

# the norton messenger

July 2019



## EDITORIAL

There's lots of news in this edition, with some exciting ideas from the new Parish Council chairman for improvements to the village, as well as the minutes of the Parish Council meeting. If you would like to join the gardening group and haven't yet, please email me on the address below.

If you have anything to celebrate or someone you'd like to see featured in the Messenger, in addition to all the usual articles, then please send me the information with pictures too if you can manage it. Send your contribution to the address below by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

Best wishes

Diana



Editor:  
Diana Ferrar  
nortonmessenger@gmail.com



Dave Jones  
nortonsuffolk@gmail.com



Advertising:  
Fran Bolus  
nortonmessengeradvertising@gmail.com



Facebook:  
Norton Village

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## REGULAR VILLAGE EVENTS

Monday	Toddlesong for 0-4 years - 09:30-11:30 - Salvation Army Hall Tea and Toast 08:45 - Salvation Army Hall Jo's Paracise 1800 - 18.45 (see Ad) Village Hall Jo's Fit4All club 18.45 – 20.15 (See Ad.) Village Hall
Tuesday	'610' Children's Club – 18:00-19:00 - Salvation Army Hall (term time only) Carpet Bowls – 14:00 – Baptist Church Hall (open to all)
Wednesday	Tea and Toast 08:45- Salvation Army Hall Tai Chi 12.00-13.00 ( <a href="mailto:martinfayers@yahoo.co.uk">martinfayers@yahoo.co.uk</a> ) Village Hall Mini Movers 10-10.45 for 2-4 year olds in term time ( <a href="mailto:jodie@dancingsparkes.co.uk">jodie@dancingsparkes.co.uk</a> ) Village Hall Infant Dance Class 17.00-17.45 for Reception to Year 2 in term time (Josie Sparkes) Village Hall Zumba 18.15-19.15 £5 at the door (Josie Sparkes) Village Hall Fitsteps 19.45-20.30 £5 at the door (Josie Sparkes) Village Hall
Thursday	Lunch Club at the Salvation Army – 12:00-13:00 – open to all
Friday	Zumba 9.15-10.15 £5 at the door (Josie Sparkes) Village Hall Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Craft Club – 19:00 - Salvation Army Hall
Sunday	Services at 10.45am and 18:00 (Family Service) Daito Ryu Aiki Jujutsu 10.00-12.00 ( By Appt: <a href="mailto:DaitoRyuNorton@gmail.com">DaitoRyuNorton@gmail.com</a> ) Village Hall

### NORTON SALVATION ARMY

Sunday Services 11am & 6pm

**(Family service/Breakfast 7th – 10.45am)**

Monday Tea & Toast 8.45 – 9.30am

" Toddlesong' 9.30-11.30am

Tuesday '610' Children's Club 6-7pm

Thursday Lunch Club 12noon - **open to all ages**

Friday 12th Craft Club 7pm-9pm



This month the family service will be a 'Children's Celebration' morning when our leader will be Claire Cachelin, who is the SA Children's Specialist for the Anglia Division. You are warmly invited to join us.

### 'Big Adventure' weekend

Six of our young people from the '610' Club spent an action packed weekend at the SA 'Big Adventure' weekend which was held at Sheringham. It was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and also meet new people.

### Summer Open-Air Services

Dates have still to be finalised. Please check on 'facebook' for details.

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@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.jarrold@salvationarmy.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.nortonsalvationarmy.co.uk](http://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](mailto:katherine@kavalentine.plus.com)

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

## JULY 2019

7th

at

**Race!**

14th

21st

28th

8am Holy Communion

**9.30am for 10am family@church  
Pakenham - Running the**

6pm Evensong

11am Morning Prayer

9.30am Family Communion



**9.30am for 10am - St Mary's Pakenham**

**Breakfast refreshments & Crafts available from 9.30am** This service on the first Sunday of every month is run by the whole benefice and is the opportunity for all our villages and families to join together in worship and get to know each other.

**Look out for the invitation coming through your door!**

**SUNDAY 7TH JULY - RUNNING THE RACE**

**SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST - BRING A BIBLE**

### Norton Coffee Morning

Weds 10th July 10.30am- 12noon

The next coffee morning for the summer is at Crawley Hall, Woolpit Rd, the home of Thelma and David Howes. Come and enjoy a coffee/tea with old friends and make some new ones too! All welcome.

## NORTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

I am writing to you as the newly elected Chairman of the Parish Council. Six councillors were elected unopposed at the May election and we have been fortunate to have co-opted three additional people to make up the full Council. I have been on the Council for the past three years but before that I was Chairman for six years. It is my intention to produce a Council action plan to cover the next four years. During our first meetings we have produced several ideas which will help to improve the village in the future. One idea, from Steve Sadler, Vice Chairman, is the creation of a fantastic recreational facility for the village. Steve has a small train, which is powered by electricity and can pull carriages. At present, the plan is to run the train, which will be free, through the woodland to the side of the recreation playing field. There are of course several issues we have to finalise but we are confident that this can be achieved this year. I have recently, successfully negotiated with the Fields First Trust, to have permission to proceed with this venture. We will keep you up to date with this plan in future. It is my intention to write a regular slot in the Messenger to keep residents up to date with Council developments. For instance, we are working closer with the Village Hall Management Committee to give them greater support, for what is a major community asset in our village. In addition, I would like to see greater efforts to curb speed in the village and we will be reviewing this topic. If you have any ideas which you feel would benefit Norton Village, then please contact me on 07808236860 or email:

[etchellsbutler@btinternet.com](mailto:etchellsbutler@btinternet.com)

David Etchells-Butler

Chairman Norton Parish Council

## **FANCY AN ALLOTMENT?**

I am writing this article to highlight to residents of Norton that we do have a large space of land which is used for allotments. The first question is, where are the Norton allotments? This is a good question as many residents do not even know that we do have them. If you drive or walk down Heath Road you will eventually get to the sharp bend which takes you up to Tostock. At the bend there is a bungalow to your right and to the left of the bungalow there is a track which you can drive down. After some 30 metres you will see the allotment space immediately to your right. Recently, the unused space has been ploughed and cleared. Currently, we have a small band of very enthusiastic residents, who have plots where they grow a very wide range of vegetables. I have had a plot for about 10 years and have enjoyed every minute. There is nothing better than fresh locally grown vegetables straight from the ground and into the cooking pot. The allotments are owned by the Norton Charity Trust, which is administered by Jill Rowland. The rent for the plot is very reasonable and the plot size can be catered for your particular needs. There has never been such a good time to come and select an allotment for yourself. If you are interested in having an allotment then please contact me and I can discuss any questions you might have.

David Etchells-Butler ( 07808236860 )

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## **NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS, MINUTES OF MEETING AND AUDIT**

### **Chairman:**

Mr. David Etchells-Butler, Tel: 01359 231673 Email: [etchellsbutler@btinternet.com](mailto:etchellsbutler@btinternet.com)

### **Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Steven Sadler, Tel 01359 230310

### **Councillors**

Mr. Brian Aket, Tel: 01359 232025 E-mail: [aket@btinternet.com](mailto:aket@btinternet.com)

Ms. Lesley Paris, Tel: 01359 232704 E-Mail: [lesley.paris@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lesley.paris@hotmail.co.uk)

Mrs. Teresa Long, Email: [tickynailon@gmail.com](mailto:tickynailon@gmail.com)

Mr. Robert Lenko, Email: [robert.lenko@me.com](mailto:robert.lenko@me.com)

Mr. Michael Thorpe Tel: 01359 231755 Email: [mikethorpe48@hotmail.com](mailto:mikethorpe48@hotmail.com)

Mr. Richard Belham Email: [richard@jubileefinance.co.uk](mailto:richard@jubileefinance.co.uk)

Mr. Charles Fakes Tel: 01359 760344 Email: [charles.fakes@besttravel.co.uk](mailto:charles.fakes@besttravel.co.uk)

Clerk: Mrs. Jillian Rowland, Willowbrook Cottage, Ashfield Road, Norton, IP31 3NN

Tel: 01359 240915 E-mail: [nortonparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:nortonparishclerk@outlook.com)

### **Mid Suffolk District Councillors**

Mr. Harry Richardson, Email: [harold.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:harold.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

Mrs. Wendy Turner, Email: [wendy.turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **County Councillor**

Mrs. Jane Storey, Tel: 01359 240555 E-Mail: [jane.storey@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:jane.storey@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk)

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

**PRESENT:** Mr. D. Fitchells-Butler, Mr. B. Aket, Mr. R. Lenko, Mrs. T. Long, Ms. L. Paris, Mr. S. Sadler, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)  
Mr. H. Richardson – District Councillor  
Public: Mr. P. Jefferson, Mr. R. Walton, Mr. J. Morgan.

**PUBLIC FORUM** – The Chairman invited comments from members of the public, but there were none.

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Richardson as the newly elected District Councillor. Mr. Richardson stated his first full council meeting would be on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR** – none

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST** – None

The Chairman welcomed the new Council to the first meeting of their 4-year term of office.

**APOLOGIES:** Mrs. J. Storey, Mrs. W. Turner.

**1. MINUTES**

- 1.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 were agreed and signed.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

- 2.1 Cooption – The Chairman reminded there were still 3 vacancies on the Council.  
2.2 Cars parked near junctions – The Clerk stated she had written to the car owners but no action had been seen. The Chairman agreed to speak with the owner of the car parked in School Close.

**3. PLANNING**

- 3.1 Planning Applications received in respect of:  
3.1.1 9 Hardings Lane, Norton, DC/19/01859 - Planning Application - Erection of 2no semi-detached dwellings and creation of two new vehicular accesses.  
The Council had no objection to this application.  
3.1.2 The Cottage, Lxworth Road, Norton, DC/19/01977 Householder Planning Application for erection of rear and side extensions and erection of a two-bay cartlodge and garden store.  
The Council felt the roofline of the proposed cartlodge should also be lowered.  
3.2 Planning application approved in respect of:  
3.2.1 Land Adjacent To Greenacre Cottage, Lxworth Road, Norton, DC/19/00830 for erection of 1 2-storey dwelling.  
3.3 Planning application refused in respect of:  
3.3.1 The Cottage, Lxworth Road, Norton, DC/19/00795 for erection of Rear and side extensions and erection of two-bay cartlodge and garden store.

**4. FINANCE**

- 4.1 The Council received request for financial donation from EACH. At this time, the Council declined.

Signed.....

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

(cont 2)

- 4.2 The following accounts were approved for payments:

Street Cleaner, £166.40, cheque no 022140  
Clerk, £140.08, cheque no 022141  
HMRC, £76.62, cheque no 022142  
Tenbats, March, April, May, £702.58, cheque no 022143  
Vertas, £242.25, cheque no 022144  
SALC, Subscription and course, £401.40, cheque no 022145  
LexisNexis, £110.99, cheque no 022146  
BHIB Insurance, £1330.17, cheque no 022147  
SPS. Subscription, £30.00, cheque no 022148  
Clerks & Councils Direct, £12.00, cheque no 022149

- 4.3 The Council approved SALC as the internal auditor for 2018-19  
4.4 The Clerk presented the statement of accounts for 18-19 ready for the APM. The Councillors approved the Statement.  
4.5 The Clerk presented the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 for review and approval. The Councillors approved and the forms were signed.  
4.6 The Clerk presented the Fixed Assets Register for the year 2018-19 which was approved by the Councillors.  
4.7 The Clerk presented a budget statement for 2019-20.  
4.8 The Clerk confirmed receipt of 6 month precept £10,000.  
4.9 The Clerk presented the current bank statement to April 2019 showing a balance of £16638.51.  
4.10 The Clerk presented the Bank forms to change signatories following the elections. It was agreed that this should be Mr. S. Sadler and Ms. L. Paris, with the removal of Mr. A. Burt, Mrs. K. Fullam and Mrs. P. Mathieson. Mr. B. Aket and Mrs. J. Rowland would remain.

**5. PLAY AREA**

- 5.1 Monthly inspection report – Mr. Lenko agreed to be the nominated Councillor to inspect the Lxworth Road area and Mrs. Long agreed to inspect the Prospect Road area and report to the Council each month.  
5.2 Play area equipment repairs – update for Prospect Road, and Village Hall play area. The Clerk confirmed that repairs should be undertaken in the near future, as agreed at the previous meeting.  
5.3 Goal Posts – allocated £106 money – The Clerk stated she would seek advice from Mr. Burt concerning the 5-a-side posts considered for the playing field.

**6. STANDING ORDERS**

- 6.1 The Clerk had forwarded copies of the Council's Standing Orders and Risk Assessment to all Councillors for approval. After discussion, all were agreed and signed by the Chair.  
6.2 A draft CCTV Policy is required and would be given to the Chairman to review in conjunction with the Village Hall Chairman and would be brought to the next Council meeting for consideration and adoption.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 7.1 Councillors considered the future dates and times for Council meetings but all confirmed that the first Monday at 7pm should remain.

Signed.....

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

(cont 3)

- 7.2 The Council considered another annual litter pick and Mr. Sadler agreed to be the organiser for a date in the summer time.  
7.3 Fields In Trust AGM 4<sup>th</sup> June in London - Noted  
7.4 SCC Highways: Grass cutting 2019/20 - Noted

**CORRESPONDENCE for information**

- 7.5 Suffolk View  
7.6 Clerks and Councils Direct.

**8. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- 8.1 The Chairman felt the Council should have a four year Action Plan for improvements in the village and he asked each Councillor to bring considerations to the next meeting.  
8.2 Ms. Paris agreed to continue posting items on behalf of the Council onto the facebook page.  
8.3 Railway - Mr. Sadler outlined his vision of a small railway track to the rear of the Village hall. He has purchased track and two small trains and carriages able to carry passengers. This could help fundraise for various organisations or attract users to the Hall. Various concerns were raised: cost, storage, risk assessment, fenced area. The proposal would probably require FIT agreement. More details will be brought to the next meeting.  
8.4 Dog Fouling – Mrs. Long commented that dog fouling is a problem in Prospect Road. She asked for a sign asking owners to clear up. Councillors felt a bin could also be put up in this area. Costings will be brought to the next meeting. Mr. Sadler wondered if the prison dogs caused a problem on the playing field when the hall was used for training, but was assured that this is not the case.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 9.1 APM - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
9.2 Council Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019  
9.3 The July Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

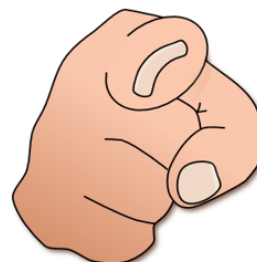
NOTICE		NOTES
1. Date of announcement 1 <sup>st</sup> JUNE 2019 (a)		
2. Each year the smaller authority's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The unaudited AGAR has been published with this notice. As it has yet to be reviewed by the appointed auditor, it is subject to change as a result of that review. Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2019, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to: (b) Mrs J Rowland, Parish Clerk, Willowbank Cottage, Rensfield Road, Norton Tel 01454 859741 Email nortonparishclerk@outlook.com commencing on (c) Monday 17 June 2019 and ending on (d) Friday 26 July 2019		
3. Local government electors and their representatives also have: • The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and • The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority. The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.		
4. The smaller authority's AGAR is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice 2015. The appointed auditor is: PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) 1 Westferry Circus Canary Wharf London E14 4HD (sba@pkf-littlejohn.com)		
5. This announcement is made by (e) WILLIAM ROWLAND		



## VILLAGE NOTICES



### YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS



# YOU

In the last few years our Village Hall has steadily become more popular, and last year alone we increased our hire income by 70%, courtesy of improved facilities and our new online booking system at [www.nortonvillagehall.com](http://www.nortonvillagehall.com) As a 'not-for-profit' charity (reg. charity #1063062) we plough this money back into the Village Hall to regularly upgrade our facilities. Our future progress depends on your support, hiring the hall, attending events and activities, and engaging in its development projects.

Our current plans cover improvements to our heating/air-conditioning system and upgrades to our stage lighting and sound systems.

We could do with some extra pairs of hands! We are all volunteers. Managing this work is interesting and challenging, but our resources are limited. We need some 'new blood' on our management committee, and we would like to hear from any of you keen to get involved as a member of our team.

Please get in touch by email [nortonvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:nortonvhbookings@gmail.com) or call us on 07951 378230

Norton Village Hall Management Committee

### VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Once again there will be a litter pick to improve our village.

4<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 10am

Meet in car park at the Village Hall.

All welcome.

Contact Steven Sadler (01359 230310) for more information

## NORTON W.I.

If there is one subject which engages the British public most frequently it is THE WEATHER! So at our June meeting our President, Jane Williams, gave us a very comprehensive talk about this very subject. She started by showing us the orientation of the world, how it is tipped at an angle of 23.5 degrees and how the British Isles are placed in relation to this angle. Our weather is largely dominated by the sea and its temperature which surrounds us. Although, for example, we are on the same latitude as Labrador in Canada, because they don't have the sea influence on their weather it is much colder. Jane also talked about the weather forecasters favourite item, the jet stream, and how that also affects us, depending on where it is flowing at any time. Britain also sits on the edge of two main weather regions so that also influences the weather. We talked about thunderstorms, tornadoes, cyclones and hurricanes, thankfully some of these we do not have and the hot topic of the day, climate change. This will in due course affect us all worldwide, and is indeed already doing so in many parts of the world, including Britain. No doubt we shall continue to talk about the weather, I think it is in our blood.

Our July meeting will be held on the first of the month and is one to which we all look forward as it is usually held in a member's garden, weather permitting, or indoors if not. This year we shall be meeting in Annie Leighton's garden and hoping for a nice day. In the meantime an outing to see the roses at Peter Beales in Attleborough is being planned. Visitors and new members always welcome at our regular meetings on the first Monday of the month at the Baptist Chapel hall at 2pm. Further details from our Secretary Val Ford, 01359 233320. Helen Taylor.

## DOWN OUR STREET

This month I am taking a look at the history of the 'Odd Fellows' of Norton.

The earliest Guilds in England can be traced back to the 8th century and followed the establishment of the Christian Church in Britain, which advocated setting up local fraternities for mutual support and protection. These guilds were sworn brotherhoods that had binding oaths to support one another in times of adversity and back one another in trade ventures alongside with their philosophical and ceremonial role. Meetings involved proper decorum and wearing of regalia such as chains of office, special robes and so on. They have elaborate initiation ceremonies in which apprentices who join go through a step-by-step "initiatory rites" intended to teach them the mysteries and secrets of the trade, moral principles, and to ascend them into hierarchy within the association. Apprentices were the trainees, Fellows were the wage earners or 'journeymen' (which comes from the Latin term for 'day' as they were paid by the day), the Masters (experts) were the bosses and owners of businesses. Each guild was headed by a Grand Master whose role included judging the completion of training by the Apprentices, each of whom had to submit a sample of their work, a Masterpiece, to the Grand Master to prove their skill. By the 13th century, Trade Guilds had been established in every city, town and village in the country. Guild meetings were usually held in churches, but more prosperous Guilds began building their own Guild Halls for their meetings and feasts.

In 1545, when Henry VIII broke free from Rome, all the material property of the Guilds was confiscated by the Crown because of their integral connection with the Roman Catholic church. With the loss of their assets, the locally based Guild system was beginning to fail. Some adapted to become 'Freemasons' and others 'The City of London Livery Companies' such as The Merchant Taylors, Goldsmiths and Skinners, etc. However, as early as the 1600's, *fellows* or *journeymen* from various crafts and guilds formed their own fraternities called "journeymen associations", to defend their collective interests against the monopoly of the guild "Masters" and to provide food, lodging, and guidance for one another when they travelled in search for work. As compared with the craft guilds, these associations usually consisted of "**fellows**" and "apprentices" representing numerous crafts or trades – an "**odd**" mixture of tradesmen or '**Oddfellows**'.

During the closing years of the 18th century, when the French Revolution was in progress, suspicions about the motives of the Oddfellows and other societies reached fever pitch and penal laws were passed that meant membership of a society like the Oddfellows was a criminal offence.

The 'gatherings of ordinary working people' were considered a threat and organisations such as the Oddfellows developed schemes to protect themselves and their members. Passwords were introduced for meetings and members could only be introduced by existing members who knew and trusted them, which usually meant close family and friends only.

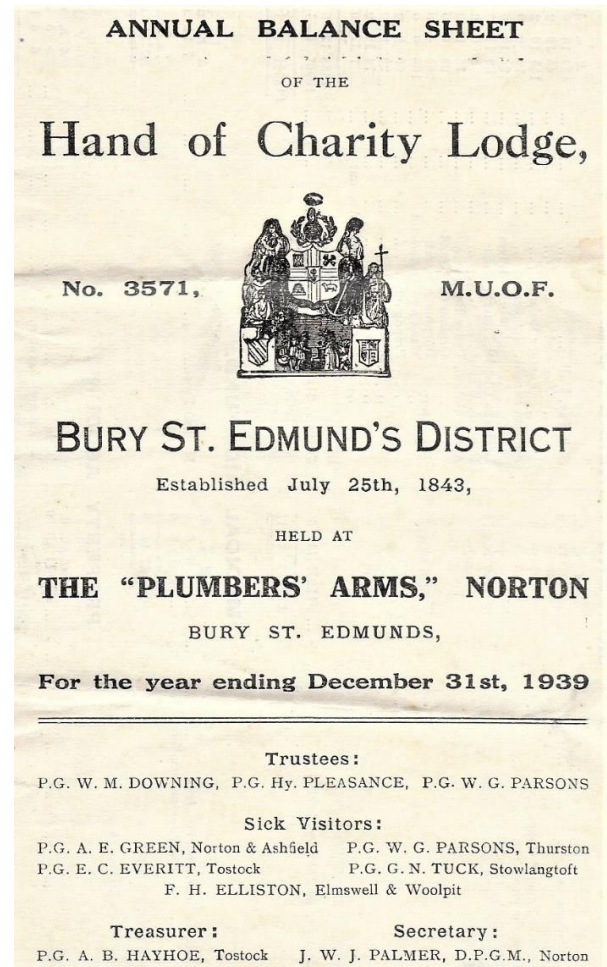
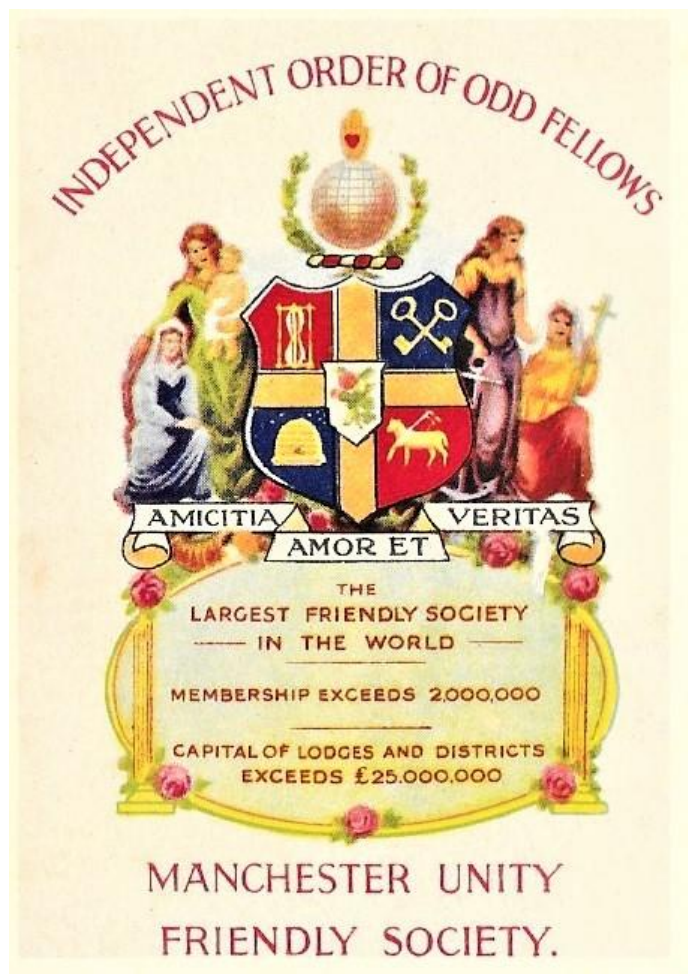
An Act of Parliament was passed suppressing 'all societies which administer oaths and correspond by signs and passwords'. To make this effective the Government employed spies and informers to infiltrate lodge meetings to gain evidence for magistrates of illegal activities.

In 1834, farm workers in West Dorset formed a workers' union as they could not bear yet more cuts to their pay. Some fought back by smashing the new threshing-machines, but this brought harsh punishments. Unions were lawful and growing fast, but six leaders of the union were arrested and sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia *for taking an oath of secrecy*. A massive protest swept across the country. Thousands of people marched through London and many more organised petitions and protest meetings to demand their freedom. They were pardoned in 1836 and returned to England between 1837 and 1839. They became known as the 'Tolpuddle Martyrs'.

The **Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited**, also called the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, came into existence in 1810 and grew to be the largest 'Friendly Society' in the world. On Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1843, The Norton Lodge, number 3571 formed and was named **"Hand of Charity"**.

Photo 1) Taken from an old colour postcard, this shows the Oddfellows Coat of Arms with their motto **'AMICITIA AMOR ET VERITAS'** which stands for **'FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND TRUTH'**.

Photo 2) The cover of the Hand of Charity Lodge's Annual Balance Sheet for Dec 1939.



The Lodge was based at 'The Dog' in the early days and contemporary newspaper reports show that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Meeting was held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 1845. Members of the Oddfellows processed from Dog Corner to St Andrew's Church, 'headed by the Woolpit Band, which much enlivened the scene and caused a vast assembly of spectators from the surrounding parishes, and a great number followed them to church'. Dr Thomas Barsham was the President of The Lodge and Rev Dr Aldersey Dicken gave the address to the members from Ecclesiastes Ch 11 v 9.

**You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.**



Photo 3) Dr. Thomas Barsham. Surgeon of Norton. Photo 4) Rev. A Dicken D.D., Rector of Norton.

At three o'clock about 50 brethren and friends sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the host Smith of 'The Dog', in a room appropriately decorated for the occasion. It was stated that the Bury District had 36 Lodges and over 15,000 members and that numbers were increasing rapidly.

However, we need to remember that Oddfellows remained an illegal organisation right up to 1850, at which time some Members of Parliament still expressed concerns about the capabilities of the Oddfellows to ferment trouble because it had organised groups of people in all major towns and cities across the country.

The appeal of the Oddfellows arose because there was no Welfare State or National Health system, meaning that if a man was injured at work, there was no income for his family or help with doctor's fees. If he died, there was no help with funeral costs or aid for his widow and dependants and of course, there was no Old Age Pension! Oddfellows filled this important place in people's lives for a modest subscription and did not acknowledge wealth, rank or social status of its members but was there to benefit the lives of humanity. It encouraged happiness and prosperity through thrift, sobriety and self-respect.

Numbers grew rapidly and by 1893 (the jubilee year) there were 320 members and the Lodge had long since moved across from 'The Dog' to the club room attached to the 'Plumber's Arms'. The anniversary was held on Mr Rolfe's meadow and there were fairground rides powered by steam engines, marquees, (including a large one for the luncheon), sports, shooting galleries and fruit, vegetable and flower shows with prizes. My own great grandfather was an honorary member. One object of particular interest that morning was a large cart drawn by a single horse, in which, amid profuse decoration stood a woman in 'widow's weeds', holding a baby in her arms and surrounded by three girls of varying ages. The representation being intended to personify the objects and usefulness of the Lodge. The event was photographed by William Spanton.

In 1911, the Oddfellows protected so many people in Britain that when the government set up the National Insurance Act, they used the Oddfellows' actuarial tables to work out the level of contribution and payment required.

After the Second World War, many of the Oddfellows' key administrators were sought to run the fledgling Welfare State and National Health Service, because most people viewed friendly societies as being integral to health and welfare provision in the UK. Since 1948 the Society has continued to offer its members this unique mix of social involvement, care and support and financial benefits.



**Norton Hand of Charity Lodge of Odd Fellows and Norton British Legion returning from a church parade 40 years ago. The picture was sent by C. J. Pleasance, of 10 Ixworth Road, Norton, who writes that in the front centre is Bury St. Edmunds Grand Master Mr. H. Rudd, escorted by lodge officers Messrs. B. Weston and C. Pleasance. The parade marshal was Mr. W. Parsons. Combs Brass Band is playing.**

Photo 4) A newspaper clipping of the Oddfellows and Legion. Possibly in The Street near Dog Corner?



Mr William Parsons wearing his Chain of Office. He was Olive Wordley's father and David's grandfather. Thanks to him for sharing this photo and Photos 3 & 4.

If anyone has any interesting memories of the Oddfellows please contact David Burt.

[bg55599@hotmail.com](mailto:bg55599@hotmail.com)



After a very short half term and a week's break we are back to school for the final half term of this academic year. This half term is always very busy with so many events to look forward to from the Key Stage 2 Production, to Sports Day and my personal favourite Norton's Got Talent. But amongst the business my aim is always to spend time in the classes and just appreciate the journey, both academically and socially, that the children have been on during the year. The children in EYFS are now so confident and familiar with the school routines while the Year 6s are demonstrating that they are ready to start their next chapter of schooling. Through talking to the children and looking through their work you can see how clearly they have progressed during the year and just how enthused they are about their learning. I truly do see this as a privilege of the job.

On our first week back after half term each class has had an opportunity to visit St. Andrew's Church in Norton to 'Experience Pentecost'. With the help of volunteers from the local churches Rev Katherine transformed the building, setting up 6 stations to teach the children more about the birthday of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The children had a fantastic experience and we really appreciate so many people from the community being involved.

The science focus for EYFS and Key Stage 1 this term is linked to growing and so it is lovely to see a variety of plants of growing around the school and the children talking with enthusiasm about how their plant is growing. We are also lucky to have a Gardening Club which is run during one lunchtime as well as gardening sessions for each class during the term. This means that our school grounds continue to be well looked after and in the summer months you really appreciate how fortunate the children at Norton are to have a school in such a lovely setting.

We have seen many parents already visit the school during the month of June. It was lovely to see so many dads enjoy Fathers' Day Breakfast with their children. The hall was full of laughter and talk whilst eating a bacon roll or sausage bap.

On the same day we had our Share Day where parents were invited in to spend some time with their children. This year the focus was on Maths and it was great to see parents and children trying to break maths codes, make tri-flexagon, look for different ice cream combinations and sink battleships to name but a few activities. A good day was had by all, with lots of positive comments from parents and children.

From September, we are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, friendly and professional Midday Supervisor to support our children at lunchtimes. The post involves working from 12.00 -1.00pm Monday to Friday, and would really suit someone locally. If you are interested than please contact the school.

The next article I write will be the final one for the academic year but before then the children have trips to look forward to, Sports Week to participate in and assemblies to perform.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Sparkes  
Headteacher





## NORTON AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT AND UPDATES



Thursday 30th May saw a number of French guests head into Norton to meet their English hosts. For some, it was the first time of sharing in this experience but friendships quickly established and a strong bond was formed. Several of the original partnerships still exist today from the Twinning Association beginnings over 30 years ago.

After welcome drinks at the hall, all headed home to enjoy time together. Friday saw an opportunity for the families to meet at Holkham Hall on the North Norfolk coast, with a private tour of the stunning country home of the Earl of Leicester. French and English speakers were given the history in their respective languages followed by time to explore the beautiful grounds, walled garden and Field to Fork Exhibition.

Saturday 1st June was sunny and warm and a chance for free time with the families, some happy to relax at home and outings for others all over the county and beyond. As we met for the soirée in the evening, news was exchanged of trips to Framlingham, Ely, Snetterton Races and Cambridge to name but a few. The evening in the village included a three course meal, dancing and singing along to The Mighty Macca. Speeches from the English and French Twinning Presidents allowed us to reflect on this very special exchange. Sunday morning arrived all too soon as we waved farewell until our visit to Muids next year. Our thanks to Celia Deeley for organising us all and arranging and hosting the tour of Holkham.



Our next event is the Summer Social on Sunday 7th July for members only but those wishing to join would be most welcome. You are not obliged to host a family.

Contact Jane at  
[penrhiwgarn@hotmail.com](mailto:penrhiwgarn@hotmail.com)



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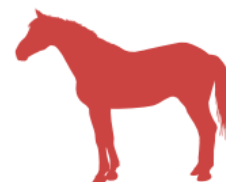
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