

the norton messenger

May 2024



EDITORIAL

Thank you for all the photos sent in this month, and for the contributions from regulars. We also have a new venture in Norton – organic veg boxes will be going on sale shortly – see page 13.

Please send any contributions for the Messenger to the address below by the 15th of the previous month, and photos would be particularly appreciated!

Best wishes, Diana

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

February and March in Norton were wet. As a consequence, the building work to refurbish and extend the village hall has fallen further behind the original schedule and it is not anticipated to be finished until July, about 1 month later than originally planned. Ironically, now that it has stopped raining, at least for a day or two, it has been possible to get the roof on so that inside work can move forward at a pace dictated by the supply of tradesmen and materials. It should soon be possible to put down the new floor screeds, which have to 'cure' for about a week before they can be walked on, and then the new windows can be installed. By this stage much of the scaffolding will have been removed and the outside walls will receive their final cladding.

In the meantime, the Hall Management Committee has begun to advertise for someone to run a café in the southwest corner of the building. We hope this will become a welcoming and successful community facility serving high quality tea, coffee, cakes and other light foods.



These photographs hardly show it, but the roof is on.

Usually the Hall Management Committee has its AGM in April. This year the committee has decided to postpone the meeting until it can be held in the new hall. The exact date will be advertised in the Messenger and on social media, when we hope that many of you will attend, hear the reports in detail and stand to represent village organisations on the committee.



Sky over Norton – sent in by Robert Lenko



Norton Baptist Church

May 2024

Check the information below for our services throughout May and beyond



God's wonderful creation continues to spread vibrant colours across the fields and in our gardens and warmer, longer days are with us as spring begins to push forward into summer.

May is a little different this year and our services are being swapped around a bit to allow us to do something special on the 19th May.

Our **Praise and Worship** services will now happen on the **5th** and the **12th** of May, with communion being shared on the **12th** May. **Café Church** is taking place on the **26th**.

Our doors are open for all of our services from 10am so why not join us for a coffee/tea before the services start at 10:30am.

The **19th May** is a special day in the Church Calendar as we celebrate an event called Pentecost. This is a time when churches all over the world remember the account in the Bible which marks the start of the church as a whole. We will be joining with our friends in the village to put on a "Songs of Praise" service on the village green at 4pm and it would be great if you could join us – everyone is welcome.

You will see on the table below that we are not having a service on June the 2nd. Instead, we are joining with one of our church families in Bury St Edmunds to celebrate their child's christening.

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

	5 th May	12 th May	19 th May	26 th May	2 nd June
Praise & Worship	10am	10am			No Service
Messy Church					
Songs of Praise			4pm		
Café Church				10am	

nortonbaptist@btinternet.com

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



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th March 2024

PRESENT in the Chair: Mrs. S. Hill
 Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J Bolus, Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. G. Walton,
 Mr. N. Winstanley, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk) LGA 1972 s12 para 40
 County Councillor A. Mellen
 One member of the public

APOLOGIES: District Councillors A. Davies and D. Bradbury.

1.	Welcome and protocol reminder	
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, gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 – Prof Jaggard declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item 14.4 on the proposed footpath down the water works road. b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda - none c) To receive requests for dispensations – 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 - none	
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen Flooding and Highways issues continue to be a problem and he was informed about the recent flooding in The Street. Consultation on Devolution starts shortly Mr. Aket enquired about education for less advanced and vulnerable adults. Councillor Mellen stated a Priority Action Plan needs to be submitted to Ofsted, but funding is a problem. Mr. Lenko outlined the problems experienced at Thurston Upper. Report from District Councillors Austin Davies and David Bradbury – noted.	
5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To note and approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2024. Mr. Aket proposed, Mr. Walton seconded with all in agreement.	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 Meeting on 26 th February re Stowlangtoft Bridge. Mr. Aket stated the work is proposed to start on 8 th July 2024 at the earliest, with the A1088 being closed for 4 months, but it is also possible it could start in 2025 during the summer months, due to concern about the welfare of the otters, and National Power needing to shift power. Finance still has to be completely settled but there is no concern about this. Concern expressed about rat runs, but HGVs will be directed up to Scole and down the A140. An undertaking was confirmed that the permit system will continue on the A1088 when the bridge work is completed. Diversion signage was discussed. Flooding in Compiegne Way was a concern as this route would be HGVs diversion route. The next meeting will be in May.	
	6.2 Bus service Questionnaire. These have been printed and in The Messenger. Door to Door collection may be required to ensure return, but they can also be left at the Garage or emailed to the Clerk.	Mr. Winstanley
	6.3 Road crossing update. Mr. Winstanley has received one survey quote costing around £3000 and will seek a second. Mrs. Hill had seen Mr. Gray about the requirement for a crossing at Suffolk House, and he had found the same problems as SCC. Further discussion at the next meeting.	Mr. Winstanley
	6.4 Messenger sample. Mr. Aket had problems trying to source a sample from the supplier so this item will not be taken forward.	
	6.5 Street light update along Ixworth Road. The Clerk and Chair have a site visit with SCC on 6 th March to view potential sites for an additional street light.	Mrs. Hill/Clerk
	PLANNING	
	7.1 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED Lilac Villa, Ixworth Road, Norton, DC/23/05751. Erection of single-storey rear extension	

	7.2 MSDC DOES NOT WISH TO OBJECT Land At The Rear Of The Salvation Army Hall, Woolpit Road, Norton, DC/24/00302. Proposal: Notification of Works to Tree in Conservation Area - No.6 Oak trees along north side of boundary. To reduce branches on south side only by 2/3M to provide a good clearance. To also raise oak trees by 5m on south side, to allow space for a boundary fence. G1 mixed hedge and brambles between oak trees alongside boundary on north side of site. To be removed to allow space for boundary fence.	
	7.3 DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) 2 Meadow Acre, Norton, DC/24/00186 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/04415 - Condition 2 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy) and 3 (EV Charging)	
	7.4 DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) Crab Apple House, 1 Meadow Acre, Norton, DC/24/00185 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/04414 - Condition 2 (Biodiversity enhancement layout) and Condition 3 (EV Charging)	
	7.5 DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) 3 Meadow Acre, Norton, DC/24/00187 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/04416 - Condition 2 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy) and 3 (EV Charging)	
	7.6 REFUSED Plot 11, Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/23/05661 Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No self build dwelling with garage	
	7.7 REFUSED Plot 12, Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/23/05652 Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No self build dwelling with garage	
	7.8 APPEAL APP/W3520/D/24/3336681. Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of detached cart lodge; Changes to landscaping and parking arrangements; Erection of extension to house plant/domestic storage; Conversion of garage and installation of air source heat pump, wood burning stove with flue; Replacement/alteration of fenestration	
	7.9 APPEAL APP/W3520/W/23/3334683. Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton. Appeal by: Valedane Ltd Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of 2no. detached dwellings with garages.	
8.	FINANCE	
	8.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: On-Line: Clerk's salary £416.00 LGA1972 s112 Street Cleaner £90.00 LGA1972 s112 Ten Hats, Messenger February and March £726.00 LGA1972 s142 Norton Baptist Church, Hall Hire, £135.00 LGA1972 s133 MS Oakes, stage payment £44,034.14. Santander chq 522550 LGA 1972 s133 HMRC £120.80 Santander chq 522551 LGA1972 s112	
	8.2 The Clerk confirmed the first repayment instalment of the loan of £2967.13 had been made. This amount referred to the first claim of £100,000	
	8.3 The Clerk confirmed a submission of Recycling claim for £542.42	
	8.4 The Clerk confirmed receipt of CIL claim by VH of £1603.03	
	8.5 To consider Coronation Commemoration plaque – currently on hold.	
9.	SPEEDWATCH	
	9.1 Speedwatch and signs. Mr. Stone has the Kill Your Speed signs to put up.	
	9.2 Small solar SID located in Heath Road. Mr. Lenko has seen one resident but needs to speak with another resident as it would be near that property, near the small 30mph.	Mr. Lenko
10.	VILLAGE HALL 10.1 Overall, work is reported as progressing well but due to the weather Mr. Walton stated the completion is now behind by about 6 weeks. Mr. Walton stated Mr. Jefferson has now stood down from the Management Committee and the Project team. Mr. Walton stated there has been interest in running the coffee shop	Mr. Walton
	10.2. The Clerk commented on the long emails from Birketts. She will formally instruct them to undertake Land Registry as a separate item to the Lottery enquiry.	Clerk

	PLAY AREAS	
	11.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. – The equipment is fine, however, the gates are still causing a problem and will again be reported to the firm. Mr. Walton commented on having solar power lighting on the youth shelter.	Mr. Lenko Mr. Walton
	11.2 Adult Equipment. Mr. Lenko stated he had received a quote for 3 pieces of equipment costing around £4000, fitted with matting. These could be sited outside the play area opposite to the zip wire. Mr. Aket felt it would be useful to see other sites who have used this firm. After further checks this will be finalized at the next meeting.	Mr. Lenko Agenda
	11.3 Annual Play Inspection Report 2023/24 –Inspection report was good with no major work required. Mr. Lenko will review with recommendations at next meeting.	Mr. Lenko
	11.4 Play area in Prospect Road – no problems to report.	
12	STANDING ORDERS	
	12.1 The following Orders were reviewed and approved: Dispensation Policy, Environmental Policy, Equality and Diversity Policy, General Privacy Notice, Health & Safety Policy, Protocols for Public participation in Council Meetings, Social Media Protocol.	
	12.2 The review of the CCTV policy was approved as it currently stands but will require further review when the Hall work is complete.	Review Agenda
13.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	13.1 Suffolk Devolution events - noted	
	13.2 Suffolk County Council's Local Transport Plan Consultation - noted	
	13.3 A14 Haughley to Tothill reconstruction scheme - February 2024 newsletter	
	13.4 SALC training Course – bring back nature - biodiversity 24 th April 12.30-1.30. a free on-line course. Three Councillors expressed an interest so the Clerk will book.	Clerk
	13.5 The Local Councillor magazine.	
14	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	14.1 The Clerk informed of her enquiry to Compass Pest re the play area and confirmed that if moles start to work there traps would be put down at night and taken up in the morning as the traps would nip fingers if pulled up by children.	
	14.2 Land at Tostock. Tostock will report the flooding to the local engineer for Highways and formally to SCC. Ownership of the land next to the overgrown site was felt to be Mrs. Mathieson.	Mr. Walton
	14.3 Mrs. Hill stated the Twinning are using Woolpit Village Hall for a quiz event, and Woolpit have asked for advice on Norton's hall upgrade. It was suggested someone attends one of Woolpit's management meeting.	
	14.4 Prof Jaggard commented on the reply from the Rights of Way concerning the concrete road to the sewer works in Ixworth Road. They have logged correspondence about this road becoming a right of way but an application was never made. He asked for the Council to consider making an application	Agenda
	14.5 Mr. Walton confirmed the new dog bin had been installed at the Church.	
15	To confirm the date of future meeting: 8 th April 2024, 7.30pm and 15 th April 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.	
16	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.38	



Norton Salvation Army

Woolpit Road, Norton, IP31 3LU

What's on at the Army in May?

Sunday 5th	Breakfast Church (Led by Stephen Horrex)	10.45am
Sunday 12 th	Morning Worship	11.00am
Sunday 19th	Joint Church Pentecost Service (On the Playing Field)	4.00pm
Sunday 26th	Morning Worship	11.00am
Mondays (School Term Time)	Toddlesong (Children 0 – 4yrs - £1.00 family/session)	9.00am – 11.30am
Tuesday 28 th	Holiday Drop in Aimed for ages 11- 16. Come & go as you please. Pool/Snooker: Table Tennis: Computer Games & more available Soft drinks & snacks available at a small cost	10.30am – 2.30pm
Wednesday 1st	Friends Cafe (We are a dementia friendly group, free for all to attend for a chat & refreshments)	2.00pm – 4.00pm
Every Thursday	Cameo Lunches (3 course meal for £6.00)	11.45am – 1.30pm
Thursday 2 nd /16th/30 th	Choir Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm
Thursday 9 th /23 rd	Band Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm
Friday 31st	Adult Craft Club	7.00pm – 8.30pm
Saturday 18 th	Coffee Morning	10.00am – 12.00pm

If anyone is interested in coming along to Band or Choir rehearsal please contact either email below

Unwanted clothes & shoes:

Why not help to protect the environment by donating your discarded clothes & shoes in the clothes/shoe bank in our car park. Available 24hrs.

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

Valerie.ling@salvationarmy.org.uk OR Peter.newson@salvationarmy.org.uk

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

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

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

May 2024 Church Services

Our beautiful and ancient church is open every day for visitors and private prayer.

5th	6th Sunday of Easter	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family@Church- Ascension	Norton Pakenham
9th	Ascension Day	7.30pm Deanery Communion – all welcome	Pakenham
12th	7th Sunday of Easter	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
19th	Pentecost	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion 4pm United songs of praise – Norton Churches Together 6pm Evensong	Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Norton Playing Field Tostock
26th	Trinity Sunday	9.30am TOAST 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Family Communion 11am Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Hunston Norton Tostock

PENTECOST SONGS OF PRAISE with the Salvation Army Band & Norton School Choir.

Sunday 19th May 4pm Norton Playing Field

At Pentecost it is a tradition in Norton that all the churches get together for a service and celebration tea - to mark the birth of the church throughout the world. Please come and join in, on what should be a joyful occasion - weather permitting! Bring a picnic and a chair! We look forward to seeing you!

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

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

REMINDER

Dawn chorus birdwatch on Saturday the 4th May 2024 Norton Water Meadows.

Meet 6.30am Norton War Memorial

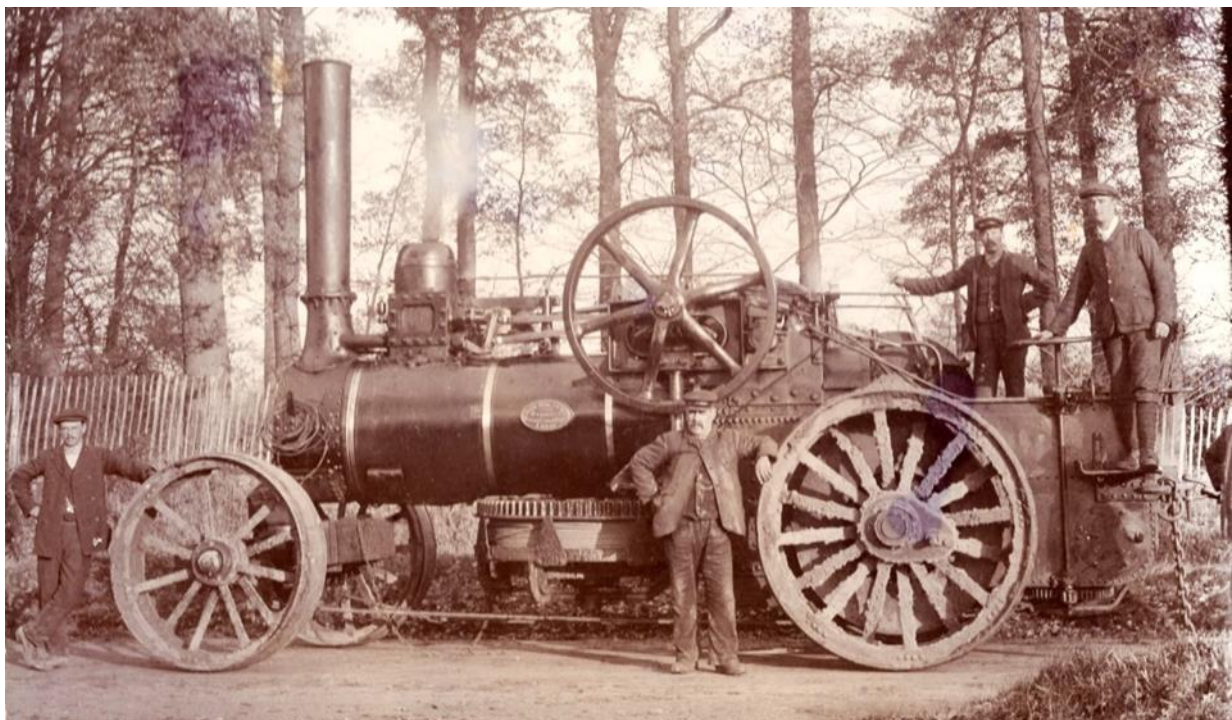


DOWN OUR STREET

I was recently contacted by a gentleman from Hampshire, who had relatives in Norton back in the 1800s. His mother had recently passed away and he had been sorting through some photos, some of which related to the village. He wondered if I would be interested in seeing them.



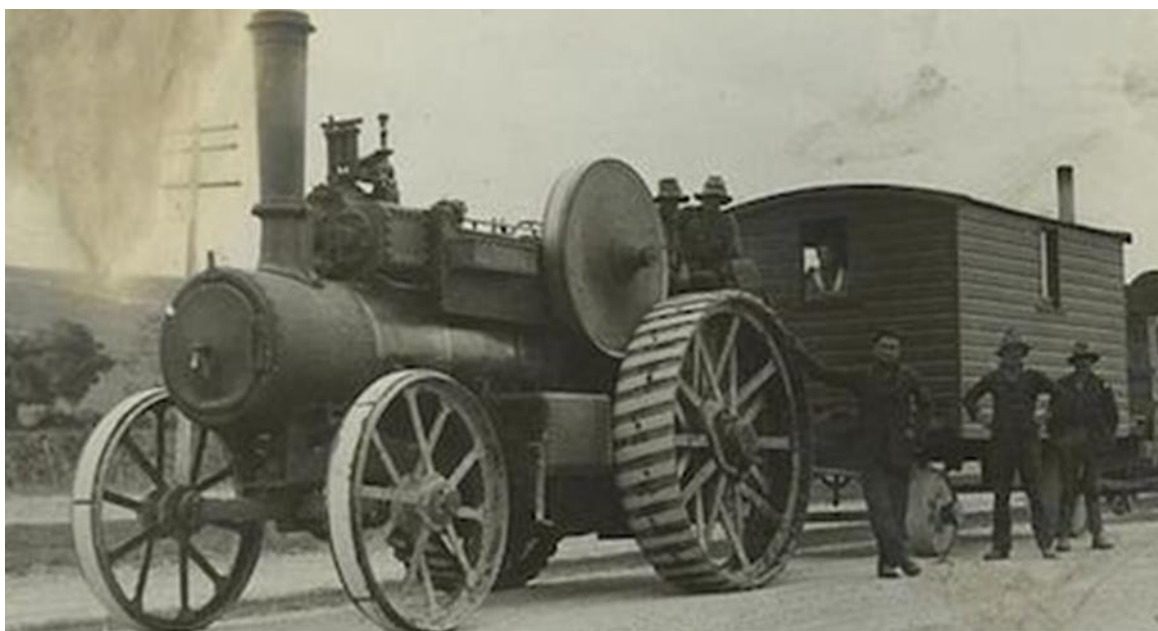
This first photo is instantly recognisable and shows 'The Dog Inn and War Memorial' in about 1930. I have never seen this particular image before. Interestingly, the chimney to the left appears to be exiting from the roof of the old forge and the forge roof extends beyond the white weather boarded house. This was the part with the actual forge. The weather-boarded house was the home of Mrs Hines. She and her husband used to play the music for village dances in the community rooms at the original Plumber's Arms. Their house has now been incorporated into the restaurant of The Dog. There are two youngsters standing next to the pony and trap.



The second photo is very similar to a rather poor-quality illustration taken from an old Bury Free Press article, which has been shared before. It shows one of the pair of the Downing Brother's 'Fowler' ploughing engines. (Steam ploughing engines always had a spool of steel cable beneath the boiler and this was attached to the plough, which was double ended. Each of the engines would take it in turn to draw it across the field. After completing a crossing, the team would swap to the other end of the plough and signal to the traction engine driver. He would 'toot' his whistle to signal that the plough was ready to be drawn back to the first engine. With each crossing the traction engine would move forward for the next run).



From the about the mid-1860s most larger fields were cultivated by steam ploughs. A set of steam ploughing tackle demanded a committed team of five men. The foreman had to be able to perform the duties of any one of his team and needed two engine drivers, a cultivator (or plough) man and a young lad – always referred to as the cook boy. Unless the work was near to home, they ate and slept in the living van.

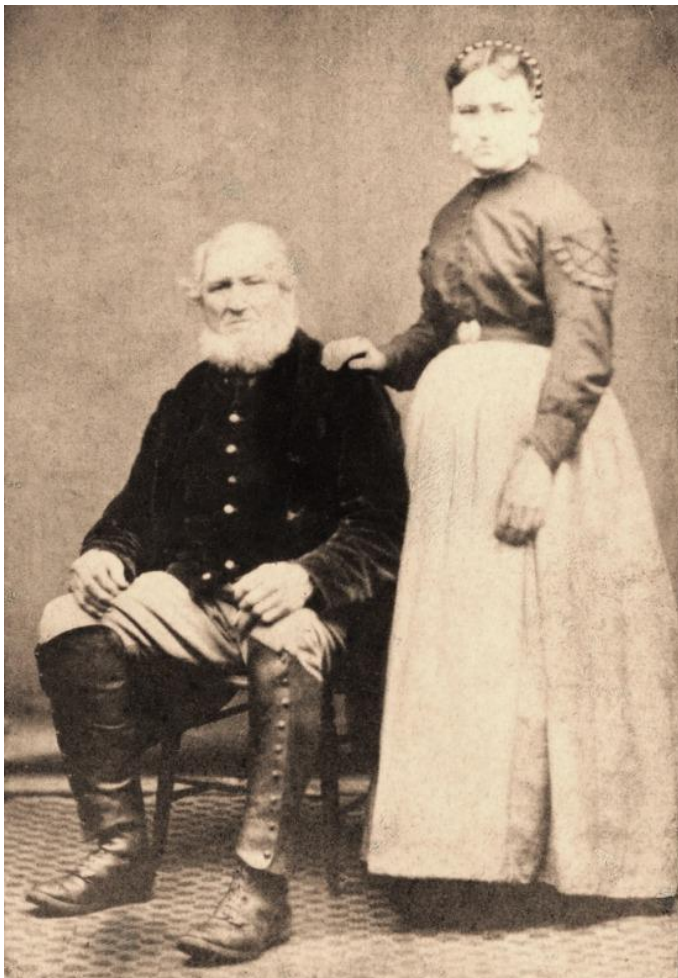


Fowler with Living Van.

They were expected to keep the engines at work through all the hours of daylight usually from the middle of March until late into the Autumn. It was always an accepted part of the contract that the farmer had to provide coal and water, usually with a horse and cart (a water cart was part of the steam tackle). Any delay in supplies arriving caused untold irritation to the enginemmen because of the effect it might have on their acreage bonus payments. The problem was that many horses were frightened by noisy steam engines and could not be persuaded to get close enough for the transfer of the water and coal. Many stories have been recounted of these incidents, including tales of the steel cable of one of the engines being attached to the horse so that both it and the water cart could be dragged to the thirsty steamer!

The team in 'photo 2' shows L-R:- on the ground by front wheel Walter Waller, below the fly wheel George Waller, on the engine, Thomas King and Elijah Albert Seeley. Jim Whitton, who is on the other photo has moved just to the rear of the engine on this photo. (This photo was taken on their way back to Norton from the beautifully named Sewerage Farm at Stowupland.)

There was always a period during the winter when the tackle had to be brought back to base. Few boiler tubes lasted more than two years so some needed replacing each year. John Downing had his business at 'The Old Forge' and was a Boiler smith so was able to make the necessary repairs. The team would also often use one of the Fowler engines to transport timber to the works where there was a saw pit. After seasoning for four or five years, the wood would be used to make wagons, tumbrels, horse hoes and farm ladders: ash for felloes (pronounced fellies) because of its flexibility and toughness; elm for the nave (or hub) because it would not split; and oak for the spokes because of its strength.



Above. Joseph Crick with daughter Fanny in abt. 1870. Joseph Crick. Gamekeeper of Norton. 11

Joseph Crick was born in Cockfield in 1807. He worked as a gamekeeper on the Hardwick Estate before moving to Norton in about 1851. His Daughter Fanny Crick was the youngest of seven children and was born in Norton in 1852. Fanny married Elijah James Seeley (1835-1892) in 1873 and they had nine children. Their oldest son, Harry Seeley served with 2nd Bn. Suffolk Regiment and was killed in action at Railway Wood, Ypres in 1915. He is honoured at our Remembrance Day Service, although his name is on the Drinkstone Memorial as he, his wife and daughter Bessie, had just moved there before his death. (His name also on The Menin Gate Memorial Panel 21.)

Fanny was a very caring lady and nursed many people. The following example is from May 1898.

NORTON.
SERIOUS GUN ACCIDENT.—An accident of a very serious nature, the result, presumably, of thoughtlessly playing with firearms, occurred in this parish on Wednesday week. It appears that Mr. Potter, harness-maker, of Norton, recently purchased an old muzzle-loading gun, which he placed in his shop, and there was apparently no idea that it was loaded. About six o'clock, an assistant in the shop, a young man named Drake, was talking to a young labourer, named Plumpkin, and foolishly took up the gun, and pointed it towards his companion, when, from some cause or other, the weapon exploded. The gun was pointing directly towards Plumpkin's face, one side of which was fearfully injured, both temple and cheek having the flesh blown away, and he was rendered totally blind. Medical assistance was summoned, but the unfortunate young man lies in a very precarious condition at his father's house at Norton, and there is apparently no hopes of his ever recovering his eyesight. Plumpkin, who is about 18 years of age, was in the employ of Mr. Baker, of Norton Hall.

NORTON.
THE RECENT SHOOTING ACCIDENT.—The poor fellow Harry Plumpkin, who was accidentally shot by Drake, assistant to Mr. Potter, harness maker, a month ago, and whose life was despaired of for many days, has so far recovered that he was able to walk down with his constant nurse (Mrs. Fanny Seeley) to the surgery of Dr. George Stevens on Wednesday morning, but it is sad to relate the sight of both eyes is completely destroyed. Much sympathy is felt for the young man, and he has received every kindness and attention in the way of nourishment from Mr. Reginald Gurney, and many others.

Norton Rectory,
 Burn St. Edmund's
 2nd June, 1899

Mrs. Seeley of Norton, a widow goes out as Nurse. I have every reason to believe that she gives satisfaction to those who employ her, and who doubtless will testify to that effect. She has children of her own to maintain, and has the reputation of being an excellent worker whatever she undertakes.

J. N. Grimley
 Rector of Norton.

Prospect House
 Norton
 28.9.08

I have much pleasure in testifying to Mrs. Seeley's ability as an attendant on the sick. During my illness she acted as a relief to my trained nurse and carried out her duties remarkably well. Her long experience at this work is sufficient recommendation in itself.

Dr. W. S. Bird

Two letters of recommendation. Firstly from Horatio Nelson Grimley, Rector of St Andrew's Church and also from Doctor William Seymour Drought Bird of Prospect House, District Medical Officer.

Her son Elijah Albert is on the traction engine photo. Her Grand daughter and two Great grandsons still live in the village.

Have you any photos or stories of Norton you could share? My contact is bq55599@hotmail.com

Thanks. David Burt

ORGANIC VEGETABLES – GROWN IN NORTON

We have recently created a no-dig market garden in the half-acre walled garden at Little Haugh to produce highly nutritious organically grown vegetables. No-dig vegetable gardening aims for minimal soil disturbance, focusing on the health of the soil, and such, grow more nutrient-dense produce compared with commercially grown vegetables. It also cuts out a lot of the weeding which is a huge bonus!



Veg boxes will be available from the beginning of June.

To order use our website (littlehaughfarm.co.uk) (very soon to go live)

We also have instagram ([littlehaughfarm](https://www.instagram.com/littlehaughfarm)), Facebook ([little haugh farm](https://www.facebook.com/littlehaughfarm)) or you can send a WhatsApp message to 07938996588.

We will also be selling at Wyken Vineyard Farmers Market from May.

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Contact Jo: 07913 922926

Email: jo@josfit4all.co.uk

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📷 instagram.com/meadowgraceph



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Tuesday's, 7 - 8:30pm

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For more information:

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E: yogawithstuart@gmail.com

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