

the norton messenger

October 2024

EDITORIAL

The Village Hall is (nearly) finished! The photos show how attractive it now is, and it would be great if we could start using it for clubs and societies in the village, and perhaps start some new ones.

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

Best wishes, Diana

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Before ...



The builders, MS Oakes, finished their work and handed the hall back to the community on the 26th of September. However, the job is not complete. There are various things still to be done, usually because the management committee considered the builder's price too expensive. We are issuing small contracts to get these items completed as soon as possible.

However, there are two large outstanding items. The coffee shop kitchen is still to be fitted. Mel Evans, who will run the shop, is helping with the design and layout and we all hope he will be ready to open soon. Secondly, during the build the parquet floor in the main room got damp, swelled and in places lifted away from the concrete screed. The plan is for this to be repaired, but a skilled floor layer is not available until after mid-October. In the meantime, there is a temporary repair.

The hall's management committee will hold its annual general meeting in the village hall on

30th October at 8:00pm

The current committee encourages as many villagers as possible to attend: please come along if you can. The new hall needs new blood to guide its direction for a successful future, it already has a much more inviting appearance than the original (see photographs).

And after



BUS TIMETABLES, NORTON TO BURY ST EDMUNDS AND RETURN



Norton & District Twinning Association



Please come along to our

AGM

Wednesday 9th October

@ Norton Village Hall

8pm start

ALL WELCOME

PLUS cheese and wine afterwards!



For more information please contact:
nortontwinning@gmail.com

Bury St Edmunds - Beyton - Thurston - Woolpit - Elmswell - Haughley - Stowmarket

Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)

Operator Service Restrictions	DNCT	DNCT	DNCT	DNCT
	Sch	NSch		
Bury St Edmunds, Bus Station (Stand 4)	0718	0718	1615	1745
Bury St Edmunds, Arc Shopping Centre (opp)				1747
Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk Hospital (opp)				1753
Moreton Hall, Sainsbury's (opp)	0725	0725	1628	1758
Moreton Hall, Skyliner Sports Centre (adj)	0728	0728	1631	1801
Beyton, The Green (opp)			1638	1808
Thurston, Post Office (o/s)	0734	0734	1643	1813
Thurston, College Main Entrance (o/s)	0736	0736	1645	1815
Thurston, Shops (opp)	0738	0738	1647	1817
Norton, The Dog (adj)	0745	0745	1654	1824
Woolpit, Briar Hill (opp)	0749	0749	1658	1828
Woolpit, Garage (opp)	0751	0751	1700	1830
Elmswell, Shop Corner (adj)	0756	0756	1705	1835
Elmswell, Memorial Library (opp)	0758	0758	1707	1837
Elmswell, Mill Gardens (opp)	0800	0800	1709	1839
Wetherden, Maypole (opp)	0803	0803	1712	1842
Haughley New Street, The Close (opp)	0806	0806	1715	1845
Haughley, Post Office (opp)	0809	0809	1718	1848
Haughley, Station Road (adj)	0811	0811	1720	1850
Stowmarket, Kipling Way (opp)	0816	0816	1725	1855
Stowmarket, Mallard Way (opp)	0818	0818	1727	1857
Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road (opp)	0822	0822	1731	1901
Stowmarket, Station Road West (adj)	0825	0825	1734	1904
Combs Ford, The Ford (o/s)	0830	0830	1739	1909
Cedars Park, Tesco (opp)	0837			
Stowupland, High School (inside)	0844			

Stowmarket - Haughley - Elmswell - Woolpit - Thurston - Beyton - Bury St Edmunds

Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)

Operator Service Restrictions	DNCT	DNCT	DNCT	DNCT
	Sch	NSch		
Stowmarket, Mallard Way (adj)	—	1535	—	—
Stowupland, High School (inside)	—	1550	—	—
Cedars Park, Tesco (adj)	—	1557	—	—
Combs Ford, Cracknells (o/s)	0710	1605	1605	1745
Stowmarket, Argos Store (o/s)	0714	1609	1609	1749
Stowmarket, Mallard Way (adj)	0718	1613	1613	1753
Stowmarket, Kipling Way (adj)	0720	1615	1615	1755
Haughley, Station Road (opp)	0725	1620	1620	1800
Haughley, Post Office (adj)	0727	1622	1622	1802
Haughley New Street, The Close (adj)	0730	1625	1625	1805
Wetherden, Maypole (adj)	0733	1628	1628	1808
Elmswell, Mill Gardens (adj)	0736	1631	1631	1811
Elmswell, Memorial Library (adj)	0738	1633	1633	1813
Elmswell, Shop Corner (opp)	0740	1635	1635	1815
Woolpit, Garage (o/s)	0745	1640	1640	1820
Woolpit, Briar Hill (adj)	0747	1642	1642	1822
Norton, Baptist Church (adj)	0751	1646	1646	—
Thurston, Shops (o/s)	0758	1653	1653	—
Thurston, College Main Entrance (opp)	0800	1655	1655	—
Thurston, Post Office (opp)	0802	1657	1657	—
Beyton, The Green (opp)	0807			—
Moreton Hall, Skyliner Sports Centre	0814	1703	1703	—
Moreton Hall, Sainsbury's (adj)	0817	1706	1706	—
Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk Hospital (adj)	0822			—
Bury St Edmunds, Arc Shopping Centre (o/s)	0827			—
Bury St Edmunds, Bus Station (Stand 4)	0829	1713	1713	—

NORTON UNITED CHARITIES — HERE TO HELP

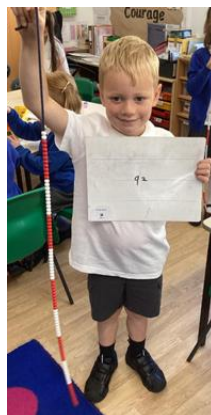
Applications are invited for grants from the Charity. The Charity Scheme states that “income is to be applied for relieving persons resident in Norton who are in condition of need, hardship or distress”. Grants are available for anyone who finds themselves in financial difficulty because of illness,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

Applications forms are available from:

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

Completed applications forms to be returned by **11th November 2024** for consideration at the next meeting of the Trustees.

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 six weeks summer holiday all but a distant memory.

Every year it surprises me how quickly our new reception children settle into school life. I have already had the privilege of reading the children a story and was very impressed with how well they joined in and listened so carefully. The children are having fun exploring the classroom and enjoying the outdoor area. They have already become familiar with the routines of lunch, playtimes and assemblies and you can clearly see friendship being made.

In Year 1, the children's first topic is 'Home Sweet Home'. During the topic the children will be looking at different types of homes as well as comparing their home to houses in the past. A walk around the village is also planned so that the children can look at different features of homes and share their learning, so please say hello if you see them in the village. The topic for Year 2 this term is Castles and the children will be learning about the different features of a castle as well as finding out who would have lived in one. In Art the children will be using different techniques to print using positive and negative stencils.

In Year 3, we welcome Mrs Flintoft and Mrs Herbert. During the Autumn term the children will be learning about the early humans that existed in Britain and looking at the changes that occurred through the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. In Year 4, the children have started their topic on 'Groovy Greeks'. The children will be learning about the Ancient Greek culture and their religious beliefs and attitudes. They will consider how we are still impacted by them today.

As Geographers, in Year 5 the children will be exploring our planet and how plate tectonics have shaped the world in which we live. They will investigate the formation of mountains, & the facts behind volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

We also welcome Mr Kerry who will be teaching Year 6. In a year in which we prepare our Year 6 children for secondary school, transition events have already begun with the children taking part in a Team Building Activities with other local primary schools. The children are also excited about their residential trip to Bawdsey Manor.

All the classes have been creative in designing and producing work for the Norton Flower Festival at the church. I do hope many of you had the opportunity to look at the wonderful artwork that was on display.

It is at the start of the year that we begin to get all our committees up and running. These committees allow the pupils at Norton to have a voice and it is really insightful when they share ideas on how we can make Norton better, raise awareness on issues specific to the school community or address wider issues in the world.

We have also planned that each half term the pupils will experience an enrichment activity and this term it will be Ipswich Town Football Club coming in and working with the children, as well as a session of Boxercise.

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

Best Wishes Mrs Sparkes





Norton Salvation Army

Woolpit Road, Norton, IP31 3LU

What's on at the Army in October?

Sunday 1st	Breakfast Church (Led by former officers Majors Kevin & Catherine Rand)	10.45am
Sunday 8 th	Morning Worship (Led by Majors Doug & Glenyis Askew)	11.00am
Sunday 15th	Evening Praise (Led by Beverley Robilliard)	6.00pm
Sunday 22nd	Morning Worship (Led by Stuart Hendry Community Youth Engagement Worker)	11.00am
Sunday 29 th	Morning Worship (Led by Andrew & Gillian High)	11.00am
Mondays (School Term Time)	Toddle song (Children 0 – 4yrs - £1.00 family/session)	9.00am – 11.30am
Wednesday 2nd	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
Tuesday 24 th	Half-Term Drop in (new venture) 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
Friday 27th	Adult Craft Club (Enjoy an evening out along with like minded folk)	7.00pm – 8.30pm

Saturday 4th November: Don't miss our **SALE 10.00am – 1.00pm.**
Christmas Gifts: Jigsaw Puzzles: Books: Cake Stall: Refreshments

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

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th August 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
 One member of the public
 District Councillor D. Bradbury.

APOLOGIES: Mr. J. Morgan

The Council consented to accept the apology and reasons, which will be recorded in the attendance register
 District Councillor A. Davies.
 County Councillor A. Mellen

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 inc. gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 - none b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda - none c) To receive requests for dispensations - none	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM —to receive reports for information - Members of the public—to receive questions and matters of concern from those in attendance Mrs. Smith addressed the Council about the problems of parking in School Close. She stated parents are parking in the bays, including the disabled and ambulance bay, and when asked to move are abusive. Consequently, residents cannot get in or out, Council repair vans can't park, carers for residents can't park and recently an ambulance could not park. The cars block the buses from leaving which causes further disruption. She stated the school has been approached but despite parents being asked not to park there, nothing has happened. She stated that as from September residents will be blocking the bays with wheelie bins etc. to stop parking. She has approached the police and traffic authority who state they need the Parish Council to request a TRO before they can fine anyone from parking there. Councillors agreed to seek more advice about a TRO. - Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email Concern expressed about the height of the rebuild of The Old Forge, as it appeared higher than the original and higher than the granted permission. The Council agreed to seek further advice from Mid Suffolk. Mr. Sadler stated he had witnessed local residents dropping rubbish, and he asked for the Council's help to tackle this. In the first instance the Councillors agreed to put an article in the Messenger.	Clerk Clerk Clerk
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information Report from District Councillors Davies and Bradbury– noted. Mr. Walton enquired about the problems at Fishwick Corner. Cllr Bradbury stated Thurston PC are requesting painted lines, and emergency traffic lights. Cllr Bradbury confirmed car charging points will be covered by permitted development.	
5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To RESOLVE that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2024 are a true and correct record. Mr. Aket proposed, Mr. Bolus seconded, with all in agreement	
6.	COOPTION	
	6.1 To consider cooption to the vacant post – no update	
7.	MATTERS ARISING from Meeting held on 1 st July 2024	
	7.1 Bus service update. There are now two bus services in Norton. Mr. Walton asked about the number of people using the bus. Mr. Winstanley agreed to enquire.	Mr. Winstanley
	7.2 Village Hall entrance noticeboard glass door. Mr. Walton reported this has been fixed and replaced.	
	7.3 Rights of Way application, Ixworth Road. The Clerk had received letters enquiring why this was being considered as it appeared to be a dead end. Councillors felt it may have linked to the Packway path. Prof. Jaggard will ask Mr. Burt to check the old village maps.	Prof. Jaggard
	7.4 Land Registry. The Clerk reported this has successfully been completed.	6
	7.5 Sign at top of Thurston Road - The Clerk stated the sign has been reported.	Clerk

8.	PLANNING	
	8.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) Plot 7 (Phase 1), Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/24/03347 Proposal: Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/24/02272 dated 11/07/2024 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 4No detached dwellings with garages - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to allow alternative design, materials and finishes for Plot 7 (phase 1) The Council expressed concern that this application will not attract a CIL payment to benefit the locality and requested assurance that this application still fulfils the criteria as a self build project.	
	8.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - Land West Of, Ixworth Road (Plot 4), Norton DC/24/03346 Proposal: Application under S73 for the Removal or Variation if a Condition following grant of DC/23/02935 dated 24/08/2023 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 4No dwellings and garages. To vary Condition 1 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per revised plans. The Council expressed concern that this application will not attract a CIL payment to benefit the locality and requested assurance that this application still fulfils the criteria as a self build project.	
	8.3 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - Land West Of, Ixworth Road (Plot 3), Norton, DC/24/03345 Proposal: Application under S73 for the Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of DC/23/02935 dated 24/08/2023 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) -Erection of 4no. dwellings with garages. To vary Condition Number 1 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per revised plans. The Council expressed concern that this application will not attract a CIL payment to benefit the locality and requested assurance that this application still fulfils the criteria as a self build project.	
	8.4 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - Plot 8 (Phase 2), Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/24/03348 Proposal: Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/24/02272 dated 11/07/2024 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 4No detached dwellings with garages - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to allow alternative design, materials and finishes for Plot 8 (Phase 2) The Council expressed concern that this application will not attract a CIL payment to benefit the locality and requested assurance that this application still fulfils the criteria as a self build project.	
	8.5 GRANTED Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton, DC/24/02272 Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/23/00178 dated 10/03/2023 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)- Erection of 4No detached dwellings with garages - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to allow alternative designs of dwellings for plots 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the development.	
	8.6 GRANTED 7 Ixworth Road, Norton, DC/24/02434 Householder Application - Erection of first floor and single storey rear extensions.	
	8.7 APPROVED - DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) Manor Lodge, Ashfield Road, Norton DC/24/02903 Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/21/03741 - Condition 5 (Agreement of Materials)	
	8.8 STREET NAMING New development at Land West of Ixworth Road, Norton. The Council suggested as a preferred name Dove House Drive or second choice Packway Rise .	
	8.9 STREET NAMING Mid Suffolk confirmed the contractor had agreed the name of land at the rear of Salvation Army Hall as SWEET HILL DRIVE .	
9.	FINANCIAL	
	9.1 To approve the following accounts awaiting payment: On-line Clerk's salary £416.00 and Clerk's expenses £155.31 Street Cleaner £40.80 Tenhats, August Messenger, £363.00 SALC, internal audit, £806.40 MS Oakes, stage payment, £68936.47 Santander chq 522564 HMRC £114.20 Santander chq 522566 Mr. R. Lenko, Glue for trampoline tiles, £23.67 Santander chq522567 ICO, £40 Santander chq 522567 LGA1972 s112 LGA 1972 s112 LGA1972 s142 LGA1972 s112 LGA 1972 s133 LGA1972 s112 Public Health Act 1875 s164 GDPR	7

	9.2 To further consider Memorial Bench request. – ongoing. Costing awaited.	
	9.3 To receive Budget statement, R&P statements with bank reconciliations and PC/village hall statement. Councillors RESOLVED to accept all.	
	9.4 To receive Internal Audit report which had been forwarded to Councillors. Items noted for improvement/amendment.	
	9.5 To receive and review New Model Financial Regulations. Councillors talked through the various sections. Revision will be circulated for approval in September.	Clerk
	9.7 To confirm receipt of MSDC VH CIL payment of £6675.86 - noted	
	9.8 To confirm loan repayment on 12/08/24 of £2967.13 (original £100,000 claim)	
	9.9 Coronation Commemoration noticeboard - ongoing	
10.	SPEEDWATCH	
	10.1 Update on Speedwatch – Mrs. Hill informed that the group needed to change the way they worked. Mr. Stone has contacted SCC and the police to seek agreement. The group has new hi-vis jackets. The ANPR camera had been taken away but as it was to be repositioned on a different pole it was returned and reinstalled.	
	10.2 Reply from Stowlangtoft Clerk. Stowlangtoft stated it would be better to continue 30mph using the DFT guidance and fully supported the reduction in speed. Councillors RESOLVED to ask for a continuation of 30mph.	Clerk
	10.3 Parish Council strategy to combat speeding – gating. Mr. Lenko will investigate.	Mr. Lenko
	10.4 Update on small solar SID located in Heath Road. Mr. Lenko stated he has the SID, but is currently awaiting the pole to be positioned by SCC.	Mr. Lenko
	10.5 Mr. Winstanley enquired whether crossing the A1088 was still an issue as the road is closed. With the school currently closed this will be reviewed in September.	
11.	VILLAGE HALL	
	11.1 Update on progress. The latest completion date is 13 th August but this is unlikely to happen. The slow progress has been escalated to the M.D. of Oakes, as most of the dates for task completion have been missed. The parquet floor appears to have suffered due to damp, but no advice had been sought on how to protect it. A floor specialist has inspected and can repair but the price needed to be approved by Oakes. The Fire Alarms are being wired, but solar panels are not yet connected. New extinguishers will be required. There will be a call for volunteers to help refit the hall with shelves, noticeboards etc. when Oakes are finished.	
	11.2 Lottery application. Mr. Walton confirmed a successful grant of £70,000.	
12.	PLAY AREAS	
	12.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. The trampoline tiles have been repaired. A new sleeve is required for the Zip wire – Mr. Lenko will investigate. The wooden blockade at the top of the slide is rotten and becoming unsafe. Mr. Lenko stated to replace with soft wood would be £2970, oak £3330, and plastic £4830. The Councillors RESOLVED to replace with oak.	Mr. Lenko
	12.2 Play area in Prospect Road. The basketball net is up and the swings painted. Mr. Walton will investigate the cost of a replacement small sign.	Mr. Walton
	12.3 Footpath around playing field. Mr. Mathieson could cut back with tractor hedge cutter for £100-150 before the school returns. Councillors RESOLVED to undertake.	Mr. Walton
13	CORRESPONDENCE	
	13.1 July Newsletter - A14 Haughley to Tothill reconstruction scheme - noted	
	13.2 St Andrews's flower festival on 14/15 September. Mr. Aket agreed to ask his wife if she would undertake an arrangement for the Council.	Mr. Aket
	13.3 Richard Parmee, MSDC – call for land summit event 5 th September at Stowmarket. No one was able to attend. Mr. Walton commented that the area planted last year shows little evidence of survival. He felt that if redone the plants will need canes and spirals to indicate their presence to aid survival.	
14	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	14.1 Mr. Aket enquired about the footpath leaflet. Mrs. Hill agreed to bring a supply to the next meeting.	Mrs. Hill
15	To confirm date of next meeting: 2 nd September 2024	8
16	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.13	

DOWN OUR STREET

As I have related in the last couple of issues, the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds was hugely influential in the history of Norton and in fact the whole of West Suffolk. So, what is the history?

For decades after the Viking raid on Lindisfarne in 793, their attacks on England were mainly raids on isolated monastic communities. According to the *Annales Bertiniani* and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, a larger-scale attack occurred in c. 844. By the end of the decade the Vikings had started to over-winter in England. A larger force still, known to the writers of the Anglo Saxon Chronicles as the *mycel heathen here* ('Great Heathen Army'), appeared in 865. Three thousand men in hundreds of ships arrived off the east coast of England, probably from bases in Ireland. The army's first winter was spent in East Anglia before they moved on, arriving in Northumbria by 866/867. The Great Heathen Army attacked Mercia by the end of 867 and made peaceful terms with the Mercians; a year later the Vikings led by Ragnar Hairy-Breeks (trousers) and his son Ivar the Boneless, returned to East Anglia and took winter-quarters at Thetford. That winter King Edmund fought against them, but the Danish were victorious. "They killed the king and conquered all that land." Whether he died in battle or was murdered by the Danes afterwards (being shot full of arrows and then beheaded on 20th November 869) is not known for sure.



Death of Edmund by Sybil Andrews.

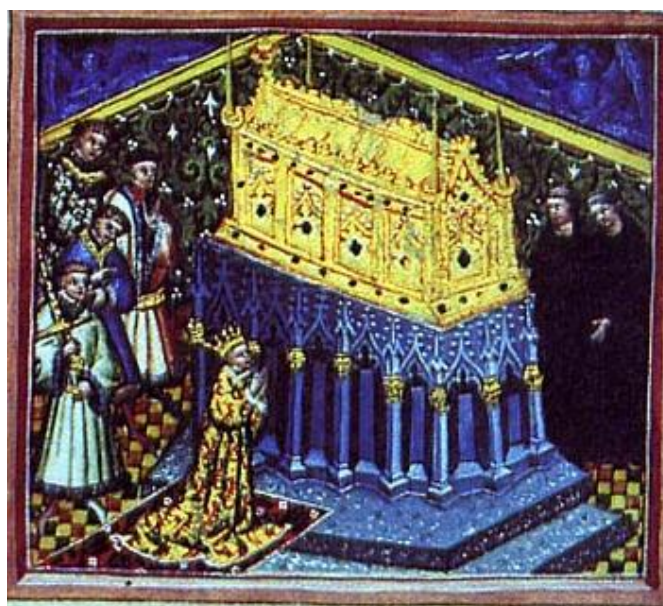
From this point in time the story and legend of Edmund, king and martyr takes off. After decapitation, his head thrown into a thicket; it was not uncommon for Vikings to behead their captives. What happened next has gone into folklore. As Edmund's followers came looking for him, they found a wolf with its paws either side of Edmund's head and the head was calling "Here, Here!" According to legend, when Edmund's head was put to his torso, they miraculously fused together. All that showed was a thin red line where it looked like he had cut himself shaving. This was the first miracle to be associated with Edmund and he soon became the first patron saint of England. However, the site of the battle (recorded as Hægelisdun) was forgotten. He was taken to Suthana. I must admit I tend to agree with the research which suggests that it was near Bradfield St Clare. In Rougham, a mile or two north, we have some places called "Kingshall" and similar names. In Bradfield we have a Hellesdon Wood and a Sutton Hall. Bury is just four miles away.



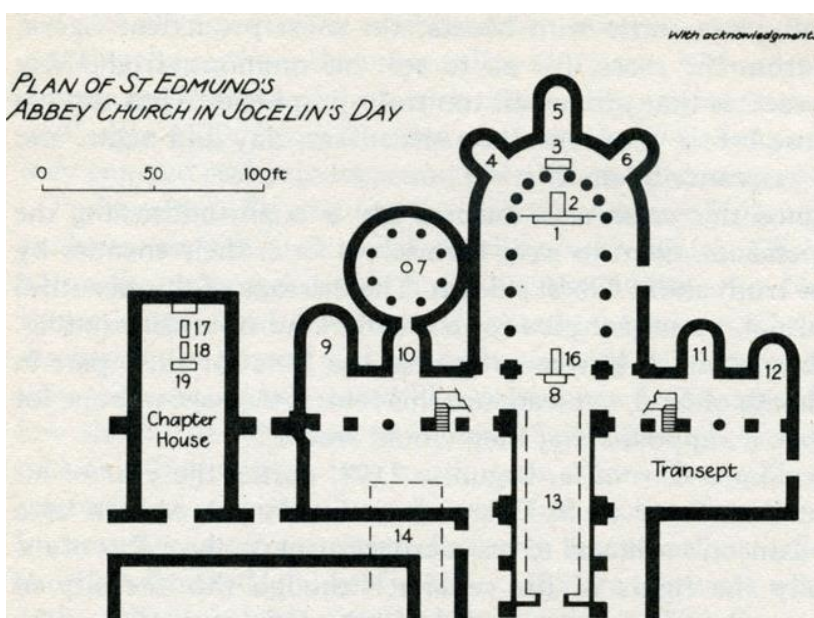
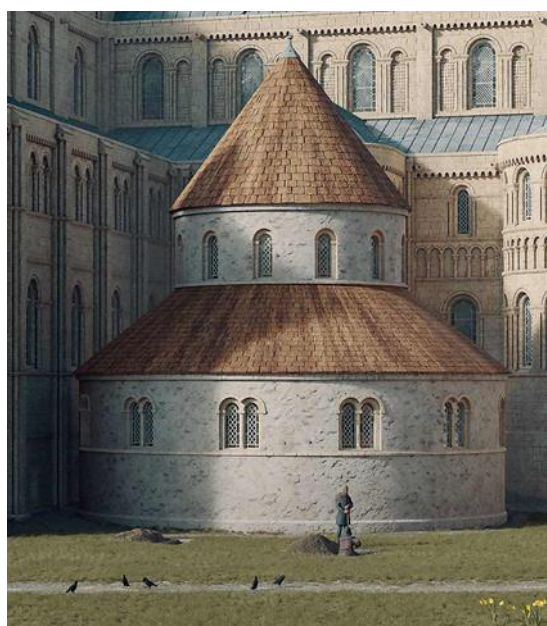
15th Century Misericord showing martyrdom of King Edmund, at St Andrew's, Norton.

Not far away was the Anglo-Saxon township of Beodoricsworth, a 'royal vill', the future Bury St Edmunds. In the middle of the 7thC King Sigeberht, a stepson of King Raedwald of East Anglia, had founded a monastery there with a wooden church. In 903, Edmund was moved here, in the care of secular monks. The body of Edmund was looked after by a devout woman called Oswin; at his shrine she washed his uncorrupted body, tenderly caring for it even to the extent of trimming his hair and nails. These became holy relics years later. He was starting to attract pilgrims!

A rich shrine was erected in the new church, which had been built at Bury and consecrated on St. Luke's Day, 1032, when King Cnut* offered his crown to the Saint. Devotion to St. Edmund rapidly spread. King Edward the Confessor was a frequent pilgrim to this shrine, and so great was his veneration for the martyr that he was accustomed to perform the last mile on foot. He greatly increased the abbey's privileges, giving it jurisdiction over about a third of the county of Suffolk. This area became known as the Liberty of St Edmund, and within it the abbot of Bury exercised civil authority. The abbey also owned most of the churches in the area. These sources generated large revenues, which made the abbey one of the wealthiest monastic communities in England.



A new round church of stone, dedicated to St Edmund, was consecrated at Bury. It was situated to the north of where the Chancel of the Norman Abbey would later be built. When the new Abbey church was built in the 11th and 12th centuries, Cnut's Rotunda was incorporated as the Rotunda Chapel of St Edmund. (See next page for an artist's impression.) (*Cnut = Canute)



The diagram (above) by Norman Scarfe shows how this may have been done. However, in 1032, this Round Church of stone stood alone, and would have been a wonder to the people of Beodoric's worth.

Since Cnut divided up East Anglia in 1021, the area of West Suffolk had been administered as a unit by Queen Emma, the mother of Edward the Confessor, but when Edward came to the throne, he stripped his mother of her jewellery and her lands and income from West Suffolk. She held Thingoe, Thedwastre, Lackford, Risbridge, Blackbourne, Bradmere, Babergh and Cosford (the whole of W Suffolk). This would eventually be overseen by the abbey!

The name Bury is nothing to do with the burial of St Edmund, in fact it is derived from the word byrig or burh, meaning a fortified town. Therefore, by now, the town had built a ditch and ramparts on its borders where it was not protected by the River's Lark and Linnet and the Tayfen. Canute had given permission for such fortifications in 1020. The town wall itself would not be built for perhaps another hundred years.

At Bury, Abbot Leofstan died in 1065 and Baldwin was appointed to the post of Abbot. Baldwin was a French monk from St Denis, outside Paris, who had come to England at the persuasion of King Edward the Confessor to be his personal physician. Baldwin had been sent to St Edmund's by the King to treat Abbot Leofstan for his stroke in about 1060. Baldwin was so impressed by St Edmund's power that he had decided to stay in the monastery there. He was now only the third Abbot at Bury. The fact that such a learned and able Frenchman was given the Abbey at Bury at this time was to be of immense importance to the town in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest. Baldwin resisted attempts by the Bishop of East Anglia to move his see (the seat of his bishopric) from Thetford to Bury, which would have given him control over the abbey. In 1071 Baldwin travelled to Rome and won the support of Pope Alexander II for Bury's independence, which William the Conqueror also supported. The bishops of East Anglia moved to Norwich instead, but the rivalry between them and the abbots of Bury persisted. Baldwin would be Abbot until 1097.

[I hope to continue with the story of the abbey from 1066 and its influence on the town of Bury and the whole of West Suffolk in next month's Messenger.](#)

[I have kindly been lent some documents detailing receipts and expenditure for dances, fetes and fundraisers for troops and prisoners during WW2. Also, efforts to fund raise for the purchase of the King George V playing field and the building of the original Village Hall. I will photocopy these and add the information to the Norton Archive.](#)

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

September 2024 Church Services

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

6 th	19 th Sunday after Trinity	8 am 10am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family@Church Harvest	Norton Pakenham
13 th	20 th Sunday after Trinity	9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Family Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
20 th	21 st Sunday after Trinity	9:30 am 9.30am 11am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Family Communion Evening prayer and praise	Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Tostock
27 th	Bible Sunday	9:30am 9.30am 11am 11am	TOAST Holy Communion Family Communion Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Hunston Norton Tostock
29 th	18 th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Harvest Festival and Benefice Communion	Stowlangtoft

MEMORIAL SERVICES SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2024

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

All Memorial Service dates and times are:

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

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

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

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

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

ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Thank you to all our visitors at our display at the **ElmsFest** fair last month, from which we had joint winners in our village photo competition who have each won free entry to one of our new season's talks. Congratulations, and we look forward to welcoming them both in the near future.

Neil Langridge's September talk on *Hop Cultivation in Suffolk* gave us a new and unexpected insight into local hop growing from the 16th century, this being an appropriate time of year as hops are harvested in late-September. Neil brought a sample of wild hops from Combs which would have grown along the river there for the past 300 years. We saw illustrations of the ponds in Ipswich's Holywells Park, the water from which was used by local brewers, and Stowmarket's former maltings rivalled those in Burton-on-Trent. Before 1520, the drink of choice for the general populace was ale (made without hops) which was safer than water because it was boiled, but Northern European immigrants brought over their preferred beer and the hops to make it. Various contemporary writers described this development, and there followed a short-lived "hop mania" in various "get-rich-quick" schemes. The first mention of hops grown in Suffolk was in 1594 when Combs Hall had a hopyard meadow, and Cambridge's medieval Stourbridge Fair sold wool and hops. Hollingsworth's 1844 "History of Suffolk" mentioned the hamlets of Dagworth and Old Newton having hop-grounds in 1738 or earlier; Dagworth still has a former hop-drying kiln (1912), now converted into a residential dwelling. Neil also found evidence of a hop meadow on the western side of Elmswell, possibly in Kiln Lane. Stowmarket's Hop Fair took place from 1826, but often hop fields were converted into osier beds to grow willow for local basket making. There is still Hopyard Lane in Haughley and Stowmarket's Hop Pole Inn (1861-1925) which had a bonded warehouse with a siding from the main railway. The final illustration was of a fully-loaded hop cart pulled by a magnificent Suffolk Punch horse.

Our **next talk** at the Wesley Hall, 7.30pm on **10th October**, will be Barbara McElroy's "*Framlingham, Castle on the Hill*". Barbara has visited us previously for her excellent talk on the Bevan Boys of WW2. As a Framlingham resident, she is well placed to delight and inform us on the town's impressive castle with its long and fascinating history. Do join us then.

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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