the norton messenger

October 2026



Editorial

It's a big issue this month, with lots going on in the village. Thanks to the Norton Sketchers group for sending some of their artwork – I love the one above.

As always send in anything you would like to see in the messenger to the address below by the 15th of the previous month,

Diana

Contents

Village classes and news	2
Norton WI	2
Village Hall update	3
Health centre and Library	3
Café and Sketchers group	4
Norton School	5
St Andrew's Church	6
Parish Council Minutes	7-10
Norton United Charity	10
Down our Street	11-14
Twinning news	15
Baptist Church	16
Elmswell Garden Club	17
Elmswell History Group	17
Haughley Hoofers	17
Local Business Adverts	17-20

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Village Notices

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

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.

Village Hall Activities

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 with Paula Paracise Jo's Fit4All
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	9:15 - 10:15am Main Hall 10:30 - 11:30am Main Hall 6:30 - 7:30pm Main Hall	Power Pilates Hula with Abs Zumba
Thursday	9:00 - 10:00am Main Hall 7:00 - 8:00pm Main Hall	Pilates with Paula 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

Norton WI

Our Speaker for September was Derek Wilding, who gave us an overview of the work of SARS - Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. SARS, funded solely by donations and manned by volunteer medical professionals, are often the first on scene and provide the vital, emergency assistance which makes all the difference to the outcome of an incident. Derek also gave a very moving account of how SARS saved the life of his son, following a serious car accident.

The next meeting is on Monday, 12th October and David Burt will give us an overview of the history of Norton.
As always, new members are always welcome. For further information please contact nortonwisuff@gmail.com

Friends of Norton Walkers

On the 5th September around 15 people got together socially and discussed how we want the group to run. We will be a social group rather than something more formal, with two walks a month, one on a Thursday morning which will be shorter and one on a Sunday afternoon which will be longer. However this will change with the seasons or if we find it's not working. If anyone wants to we will stop for refreshments or have refreshments afterwards.

We will identify any issues and report them to the relevant parties or if only minor organize a work party to sort the issues ourselves on a separate occasion, always being aware of the landowners. We will also be arranging litter picks for anyone who wants to join these outings.

I have set up a WhatsApp group for everyone's use and participants can arrange other dates amongst themselves.

In short it is an adult walking group with the additional purpose of keeping our beautiful footpaths clean and usable and maybe discovering some lesser walked paths. If you are interested in joining please message me at emmasmart68@gmail.com.

The October walk dates are Thursday 15th October and Sunday 18th October. At the moment all walks start in the Village Hall car park

Village Hall Update



Mobile Library

Here in Norton we are lucky to have use of the Suffolk Community Libraries Mobile Van. This is a great resource and whilst it stocks a good range of books for all ages, you can also use the library website and order the books you want. The books are on loan for 8 weeks, rather than the normal 4 weeks from the library.
We have two visits per month; each time the van parks at the Village Hall.
Route 2B - Wednesdays, between 9.40am and 10.00am, every 4 weeks, with the next visit on 7th October.
Route 5J - Tuesdays, between 2.55pm and 3.15pm, every 4 weeks, with the next visit on 13th October.
A library card also gives free access to most daily newspapers, including their supplements, and a huge array of magazines, all of which can be downloaded to read at leisure.

Woolpit Health Centre News

The past 3 months has been a busy time in the Health Centre. We have received a total of 11,256 Anima requests, averaging 185 per day.

Contacting us

We are proud to offer our patients different options for contacting the health centre, online using Anima, via our reception team or through Andi.

We remind patients using the telephone for access that they can utilise the callback function if there is a queue.

Un-attended Appointments

In the last 3 months 4% of the 4,440 face to face GP appointments were un-attended and not cancelled.



This wastes 35 hours of time dedicated to patients, equating to 175 appointments that would have been available over the 3-month period.

Reminder to Patients

Please remember to contact the health centre if you need to cancel your appointment. You can do this over the phone or via the NHS app. Every appointment missed and not cancelled is an appointment that could be used by someone you know who needs our help.

Norton Café Update

🍵🌿 WELCOME TO NORTON CAFÉ 🌿🍵
After lots of planning, preparation and hard work behind the scenes, we're delighted to finally introduce Norton Café, situated at Norton Village Hall.
And we're nearly ready to welcome you through the doors!

🎉 FIRST UP — OUR RELAUNCH DAY
📅 Saturday 10th October
⏰ 10am – 2pm
Come along and have a look at what we've been working on, say hello and enjoy some tasty tasters.
🍵 Hot & cold drinks will be available to purchase
🍰 Cakes & savouries will be available to purchase

Then, just a few days later...

✨ NORTON CAFÉ OFFICIALLY OPENS ✨
📅 Tuesday 13th October
From a light breakfast and lunch to coffee and cake, there'll be something for everyone.
🍳 Light breakfast options
🥪 Freshly made sandwiches, baguettes & toasties
🥔 Jacket potatoes
🥐 Pastries & savouries
🍰 Cakes & sweet treats
🍵 Butterworths coffees & teas
🥤 Cold drinks & ice creams

🐾 Dogs are very welcome, with dog treats and puppuccinos available too!

OUR OPENING HOURS
🕰️ Tuesday – Friday | 8:30am – 4:30pm
🕰️ Saturday – Sunday | 9am – 3pm

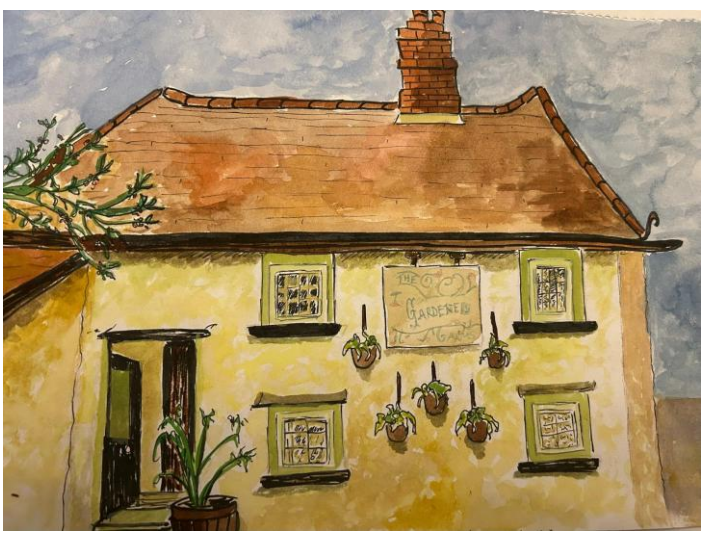
Norton Sketchers

Norton Sketchers is coming into its 15th week. The idea was initially set up by myself. I wanted to improve and regularly participate in urban style sketching and thought it would be nice to have some company along the way. More importantly for me I wanted to ensure I carved time out each week to be away from screens, household chores and have a little bit of creative 'me' time.

Throughout the warmer days it has been lovely to be able to get out and sketch around the village. The change in the season is going to bring a few challenges when it comes to finding places to go but we hope to continue sketching, even if its a still life on a table in a pub somewhere. But we are very optimistic to continue throughout.

If you would like to join us for an hour or two each Wednesday evening to chill, relax, and learn a new skill then come along and join us. You don't have to be an artist or be an expert at drawing, its not about producing masterpieces or judging anyone's work. Drawing and painting is a skill and one that can be learnt, it just takes time, a willingness to learn, a pencil and a piece of paper.

Contact kreativekateart@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.





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






I write this article having completed our first full week of the Autumn Term, with the summer holiday already feeling like a distant memory. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school. They have returned full of enthusiasm, eager to learn and ready to embrace the opportunities of a new academic year.

Every year, I am amazed by how quickly our new Reception children settle into school life. They have been exploring their classroom, enjoying the outdoor learning environment and becoming familiar with school routines. It has been lovely to see new friendships forming and our older pupils demonstrating the kindness and care that make Norton such a special community.

Across the school, exciting learning is already underway. Year 1 are exploring homes from the past and comparing them with their own, Year 2 are discovering life in castles and preparing for a visit to Framlingham Castle, while Year 3 are learning about prehistoric Britain.

Year 4 have begun their rivers topic and are enjoying swimming lessons, Year 5 are investigating the forces that shape our planet, and Year 6 have started their transition journey towards secondary school, including preparations for their residential trip to Bawdsey Manor and their World War II studies.

At the start of each year, our pupil committees are re-established. These groups give children a genuine voice in shaping school life, encouraging them to share ideas, lead initiatives and contribute positively to both our school and the wider world. Being part of a committee helps develop confidence, responsibility, leadership skills and a strong sense of community.

At Norton CEVC Primary School, our close-knit community ensures every child is known, valued and encouraged to thrive, with dedicated staff providing exciting learning opportunities, high expectations and excellent pastoral care.

We currently have places available in some year groups and warmly welcome enquiries from families who may be new to the area or considering a change of school. We would be delighted to show you around and share what makes our school so special.

If your child is due to start school in September 2027, we are pleased to be holding our first Open Afternoon on Thursday 12 November from 1.30 – 3.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet staff, tour the school, experience our friendly atmosphere and see the children engaged in learning. Individual tours can also be arranged at a convenient time. To book a place or arrange a visit, please contact the school office.

I look forward to sharing more news from Norton in the coming months.

Lisa Sparkes
Headteacher






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 2026 Church Services

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

4th	**18th Sunday after Trinity**	**8am Holy Communion (BCP)**	**Norton**
		10am Family@Church HARVEST	Pakenham
11th	**19th Sunday after Trinity**	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	Tostock
		11am Morning Worship	Great Ashfield
		11am Family Communion	Pakenham
18th	**20th Sunday after Trinity**	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	Pakenham
		9.30am Morning Worship	**Norton**
		11am Family Communion	Great Ashfield
		6pm Evening Prayer and Praise	Tostock
25th	**Bible Sunday**	9.30am TOAST	Great Ashfield
		9.30 Holy Communion	Hunston
		11am Morning Worship	Tostock
		11am Family Communion	**Norton**

MEMORIAL SERVICES - SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2026

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).

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th JULY 2026

PRESENT

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J. Bolus, Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. G. Millen. Mr. G. Walton, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk) LGA 1972 s12 para 40

District Councillor H. Richardson

County Councillor J. Patchett.

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

The Council consented to accept the apologies and reasons given.

District Councillor D. Bradbury.

1.	The Chair welcomed all to the 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 and their nature inc. gifts - none b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda -none c)To receive requests for dispensations - none d) To receive dispensation policy for approval - none	
3.	**PUBLIC FORUM** • 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 Area fronting The Horseshoes. Cllr Richardson has asked MSDC to undertake clearing, although he is unsure if this should lie with the Housing Association. Car park at the Village Hall on 30th June. Due to School Sports Day the car park was full leaving hall users no space to park. This was unfortunate and noted for the future.	
4.	**REPORTS FOR INFORMATION** –to receive written reports for information only •Report from County Councillor James Patchett Mr. Aket asked about the new changes of regime in Suffolk and whether there would likely be any changes affecting finances, Parish Councils etc. Cllr Patchett felt nothing would change as the new system is based on other long-standing Councils where it has worked well. •Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson and David Bradbury. Cllr Richardson commented on the recycling/rubbish collection. There had been issues during the early stage with new routes, new employees, the weather etc. Food waste collection is above 99%, estimated against the previously collected black bin weight. He stated the food waste caddy needs to be put out on time as the lorry will not return later to collect if it is not out. Mr. Walton commented on the food waste being shipped out of county. Cllr Patchett stated a contract had been set up but the company had then retracted. The waste goes centrally to Ipswich, then either March, or Halstead. Mr. Walton questioned how glass in the blue bin is recycled once tipped and broken. It was suggested a visit to the recycling site is booked to see how the rubbish is treated.	
5.	**MINUTES**	
	5.1To **RESOLVE** minutes of Council meeting held on 1st June 2026 as true and correct. Mr. Lenko proposed, Mr. Aket seconded, with all in agreement.	
6.	**MATTERS ARISING**	
	6.1 UKPN update. The Clerk stated the village hall solicitor had questioned how the Hall trustees need to sign the lease since their title is held by the Official Custodian on behalf of the trustees. It was felt this had been resolved and could be progressed. Upon further enquiry the Clerk was told there would need to be minor changes to the lease with additional clauses, so it had been returned to the hall solicitor to make these changes.	

	6.2 Bus service update. Mrs. Hill stated it was unlikely there would be any money from SCC to reinstate the bus route. She had attended a Passenger Transport team's meeting and emailed Simon Barnett about Norton's problem. He had had contact with Richard Winch, but he stated currently it is down to money. However, there may be more money available at some point in the future. Since deregulation, Operators are free to set their own routes and timetables and do not need permission of the local transport authority, only to notify them of new services and changes. The 320 was a commercial line and the reason for ending was lack of income. Some budget may be freed up to enable some form of replacement scheduled service but this would not happen immediately. He cited access by residents to the Connecting Communities service. Mr.Aket felt Turners should be approached about the minibus parked in the SA car park. He had called them but not heard back. Further enquiries will be made.
	6.3 Review of Football pitch use. Mr. Walton commented on holes left when posts removed, and no maintenance undertaken. The Clerk was asked to contact the team to enquire about their maintenance programme of the pitches.
	6.4 Street Cleaner. There had been interest from a firm to take on the work, and interest expressed by a local resident. Further discussion with both parties will take place
7.	**PLANNING**
	7.1 APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO TREE(S) PROTECTED BY A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER - DC/26/02505 Rookery House, The Street, Norton Application for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order WS159/T2 -Reduce overhanging branches of beech tree to previous pruning points of around 3.5-4.5 metres. Lightly thin larger limb over the garden, provide 2.5m clearance of garage roof and a 4.5m crown lift in the rear garden section. **The Council supported the work being undertaken on the beech tree.**
	7.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/02692 1 Woods Pightle, Norton, Erection of an attached cartlodge **The Council had no objection to this application**
	7.3 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - DC/26/02806 Land At Norton Rise, Ixworth Road, Norton Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Variation of Condition 3 (Approved Illustrative Plans and Documents) of Planning Permission DC/24/03919 dated: 08/05/2026 - Erection of 5no. self build dwellings and garages. **The Council had no comment to make on this application.**
	7.4 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED- DC/26/00036 Old Oak Barn, Church Lane, Norton Continued use of cartlodge for domestic purposes ancillary and incidental to Old Oak Barn, retention of rooflight and external alterations to cartlodge
	7.5 DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990** Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton, DC/26/02283 Discharge of Conditions Application for Listed Building Consents DC/23/03177 and DC/23/04960 - Condition 4 (Hard Surfacing), Condition 5 (Rainwater Goods), and Condition 7 (Eaves and Verges)
8.	**FINANCIAL MATTERS**
	8.1 The following accounts were presented for payment: Clerk's salary £624.00 LGA1972 s112 Messenger, June £374.00 LGA1972 s112 BT – vhall wifi £35.94 LGA 1972 s133 ICO £52.00 GDPR Goodlife landscapes, repairs to play area, £648 Public Health Act 1875 s164 SALC Internal audit £502.80 LGA1972 s112 SALC, training, £43.20 LGA1972 s112 Legend Services £67.05 Litter Act 1983, ss5, SCC lantern replacement (30&32) £1416.00 Parish Councils Act 1957, s3: Highways Act 1980 s301 Glasdon,dog bin £159.38 Litter Act 1983, ss5,6 Manutan UK, dual Bin, £618.00 Litter Act 1983, ss5,6 HMRC £ 210.45 cheque no 522626 LGA1972 s112 SARS £300 cheque no 522627 LGA 1972 s137 Items awaiting payment were verified and the Clerk gave explanation where required. **Council RESOLVED to approve the items detailed above for payment.**

	8.2 The Clerk confirmed a loan repayment will be made on 9.7.26 of £11230.78 - noted	
	8.3 Request from SARS for donation. The Clerk informed that the Council had budgeted an allocation of £300. The Council **AUTHORISED** payment donation.	
	8.4 The Clerk confirmed a **reaffirmation** had been made with the Pension Regulator as required every three years.	
	8.5 The Clerk circulated the budget carried forward showing the earmarked reserves and general reserves as requested in the internal audit. The detailed precept allocation for the year 2026-2027 was shown for agreement. **It was resolved to accept the earmarked funds carried forward as shown (£27500, being £11000 CIL and £16500 general) and reserves (£20317 being £3199 CIL and £17118 general) and to accept the budget as presented.** Councillors **APPROVED.**	
	8.6 The Clerk circulated a budget statement to July 2026 showing agreed expenditure against approved budgets with explanation where required. **Council resolved to accept the budget statement as presented.**	
	8.7 The Clerk circulated the AIAR 2025-2026 to Councillors for discussion and approval. **Councillors noted the comments made and confirmed receipt.**	
	8.8 To receive Internal audit report. The Clerk circulated the report following completion of the internal audit. The Council formally considered the report and authorized the Clerk to conduct the necessary actions in accordance with the recommendations and comments raised. **COUNCIL RESOLVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT WITH COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOR THE CLERK TO DRAW UP A LIST OF ACTIONS REQUIRED WITH REPORTING BACK TO FULL COUNCIL.**	Clerk
	8.9 The Clerk circulated a list of current dog and litter bins within the village showing 11 dog and 10 litter bins. This was submitted to MSDC with the request to empty all bins. Cllr Patchett commented that litter bins can also be used as dog bins.	
	8.10 To receive confirmation by MSDC of acceptance of CIL report. The Clerk stated the submitted report of expenditure and proposed earmarked CIL had been accepted by MSDC.	
9.	**REORGANISATION/DEVOLUTION – no update.** Judicial review has been submitted, but it is unsure how this will be responded to.	
10.	**SPEEDWATCH**	
	10.1 Cllr Patchett stated he had spoken to the Highways Officer about Norton's proposed traffic survey and speeding. He commented on the speed limit between Norton and Stowlangtoft. It was felt this did fit the criteria for national requirements but being a short distance there is flexibility reducing to 50mph or 40mph to reduce approaching speed. As a short distance he felt the cost to change would not be too great. Mrs. Hill felt to have 30mph continue would make more sense. However, Cllr Patchett said there would still be a cost for the regulation order, which he will continue to pursue. With regard to a traffic survey and design for crossing, he felt even with this information it may not be funded by the County as finance is not there. Occasionally Government funding will pay for schemes, so he will add Norton to the list ready for when it comes through. Cllr Richardson commented on the Suffolk House development requirement to produce a plan and contribution towards a pedestrian crossing. Cllr Patchett stated the Council do not need to pay for a pedestrian crossing design as it would get designed anyway. The cost could be in the region of £100,000. He stated that in a planning application, Norton should state it would support if there was a crossing as this would carry as much weight as having a fully designed crossing. He recommended the Council save spending money on a survey. Mr. Lenko stated the SID had been lowered to allow the ANPR to be sited on the post. Mrs Hill commented that the SID has to be covered as cars enter down the hill when speedwatch is being carried out. A bespoke cover had been made for it.	
11.	**VILLAGE HALL** - Update report	
	11.1 It was noted that the Police had been called by a resident believing the Caravan Rally to be travellers moving on to the field. The Village hall had posted on FB about the rally.	
	11.2 Mr. Walton stated he had been questioned about the caravans, trees around the playing field, dog mess, and cars parked in the hatched area. He had answered all queries.	
	11.4 Mr. Walton had been approached about the loan being mis-sold particularly reference the coffee shop. An invitation was extended to attend a Council meeting to express concerns.	
	11.3 Mrs. Hill informed the Twinning will be holding a 40th year celebration, with hog roast, past and present members invited, and would be using the field and hall.	

12.	**PLAY AREAS**	
	12.1 Playing field & Prospect Road play areas. Mr. Millyard has completed the work required on the gate entrance and the slide at the play area.	
	12.2 Front hedge. Email received about the overgrown roadside hedge. Mr. Lenko will ask Mr. Millyard to cut back as soon as possible.	
13.	**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - Update**	
	13.1 The Clerk stated the expression of interest for financial support had been submitted to MSDC and she asked Cllr Richardson when the Council would be notified about acceptance for financial support to complete the NP. He agreed to enquiry.	Clerk
14.	**CORRESPONDENCE**	
	14.1 Joint Local Plan Scoping Consultation 2026 - noted	
	14.2 Suffolk Highways forum - self-help scheme slides and recording - noted	
	14.3 West Suffolk Planning Policy Consultations. West Suffolk Local Plan 2045 - Scoping Consultation (16 June to 28 July 2026) - noted	
	14.4 West Suffolk Planning Policy Consultations. Barton Mills Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16) Submission Version Consultation. - noted	
	14.5 Town and Parish Liaison meeting - Wednesday 29th July, 2pm - 4pm at the Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell. Mrs. Hill and Mr. Walton plan to attend.	
	14.6 Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting 2026 - New Local Plan System (Mid Suffolk) Mid Suffolk District Council online Teams meeting Friday 10th July. Mrs. Hill and Mr. Walton agreed to log into the meeting.	
	14.7 Clerks & Councils Direct	
15.	**Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting. None**	
16.	To confirm the **date of next meeting 7th September 2026.** Councillors **RESOLVED** not to meet in August other than by reason of urgency of business.	
17.	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.40	

Norton United Charities - Here to help.

Applications are invited for grants from the Charity. The Charity has funds available from bequests to help village residents.
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".
Assistance is available for anyone who finds themselves in financial difficulty because of sudden illness or disability, rising prices, unemployment or other personal short-term need.

*Applications can be made at any time of the year and are **dealt with in strict confidence.***

Applications forms are available from the Clerk to Norton United Charity:

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

Completed applications forms to be returned by **20th November 2026** for consideration at the next meeting of the Trustees.

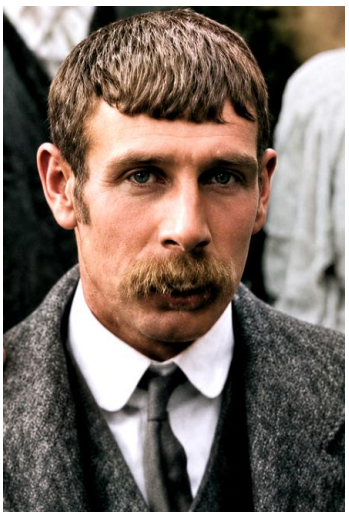


Down our Street

As we approach the season for Remembrance, I thought I would use AI to colourise photos of some of the Norton men who fell in the two World Wars. Unfortunately, I do not have photos of all of them.







Above:- Photo 1. Percy Charles 'Charlie' Bennett of The Fox & Hounds. (2nd Suffolk Regiment). Killed 12 July 1916 with and buried alongside his friend Harry Balls at Carnoy. Aged 21.

Photo 2. Walter Joe Bennett brother of Charlie, of The Fox & Hounds. (Royal Garrison Artillery. Siege Gun 237, which took a direct hit on 17 August 1917). He was killed and was buried alongside the 3 other members of his gun crew at New Irish Farm Cemetery. Aged 23.

Photo 3. William George Bradbrook of Ixworth Rd near The Gardens. 9th Suffolks. Killed storming the stronghold known as 'The Quadrilateral' 15/16 Sep 1916. No grave, but on Thiepval Memorial.



5 Brinkley brothers served 2 were killed. They lived in Church Lane then near 'Bumble Cottage', Ixworth Rd. Three sets of the family's medals as shown on left, were auctioned by Warwick and Warwick in 2010.

Harold William Brinkley died at Wimereux Hospital from wounds received defending the Albert bridgehead on 16 April 1918. Aged 22. His brother William Brinkley had been incorrectly given a death date of 13 Nov 1917 by CWGC. It should have been 1916. He was killed at Serre on the first day of The Battle of Ancre and his remains were not recovered. CWGC have agreed to remove his name from the Arras Memorial and re-engrave it at Thiepval. He was aged 33.



Walter Alfred Brinkley lived with his grandfather Alfred Cornish in Orchard House, opposite the Norton Village Hall playing field.

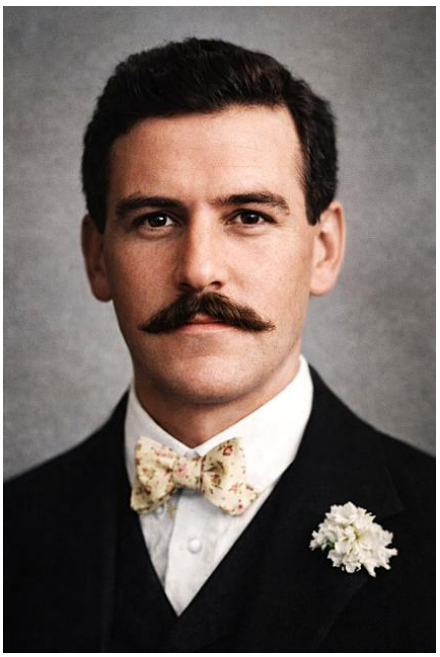
He enlisted in the 1st/4th Battalion Suffolk Regiment but was 'captured uninjured' when they attacked the Hindenburg Line in April 1917. He died in captivity at Friedrichsfeld, Wesel where conditions were not up to required standard.

He is buried in the CWGC Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, on 16 Oct 1917.

Walter was 24 years old.



William George Cobbold.



Ernest Hazelwood



Edward John Peck

William Cobbold was born in 1898 and lived between the Horseshoes pub and the lane to Oak Tree Farm, on Ashfield Road and had recently married. Fighting in November 1916, in atrocious weather conditions, the 9th Suffolks were trying to advance near Thiepval. There were huge numbers of casualties and little success. William died 10 October but was not recovered. He was aged 27.

John Southgate Cocksedge was born in Badwell Ash and married Norton girl Edith Barnes (aunt of Ronnie Barnes who for many years supported The British Legion by organizing the Poppy Appeal and reading the names of the fallen, in church). They had seven children before John joined the 12th Reserve of the Suffolks. John and the 12th Suffolks, 11th Suffolks and 16th Royal Scots had been about 2km west of Armentieres near the railway crossing of the River Lys at a place called Fort Rompu**.** On April 10th, after some fierce fighting, the Battalion was ordered to retire across the Lys. There were a series of attacks and counterattacks and it seems that John was killed in one of these. The fighting seems to have ceased by 11th, but a Lewis Gun post covering the retreat, was knocked out on the 12th, the date of John's death. He was killed on 12th April 1918 and is remembered with honour at the Ploegsteert Memorial, affectionately known as 'Plug Street' by Tommies. This is probably 5 or 6 miles away from where he fell. At present, 11,369 men with no known grave are commemorated here. The inscription on the interior of the circular top of the memorial shows that the memorial commemorates "those who fell fighting between the River Douve and the towns of Estaires and Furnes".

Stanley Arthur Frost was born in 1899 at Thurston Planche. He was on his way to fight in Palestine with the 5th Bn Suffolks on the Hospital/Troop ship Aragon and was just off Alexandria and about to enter port when she was ordered to stay offshore. Because of this fatal decision, she was torpedoed by the German submarine UC-34. Survivors were taken aboard HMS Attack and had just removed wet and oil saturated clothing and were lying on the deck this ship was promptly torpedoed by the same submarine. Stanley was lost at sea and is commemorated on the Chatby Memorial in Alexandria. He is one of just seven Suffolks on the memorial. He was only 18 years old.





HMT (Hired Military Transport) Aragon. (Previously a mail ship). Colourised photo of the sinking.

Henry Hawes is shown on Norton's memorial as having served on SS Lincoln (which did not exist). However, SS Port Lincoln was requisitioned as a troop carrier by the Australian government as HMAT A17. Research has shown that Henry was a stoker. The Melbourne Weekly Times of Sept 23rd 1916 shows that Henry fell from a gangway between the ship and the quayside and was killed. He was 25.

Thomas William Hawes was the son of Thomas Albert Hawes and Laura Whitton. Born in Norton 19th April 1901, he lived in Maltings Cottage, The Street. He enlisted 4 Jun 1918 and was posted to B Coy (Chatham) 6th Battalion Royal Marines Light Infantry. There was outrage when young, inexperienced 18 and 19 year old officers and men with no fighting experience or cold weather kit (including just returned POWs) were sent to North Russia to stop the advance of The Red Army and aid the withdrawal of British forces. After some preliminary skirmishes he was killed in action, during the failed attack on the village of Svyatnavolok on 8th September 1919. Following this, the British troops mutinied. Ninety-three men from the battalion were court-martialed; 13 were sentenced to death and others received substantial sentences of hard labour. Thomas was aged 18 at the time of his death. His name was inscribed on Brookwood Military Cemetery Memorial as the Archangel war grave was inaccessible during the Cold War.

Ernest Hazelwood (picture on previous page) was the eldest of four children and became a Private in D Company, the 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment. They were sent to Salonika, Greece on the 4th of January 1916 to help stop the advance of the Bulgarian army. On Oct 31st, it was the Suffolks' job was to capture the village of Kumli which was only lightly defended. According to the Official History, only one platoon of the Suffolks (possibly D Company) was used in the attack, and they took the village easily, capturing 13 Bulgarian prisoners. There was no mention of casualties, but Pte Hazelwood is the only man of the Suffolks buried in the area. Buried at the Struma Military Cemetery. Aged 38.

James Laflin. Son of Charles Laflin, James was born in Ringshall in 1887. They lived between High Hall and Hunston Road. James joined the 9th Suffolks, who together with the 2nd Notts and Derby, attacked The Quadrilateral on 13th September 1916 but the assault was soon checked by withering machine gun fire. Further attempts were made throughout the day, but no gains were made. The men dug in about half a mile in front of the start point. Casualties (both battalions) - 21 officers and some 500 other ranks. James was one of those casualties. His body was not recovered and he is commemorated at Thiepval. Aged 29

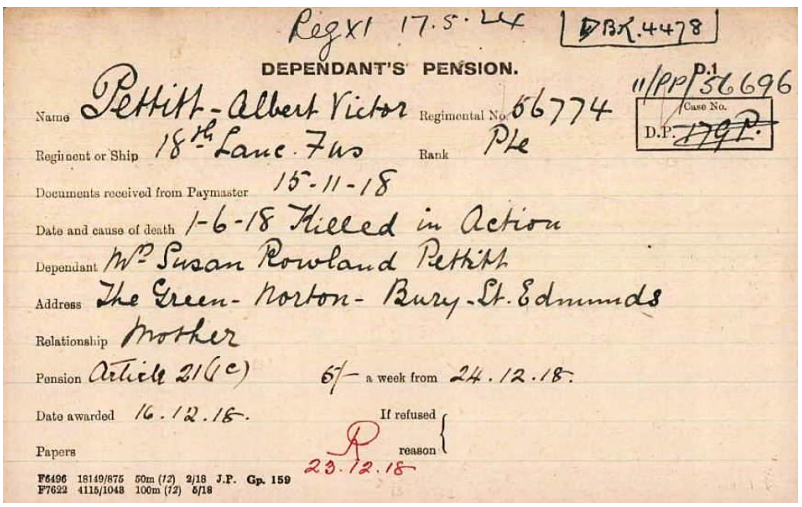
Frank Clifford Pearson was born in Norton in 1895 and lived in Red Herring Cottage, Heath Road. Frank served in the West Kent Regiment. On March 21, 1918, the Germans launched a major offensive against the British 5th and 3rd Armies. The artillery bombardment began at 4.40 am on March 21 and was directed at targets over an area of 150 square miles, the biggest barrage of the

entire war. Over 1,100,000 shells were fired in five hours and by the end of the first day, the British had lost nearly 20,000 dead and 35,000 wounded. The Germans broke through at several points on the front. After two days our Army was in full retreat. As they fell back, many of the isolated "redoubts" were left to be surrounded and overwhelmed by the following German infantry. The West Kents and Welsh Fusiliers were sent forward just to the west of Morchies but were virtually surrounded by the enemy, who fired in from all directions as they tried to withdraw to the village of Beugny, 2km to the rear. Only 70 men made it back to the safety of British held trenches. Frank died on or around 23rd March 1918. His name is on the Arras Memorial. Aged 23.

James Pearson. Cousin and next-door neighbour of Frank. Born 1899 in Norton. He served in the 2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment. In April 1916, No.21 Casualty Clearing Station came to La Neuville and remained there throughout the 1916 Battles of the Somme. It was used to treat soldiers who had been seriously injured at the front, with the hope that they could be repatriated for further treatment and convalescence. La Neuville British Cemetery, Corbie, was opened early in July 1916 to cater for the soldiers who did not make it! James' date of death is given as 16th July 1916. He was the 170th soldier buried at the Cemetery. His grave is 1 B 63. Aged 17

Edward John Peck (photo on previous page) was born in Norton in 1894. He was the son of James and Miriam (Nee Mingay) Peck. They lived almost opposite the mill on Stanton Street. One of the first Norton boys to join up early in September 1914, enlisting in the 7th Battalion Suffolk Regiment. Reported as wounded in action, BFP Saturday 16 September 1916. He had just returned to duty after his fourth home leave. When the Germans launched the Spring Offensive of 1918, he became one of thousands killed in action on the 4th April 1918 and is commemorated on panel 25 at Pozieres. This was the same German offensive that claimed the life of Frank Pearson. Edward was aged 24





Reg'xl 17.5.24 DBR.4478

DEPENDANT'S PENSION.

P.I.

Name Pettitt - Albert Victor Regimental No. 66774 11/PP/36696

Case No.

Regiment or Ship 18th Lanc. Fus Rank Pte D.P. 179P.

Documents received from Paymaster 15-11-18

Date and cause of death 1-6-18 Killed in Action

Dependant Mrs Susan Rowland Pettitt

Address The Green - Norton - Bury St. Edmunds

Relationship Mother

Pension Article 21(c) 6/- a week from 24.12.18.

Date awarded 16.12.18. If refused

Papers reason 20.12.18

F6496 18149/875 50m (12) 9/18 J.P. Gp. 159
F7622 4115/1043 100m (12) 5/18

Above. Albert Victor Pettitt who was another casualty of the German Spring Offensive of 1918. After initial training, he was drafted into the 18th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers. The Battalion's war diary entry for 1st June 1918 shows that they were based at Hedauville and were attacking Aveluy Wood. They advanced from a place called Heathcotes Bank, which is quite near Martinsart. There was a ravine running between Martinsart and Aveluy Woods which was rushed by a Platoon of the 18th Bn. They captured the high ground but then came under heavy machine gun fire from another nearby hill to the South and were forced to withdraw. Casualties were many, including 2 officers and 18 'other ranks' killed in action with 192 wounded or missing. Sadly, Albert was one of those who lost his life that day. He is commemorated at Martinsart British Cemetery. I.B. 26. He was just 19 years old.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We would like to welcome members, as well as anyone interested in finding out more, to our AGM being held at Norton Village Hall on Wednesday 7th October. Refreshments from 7pm with proceedings due to start at 7.30pm. This will include election of named roles and committee, our nominated charity(ies) for the next 12 months as well as discussion on activities and events that the Association organise.

ABBA Night: 17th October 2026

Tickets are available to purchase now, simply send us an email or speak to one of our committee members who will be able to assist. We will be joined by live singers who will deliver us with an evening of fantastic music, alongside a licensed bar which will be available.

On Sunday 5th September we held a 'Pork & Pimms' afternoon which saw lots of our members come together to enjoy some lovely food accompanied by some healthy competition during bar billiards, pétanque and croquet – if this looks like something you might enjoy then why not get in touch to enquire about membership!









Our 40th year continues in great style, and as promised we have lots coming up for the last few months, so please make a note of the dates listed below.

Dates for your diary:

7th October: AGM, 7pm for 7.30pm start

17th October: ABBA Night, tickets on sale NOW

25th November: *Members only* Wreath making

27th November: Bingo Night, tickets available soon

nortontwinning@gmail.com

Norton and District Twinning Association



Norton Baptist Church
October 2026

Norton Baptist Church

Check the information below for our services throughout October and beyond

Autumn is here and the nights are closing in. The trees are all turning wonderful colours and Gods creation is preparing for the winter months ahead. We have lots of plans too. See the adverts for the Pirate Praise Party and the Puddings and Prosecco events in this edition of The Messenger. Please book in so that we know how many to plan for.

Puddings & Prosecco: Gemma Hunt is a TV Personality, a wife, a mum, an author and many other things besides. Come and here her story, ask questions, be encouraged, laugh and enjoy plenty of puddings and prosecco along the way.

All our services start at 10:30am with our doors open for tea/coffee/refreshments from 10am. The first three Sundays in a month take on a more traditional style with prayers, songs and bible readings and we have Adventurers (our version of Sunday School!) for children. The fourth Sunday is Café Church – join us for a continental style breakfast and a family orientated service. We celebrate Communion on the third Sunday.

We are hoping to arrange the Induction Service for Peter Vallance for the 1st November – more info from our Facebook Page soon.

The Den will be meeting each Friday at 6:30pm and will be open to anyone in school years 4-7.

Scan the QR Code to go straight to our Facebook Page for all the up-to-date information.

If you need any information, have a query or would like us to pray for something that is going on in your life, please email us.

nortonbaptist@btinternet.com

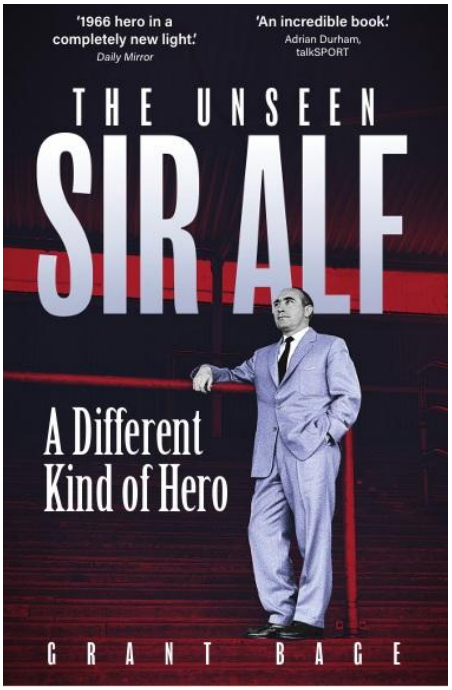




Booking Now Open Scan Here



Elmswell History Group



Our next talk, "***Ipswich Football Legend, Sir Alf Ramsey***" by Grant Bage, will be on Thursday **8th October**, 7.30pm at the Wesley Hall (School Rd, IP10 9EE). This talk will shine a new light on Sir Alf Ramsey, an Ipswich Town and England legend, who became a national hero in 1966, when he managed the England's men's football team to World Cup success. He was a Suffolk hero too, thanks to his triple league-winning leadership of Ipswich Town from 1955 to 1963, and remaining in Suffolk for the rest of his life. Grant Bage is an author, educator and Honorary Fellow of the Historical Association, and he will have copies of his latest book "*The Unseen Sir Alf: A Different Kind of Hero*" available for sale that evening. Do join us then to find out much more – everyone welcome, doors open at 6.45pm. Members £4, Visitors £6, Under-18s £2 – cash or cheque (payable to "Elmswell History Group"), sorry no cards.

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

Elmswell Garden Club

I am writing this month's article to the sound of rain….yes rain! I had almost forgotten the soothing sound and fresh smell of a good downpour and it's a relief for the garden after a hot and dry summer. My garden is in its' second year of creation and it's limping along and in the main looking quite sad, it's been a real test of my patience, but I'm still be-leafing in its potential.

In July club members enjoyed two trips. The first was a re-visit to Porters Lodge Garden and Tea Rooms in Cavenham. The garden, created by Craig Wyncoll and Lionel Sturgess when they moved to Porters Lodge 38 years ago, covers 3 acres plus an 18-acre woodland and worth a visit.

The second trip was to Beth Chatto's Garden in Essex. Beth was a plantswoman, garden designer who loved unusual plants and was the original advocate for 'Right Plant, Right Place'. This means placing plants the environmental conditions that they grow in the wild, such as soil, moisture levels and aspect. The gardens she and her husband created are shaped by the land, with some areas being heavy clay and wet and some drier and sandy. Also, there are over 2000 varieties of plants for the sale too so you can take the inspiration home, which many members did.

Our speaker for October 20th is local gardener Chris Wiley 'Climate Resilient Gardening'. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel, School Road.

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

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THORPE MORIEUX

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