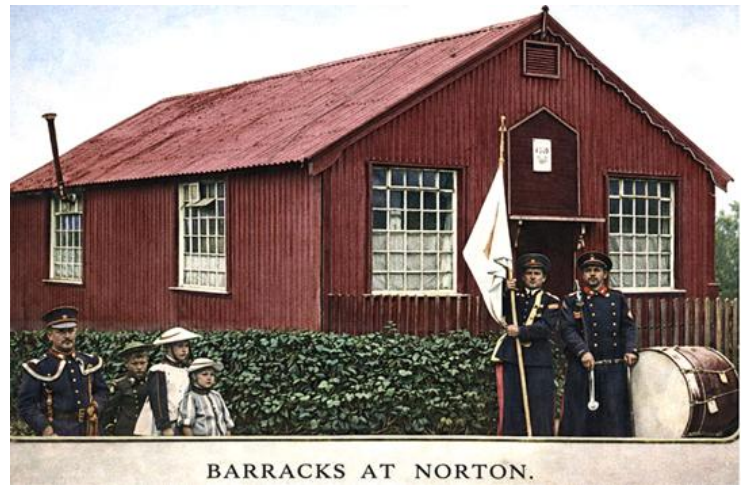
Above, a view of the interior of St Andrew's Church from the 1890s, showing the box pews and the organ on the south side.



To the left is a view from the chancel looking to the west end of the nave with the box pews removed.



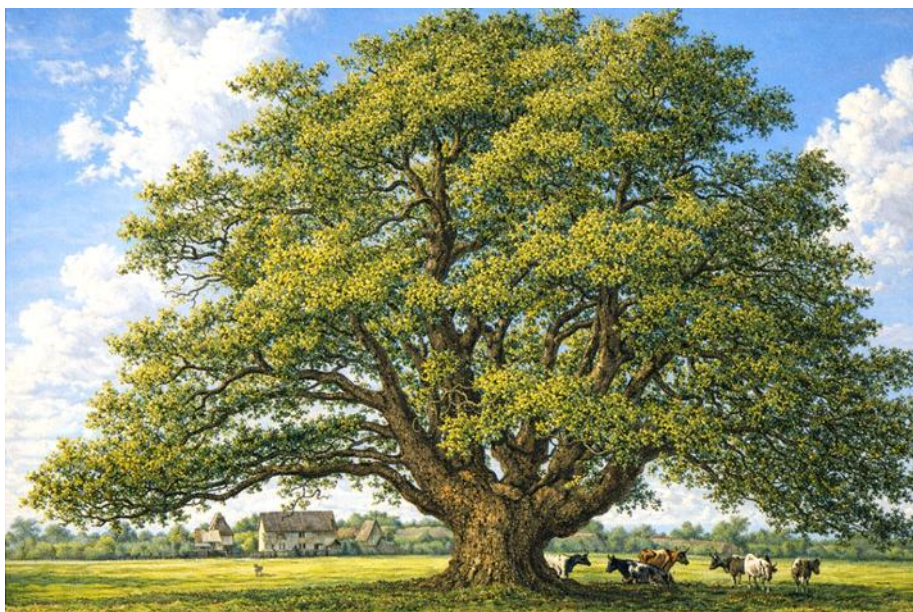
The above view is from about 1920. Straight oak pews have replaced the box pews and the organ has been moved to the north side of the chancel. In all three photos it is possible to see the oil lamps which were used to light the interior of the church.



Ashfield Road (The Common) at the entrance to the lane leading to Norton Hall. 1921 view of the Salvation Army Barracks which stood about 50 yards this side of the previous view. (on the right).



The Horseshoes pub stood on Ashfield Road. Laburnum cottage can be seen on the right.



I am really pleased with this view of the oak at Oak Tree Farm which came down in a summer gale in July 1896. It was AI generated from an etching by Jacob George Strutt (1784 – 1867). It was the last remaining tree from the old and much more extensive Norton Wood. The original Norton Wood reached from the railway line to the edge of Little Green and Harding's Farm. It was mostly felled in the 1600s with Crawley Grove being cut down later, between 1841 and 1940.

ELMSWELL HISTORY CLUB

May Day – the modern May Day is a much-welcome public holiday for all to enjoy, but this day has been one of celebration for centuries, full of music, dancing and all-round revelry.

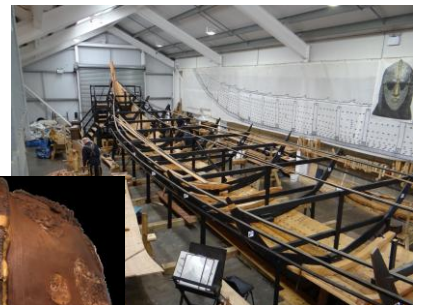
17th century: 'heathenish vanity' – May Day celebrations and customs were not always universally approved of, with objections to their pagan roots and some arguing that the festivities were frivolous and could be idolatrous. On 8th April 1644, maypoles (a common part of celebrations by the mid-14th century) were banned by Parliament. It was argued that maypole dancing was 'a heathenish vanity generally abused to superstition and wickedness'.

Modern May Day: 'Merrie England' revival – May Day has been a public holiday across the UK since 1978. Celebrated on the first Monday of the month, it was introduced by the Labour government and soon became a bone of political contention, opposed by some Conservatives as a 'socialist' innovation. Historically, however, support for an early May holiday had come from both sides of the political spectrum. For much of the 19th century, it was conservatively-minded country gentlemen who led the revival of 'Merrie England' May Day celebrations, believing that they would help cement community bonds at a time of rapid social change and urbanisation.

Our next meeting on **14th May, 7.30pm** at the **Wesley Hall** (School Rd, IP30 9EE), will welcome Richard Brice of the Sutton Hoo Ship's Company for his talk on their **Project to Reconstruct a Replica Anglo-Saxon Longboat**. Richard has been a volunteer guide at this project for some time, and explains that an Anglo-Saxon king's burial ship and treasure lay hidden underground, dormant for over 13 centuries in the mysterious Sutton Hoo royal burial ground; all that remained of the ship was a shadow of its former awe-inspiring glory, uncovered in 1939. Developing the Sutton Hoo story, the King's ship is being resurrected to its full ninety-foot length in The Longshed, Woodbridge. From there it will soon slip once more into the King's River to grace the waters and tides again, reconnecting our Anglo-Saxon maritime heritage with a modern-day sense of discovery.

Non-members/visitors are always welcome (£6pp, cash only please), so do join us then to find out much more.

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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☎ Sean: 07983 403 289
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📷 instagram.com/meadowgraceph



*Little
Haugh
Farm*

**PLANT
SALE**

- 🌿 Heirloom Vegetables
- 🌿 Flowers
- 🌿 Willow Weaving demo





Saturday, 9th MAY
9AM - 3PM
Little Haugh Farm
Norton IP31 3LJ



MAKING TAX DIGITAL IS COMING – APRIL 2026

From April 2026, many sole traders and small businesses will need to submit their Self Assessment digitally. Most suppliers say you'll need accounting software, but we have a simpler solution.

At Suffolk Bookkeeping, we use MTD bridging software, so you can:

-  Keep using spreadsheets or your current records
-  Avoid expensive software
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