

The Norton messenger

December 2015.

This final issue of 2016 is packed full of exciting festive events that are going on in the village—

Pages 2 and 3 give information from the W.I., Baptist Church, Salvation Army and the Norton and surrounding Parish Churches. From the Christmas Day services to 'fun and frolics' in January these pages are worth having a look at for all the family.

Help light up the village on page 4, and read about the railway coming in the 19th Century in 'Down our Street' - a special double page article on pages 6 and 7.

There is an update, and more diary dates, for you from the Twinning Association Article— plenty of exciting events to pack 2016 with on page 10.

On page 12, there is a special quiz advertised that will be held in the Norton Dog on Sunday 6th December. **Proceeds go to the**

Norton Village Road Safety Improvement Activities

Mike & Sharon have kindly offered the use of the Pub, and a light buffet for this special event. The quiz will start at 18:30 for 19:00, with the usual entry fee at £2 per person. I look forward to seeing

many of you there.

I have been asked to include the following, so thought this would be an apt place to put it:

FOUND

In The Street, Norton, during July - a pair of blue and yellow suede Tuffsafe gloves and a Rolson multitool. Please contact me and I shall put the owner in touch with the finder.

Finally, thank you for all your help and support over the past few months whilst I have been learning the ropes. I have heard many compliments for the new colour issues — please do let me have any comments, feedback, thoughts or ideas, I am always happy to have constructive input.

If you have items that you would like to include in the January issue of The Norton Messenger, the deadline is December 15th.

Wishing everyone the best of the Season, and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016.

Until next year!

Best wishes,

Sarah



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Sarah Sharpe

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Facebook:
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nortonvillage.org.uk

Dave Jones

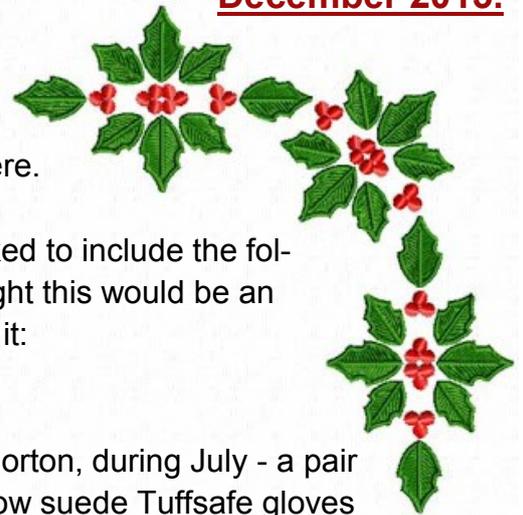
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Norton W.I.

We had a very successful Thedwastre Group Meeting, held in the Village Hall, with an excellent speaker, Sean Hedges-Quinn, a British sculptor, born and bred in Ipswich and now living in Great Bricett, where he has a studio in an old disused RAF base cinema. A very enthusiastic young man with a warm and friendly personality, he talked us through the process of his sculptures with many amusing anecdotes along the way. His notable commissions include Sir Alf Ramsey, Sir Bobby Robson, James Herriott and Captain Mainwaring, whose bust he unveiled at the end of his very interesting and lively talk. There were approximately 85 ladies present who gave him a very rousing and appreciative applause and he was thanked for making his talk so entertaining.

Also this month we had a visit from Alison Brain, a Paediatric nurse in Addenbrookes and West Suffolk hospitals, who told us about the work she is doing for an orphanage in Entebbe. Shocked and concerned by the poverty and awful living conditions of the children whose ages range from 5 to 15, she decided to start fundraising to help improve their lives. By selling some very colourful beads, bracelets, bags and aprons all made by vulnerable women in Kampala, Uganda, Alison has helped fund the installation and running of a water tank, a new kitchen, new toilets and washing facilities as well as providing mosquito nets. Her fund raising and annual visits to Entebbe have made a massive difference to the lives of these children and she is to be truly admired for her dedication to this project.

Forthcoming events

7th December

Social afternoon with tea and refreshments

15th December

Christmas Lunch at Edmunds, West Suffolk College.

4th January

Fun and Frolics – to liven the “January Blues”.

Visitors/new members are always welcome to join our meetings which are held on the first Monday of the month at the Baptist Chapel Hall at 14:30.

For more information please call Val Ford on 01359 233320.



Norton Baptist Church

This month we celebrate Christmas - not just the people who attend the Baptist Church but all of us. On the 13th December we have our Christmas Family Service at 11:00 when we invite you all to join with us. This will be led by Mr Jim Spencer and will include a Puppet Nativity Show telling the Christmas story. At the conclusion of the service Seasonal Refreshments will be served. On the 20th we shall be having a service of Traditional Carols and Readings when many friends will be taking part; again it will be at 11:00.

On the 25th, Christmas Day, we will be joined with friends from the Salvation Army at 10:30 for a time together Celebrating the Birth of Jesus. On the 27th we join with our friends next door at the Salvation Army as it is the Sunday after Christmas, again at 11:00.

This is a time when we celebrate the Birth of Jesus; after all this is the real meaning of Christmas and is the reason for us all to spend this special time together. We would welcome friends from this area to all of these services and take the opportunity of wishing you a Happy Christmas.

The Salvation Army

DECEMBER

Sunday	Services 11am & 6pm (Family service/Cafe Church 6th- 10.45am)
Monday	Toddlesong 9.30 - 11.30am
Tuesday	'610' Children's Club 6-7pm (1st Dec. only)
Thursday	Lunch Club 12noon

Thursday 25th Christmas Day service at Baptist Chapel 10.30am

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre. We had a successful day financially and it was good to see old friends and meet up with many people visiting for the first time. You are always welcome to join us for services on Sunday or at any other events we hold.

Carolling

The Band and Songsters commence the Christmas programme with a visit to the Blackbourne Centre in Elmswell on 3rd December. Thereafter the Band will be busy right up to Christmas Eve, including visiting Shepherds Grove Caravan Park, playing carols on The Green at Tostock (10th) and in Woolpit village centre (18th). Weather permitting, they will be in Norton on Wed. 23rd (Ashfield Road) and Thurs. 24th (Ixworth Road)

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, 20th December, 6.00pm

Followed by refreshments

(Collection will be donated to Norton Preschool)

A warm welcome to you all

We take this opportunity to wish everyone all the blessings of Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

For more information about services or events at the Army contact Major Kevin/Captain Catherine Rand
Tel: 01359 240787.

Email: Catherine.rand@salvationarmy.org.uk

Website: www.nortonsalvationarmy.co.uk

St Andrew's Church

(Part of the Benefice of Pakenham, Norton & Tostock,
with Great Ashfield, Hunston & Stowlangtoft)
Priest-in-Charge: Revd. Katherine Valentine
Tel: 01359 235095
Email: katherine@kavalentine.plus.com

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

DECEMBER

6th	11:00	Morning Prayer
13th	18:00	Evensong
20th	08:00	Holy Communion
	18:00	CAROL SERVICE

24th CHRISTMAS EVE

see below for details of services in the Benefice

25th CHRISTMAS DAY

	09.30	Family Festival Communion
27th	10:00	Joint Benefice Communion at Pakenham

Christmas Celebrations Across the Benefice for all ages

St Andrew's Norton, St Mary's Pakenham, St Andrew's Tostock, All Saints Great Ashfield, St Michael's Hunston, St George's Stowlangtoft.

Please see below for Christmas services and activities across the benefice, so you can find something to suit your own family Christmas plans.

Norton Singers—

Children's choir from Norton School

St Andrews Church Norton, Saturday 5th December 16:00. Come and share in the celebration with the children and listen to their lovely singing. Refreshments will be provided and the collection will be shared between the St Andrews Church fund and the Children's Society.

Christingles, Advent & Angels Activity Morning

St Mary's Pakenham, Saturday 5th December 10:00-11:30. Come and help make the Christingles for the next day, hear the Advent story and make the Advent Wreath - all this and angels too - an unforgettable start to the festive season.

The Christingle Service

St Mary's Pakenham. Sunday 6th December at 15:00 In aid of The Children's Society. Each child receives a Christingle orange with a candle, representing Christ the Light of the World – a wonderful way to start your preparations!

Nativity Play Rehearsal

St Andrew's Church Tostock, Saturday 19th December 10:00. Calling all budding actors! Come and practise for the nativity play which will be performed at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve - this could be your big break! All ages welcome.

Christmas Decoration Activity Morning

St Andrew's Church Norton. Saturday 19th December 11:00-12:00. Christmas crafts, tree decorating, and preparing the crib. Christmassy refreshments!

Carol Services

Sunday 13th	St Andrew's Tostock	15:00
Sunday 20th	St Michael's Hunston	14.30
	All Saints Great Ashfield	17:00
	St Andrew's Norton	18:00
	St George's Stowlangtoft	18:00
	St Mary's Pakenham	18:30

Crib Services

Christmas Eve	St Andrew's Tostock	15:00
Christmas Day	All Saints Great Ashfield	10:30

Come and take part in this re-telling of the Christmas story. At Tostock children are invited to come dressed as Shepherds, Kings, or Angels, to join in the Nativity Play.

Midnight Communion

This year it is Great Ashfield's turn to host this service on Christmas Eve - 11:30 All Saints Church.

Christmas Day Family Communion

Services on Christmas Morning are:

St Andrew's Norton	09:30
St Andrew's Tostock	09:30
St Mary's Pakenham	09:30
St Michael's Hunston	11:00

All are wonderful occasions to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you there, and a very Happy and Blessed Christmas to all.
Katherine



Norton Christmas Lights Challenge

Help to light up the village!

We are asking for you to decorate an exterior tree, bush or part of your property with lights or festive decorations.

Photograph your contributions and add them on to the Norton Village Facebook page or drop a photo into Andy at Andys auto fix.



The entries will be judged on December 20th and the winners will be given a prize, sponsored by Andys auto fix.

Why not join in some festive fun?

We look forward to seeing your lights and decorations during the festive period.

* electricity to be paid for by the property owners 😊



The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2015

The Poppy Appeal is the major single source of revenue for the Royal British Legion's Benevolent Fund. Each year more people come to the Legion for help and the cost of that help is continually increasing. Daily we see and read of young Service men and women employed in peace-keeping duties in many parts of the world often in considerable danger. This means that there will always be a need to provide help for them and their dependants if they can no longer do so. This year the Poppy Appeal ran from 24th October to 7th November.

In Norton volunteers made house-to-house visits and donations were collected at Norton Primary School, the Petrol Station, Andy's Garage, The Norton Dog, and St Andrew's Church Remembrance Service. The Parish Council donated the wreath at the War Memorial. This resulted in the sum of £1344.88 being raised in Norton. Very well done to all who took part and donated so generously. The Royal British Legion thanks everyone for helping with their Appeal. Without this help the Legion would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work.

Barry Dove – Norton Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Annual Soup Lunch in aid of The Leprosy Mission

We shall be holding the Annual Soup Lunch in aid of The Leprosy Mission on Saturday 23rd January from 12:00 until 14:00. It will be held for the second year running in the Baptist Chapel Hall. There will also be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy stall. Leprosy is a curable disease if treated early, but, because there is such a stigma attached to it, people hide the symptoms so curing it becomes more difficult, although attitudes are beginning to change with better education about the disease. Because the fingers and toes are often affected earning a living is also difficult for people with Leprosy. Do come along and support this worthwhile cause.

Norton Parish Council would like to thank **Smart Garden Offices** of Thurston, Suffolk for the generous donation to the village of a **Christmas Tree** that will be installed at **The Dog** over the festive period. Weather permitting the tree will be put up for December 1st and we look forward to seeing it lit with twinkly lights.

For more information about Smart Garden Offices please visit: <https://www.smartgardenoffices.co.uk> or telephone, email or visit: 0800 242 5559 / hello@smartgardenoffices.co.uk / Thurston Park, Church Road, Thurston, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 3RN

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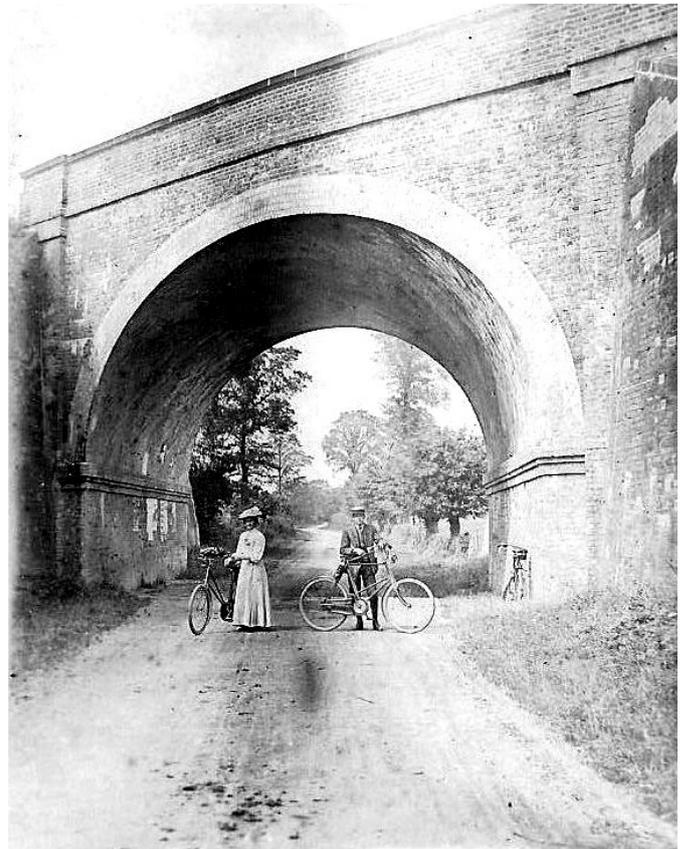
Down Our Street.

As I drive along the A1088, I often wonder what the view from the road might have looked like before the railway embankment and arch were built. Navvies were the men who actually built railways and, although many were Irish, local agricultural labourers would probably have formed the bulk of the workforce here in Suffolk. The building of rail lines was very labour intensive. At one stage during the 19th Century, one in every 100 persons who worked in this country was a navvy. The word "navvy" came from the word 'navigator'. By the mid-19th Century – the height of railway mania – there were 250,000 navvies throughout the country. As railways were a vital component of the Industrial Revolution, the work of the navvies can also be considered crucial. The bulk of railway building had to be done by hand. The thousands of miles of rail lines laid by the navvies were done without the use of machinery. The standard tools of the navvies were picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. They lived by the rail line that they were building in so-called shanty towns. Huts could accommodate 20 men and they paid one and a half pence for a bed for the night. Those who slept on the floor paid a lot less. Five nights of floor sleeping cost one penny. The work of the navvies was very hard, physical labouring. They had to eat well because their type of work required a decent meal at least once a day. A good navvy could shift 20 tonnes of earth a day. By the standards of the time, navvies were well paid. They could earn 25 pence a day which compared well to those who worked in factories.

Construction on the original line from London commenced in 1837 and had stopped at Colchester in 1839. In 1846 the line was extended to Ipswich. Shareholders in the newly formed Ipswich and Bury Railway Company raised £400,000 to continue track building to Bury St Edmunds in 1845. The proposed line was 26.5 miles long, with intermediate stations at Bramford, Claydon, Needham, Stowmarket, Haughley, Elmswell and Thurston all designed by Ipswich architect Frederick Barnes. The route of the line followed the Gipping Valley. The ground breaking ceremony took place on 1 August 1845 where twelve local worthies (including the mayor of Ipswich, Bruff and John Chevallier Cobbold) each filled a wheelbarrow with soil. In Ipswich, the 361 yard tunnel under Stoke Hill, believed to be one of the first to be built completely on a curve, proved challenging to build with significant water ingress. It was completed in September 1846 and on the 19th some 50 diners enjoyed dinner in the tunnel to the (no doubt) loud accompaniment of a brass band. A note in *The Builder* magazine, October 3rd 1846, said that the contract for the Thurston station buildings had been awarded to a Mr. Reed for the sum of £3753.

As work on construction of the line continued, one night in January 1846 near Norton, a temporary stable built of faggots and thatch belonging to Robert Sallis, a sub-contractor to Brassey, burnt down. Fortunately Sallis, his wife and children escaped from an adjoining

hut, but five horses and a week's supply of food for his workers were lost. He was then described as destitute and his loss estimated at £125. A collection throughout the region raised £117 on his behalf. Another sub-contractor, John Douglas, was working on the section of the line by the site of Stowmarket station. The ground was very boggy and much of the material forming the embankments kept slipping into the mire. On the night of 1st August 1846, forty metres of embankment, sleepers and rail disappeared overnight. At one point a bridge had been planned and timber piles some 15 metres (45 feet) in length were placed in the ground and these sank out of sight under their own weight. Probes were then used to discover the depth where solid ground was present, and this was finally encountered at a depth of 24 metres (80 feet)! The idea of a bridge was then abandoned and the course of the River Gipping diverted. The embankments were then formed on a raft mat of faggots, hurdles, brushwood and earth, with timbers laid along the route longitudinally onto which the sleepers were then laid.



Finally the track was virtually complete all the way to Bury St. Edmunds and a special train was formed for the inaugural run on 26th November 1846. The train consisted of five carriages and was hauled by the EUR N°4, 2-2-2 locomotive "Bury St. Edmunds". On the footplate for this first run were Robert Taylor the Locomotive Superintendent acting as the driver, J. C. Cobbold, John Footman, Deputy Chairman of the I & BR, John James Saunders, EUR Company Secretary, Peter Bruff, EUR and I & BR Engineer, John Squire Martin, EUR Traffic Superintendent, and possibly a fireman as well!

Although none of the stations was very advanced, with Stowmarket barely started, stops were made along the line at Haughley, Stowmarket, Elmswell and Thurston.

The line was only a single track in places and some sections were laid temporarily for this first run. As there were not yet any turning facilities at Bury another loco running tender first followed the train to pull it back to Ipswich. The line, including bridges, cuttings and embankments had taken just sixteen months to build! It opened for goods traffic four days later on 30th November 1846. The first train ran from Ipswich to Bury and consisted of 24 tons of general goods and 90 tons of coal. Heavy snow made it necessary to divide the train at Needham and to take it on to Stowmarket in two sections. A further train was then sent and the two were combined and double headed on from Stowmarket. The first passenger service was a special train that ran from Shoreditch, London, on 7th December 1846. The train was hauled by two locomotives and consisted of seventeen carriages and one open truck in which the Humfress Band rode and played. The Board of Trade inspection was made by Captain Coddington on 15th December 1846,



and the formal approval telegraphed through during the afternoon of 23rd December. The first public train left Ipswich for Bury St. Edmunds at 0910 the next day, Christmas Eve 1846.

Two early tragedies on the line between Elmswell and Thurston.

On 4th October 1850 the locomotive due to work the 0800 departure from Bury burst a tube and had to be withdrawn. There was no telegraph at the time. However, Gideon Hartwell, the station master at Bury, knew that when the Bury train did not arrive at Ipswich, the engine from the connecting down train from Ipswich to Norwich would be run wrong line to Bury St Edmunds to investigate the situation. To save time he ordered four of the company's horses to be connected to the two-coach train to pull it along the line to meet the loco coming from Ipswich. To enable them to see the relief train at the earliest opportunity, Hartwell and a porter, William Baldwin, climbed on to the roof of the first carriage. On arrival at Thurston the stationmaster, James Wolton, joined the other two on the roof. At the second (now first) overbridge from Thurston station the horse drawn

train met the relief engine coming from Ipswich. After the removal of the horses the engine was coupled to the train and started its journey to Ipswich. Unbelievably the three men remained sitting on the carriage roof, with the two stationmasters sitting in the opposite direction of travel and facing Bury. At the fourth (now third) overbridge from Thurston, known as Jannings bridge (now No 1158), they hit by the bridge as the train passed under it. James Wolton was killed instantly and, despite valiant efforts by the porter, William Baldwin, Gideon Hartwell fell from the train and was also killed. The train was stopped as soon as possible by the mortified driver and the train reversed slowly back to Thurston, where both bodies were placed in a horsebox. That same afternoon an inquest was held at the Fox and Hounds public house that stands opposite the station. A verdict of accidental death was recorded and subsequently Wolton was buried in Thurston churchyard and Hartwell at St. Marks, New Lakenham.

February 20th 1866. Inquest at the 'Royal William' public house at Tostock on Joseph Murton aged 16 years who met his death in the following manner, (Joseph was the son of Tostock's blacksmith, William Murton, and his wife Emma). 'William Foulger, labourer, in the employ of Mr Stiff of Norton, said, "On Tuesday afternoon, I and several others got on to the railway line to see the foxhounds which were running into Norton Wood, a luggage train was coming up the line towards Elmswell and Haughley, it came to the deceased first, he was standing in Tostock and I in Norton, he had just stepped on to the line having got up from behind the arches when it knocked him down and cut him to pieces.'" (Bury & Norwich Post).



Photo opposite. Norton Arch in 1907

Photo left column: From arch towards Norton

Photo right column: Track through Norton Wood on a misty morning.



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Home: 01359 242094 Mobile: 07932 792955 Email stuart@cracknells.plus.com



Norton is home to West Suffolk RSPCA rescued rabbits. To see some of our rabbits, please look at our website rscpasuffolk.org.uk or arrange a visit by telephoning Deb on 01359 242343.



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Norton and District Twinning Association News Updates



'Norton does Strictly', held on October 17th, was a huge success. Our thanks go to all who helped to organise this event and to all who supported the Twinning Association by coming along. The 2 course supper was followed by instruction on how to dance the Cha Cha Cha and Waltz before couples took to the floor in a light-hearted competition orchestrated by 'Brucy' and judged by our own versions of Craig, D'Arcy, Bruno and Len. Prizes were duly awarded. Money was also raised for SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue). Dancing throughout the evening was to live music provided by 'Gipsy and Felix'.

AGM, held on October 20th, was well attended. At this meeting Stuart Cracknell stepped down from his role as Chair of the committee and Don Bauer from his role as treasurer. A huge thank you to both for the work undertaken over the last 12 months. Celia Deeley has taken on the Chair and Angela Walton is the new treasurer. At the meeting it was decided that we would support two charities this year. We will continue with our association with SARS but will also support the Caister Life Boat.

Future Events.

2015

December 20th Christmas Party (members only)

2016

January 22nd Burns Night Supper and dance open to all

Late February/ Early March Movie Night open to all

May 28th -31st 30th Anniversary visit to Muirs (members only)

Summer guided, themed tour in Bury St Edmunds open to all

August 21st Summer Social (members only)

October 21st 'Strictly Halloween' dance open to all

Joining the Association couldn't be easier:

Anyone wishing to join the association should contact Jane Williams, the membership secretary, e-mail address penrhiwgarn@hotmail.com. Membership costs £35.00 per family or £17.50 per adult member.

All current members will automatically receive a reminder and membership application form.

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Special Christmas Quiz

At: The Norton Dog

On: Sunday 6th December, 18:30

Proceeds go to Norton Village Road Safety Improvement Activities

Please join us at The Norton Dog on Sunday 6th December for a special Christmas quiz.

Mike & Sharon have kindly offered the use of the Pub, and a light buffet for this special event.

The quiz will start at 18:30 for 19:00, with the usual entry fee at £2 per person.

There will be a raffle, with some interesting & different prizes.

Dave Jones, our regular, erudite, energetic and enigmatic quizmaster, has also offered to be Master of Ceremonies. There may be a few Road Safety related questions thrown in, so brush up on your Highway Code.

Come along, have fun, and also support our efforts in getting the VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs).

Please encourage friends and family to join us.



John Cockburn-Evans
Norton Road Safety Action

Strands

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Norton Village Hall

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Items welcomed for consignment to auction to include:

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Regular Village Events

	Toddlesong for 0-4 years 9.30 – 11.30 Salvation Army Hall
Monday	Jo's fit4all Class 19.30 – Village Hall
	Foodie Mondays at the Norton Dog. £9.95 – 2 courses and £13.95 for 3 courses from a special menu.
Tuesday	Carpet Bowls 14.00 – Baptist Hall
	'610' Children's Club 18.00-19.00 – Salvation Army Hall (term time only)
Wednesday	Zumba 18.15 & 19.30 – Village Hall
Thursday	Lunch Club at Salvation Army 12.00 – 13.00
Friday	Zumba 09.15 – Village Hall
Saturday	Children's Fitness 10.15 - 11.00 – Village Hall (wh@stowmarkethigh.suffolk.sch.uk)
Sunday	Norton Adult Football – Contact Paul (paulflanagan99@yahoo.com)



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