

TOSTOCK CHRONICLE

APRIL/MAY 2022

369

ON LINE:

www.tostock.pc.org.uk

Coming up:

Village hall Improvements consultations
open session 10am-2pm on
Saturday, 30th April at Tostock Village Hall

SUNDAY, 5th June 2022
Tostock celebrates the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Open Gardens in Tostock
will be held
on Sunday 10th July 2022, .

Tostock Art Show
Saturday 3rd - Sunday 4th September



The Leys

*Our
Beautiful
Village*



New Road Looking North

REGULARS:

Coffee Mornings

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month
from 10.30

Past & Present

Every 1st Tuesday of the month
from 7.30pm

Tostock Tidy Days

Saturday's on 30th April & 28th May
From 10am

BINGO

Every last Tuesday of the month
from 2.30

All held in the village hall

Huge Thank you to our talented village photographer Jim Langlois for capturing these precious images

Contacts in our Community

Tostock Parish Councillors

Harry Richardson	harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk	District councillor
Peter Boland	peter.boland@gmail.com	
Marie Johansson	oldhallstables@btinternet.com	
Olivia Boland	olivia@tostockanimalparks.co.uk	
Graham MacDowell	crispincottage@hotmail.com	
Andrew Mellen	andrew.mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk	County councillor

Code of conduct: All Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Footpath Officers VACANT

Tree Officer VACANT

Litter Picker

St Andrews Church

Rector: Katherine Valentine	kavalentine677@gmail.com	01359	235095
Friends/Warden: Jeanne O'Reilly		01359	270337
Bell Ringers: Sue Marriott		01359	270143
Poor's Estate: Sharon Markell		01359	271190

Village Hall

Chair: Graham MacDowell	crispincottage@hotmail.com		
Hall Bookings: Doreen Buckle	tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk	01359	270605

Pub

The Gardeners: Steve & Jill Gardner		01359	270460
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Clubs

Past & Present: Sarah Scully		01359	270482
Tennis Club: Elizabeth Dunn	ejd1@talktalk.net	01359	270270
Susie Walton	susiewalton85@gmail.com	07793406076	
Book Club: Julie Harrison		01359	270247
Carpet Bowls: Doreen Buckle		01359	270605

Media

Tostock Chronicle: Shirley Nice	shirley.nice@btinternet.com	01359	271727
Sarah Reader : Advertising	reader-family@tiscali.co.uk		
Jim Langlois- Photography	jimlanglois@btinternet.com	01359	270456

Website:

Diane Mathews	www.tostockpc.org
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*Anyone wishing to add their email, please get in touch.

More details and the latest up to date information, is available on our village website.

www.tostockpc.org.uk

Services

Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance 999

Energy power failures & Emergencies

	08007 838866
Anglian water	08457 145145

Health

Woolpit Health Centre	01359 240298
Out of Hours	111
West Suffolk Hospital	01284 713000
BMI Hospital	01284 701371
St Nicholas Hospice	01284 766133

Advice

Relate	01284 767305
Samaritans	01284 750000
Drugs Hotline	0800 253 253
Citizens Advice Bureau	01284 753675

Police

Non-emergency	101
Crime Stoppers	555

Councils

Suffolk County Council	03456 066067
Mid Suffolk District Council	0300 1234000

Education

Thurston Community College	01359 230885
Norton Pre-school	01359 232736
Norton Primary School	01359 230520

Leisure

Cineworld	0330 333 4444
Theatre Royal	01284 769505
Apex	01284 758000
Picture House	01284 754477

Travel

*NEW BUS TIMETABLE

Bus: www.suffolkonboard.com

Rail:	0845 7484950
Dial a Ride	01440 712048

NEXT EDITION: Is for

JUNE/JULY 2022

Please may I have your contributions on or
BEFORE 19th MAY

preferably in word or publisher format, much appreciated.

shirley.nice@btinternet.com

01359 271727



Tostock Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Sunday 5th June on the Village Green

(In the Village Hall if wet)

1.30pm for Bring a plate and Share 50's style picnic lunch

Optional 50's style Dress

Music, adults and children's games, Maypole dancing

4pm Cutting celebration cake and toast



For further information email:

Vanessa Malcom vjmalcom@aol.com 01359 271272

Or Rosemary Lister: rosemary.lister13@gmail.com 01359 270179

Tostock Village Hall News April 2022

The Village Hall AGM takes place on **Monday, 28th March at 7pm** in the Village Hall. The AGM is the ideal opportunity for people to come along and find out more about the volunteer management of the village hall and its outside areas. Meetings are held quarterly, and kept informal, often discussing future fundraising & many other sociable aspects of village life. If you missed the AGM, but would like to be more involved, please contact us via tostockvillagehall@outlook.com

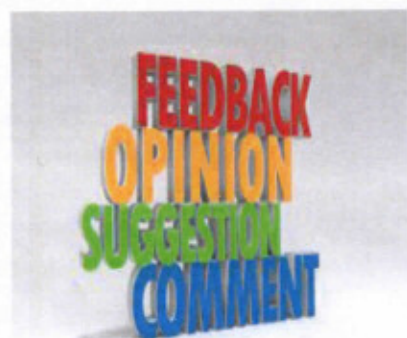


SATURDAY, 30th April 2022, 10am – 2pm

IMPROVING OUR HALL

Initial Design & Concept Ideas

Open Session at the Hall to view
outline proposals & have your say



The Village Hall Improvement Project team would like to share with you some of the draft design concepts and proposals that have been put together by the architects who have been working with us.

The open session will run from

10am-2pm on Saturday, 30th April

at Tostock Village Hall.

Please come along so that you can share your voice,
and help shape the future of the hall.

We are planning to provide an on-line version for anyone who is not able to make this session. Details about this will be advertised on our Facebook page or alternatively contact us via tostockvillagehall@outlook.com for more information.



SUNDAY, 5th June 2022

Tostock celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Please see separate Notice for further details on our village celebrations in June 2022

Tostock Open Gardens – Sunday 10 July 2022.

This year's Open Gardens in Tostock will be held on Sunday 10th July 2022, with the Art Show now taking place in September.

Tostock Art Show Date for your Diary: Saturday 3rd - Sunday 4th September 2022, with the pre-view evening on Friday, 2nd September 2022.



Memories of Allison Schofield – Tostock Brown Owl for 29 years
A lifelong Brownie, who tried to never let anyone down and always do her best to help.



Allison Schofield was known by many of us as the Tostock Brown Owl. She became a Brownie at the age of 9, when the family moved to Birstall, on the outskirts of Leicester. She stayed with the group becoming a Guide, a Ranger and then a Young Leader both before and after her university studies in Bangor. Allison continued her commitment to Brownies, juggling it around getting married, family life, work and various moves around the country.

After settling in Suffolk in 1986, Allison was put in touch with Rosemary Lister who was looking for a new Brown Owl; Allison took over the pack in 1987, staying as Brown Owl for the next 29 years, and enabling the pack to celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2009 (*photo shows Alison with Heather & Rosemary who were both previous Tostock Brown Owls*). The Tostock Brownie pack was run on fairly traditional lines with an emphasis on crafts and badge work. She arranged many outings, e.g. to Banham zoo, leisure centres, swimming, the local fire station, the pantomime at Christmas, as well as organising the Brownies Christmas entertainment for parents to watch and a barbecue at the hall each summer for the pack. She took the girls each year to District events such as Sixers and seconders day and most years she held a thinking day service at the parish church in Tostock. She also taught the Brownies May pole dancing which they did at the pub, on the village green and at Pakenham water mill.



Allison embodied the spirit of Brownies, she had enjoyed being a Brownie herself and wanted to give something back so that other girls could also enjoy the experience. Even after the Tostock Brownie pack had to sadly close in 2016 due to drop in the numbers of Brownies, she maintained involvement with the Guide movement by joining the Trefoil Guild and going to their meetings. She was essentially a lifelong Brownie, she would never let anyone down and would always do her best to help.

Sadly, Allison passed away on 15th January 2019.

In memory of Allison, her family have very kindly donated two purpose-built planters, which are at the entrance to the village hall. A fitting way to remember Allison as she had set up many previous planters outside the hall and happily maintained them with the help of the Brownies. The Village Hall would like to thank Allison's family for this kind donation.



For information about local volunteering opportunities with girl-guiding see; <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>

TOSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

YOUR LOCAL VENUE

Competitive Rates of Hire Round Tables
Insured for up to 120 people* Good Parking
Marquees available for hire

Contact Doreen Buckle on **01359 270605** or **tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk** to reserve it for your Event

*** Booking & covid-secure restrictions may apply**



Tostock Past & Present Society



Speakers for Tostock Past & Present Society 2022

(All our meetings are in Tostock Village Hall at 7.30pm)

Non-members are always welcome.

April 5th - Bryan Thurlow The Burston School Strike.

Hear about the lead-up to the longest school strike in English history, when Norfolk villagers rebelled following the sacking of their much loved schoolmistress and her husband.

May 3rd - Wendy Smith A day in the life of a Wimbledon line judge.

New courts, New roofs. New technology. Wendy has officiated at 37 consecutive Championships. Her story is a day in the life of a Wimbledon Official. Its not all Strawberries and Cream !!

June 7th - John Field Carl Giles & his adopted town - Ipswich.

Giles produced 3 or 4 cartoons a week for almost half a century which covered all aspects of British life. The talk starts with a brief description of Giles as a man, including his years as a war cartoonist. It then explores his life as a cartoonist and his strong links with Ipswich.

For further details contact Anthony Scully email a.r.scully@btinternet.com

TOSTOCK CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Tostock have had a number of friendly bowls matches, though now we do not have to use face coverings.

Unfortunately we were not able to play all the games that were booked due to weather conditions earlier on, results showed that we won half the games. We are pleased to say that all of our members have returned after the relaxing of Covid restrictions. We meet in the Village Hall at 7pm on a Thursday evening.

Our AGM is due in May – date to be confirmed.

The following April games are still to play.

Thursday 7 – home to Woolpit – 7pm

Thursday 14 – home to Thurston – 7pm

Tuesday 19 – away to Woolpit – 7.30pm



New friendlies are to be arranged for the summer months starting in May.

We are hoping to send a cheque for the Ukraine Appeal, as yet we haven't got a total. More in the next Chronicle.

Doreen Buckle

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 26th January 2022
at Tostock Village Hall
beginning at 8.15 pm

Present Cllrs O Boland, Johansson, MacDowall, Mellen, Richardson (Ch)

Attending Mr Peter Dow
7 members of the public

MINUTES

22.01.01 **Resolved: That Mr Peter Dow be appointed Clerk to this meeting.**

22.01.02 **Noted:** The following when Apologies for Absence were invited.
2.1 **An apology for absence from Cllr P Boland which was noted.**

22.01.03 **Noted :** That when any Members' declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interest and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items were invited and any additions, deletions or alterations to the Council's Register of Interests noted, none were forthcoming.

22.01.04 **Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of 11th October, as circulated and published, be agreed as a true record.**

22.01.05 **Noted during a Public Forum:**

- 5.1 The Chairman extended, on Council's behalf, thanks to Cllr. Wendy Turner who has, for family reasons, resigned her position and moved away from the area. Cllr Mellen agreed to convey to her appreciation of the work she undertook in supporting Tostock.
- 5.2 Cllr Mellen, as SCC Ward Member, added to his recently published Report the fact that an uplift in the SCC element of Council Tax is to be expected in the region of some 2.99%, including the hypothecated element for Social Care. He also gave notice of imminent anticipated closures of A14 for upgrading works, including replacement of the old concrete running surface.
- 5.3 Cllr Richardson, as MSDC Ward Member, confirmed that there were no definitive figures yet available for proposed Council Tax levels but that MSDC budgets show unallocated reserves in the low millions of pounds.
- 5.4 Mole activity on the Leys need attention and the Chairman undertook to take action.
- 5.5 The Chairman undertook to investigate the position regarding the Speed Indicator Device which awaits siting.
- 5.6 It was suggested that a Highways hazard remains on Church Road near the access to GL Cars Ltd.
- 5.7 The Chairman confirmed that the scheduled meeting in May would be the Annual Meeting of Council and that he would look into the possibility of convening an Annual Parish Meeting.
- 5.8 It was confirmed that SCC are in possession of details related to the necessary water jetting of the culvert at Flatts Lane and of a quoted cost of £400.00 for the works.

22.01.06 **Noted as Chairman's Announcements:**

- 6.1 The advertisement for a Clerk had generated no interest and advice from SALC suggests an increase on salary rate offered to a level in line with other similar councils. Meanwhile, the cost of a locum service did not seem justifiable and Peter Dow has given an assurance that he will continue to act as Meeting Clerk for the next 4 scheduled meetings if necessary.

continued

6.2 The cost of any proposed events to mark the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee has been removed from the Council's published Earmarked Reserves as Mid Suffolk are offering grant aid and the Ward Member's Locality Budget could be directed towards assisting. The Chairman will act as co-ordinator, as necessary, should any group or groups in the village wish to initiate any events.

22.01.07 There was discussion regarding the Budget, as tabled, towards the setting of a Precept for 2022 / 2023 from which the following points emerged and the subsequent Resolutions unanimously agreed:

On a Point of Order, the Clerk tendered his non-binding advice that Cllr Boland would have no Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent budget discussions. The expenses relating to the recent Judicial Review, in which Cllr Boland was the Claimant would, of necessity, form an integral element of any such discussion. However, as the resulting costs settlement is a matter of fact beyond Cllr Boland's control and from which Cllr Boland derives no consequential benefit, no Interest exists. The Meeting accepted this advice and no Declarations of Interest were forthcoming.

- 7.1 The Precept figure in the Budget was indicative for the purposes of discussion;
- 7.2 There will be cost savings as a consequence of the reduced meeting schedule;
- 7.3 There are ring-fenced CIL funds which must be spent within a prescribed period and which should be the subject of discussion at the May meeting;
- 7.4 MSDC will accept no liability for the outcome of the Judicial Review for fear of setting a precedent and in light of their contention that the advice of the Monitoring Officer, which informed the process, is not binding, rather that it is indicative and for guidance only.
- 7.5 The relatively high level of unallocated reserve and anticipated reduced forward expenditure allows the theoretical shortfall in covering the legal fees outstanding from the judicial Review process to be assessed as £6,363.00, as published.
- 7.6 There are options to cover the whole of this amount with a precept uplift or to borrow from MSDC at preferential rates over a number of years.
- 7.7 Dedicating all unallocated reserve to the fee payment would leave Council exposed to risk.
- 7.8 A 5% Precept uplift, as postulated in the draft budget, would mean a Band D increase of £2.26pa which would be the subject of a full explanation in the Chronicle.
- 7.9 A reasonable way forward might be to borrow enough so as not to drain all reserves and the sum of £9,000.00 was suggested.
- 7.10 A reasonable loan term for £9,000.00 was suggested as 3 years.
- 7.11 Reduced reserves might well be augmented by grants and other funding meaning that Council could remain pro-active.
- 7.12 Resolved: That Council should apply forthwith to borrow £9,000.00 from MSDC at a fixed rate of 1.79% payable in equal instalments over 3 years.
- 7.13 Resolved: That Council directs Mid Suffolk District Council to pay £10,474.00 (ten thousand four hundred and seventy-four pounds) as the precept upon them as Charging Authority for the year 2022 / 2023.
- 7.14 Resolved: That Cllrs Mellen and Richardson be registered as signatories with the Council's bankers.

22.01.08 **Noted:** That the date of the next scheduled meeting, the Annual Meeting, is

Monday 9th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

22.01.09 **Noted:** That the Meeting closed at 9.23pm.

Dear Resident,

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the position of Tostock Parish Council after what has undoubtedly been a challenging year.

As you may be aware, last year Tostock Parish Council was the subject of a Judicial Review at the High Court in London by Mrs Olivia Boland, one of the village's Parish Councillors, in relation to her dismissal from the Council. I do not intend to recite the details of the case here but they are available on the East Anglian Daily Times website, dated 7th July 2021, as well as the High Court's website itself for those that wish to read into the matter further.

While the Parish Council initially intended to contest the case, our subsequent legal advice indicated a high likelihood of losing. If that had been the outcome, the Parish Council would have been liable for estimated costs in excess of £80,000 to cover both our and Mrs Boland's legal fees.

Instead, the Parish Council agreed in August to settle out of court, to agree that Mrs Boland's dismissal be quashed, and to make a contribution of **£22,500** toward her legal fees. This is in addition to our own legal costs of approximately **£6,000**. For the avoidance of doubt, this large discrepancy in legal costs has arisen because the Parish Council instructed a local law firm to represent them; Mrs Boland instructed a QC from a London-based Chambers.

The result of these costs has required the Parish Council to draw down **the vast majority** of our financial reserves, request a loan of £7,000 from Mid Suffolk District Council, make significant reductions in our budget, and to raise the Parish Precept by 5% - equivalent to an additional £2.26 per year for a Band D household (an increase from £45.29 to £47.55).

While I appreciate the latter may seem like a small sum, I am very much aware of the accumulative impact of food, gas, and petrol price rises, and increases in other Council Tax components. This decision is not one we have taken lightly therefore but I hope you can understand our pragmatism in not wanting to take the risk of incurring an even greater cost.

At this point you may be asking yourself: what does this actually mean for Tostock? Besides the increase in the Parish Precept, we have had to reduce our spending and the services we provide to the village. In particular, we are no longer in a financial position to fund a substantive Parish Clerk. **This means that local issues will be harder to resolve, and queries cannot be answered as quickly.** For this I offer my apologies and ask for your patience as a result.

I know this will be deeply disappointing for many of you – and I am inclined to agree. It is, in my personal view, grossly disproportionate to subject a small Parish Council to a Judicial Review in the High Court, no matter how genuinely the grievance was felt. **The ultimate cost of this falls not on some corporate entity, but on local parishioners who played no part in these proceedings.** Again, I cannot see how that is fair.

I know that is a view shared by the Parish Councillors who resigned last year, along with the Clerk. I should like to take this opportunity to thank them for their service to the village and wish them all the very best for the future. I would like to particularly thank the previous Chair, **Pip Fletcher**, and the previous Clerk, **Sharon Burman**, whose collective responsibilities I now fully appreciate.

Despite the events of the last year, however, I hope we can now look ahead to the future: with HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, this offers a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a village and celebrate the epitome of dutiful, selfless public service. Work has already begun in preparation for this and I very much look forward to seeing the end result.

I hope this has been helpful but if you have any additional queries then please do not hesitate to contact me via the details below.

With best wishes,



Harry Richardson

Chairman of Tostock Parish Council

District Councillor for Beyton, Norton, Stowlangtoft, Thurston, and Tostock

E: harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk

T: 01359 256087

Tostock Parish Council - Budget 2022 / 23

	<u>Budget</u>	
	<u>2022 / 23</u>	
Receipts		
Precept	£	10,474.00
MSDC Community Caretaker Grant	£	900.00
Chronicle	£	300.00
Total Receipts	£	11,674.00
Payments		
Clerk Salaries	-£	1,500.00
Litter picker	-£	900.00
Subs: SALC/SuffolkCloud/ISO	-£	450.00
Insurance	-£	500.00
Chronicle	-£	1,000.00
Repairs/maintenance	-£	250.00
Greens/Lays/Trees	-£	500.00
Bin emptying	-£	520.00
Venue hire	-£	60.00
Christmas tree	-£	150.00
Loan Interest	-£	200.00
SALC Audit Fee	-£	295.00
Total Payments	-£	6,325.00
(Deficit) / Surplus	£	5,349.00

	<u>Reserves</u>	
	<u>2022 / 23</u>	
Available general reserve	£	20,145.00
Transfer to Judicial Review payment	-£	18,145.00
Remaining general reserve	£	2,000.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£	41,566.00
Total Reserves	£	43,566.00

	<u>Judicial Review</u>	
Tostock PC legal fees	-£	6,363.00
Claimant costs	-£	22,500.00
Total	-£	28,863.00
Transfer from reserves	£	18,145.00
Budget surplus	£	5,349.00
Total	£	23,494.00
Balance	-£	5,369.00

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

As a result of further budget reconciliation we have identified an additional £1,000 in general reserves, which has been put aside to meet the costs of the Judicial Review. The loan requirement from MSDC has therefore been reduced to £7,000 in order to ensure a healthy cash flow for the Parish Council. In addition, the community caretaker grant from Mid Suffolk District Council has been re-instated to allow for the continued employment of a village litter picker.

A full explanation of the Parish Council's financial position will follow in the next edition of the Chronicle.

Village Christmas Tree Project

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has already contacted me offering to help with this project. If you are also interested in creating some squares, crocheted or knitted, please contact me for more details regarding size etc.

The more squares created the bigger the tree!



Sarah Reader
The Leap, Leys Road
01359 408932
07443958387 text/whatsapp
Email: reader2014@talktalk.net



Clearing out my utility room I have found a rather pretty bowl, several large plates and cake containers also a cool bag. These were left after the Art Exhibition last September by the generous folk who provided cakes. I also have a very decorative walking stick left at last week's coffee morning. Please ring me and I will deliver if any of these items belong to you.

Rosemary Lister. 01359 270179

TOSTOCK TIDY DAY DATES FOR 2022

Since our Tidy Days were initiated in 2019, we have tackled a number of tasks around the village and following on from last year when our activities were impacted by Covid we propose to have four Tidy Days again this year. We plan to focus on revisiting work covered since we started and in addition, as it is the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** celebration in June, we have set aside two dates specifically to tidy the areas that will be used for the village celebrations of this momentous event. We hope as many volunteers as possible will turn out on the designated days to undertake the various tasks to improve the amenities in the village.

We have identified the following four Saturdays for tidy days which we would like you to note in your diary:

30 April – The Green from junction of New Road to Norton Road.

28 May – A repeat of the above.

13 Aug – Edging around Wood Close.

12 Nov- Edging and gutters on Norton Road.

We will put out further reminders closer to each of the dates. Hopefully you will be able to come and support us and get involved.

If you have any questions or wish to suggest tasks which could be done as part of this initiative please contact: - jimlanglois@btinternet.com

Not quite the edition I'd intended because of hearing about the sad news of the death of Lionel Grooms. As a fellow allotment holder I feel we should pay a tribute to him all be it a little on the late side. Our condolences to Margaret and Lionel's family. Sue from the Bell Tower summed him up to a tee in the last edition, so there is not much more I can say. He was a big man with a big heart, but could be a little bit cantankerous at times, that why we liked him so much. He didn't believe in doing things in short or small measures, instead of having 1 plot he had 3, digging by hand was out of the question. So he invested big with agricultural implements, mechanical mechanism hence his trade mark the red Massey Ferguson tractor. He was a very generous person, more often than not rotovating other peoples plots, including mine as well, as well as his own. My friendship with him was a bit like vegetable growing, slow, but improved as time went on, and in 2017 he invited Penny and myself to share a short holiday with them to the Isle of Man, which we willingly obliged. Before I finish I would like to give a mention to our editor Shirley with some praise and thanks for all the help and time she had given to both Lionel and Margaret most recently – well done Shirley. I feel vexed with myself that I was not there for him in his hour of need, but I did manage to help him set and grow his final vegetables on his plot. Also I would like to mention, you may have just turned over your Tostock Calendar page from March to April. All those lovely daffodils along New Road was Lionel's doings setting them many years ago, something we all can remember him for in future years. He also did lots of other good deeds for our village as well. Finally I am sure I speak on behalf of Sharon, Barney, Jane and all us other allotment holders. Big man, big heart, and a big gap to fill - 'good on yer bor' rest in peace, country life in Tostock won't be the same without you and he will be sorely missed.



These images were Lionel's pride and joy

The allotment plot starts in earnest on the 1st day of April, ideally the 1st March weather permitting, when the plot has to be cultivated and dug over, the race is then on to get the vegetables and seeds set, before the lightly hood of droughts taking hold. The first thing to set are the broad beans and onion sets, plus shallots. My favourite variety of bean is Aquadulce, the classic variety for Autumn sowing, they withstand the worst of Winter weather to give an early crop, then sow again in Spring to get a second crop and get the best of both worlds. Bunyards Exhibition is another good variety. Onion sets are marble size in which you grow them on until they reach cricket ball size – takes 3 to 4 months, then lift and dry them, tie them up into bunches and hang them up in your shed or garage, they keep very well and can be used throughout the year until next Spring. French and Runner beans can go in once the danger of frost is over. You can grow them now in pots and keep them undercover in the greenhouse until it is safe to set them outside.

continued

Best varieties – Delinel, The Prince, for French, and Enorma, Scarlet Empire and Bench Master for Runner beans. The good thing about growing beans is that you can easily freeze them should you grow too many at once and get a glut of them. The more you keep picking the more they will grow. Carrots are a must, they are successional sown to give you a continuous supply, but be wary of carrot fly, protect with micromesh, Flyaway or Resista fly are good along with Autumn King, Nantes, Scarlet Horn etc. Parsnips – so easy to grow. Set seeds now in rows and they can stay in the ground where you set them. Just keep them weeded as they hardly need looking after. When ready just pull them up when needed. They will keep in the ground throughout the Winter and the frost helps to flavour them. Now we come to the main vegetable which is Potatoes. You can set earlies now but be mindful of frosts and cover them if frost is forecast overnight. 2nd earlies main crop and even late crops can be set so that you can still have new Potatoes ready for Christmas. There are so many different varieties out there that you can grow. The best ones I have found that grown well on our allotments are Desiree, Kestrel, Maris Piper and Sarpo Mira, the latter is bred in Hungary and is blight and drought resistant and keep and store well in sacks so that you can still have potatoes until next Spring. Other root crops to grow – Beetroot, Swede, Turnip, Celery, Celeriac, the list goes on. Brassicas include – Calabrese, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts and Cabbage. There is also Salad crops – Cucumber, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Aubergines, Chillies etc, Why not having a go at growing your own melons, plus herbs. Finally a must grow vegetable – especially on our allotments has to be Sweetcorn. There can't be anything better for a Saturday lunchtime meal than two freshly picked cobs of corn taken straight home and cooked in boiling water, then drizzled with melted butter and eaten fresh – yum yum You may decide not to grow vegetables but just grow fruit alone, imagine growing your own Peaches or Apricots along with Apples, Pears and Plums. There are also so many different varieties of berries these days, Or you could have a small plot just to grow flowers – including a wildflower meadow perhaps. The opportunity is endless.



2 views of Tostock allotments

One of the advantages of renting an allotment plot here is that we are so lucky to have such a very good Flower and Vegetable Show at our village hall once a year usually in early September, run by Barney and Julie and their organisers, which has run now for over 30 years in which it is all good fun competing against each other trying to win classes, with well over 60 classes in all to win silverware and trophies, awarded to the entrants who gain the most overall points.

At this stage I would like to welcome all our new residents to the village and ask for your participation and support so that the Show can continue running for another 30 years and throw out a challenge to you all to see if you can get your name engraved on any one of the trophies. It is open to the children of all ages as well, so please let us have your support. 2 other advantages of gardening at home or on the allotment plot is that it is so beneficial to improve your mental health and well-being, by growing your own fresh fruit and vegetables and it also cuts down the cost of the high rising prices the supermarkets are now charging, It also helps create good camaraderie amongst us fellow allotment holders, and I would like to thank Adrian and John for the help they have both given me just recently.

Thank you and good luck everybody.

MYSTERY ARTWORK IN THE CHURCH

We appear to have a talented mystery artist in the village. On a recent visit to the church, I noticed the artwork. They are a variation of 'origami' but instead of a single sheet of paper it is achieved using the pages within a book by folding and cutting.

There have been three in the last few months, one is of a Cross and the other two, "Peace' and Hope' . The latest is 'Believe'.

Jim Langlois.



Tostock Church

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the people of Ukraine caught up in recent tragic events. Here in Tostock, we have answered the call for aid and support for those who have had to flee their homes leaving everything behind, not knowing when, or if ever, they will be able to return. Over a single week, the people of Tostock have raised **£701** for The Ukrainian appeal at a Prayer Vigil held in church and at the monthly coffee morning. Over 100 teddy bears and soft toys were sent to the children of Ukraine, via a charity with which the Revd. Katherine Valentine has connections. Well done, Tostock. We are sure all the gifts will be gratefully received.



A lot has been going on in the churchyard, with volunteers cutting hedges and tidying up after the winter. Many thanks from the PCC to: Jim Langlois, Adrian Malcom, Brian Jenkins and Jim Debenham for all your hard work.

As many of you may know, **Tostock Open Gardens** is being held on **Sunday 10th July** and we plan to hold a Flower Festival in Tostock Church over that weekend to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We will be looking for budding flower arrangers to create displays. This is a fun activity and not a competition so come along and have a go! Further details will be announced soon.

We are also on the lookout for any **new bellringers**. After not being able to ring regularly over the past two years, we are now back in the tower and would love some new ringers to join us. If you've ever fancied having a go or have rung in the past and would like to return, please get in touch with **Sue Marriott on 01359 270143, or 07988172164.**

There will be a **Coffee Morning on April 12th at 10:30 in the Village Hall**

Easter lilies: if anyone would like to contribute towards the lilies for the Church at Easter, please contact **Julie Harrison or Jeanne O'Reilly** as soon as possible."

The Church floodlights are sponsored throughout April by Maureen and John Cytacki, to celebrate Nick's 40th Birthday on 2nd April.

The Church Floodlights are sponsored throughout May by Margaret Pamment, in loving memory of John, for his Birthday on 24th May.

The Church flood lights can be sponsored to celebrate or remember an important occasion, birthdays, anniversaries ' the cost is £5 per week, or £20 per month. Please contact Jeanne O'Reilly, 01359 270337.

Martin Davies & Sue Marriott



Flowers at the Vigil for Ukraine



Candles at the Vigil for Ukraine

St Andrew's Church Tostock

(Benefice of Pakenham, Norton & Tostock with Great Ashfield, Hunston & Stowlangtoft)

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

Website: for more details of all our churches - including Tostock -

see the national Church of England website www.achurchnearyou.com

Our benefice Church magazine is also available online at www.vcnews.org.uk



APRIL - MAY 2022 CHURCH SERVICES & OPENING TIMES

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

TOSTOCK services are highlighted below.

3RD	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Norton
10am	Family@Church THE SERVANT KING	Pakenham
10TH	PALM SUNDAY	
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tostock
9.30am	Morning Worship	Great Ashfield
11am	Holy Communion	Pakenham
14TH	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
7.30pm	Holy Communion with stripping the altar and vigil until 9pm	Pakenham
15TH	GOOD FRIDAY	
10am	Meditations	Tostock
10am	Easter Garden Service (see below)	Norton
1.30pm	Walk of Witness and Hour at the Cross (meet at the gates of Nether Hall and walk to the church for a service at 2pm)	Pakenham
2pm	All-age Good Friday service (meet at Village Hall at 1.30pm to make your cross)	Great Ashfield
17TH	EASTER DAY	
6.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Norton
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Stowlangtoft
9.30am	Family Festival Communion	Hunston
9.30am	Family Festival Communion	Pakenham
11am	Family Festival Communion	Great Ashfield
11am	Family Festival Communion	Norton
11am	Family Festival Communion	Tostock
24TH	2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER	
9.30am	TOAST	Great Ashfield
9.30am	Holy Communion	Norton
11am	Morning Worship	Tostock

MAY

1ST	3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Norton
10am	Family@church	Pakenham
8TH	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tostock
9.30am	Morning Worship	Great Ashfield
11am	Holy Communion	Pakenham
6pm	Evensong	Norton
15TH	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Pakenham
11am	Holy Communion	Great Ashfield
11am	Morning Worship	Norton
6pm	Evening Prayer & Praise	Tostock
22ND	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
9.30am	TOAST	Great Ashfield
9.30am	Holy Communion	Norton
11am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Hunston
11am	Morning Worship	Tostock
26TH Thursday	ASCENSION DAY	
7.30pm	Deanery Communion	St Mary's Pakenham
29TH	7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
10am	Benefice Communion	Stowlangtoft

SERVICES AT ROMNEY COTTAGE

Mondays 11th April and 16th May at 10am. All welcome to come and join in singing our favourite hymns and a simple act of worship followed by refreshments and chat.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday 3rd May - St Andrew's Tostock- 7pm in church. All welcome.

All parishioners are invited to our annual meeting where we report on and give thanks for the life of the church in the year that is past, and elect our churchwardens and Parochial Church Council to serve our church for another year.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

SUN

3rd

APRIL

INFORMATION
EVENT

Have you applied to host a family?

Are you thinking about hosting, but want to know what support may be available?

Do you have time and skills to support a group effort?

Churches Together in Norton, Norton Parish Council & Norton Charities have come together to coordinate a response.

Join us at **The Salvation Army**, Woolpit Road, Norton, IP31 3LU on **Sunday 3rd April, 4pm-5pm** for more information or to offer support.

Supporting Norton, Stowlangtoft, Great Ashfield, Hunston, Pakenham and Tostock

For more information, contact Lt. Gill McCredie gillian.mccredie@salvationarmy.org.uk | 07341 571589

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Tony 07908 464003 or

Richard 07767 616188



TOSTOCK TENNIS CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

COMMITTEE 2020-2021

CHAIRMAN- FREDDIE WALTON
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP - ELIZABETH DUNN
SECRETARY - SUSIE WALTON
COMMITTEE MEMBERS -
JOHN AND LIZ ADAMS AND NIGEL KAINES

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2020-21

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP £40
COUPLES MEMBERSHIP - £25
ADULT (SINGLE) MEMBERSHIP - £15
CHILDRENS MEMBERSHIP (U16S) - £5

WE WOULD ENCOURAGE FEES TO BE PAID BY BACS BUT CASH AND CHEQUES ARE ALSO ACCEPTED.
BACS DETAILS: ACC: 01082391 AND SC: 30-91-49
PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AS REFERENCE

GUEST COURT FEES APPLY - ADULTS £2 AND CHILDREN £1

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB OR WOULD LIKE
TO CONTACT US.

ELIZABETH DUNN (01359 270270) - EJD1@TALKTALK.NET

OR

SUSIE WALTON (07793406076) - SUSIEWALTON85@GMAIL.COM



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Unfortunately, I alone am unable to put the time and effort into producing this magazine, which really is a true shame .

it could be so much better

ATTENTION EVERY RESIDENT in our COMMUNITY

This is your magazine and your opportunity to maximise the effectiveness as a source of information and communication piece for each other - Whats on where?

We need as many people as possible to get involved, contribute as little or as much as you like , all ages .

What would you like to include?

How would you like to help?

We need complete community team effort.

Editor, publicist, IT Media, Youth forum/platform

co-ordinator, advertising, budget finance,

Artwork design, fundraiser, Top tips ie money savers,

computer cheats for gamers, things for sale or needed,

Projects, i.e., allotment corner, clubs, pub hub, swop

shop, Wildlife, events organiser Fun on the green for all

from toddlers to teens and pets. Etc.,

PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN ANY WAY AT ALL.

