

# the norton messenger

July 2017



## EDITORIAL:

What amazing weather we have had – it seems like summer has finally arrived! Thank you so much for the beautiful images that once again have been sent in, I'm so sorry that I can't use them all, but there is a selection in the banner for you to enjoy. If you have any that you would like to submit for the Messenger in August, please send them to me by 15<sup>th</sup> July: [nortonmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:nortonmessenger@gmail.com)

In other news.... The website has been relaunched – go and check it out! <http://nortonvillage.org.uk>. Dave has done an amazing job!

Also, there is a village walk scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 10am from the Village Hall. Details and a map are on the back page. I look forward to seeing lots of you there, and sharing photos with those of you that can't make it.

Best wishes for July.  
Sarah

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Editor:  
Sarah Sharpe  
[nortonmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:nortonmessenger@gmail.com)



Dave Jones  
[nortonsuffolk@gmail.com](mailto:nortonsuffolk@gmail.com)



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Fran Bolus  
[nortonmessengeradvertising@gmail.com](mailto:nortonmessengeradvertising@gmail.com)



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## 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.

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

### JULY 2017

2nd	1100	Morning Prayer
11th	1800	Evensong
16th	1100	Family Service & Baptisms
23rd	0930	Family Communion
30th	1000	BENEFICE COMMUNION AT STOWLANGTOFT

## July Coffee Morning

This month's coffee morning will be  
held on  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July  
10.30 till 12.00

At the home of mark and Serena  
Steggles.  
Sweetbriar, Heath road, Norton.

Down Heath road towards Tostock,  
round the sharpe left hand bend, last  
house on the left.

If anyone wishes to host a coffee  
morning in the future, please contact  
Penny – 01359 232472

All welcome for  
coffee, tea and a chat.

## St Andrew's Church – Floodlighting

Would you like to celebrate a special event, memory or  
person? Our historic village church looks beautiful lit up  
at night and you can sponsor the lighting as a celebration  
which is shared with all the village.

The lights will now be on until 0200.

A list of your dedications will be published in the  
Messenger. There are still opportunities for sponsorship.  
**Only £10 per week.**

For details,  
contact Martin Wood  
Email: ali.etal@tiscali.co.uk;  
Phone: 01359 242367



## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council have been very busy getting  
ready for the installation of new equipment at the  
Village Hall playing field. Over the coming weeks  
there will be a number of companies carrying out  
work to install a cricket wicket, a trampoline and a  
new play structure which includes a slide. Once  
these items are in place we will then install  
additional benches around the playing field and  
replace the 11-a side football pitch with another 7-a  
side pitch. This move to have 2 smaller pitches and  
a cricket facility was seen to be much more inclusive  
as people of any age can use the 7-a side goals,  
where as the 11-a side goals are just too big for  
young people to use! We hope that with 2 pitches  
and better spectator facilities that Norton could then  
start to hold small tournaments or training sessions.



## NORTON W.I

It's amazing how quickly the year flies by. Now we are thinking about July and holidays, and it seems only yesterday it was Christmas! Our July meeting is our Garden meeting month when we try to have a social afternoon with tea in a member's garden. This year we are being hosted by our new President, Jane Williams, in her garden in Little Green on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.30pm, just need some nice sunshine to make it a perfect Summer's afternoon event. What else have we been up to? Following our animal theme, last month we visited Hollesley Bay Suffolk Punch Sanctuary and the June meeting talk was about the Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary. This is a well-known and well established Charity which cares for some two thousand donkeys in five different locations scattered around Devon. However one of their important roles is to teach people throughout the world, usually in poorer countries, the way to look after their animals properly. There are many and varied working animals throughout the world, horses, dogs, camels, elephants but probably the most common is the donkey. These animals are often mistreated, poorly nourished and with little proper care. The Charity try to work with people who have donkeys and teach them how to better care for them, they don't take animals into their care.

In Britain, as well as running the Sanctuaries, they try to teach people about the donkeys and have many activities which help people with learning difficulties to interact with the animals. It is also a place very popular with many schoolchildren and visitors. They have their own Vets and hospital, grow their own hay and grass and sell compost made from the donkeys droppings and try to be as self-sufficient as possible. The Visitor Centre is well patronised and there are the usual amenities, café, shop etc. and perfect for an enjoyable day out if on holiday in that area.

Our next outing is to Peter Beales Roses in Attleborough on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, the perfect time to visit and see the roses in all their glory. If you would like any more information about the outing or Norton W.I. please phone our Secretary, Val Ford 01359 233320, all welcome.



Norton is home to West Suffolk RSPCA rescued rabbits.

To see some of our rabbits, please look at our website [rspca-west Suffolk.org.uk](http://rspca-west Suffolk.org.uk)

Or arrange a visit by phoning Deb: 01359 242343

## CHRISTIAN AID.

The final result of the house to house collection in Norton was £615.00. This was an exceptional response to the appeal and we are very grateful to all those residents who contributed. Special thanks to the people who helped by visiting homes, Capt. Andrew Jarrold, Rev. Katherine Valentine, Issy Cracknell and Helen Allum. Thank you all once again.

## NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH

In July we start the month with our 183rd Church Anniversary on 2nd July. This will be led by the Revs. David and Julie Eaton and followed by a picnic lunch at Highfields. On 9th July we have Rev. Richard Edwards taking our service, which will include Communion.

Other dates: Mr David Willson on 16th July, Rev. Norman Tharby on 23rd and Mr Jim Spencer on 30th. If you are able to join with us on any of these dates you will be very welcome. We appreciate the help we have received maintaining the outside of the church, grass and hedge cutting. This becomes more difficult each year but we are grateful for help. The kitchen and back area of the church has been decorated recently and has made a big improvement. The carpet bowls on a Tuesday afternoon continues to be a success with a good number of members attending. If you have any enquiries please contact us on **0xxx 230093. (needs code)**

## SALVATION ARMY

### DATES FOR JULY

Sunday	Services at 1100 & 1800 <b>(Family service/Cafe Church 2nd at 1045)</b> Open-Air services <b>5pm</b> (not 16 <sup>th</sup> )
Monday	Toddlesong 0930 -1130
Tuesday	'610' Children's Club 1800 - 1900
Thursday	Lunches 1200 <b>open to all ages</b>
Friday 7th	Games Night 1930
Friday 21st	Craft Night 1900

### SUMMER OPEN-AIR SERVICES – DOG CORNER

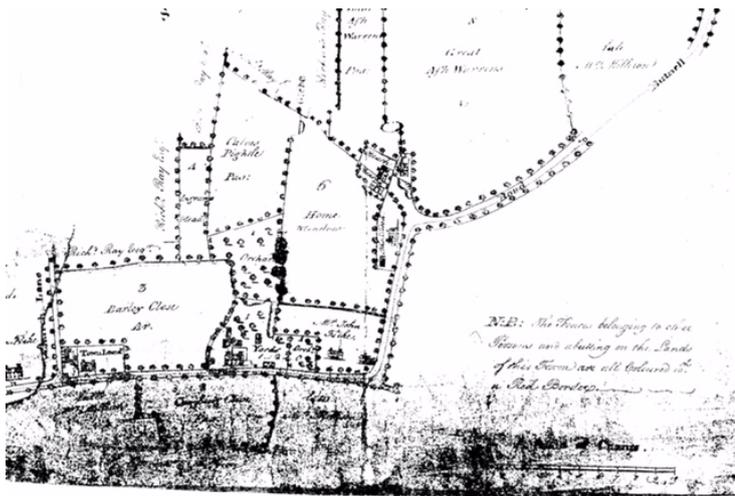
This year we shall be holding our open-air services at 1700, for approximately half an hour, instead of 1930 as in previous years. Our evening meeting will continue to be at 1800 as usual. Due to a few prior engagements we shall be unable to hold these on 16th July and 6th August. Our grateful thanks to The Norton Dog for agreeing to the change of time.

For more information about services or events at the Army contact Captains Andrew & Jackie Jarrold on 01359 240787. Email: [Andrew.jarrold@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.jarrold@salvationarmy.org.uk)/  
[Jackie.jarrold@savationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.jarrold@savationarmy.org.uk)  
website: [www.nortonsalvationarmy.co.uk](http://www.nortonsalvationarmy.co.uk)

## DOWN OUR STREET.

Looking at the area between Church Lane and The Common.

The oldest map I have found so far is Thomas Warrens sketch of 1787, showing the land which was attached to Bach's Farm, which belonged to George Beach although his marriage shows him as George Bach, so Bach/Beach seem to be interchangeable depending on who was writing the name at that time. George was born in Norton in 1729. The farm was at the top left of the drift way at Common Corner.



Heading away from Church Lane, at that time and occupying what is now the rear gardens of the Church Lane Cottages and the site of the house currently being constructed, was one of the "Town Houses". It is my understanding that these were properties owned by and overseen by the parish to give accommodation to pauper families, the elderly or infirm who could not afford to live without the support (Parish Relief) of their fellow villagers.

The whole of the rest of the map bordering the north of the Ashfield Road as far as the drift way was the scene of "The Great Fire of Norton". It started at the corner of Church Lane on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1788 at about 10.00 a.m. in Mr Samuel Chapman's baking office. As has been mentioned in a previous Messenger article, the fire spread rapidly to Mr Booty's farmhouse in the strong westerly wind and then to Mr George Burt's farm, destroying barns and stables and damaging their houses. From there it transferred to Mr Shipp's and Mr Grimwood's houses and consumed a further 9 cottages making 20 poorer families homeless as well. No one was insured apart from Mr Chapman. There was a fund-raising effort in West Suffolk and in 1799, at The Pickerel in Ixworth, the victims were paid compensation. Photo 2. (opposite)

As you walk towards the sharp bend from the new house the first field was the Home Barley Field of the farm on the corner of Church Lane. That farm was originally called Fiske Farm as it was leased by the Fiske family to George Burt after the fire. It was bought by Ernest Burt in the mid-1900s and became known as

Burt's Farm and eventually was named George farm after Ernest's youngest son. The next field before the cottages was called 'Old Yards' or 'Yards Meadow'. It was the site of the Burt's farmhouse at the time of the fire. It was reputed to be one of the most haunted parts of the village and I remember many villagers hurrying fearfully past this field as recently as the 1970s. Older villagers still tell of ghostly sightings and strange sounds coming from the vicinity.

On the opposite side of the road is 'Camping Close', nothing to do with boy scouts or tents. Many Norfolk and Suffolk villages have a camping field or meadow. Camping was the precursor of football and was a particularly rough if not vicious game. The games were often held on fields near a church and took place just after the service. These archaic forms of football, typically classified as mob football, would be played between neighbouring villages. It commonly involved an unlimited number of players on opposing teams who would clash in a heaving mass of people struggling to drag an inflated pig's bladder by any means possible to markers at each end of a field or neighbouring village. Although this game was rough, it was not without rules. There is evidence from Moore that by 1823 that there were rules and even ball passing between team members (a development often attributed to much later): From Wikipedia, *Each party has two goals, ten or fifteen yards apart. The parties, ten or fifteen on a side, stand in line, facing each other at about ten yards' distance midway between their goals and that of their adversaries. A neutral spectator throws up a ball the size of a cricket ball midway between the confronted players and makes his escape. The rush is to catch the falling ball. He who first can catch or seize it speeds home, making his way through his opponents and aided by his own sidesmen. If caught and held or rather in danger of being held, for if caught with the ball in possession he loses a snotch, he throws the ball [he must in no case give it] to some less beleaguered friend more free and more in breath than himself, who if it be not arrested in its course or be jostled away by the eager and watchful adversaries, catches it; and he in like manner hastens homeward, in like manner pursued, annoyed and aided, winning the notch or snotch if he contrive to carry or throw it within the goals. At a loss and gain of a snotch a recommencement takes place.*

	l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.		
George Burt	-	160	3	0	Elizabeth Osborn	3	6	6	
John Booty	-	218	18	10	William Osborn	4	14	2	
Thomas Shipp	85	15	6	William Brindish	2	16	0		
John Frost	-	56	12	0	Isaac Clarke	-	1	5	0
John Grimwade	29	10	6	Elizabeth Pettit	4	17	0		
Richard Clements	18	13	11	William Blomfield	2	6	0		
Daniel Stiff	-	26	5	6	Martha Mee	-	3	17	6
Jonathan Smith	14	5	0	William Mulley	1	10	0		
John Andrews	1	16	0	Elizabeth Blomfield	0	18	0		
Ann Osborn	-	2	8	6	Mary Gude	-	0	14	0
John Rollaston	7	10	4	Isaac Warren	0	10	0		
Widow Crofs	-	2	7	0	John Bore	-	1	13	6
Ann Mee	-	5	13	0	John Andrews	1	1	0	
Sufannah Price	4	1	0						
<b>Total cash distributed to the above sufferers</b>					<b>593</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>		

*When the game is decided by snatches seven or nine are the game, and these if the parties be well matched take two or three hours to win. Sometimes a large football was used; the game was then called "kicking camp"; and if played with the shoes on "savage camp." Matches were often between rival parishes and stirred local passions. "Amid shouting and roaring of the population the players were not disposed to treat one another gently." Some games even turned so nasty that there was serious injury and loss of life.*

*It was recorded that a match at Diss Common in the early nineteenth century was so brutal that nine men were killed or died of their injuries. While some people thought that camping was a combination of all athletic excellence others saw it as little more than a stand-up fight. The contest for the ball 'never ends without black eyes and bloody noses, broken heads or shins, and some serious mischief,' a writer said in 1830 when camping popularity was at its height.*

These antiquated games went into sharp decline in the 19th century when the Highway Act 1835 was passed banning the playing of football on public highways. A tragedy occurred on this section of road at the start of September 1936, when seven-year-old London girl, Pamela Strange, the niece of Frank and Kitty Burt, fell off a cart horse being led from the harvest field by 12-year-old Percy Brinkley. The horse was bitten by a fly which caused it to bolt, throwing the girl off and under the wheels of the fully laden cart. The accident was witnessed by Mr Gershom Miles, farmer of Gt Ashfield, who was passing in his car and who assisted and called for help. Sadly, the injuries were so serious that nothing could be done to save her. At the inquest Mr Miles said that no one could have held the horse under the circumstances.

A farmhouse belonging to Mr John Fiske was located near the left-hand corner, probably where the first cottages stand. Different members of the Fiske family had huge land holdings across East Anglia and at one time of Henry VIII held the manor of Hardings in Norton. It is probable that this John Fiske had been born in Norton, but let the farm and farmhouse. He appears to be the John Fiske, surgeon of Saffron Walden who gave Rev. Dicken the right to have the roadway built along an existing footpath to the church (Now called Church Lane). I would imagine that the cluster of cottages at the corner, known locally as

'Rowland's Corner', date from after the fire, but if you know differently please let me know. It is known by that name as the family had a building business and village shop there. The grocery shop had previously been run by Mr and Mrs Alfred Green. The shop and next-door cottage have since been combined into one home.



The field on the 1787 map shown as Home Meadow had become Knacker's Meadow by the 1840s. Knackering was the slaughtering of worn out or injured animals and the disposal of dead ones. The by-products such as sinews, tendons and hooves were then used to make glue or neat's-foot oil and bones were ground to make bone-meal fertiliser. Hides would go to a tannery and meat would be sold for dog food. Fat would be rendered and made into candles. Most villages at that time would have had a facility like this and it was not till motor lorries became available to remove animals that village knacker's yards became redundant.

The old Salvation Army Barracks stood at the entrance to Finter's Field (1840s Tithe Map) which was the long thin field with the name John Fiske on it on the 1787 map. It was owned by Eric Rowland and family.

On the other side of the road between the two bends and bordered by the road way to Norton Hall is 'Mill Hill'. There is a Mill Hill recorded in the Fiske Documents as Millhill Close and Melhilfeilde, both entries from the 1500s. There is no record on the Suffolk Mills website, but this doesn't mean that there wasn't ever a mill there.





**NORTON AND DISTRICT  
TWINNING ASSOCIATION  
REPORT AND UPDATES**

**Visit by our friends from Muids, 25th - 28th May 2017**

What a brilliant, action-packed weekend, tiring but enjoyed by all.

The annual 'Twinning gathering' started in the traditional way with a welcome reception in the village hall. Our guests were then whisked off to their host's homes to recover from their journey and prepare for the events of the next day.

Friday dawned as a bright and sunny day, perfect weather for a tour of Bury St Edmunds in the morning and the brewery in the afternoon. I first moved to this area in 1975 and had often wondered what was inside the tall building opposite the theatre – I now know. Mind you, there were a lot of steps and it was very, very warm – a good place to be in winter, not so good on a very warm late-spring afternoon. The view from the roof was spectacular; there aren't many places in Bury where you can get high enough to see over the town. At the end of the tour we were able to taste some of the beers - I'm not sure that our French guests understand the subtleties of real ale!!!

No time to rest after the brewery trip – home, quick wash and out ready for the Medieval Banquet at the Three Tuns in Bungay. However, there was no need to worry about the attire as costumes had been hired. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion which was good fun from start to finish. The costumes helped the jester, knights, nobles and their ladies assume their respective roles. The monk and the cardinal took their duties very seriously. There was a lot of kissing of hands and blessing of people, buildings and cars in the middle of the town. The drivers in Bungay town centre were very patient and joined into the spirit of the occasion as the cardinal stopped the traffic and 'blessed' each vehicle as it passed – it didn't matter what they said to

him, he doesn't understand very much English!

Then there was the entertainment between the courses of a very fine dinner in the banqueting room. There was music and songs; then came the audience participation. The men were challenged to hold a very heavy sword aloft with one arm. It quickly became apparent that by modifying the demonstrated straight-arm technique by adding a bend at the elbow it became a little easier, but it still required strength and a lot of determination. The challenge presented to the ladies required concentration, good hand-eye co-ordination and an ability to see through the tears of laughter in a raunchy version of hoopla. No more needs to be said: what goes on in Bungay, stays in Bungay!

Saturday dawned as another beautiful day. Our guests stayed with their families for the day and were taken to visit many of the regions places of interest – Wimpole Hall, Sandringham, Ickworth House, Cambridge, Gainsborough's house, Long Melford and a beach hut at Southwold to name but a few places. Our visitors left early on Sunday morning. The weather had been very kind to us and everyone was still smiling. After saying our fond farewells we all went home for a cup of coffee and a much needed sleep!

**Dates for your diary:**

**15th July: Summer Social and BBQ** – a free members only event

**20th August: French Boule and Croquet**, Pimms, tea and scones – a members only event – Cost £5.00

**14th October: Wine Tasting open to all. 1930 in the Village Hall.** Cost £10.00 per person

If you would be interested in joining the Twinning Association PLEASE get in touch. You do not need to be able to speak French but some patience and a sense of humour are probably essential qualities.

**For more information on any aspect of Twinning Association membership and social events please contact: Jane Williams, the Membership Secretary, by email at [penrhiwgarn@hotmail.com](mailto:penrhiwgarn@hotmail.com)**

**REGULAR VILLAGE EVENTS**

Monday	Toddlesong for 0-4 years -- 0930-1130 -- Salvation Army Hall Jo's fit4all Class -- 1930 -- Village Hall Foodie Mondays at the Norton Dog. £10. for 2 courses & £15. for 3 courses from a special menu
Tuesday	Carpet Bowls -- 1400 -- Baptist Hall '610' Children's Club -- 1800-1900 -- Salvation Army Hall (term time only)
Wednesday	Zumba -- 1815 & 1930 -- Village Hall
Thursday	Lunch Club at the Salvation Army -- 1200-1300
Friday	Zumba -- 0915 -- Village Hall
Sunday	Norton Adult Football - Contact Aaron ( <a href="mailto:aaron.florian@btinternet.com">aaron.florian@btinternet.com</a> )

## JUST A THOUGHT

I have been interested in language and its development, dialects and slang for many years and having recently been to see Charlie Haylock give a talk, I started searching around on Google for some Suffolk words which I still occasionally use. Many of these are to do with nature and some are old agricultural terms.

However, in the midst of my potterings I came across a 2015 article in 'The Guardian' headed "The word-hoard: Robert Macfarlane on rewinding our language of landscape". It was mainly about Hebridean dialect words used to describe the moorland of the Island of Lewis, but what particularly caught my attention was this paragraph :-

'The same summer I was on the Island of Lewis, a new edition of the *Oxford Junior Dictionary* was published. A sharp-eyed reader noticed that there had been a culling of words concerning nature. Under pressure, Oxford University Press revealed a list of the entries it no longer felt to be relevant to a modern-day childhood.

The deletions included *acorn, adder, ash, beech, bluebell, buttercup, catkin, conker, cowslip, cygnet, dandelion, fern, hazel, heather, heron, ivy, kingfisher, lark, mistletoe, nectar, newt, otter, pasture* and *willow*.

The words taking their places in the new edition included: *attachment, blockgraph, blog, broadband, bulletpoint, celebrity, chatroom, committee, cut-and-paste, MP3 player* and *voice-mail*. As I had been entranced by the language preserved in the prose-poem of the "Peat Glossary", so I was dismayed by the language that had fallen (been pushed) from the dictionary. For *blackberry*, read *Blackberry*.'

I have no truck with the addition of modern English usage, but I am dismayed and uneasy to think that these are **substitutions** made in the '*Oxford Junior Dictionary*', where the outdoor and the natural being displaced by the indoor and the virtual. These are a small but significant symptom of the simulated screen life many of us live. The terrain beyond the

city fringe is chiefly understood in terms of large generic units ("field", "hill", "valley", "wood") probably due to the speed that we are passing them.

As I update this on the morning of June 8<sup>th</sup> (Election Day), BBC Breakfast TV happens to be running an item highlighting this very problem!!!

Many youngsters think that '*fields*' are used to grow '*corn*', without being shown the differences between the main crops of wheat, barley and oats and probably many can't distinguish sugar beet from potatoes or oil seed rape.

Taking the word 'field' as an example are children losing the richness and understanding of more specific words?

Field. An open piece of land normally used for growing crops.

Meadow. A piece of grassland used for cutting hay or a piece of low lying land bordering a river.

Pasture. Land covered with grass and other low plants suitable for grazing animals, especially cattle or sheep.

Paddock. A small field or enclosure where horses are kept or exercised.

Perhaps many adults would be stumped with less well known ones.

Ley. A piece of land put down to grass, clover, etc., for a single season or a limited number of years, in contrast to permanent pasture.

Spong. Old Suffolk word for a long narrow field.

Going towards St Andrew's, the field on the right halfway down Church Lane behind the tall hedge, is named The Spong.

Pightle. Old Norfolk/Suffolk word for a small field. In the post WW1 era many fields were squared-up, to aid mechanised farming. The parts which were left, often irregular or triangular were known as pigtales or pightles for example Pightle Close, Elmwell

Why not register with some friends and take part in the Great British Wild Flower Hunt. You don't need to be an expert and there are sheets to help you.

[www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflowerhunt/register/](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflowerhunt/register/)

Wouldn't it be a great thing to do near where you live and get the children involved. David B.

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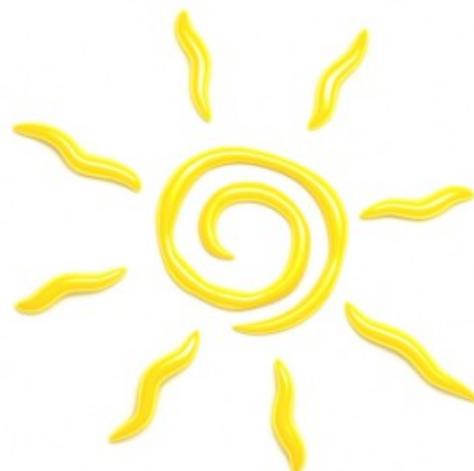
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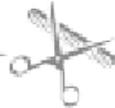
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## NORTON VILLAGE WALK

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 from the Village Hall.

This walk is being led by members of The Ramblers from the village.

All humans and well behaved dogs welcome.

Please be aware that sections through the nature reserve which is not suitable for pushchairs

