

October /
November
2022

372

Tostock Chronicle

Get the latest on news
and events online at

www.tostockpc.org.uk



The people of Tostock have always celebrated each of our much-loved Queen's Jubilees, with parties on the Green or in the Village Hall. Children's Sports Days were very popular, and each child received a Jubilee china mug –

now trees are to be given to the children to be planted in memory of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 .

Sadly, our Queen, whose service to our country we have celebrated for 70 years, has died, aged 96 . We thank her for her service to our country, in good times and times of sadness; for her dignity, kindness and commitment which she has maintained throughout her long life, as she had promised in 1947.

Queen Elizabeth never visited our lovely village of Tostock, but on Friday 21st of July, 1961, she was on a tour of East Anglia, travelling from Ipswich to Bury St. Edmunds on the old A45. At 4:15 pm a crowd of village people had gathered by the road at the top of the Leys, to greet the Queen as she was slowly driven past. They had a good view of the Queen, as can be seen from this photo, taken by Valerie Dye, and kindly lent by Miriam Rose.

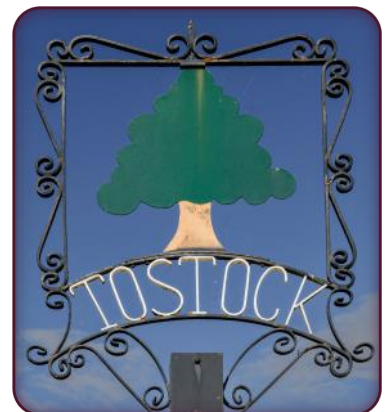
Thank you, Your Majesty, we shall remember you with love and affection.

Jeanne O'Reilly



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Steam Engine on the Green

Now there's something you don't see every day



Exhibition of Ingenious Machines

Sat 19th & Sun 20th November
10am to 4pm at Tostock Village Hall

I have organised this exhibition at Tostock village hall, having had to postpone it several times. I will be showing most of the Machines and Automata I have made over the last 30 years. Antony Hurden is joining me bringing along some interesting clocks.

There will be a small adult admission charge of £2, children free. Six of the machines operate with a £1 coin, all others are free. There will be fun interactive activities such as the marble run and the Rube Goldberg Chain reaction machine. Refreshments will be available to buy tea, coffee and cakes.

All proceeds will be for the East Anglian Charity EACH.

I have made things ever since a young child which is why I became an Engineer. When on holiday in Southend as a young boy I became fascinated by the machines on the Pier, including 'what the butler saw' which my father deftly made sure I did not see! By age 15 I made my first early attempt at an arcade machine using relays and bulbs. Over the years I have made around 20 machines generally getting more complex by making use of cheap small computers.

The word automata (Plural of Automaton) comes from the Greek word αὐτόματος, which means "self-acting, self-willed, self-moving". this can vary from simple cardboard or wood mechanisms to more complex machines. My Automata are designed to be fun and have developed into a number of mini Theatres such as my rock band. I will be showing my latest creation 'Star Wars'.

In recent years, as a STEM Ambassador, my focus has been on making machines to take into schools which the aim of engaging kids.

John Parnum STEM Ambassador

Tostock Fireworks



Entry Prices Remain Unchanged for 2022
£5 per Adult or £15 for a Family of 4

TOSTOCK Parish Council

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

SAT 5th NOVEMBER 2022

The Leys, Tostock,
6pm onwards

BBQ FOOD & DRINKS

SORRY, STRICTLY NO SPARKLERS ALLOWED

GLOWSTICKS ON SALE

This event can only take place with lots of much appreciated volunteer help & support.

Planning meetings have already started in September.

If you are able to offer any of your time, please contact **Hannah** on 'hannahgracejones@hotmail.com'

Flower and Veg Show

If it was still on, I'm sure Farimir Newport would have won with these giant onions



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 email

tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk to reserve it for your event

Tostock Media

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01359 270456

Tostock Website



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adrianjmalcom@aol.com

07921 010 878

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be in Tostock on the following dates for the rest of 2022 -

October 7th

November 4th

December 2nd

December 30th

Perkins Way 15.40 - 16.00

Gardners Arms 16.05 - 16.25

Tostock Quiz Night

28th October at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

Tables of up to 6 people. Cost £1pp, all proceeds donated to charity.

All welcome. Please bring your own wine/beer, glasses & snacks etc.

Advance notice of tables would be appreciated but not essential.

Please contact Tonia on 07711 022 404



Tostock Tidy Day

Jim Debenham, his wife Karen and I have been out twice litter picking as there is no official litter picker at the moment. The first was Church Road from the church to the junction of A1088. On this we filled up five black rubbish bags. Our second outing was on 9 Aug where we covered New Road and the Beyton Road from the corner of New Road to the bridge over the A14. This time we collected four bags of rubbish.

The next Tidy Day is scheduled for 12th November, after the August one was cancelled due to the extreme heat at the time.

Jim Langlois



Jim Langlois and
Jim Debenham



Karen Debenham and
Jim Langlois

Tostock Poor's Estate

If there are any older residents of Tostock (must have been resident for two years) who wish to apply for the Christmas Contribution, could they please contact **Sharon Markell** on 01359 271190 for an application form. All enquiries are treated with strict confidence. Previous recipients need not apply.

Tostock Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee joins the nation in offering its deepest heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family on the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our next meeting which was due to take place on Monday, 19th September has been postponed, and will now take place in October 2022.

If you have any matters relating to the village hall or its playing fields that you would like to be discussed, please email tostockvillagehall@outlook.com



A VERY BIG THANKS to Diane, Vanessa, Phil and Adrian for organizing this year's Tostock Art Show. Thanks too to all of the many helpers who assisted them with the setting up, running and dismantling of the Art Show.

It was another amazing year, made possible by the support and dedication of much appreciated village volunteers.

Village Hall Improvement Project

Information and feedback collected from the village survey and the community open session that was held earlier in the year, is being used to help shape the plans for the village hall's improvement project. The project has now entered its fund-raising stage which involves looking at grant applications. This is part of a multi-phased process which is likely to last for eighteen months to two years, and will enable us to decide on our intended plan to improve the hall and to obtain planning permission for the agreed approach.



REMEMBER: it is not too late to have your say on how we can design a more versatile & inclusive space, which not only continues to meet our existing needs, but also provides a foundation for future community growth.

Access the information online via www.affectcommunity.org



Tostock Fireworks Saturday 5th November 2022

The initial planning meeting for the event has taken place, and the team are busy getting everything in place for Saturday 5th November (please see separate notice for further details on timings etc).

There is always plenty to do, so if you are able to offer any of your time to help with the setting up or running of the event, please contact Hannah on hannahgracejones@hotmail.com

Tostock Past & Present Society



Our Autumn program got off to a resounding start with a visit by Mike Wabe, Town Crier of Watton. After 40 years as a Police and Prison Officer Mike has devoted a lot of his retirement to being a Town Crier and its historical context going back a thousand years. He kept us thoroughly entertained, and with his crier voice and bells there was no chance of any of us dropping off !

Autumn Program

Members and non members are welcome to all our talks which take place in the Village Hall (unless otherwise stated) at 7.30pm

October 4th - Dave Steward

The History of the North Norfolk Railway (The Poppy Line)

November 1st - AGM + Rory O'Brien

The History of the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds

December 6th – An evening with Doug Patterson (details and venue to be announced later)

For further details contact **Anthony Scully** (Chairman)
Email a.r.scully@btinternet.com

The Village ~~Brown~~ Green



Tostock Village Map

I have created a house names map of the village. It doesn't have peoples' names or their postcodes, but only the house names, information anyone could have if they wandered around the streets writing them down. It is available now as a downloadable PDF on our website under 'Our Village'.

Kim Mars

Mr & Mrs Anthony Villar

Mr & Mrs Anthony Villar are leaving the village after many years living and working at the Old Rectory.

Mrs Villar lived there with her parents Group Captain and Mrs Pearson Rogers as a child. She moved back to Tostock after her marriage to Mr Villar who took over the running of the farm in 1962.

Mr Villar was Chairman of the Parish Council for about 30years. He gifted the land for the Village Hall and for the Croft bungalows. He furnished the hall with the original chairs and tables as well as planting the hedges and trees. We wish them both all the very best for the future as they embark on the next stage of their lives in Shropshire.

Rosemary Lister

News from St Andrew's Church Tostock

Upon the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Sunday services during the period of mourning followed a revised liturgy as directed by our bishops. Church bells were tolled in accordance with ancient custom and a book of condolence was placed in Tostock church.

* * *

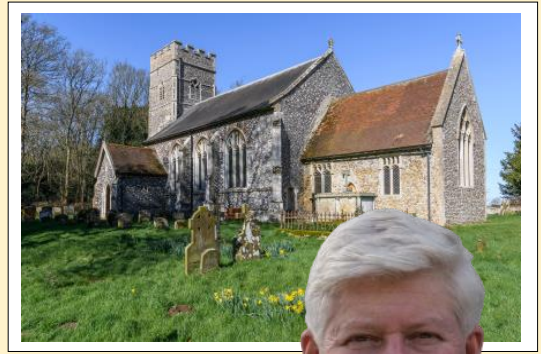
Back in August, thanks to the warm dry weather, we were able to hold our annual Pet Service in the churchyard, which meant that all the dogs were very quiet and well behaved compared with occasions in the past when they have set the church echoing with their barking. It was a pleasure to see so many furry friends on the day and we hope they enjoyed their biscuits and benefitted from their blessings.

This year we intend to hold our Remembrance Service in the church again. It will be at 10.45 am on Sunday 13th November.

As we approach Christmas, do bear in mind that Tostock Christmas cards will be available soon from the church. Please look out for details or ask any member of the Parochial Church Council.

As before, we will have many Christmas events and plenty of carol singing, which will be well advertised. The very popular Crib Service will be at its usual time of 3 pm on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Communion will be at 9.30 am the following day.

Martin Davies



Tostock Carpet Bowls Club

The Bury League has now been settled and instead of three divisions there are now two, the east and west - due to Clubs being unable to continue to due the effects of covid.

We have two league home games in October – 13 and 27 against Stanningfield and Woolpit – both at 7pm.

November 7 and 25 are away games against Cockfield and Stanton at 7.30pm.

Club sessions continue on Thursdays.

Doreen Buckle



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



MEMORIAL SERVICES 30TH OCTOBER 2022

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

All Memorial Service dates and times are:

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

St Andrew's Norton 4pm (Tostock names will also be read at this service)

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

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

(NB these memorial services are not to be confused with the Remembrance Service on November 13th when we remember those who died and suffered in war).

* * *

The **Church Christmas Fair** is on November 26th, starting at 12 noon. If you have any items for the Bric-a-Brac stall or books, toys, cakes, or anything which we can sell, please bring them to the Village Hall on Friday Nov 25th or Saturday morning. There will also be the Cafe selling light lunches and afternoon teas! Calendars and Christmas cards will be on sale, as will the famous Raffle with all its prizes.

* * *

The Floodlights are sponsored for October by Mary Pettit, in loving memory of Ken and our Wedding Anniversary.

Services at Romney Cottage, The Green, Tostock.

These are on Mondays **17th October and 21st November** at 10am. All are welcome to come along and join in this informal service of prayer, singing favourite hymns and coffee and chat afterwards. See you there!

St Andrew's Church Tostock

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022 CHURCH SERVICES

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

October

2ND 08:00 am 10:00 am	16TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Holy Communion (BCP) Family@Church HARVEST	Norton Pakenham
9TH 09:30 am 09:30 am 11:00 am	17TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Holy Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
16TH 09:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 06:00 pm	18TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion Morning Worship Evening Prayer & Praise	Pakenham Great Ashfield Norton Tostock
23RD 09:30 am 09:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	BIBLE SUNDAY TOAST Family Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	Great Ashfield Norton Tostock Hunston
30TH 10:00 am 03:00 pm 04:00 pm 05:00 pm	ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Benefice Holy Communion MEMORIAL SERVICE MEMORIAL SERVICE MEMORIAL SERVICE	Stowlangtoff Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield

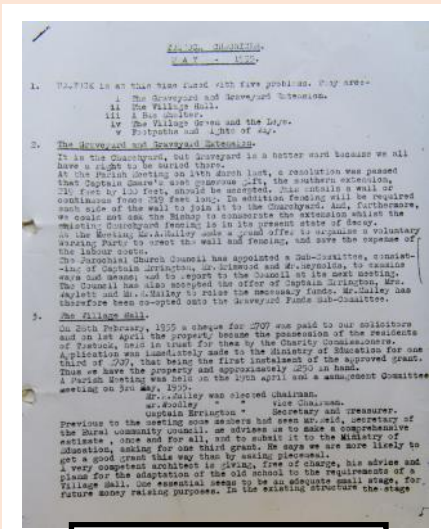
November

6TH 08:00 am 10:00 am	3RD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT Holy Communion (BCP) Family@Church REMEMBERING	Norton Pakenham
13TH 08:00 am 10:00 am 10:45 am 10:45 am 10:45 am 10:45 am 03:00 pm	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Holy Communion (BCP) Act of Remembrance at War Memorial Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Act of Remembrance Remembrance Service	Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Norton Tostock Stowlangtoff Pakenham
20TH 09:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 06:00 pm	CHRIST THE KING Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion Morning Worship Evening Prayer & Praise	Pakenham Great Ashfield Norton Tostock
27TH 09:30 am 09:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	ADVENT SUNDAY TOAST Family Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Norton Hunston Tostock

History of the Chronicle

... the longest and most comprehensive record of village affairs ...

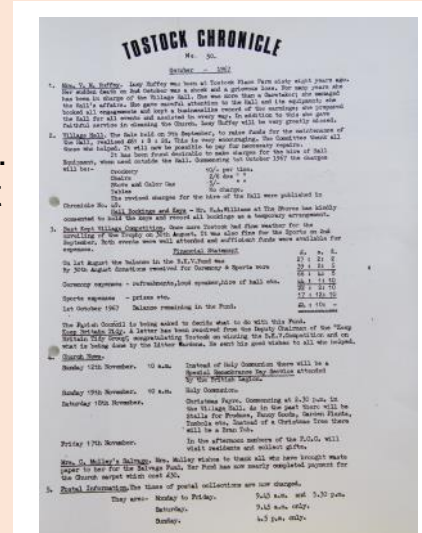
The first Tostock Chronicle was published in May 1955 and published on an 'as and when' basis. The then Chairman of the Tostock Parish Council was Captain RN 'Reggie' Errington who lived at Tostock Old Hall. Capt Errington, a well-respected pillar of the village, felt that all the residents of the village should be aware of the matters discussed in the Parish Council meetings as it affected everyone. He and Freddie Armstrong (also a parish councillor, who lived at Gable Cottage, The Green) worked together on the production of the Tostock Chronicle. Capt Errington solely financed the Tostock Chronicle with Freddie typing it out and printing it on a redundant duplicating machine that was donated by the Elmswell Bacon Factory. The finished item was a one double sided A4 sheet. Eldridge



No 1, May 1955

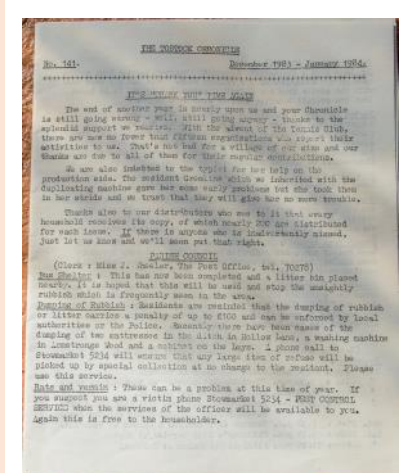
Marriott (who still lives in the village) delivered the first Chronicle to every household in the village and got paid five shillings.

When Capt Errington was no longer able to carry on Freddie continued its production together with Heather Spencer and the late Edward Nunn who kept the duplicating machine in his garage at Flinders, The Green. One can just imagine the number of hours put in and, not least, the messiness of it all. For a period of time Heather's son Kevin put the articles together ready for printing. In the 1970's, Robert Dahl of Wood Close, took over as Editor. When he left, Kevin Spencer of Perkins Way became Editor for two years, until he also left Tostock.



No 50, October 1967

In the 1980's it was thought the Tostock Chronicle would have to cease but this caused an outcry amongst the residents who wanted it to continue. The late Bill Hoadley (another parish councillor) volunteered to carry it on and became the Editor in 1982. He must have been Editor for 10 years or more. Charles Marriott (parish councillor), who ran a business and had offices at Hermitage Green House, agreed that his secretary would type up the script and print the necessary copies free of charge.



No 141, December 1983

This continued until Charles moved away and another solution had to be found. By this time the Parish Council had its own digital photocopier and as Jean Wheeler (The Post Office Lady of Fame) was the clerk to the council she was asked to print the copies.

Cont..

History of the Chronicle

I believe the photocopier was held at the Post Office. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the paper and printing ink as by this time the Tostock Chronicle had developed into a bi-monthly publication and had expanded to include all the various club notices and other matters.

When Bill sadly died, Jean was asked to put the Chronicle together and continue printing it. But during the 1980's the photocopier 'gave up the ghost' and Sheena Waitkins stepped forward and offered to arrange for the printing to be done by a small printing firm, which continues today. During this time, the Parish Council was asked if advertisements could be included. This was agreed and the fees that were paid more or less covered the cost of printing. The balance coming out of the precept on the Council Tax.

At some stage the Parish council suggested that the minutes of the meetings be printed in full but after a few issues residents were not happy with this and requested that a report be written as previously done. The responsibility for this was passed to Sheena and Jean. At some stage the Tostock Chronicle reverted back to seeing the full minutes.

In 2015 Shirley Nice joined the team and with Jean (as Editor) continued to produce the Chronicle due to Sheena being ill (and subsequently dying). But on Jean's death in 2018 Shirley continued to edit and produce the Chronicle by herself until July 2022. Several people assisted with proof reading and submitting pictures and articles.



No 351, February 2019



No 371, August 2022

From August 2022, Kim Mars took over as Editor, along with Adrian Malcom (sub editor/proof reader) and Jim Langlois (photographer). ***What is sadly missing from this history are the volunteers who have delivered and are still delivering the Tostock Chronicle through the years.***

All issues of the Tostock Chronicle have been retained and are held in two locations. Suffolk Records Office and the Past and Present Archives. Suffolk Records have said that it is ***the longest and most comprehensive record of village affairs*** that they hold.

Residents who are interested in viewing earlier editions of the Tostock Chronicle can do so by contacting Anthony Scully (Past and Present Society). Since 2016 some of the Chronicles are held in downloadable PDF form on the village website, under 'Our Village'.

So here we are in 2022, 67 years on and the Tostock Chronicle is still being produced. Long may it keep going.

Jim Langlois and Anthony Scully

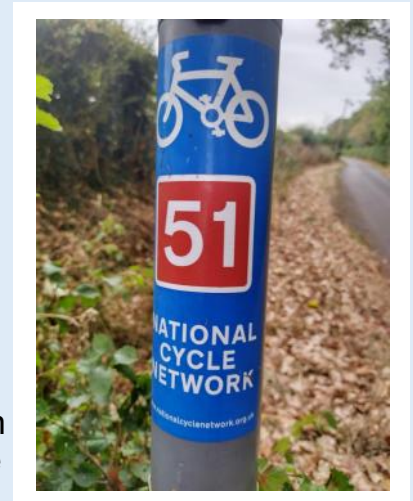
Cycling Around Tostock

Billy Gray

Did you know that National Cycle Route 51 passes right through the centre of Tostock?

As you've wandered about Hollow Lane or the quiet bye-ways around the village, have you noticed those small blue and white signs featuring the outline of a bicycle in white with the number 51 emblazoned in red? What you've seen is signage for the Tostock leg of National Cycle Route 51. Also known as the Varsity Way, this a long-distance route (200 miles) running broadly East-West. Starting at Oxford, the route runs through Kidlington, Bicester and Bedford, continuing through Cambridge, Bury, Stowmarket, Needham Market and Ipswich, before heading off to Felixstowe, crossing the Orwell estuary by ferry to Harwich, before finishing at Colchester. Phew!

Now, the good news is that you don't have to cycle the route in its entirety, but you can construct a local journey and enjoy the quiet lanes and delightful Suffolk scenery without it being a *Suffolk Tour de France*.



National Cycle Route 51 passes down Hollow Lane before turning left and sharp right to the Green, right at 'Crossings,' along The Leys, then left and right over the A14 riding on to Woolpit, Shelland, Onehouse, & Stowmarket; then on to Needham Market.



This is a good place to rest and take stock, whether to gird one's cycling loins and cross the A14, and journey on to Barham, Claydon, Ipswich and ultimately, Felixstowe.

The great thing is that if one wishes to have a linear ride, say to Stowmarket and no further, you can hop on a train back to Elmswell or Thurston. Greater Anglia Railways are extremely cycle friendly. If this all sounds a bit exhausting, Cycle Route 51 has many short ride tributaries in and around Tostock. Notably the Thurston

Loop, clearly signposted along Hollow Lane.

If one is new to cycling, Route 51 is a great place to start, it offers as much, or as little as you wish to pedal. It is relatively traffic-free most of the time and clearly marked, no mountains, but a few hills, especially around Levington!

Have fun exploring!



Pet Service at St Andrew's Church Tostock



2023 Village Calendar

Derrick and I are preparing the 2023 Tostock Village Calendar and are planning to have it available as from November and at the Christmas Fayre. This year we will be limiting the printing to 100 calendars.

The cost of the calendar will be £6 each with profits shared between St Andrew's Church and the Village Hall.

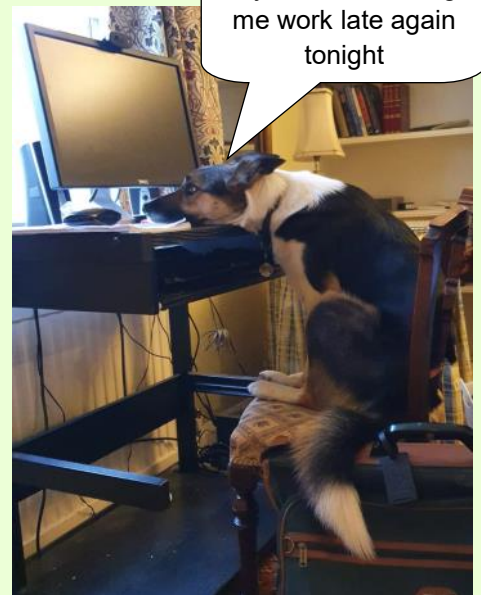
If you wish to pre-order to guarantee a calendar, please contact Derrick or myself.

Derrick Poole 01359 270197
Jim Langlois 01359 270456

It's a dog's life

THE JOB

My boss is making me work late again tonight





TOSTOCK TENNIS CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

COMMITTEE 2022-2023

CHAIRMAN- FREDDIE WALTON
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP - ELIZABETH DUNN
SECRETARY - SUSIE WALTON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS -
JOHN AND LIZ ADAMS AND NIGEL KAINES

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2022-23

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	£40
COUPLES MEMBERSHIP	£25
ADULT (SINGLE) MEMBERSHIP	£15
CHILDRENS MEMBERSHIP (U16S)	£5
GUEST COURT FEES – ADULTS £2, CHILDREN £1	

WE WOULD ENCOURAGE FEES TO BE PAID BY BACS BUT CASH AND CHEQUES ARE ALSO ACCEPTED

BANK DETAILS - ACCOUNT: 01082391 AND SORT CODE: 30-91-49
PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AS REFERENCE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB OR WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT US, CALL OR EMAIL -

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

SUSIE WALTON (07793 406076) - SUSIEWALTON85@GMAIL.COM

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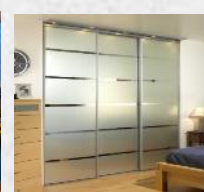
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WEBSITE: www.apnwardrobes.co.uk

EMAIL: andynice@btinternet.com

MOVEMENT IS MEDICINE

Starts Wednesday 5th October

Cavendish Hall
Thurston IP31 3RU
Monday 11:00am
Tuesday 11:30am
Thursday 5:00pm

Tostock Village Hall
Norton Road
IP30 9FT
Wednesday
11:00am



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Tostock IP30 9PG

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Cars on the Green

September 18th, 2022



Andrew Bingham

Dip. F.D. M.B.I.E.

ANDREW BINGHAM INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICE

THE NUTSHELL, MILTON ROAD SOUTH,
STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK, IP14 1EZ

www.stowmarketfunerals.co.uk

01449 771 666

Tostock Art Show

Fri 2nd to Sun 4th September

Thanks to the hard work and support of wonderful volunteers the 42nd Tostock Art Show was a great success. More than 500 visitors came to enjoy more than 240 pieces of art on display in St Andrew's Church from 80 different artists.

Art lovers were asked to vote for their favourite painting. This year artist Linda Stephenson, from Elmswell, was chosen with her painting 'St Edmundsbury Cathedral (pictured right).

Diane Mathews



Tostock Art Show



CRACKNELLS GARAGE of Thurston

New Grocery/Convenience Store

- Local meat, fruit and veg
- Newspapers, lottery, freshly baked bread
- Pet food, bird food, coal, logs, kindling
- Water softener, salt tablets and blocks

Open 7 days for fuel and shop

All usual workshop facilities

MOTs • Servicing • Repairs

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www.cracknellsgarage.co.uk

Earthsent - By Design

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A new local business offering an amazing and unique collection of oil and wax homemade products in 40 fragrances inspired by mother earth.

Earth friendly - cruelty-free – biodegradable packaging.

Fragrance samples available.

Visit www.earth-sent.com to view our catalogue.

Footpaths Around Tostock

Ben Moyle

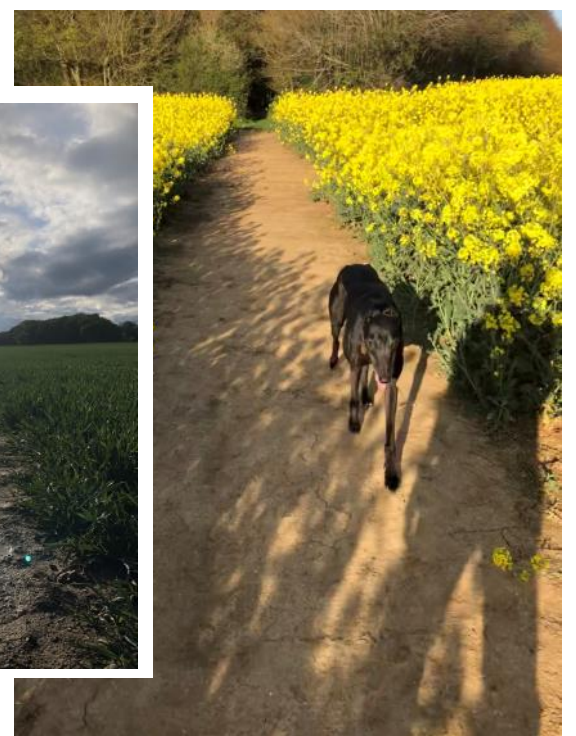
When lockdown hit in March 2020 I was living in the Outbuilding of my Mother's house on The Green, having just moved back to Suffolk after 23 years away and waiting for my house in Ashford, Kent to sell.

With me was my retired greyhound Flyer and with little else to do we walked every afternoon. Out of interest I bought an Ordnance Survey map of the area and pretty soon became obsessed with walking all the marked public footpaths in the Tostock quadrant of the map. This extended to Langham to the north, Drinkstone to the south, Haughley to the east and beyond Thurston to the west.

Each day we'd return and I'd mark up the route walked in green highlighter pen. For the first 3 months we could walk new routes from The Green without having to resort to the car but in the final month we had to drive to the more remote starting points.

Things got quite silly towards the end, when in my obsession to cover every single marked path, we covered some historical footpaths which had long been out of regular use but still appeared on the map. One such path went across the front of the Precon factory near Haughley before coming to a halt at the A14. It continued the other side of the motorway so I drove all the way round and covered the overgrown path up to the road's edge the other side.

Greyhounds aren't renowned for being long walkers, they're all about speed not stamina, but I recorded the distance we walked every day on my phone and our furthest distance in a day was 7.4 miles. Over the 4 months we covered well over 400 miles in total.



I didn't need a moments hesitation or a second thought deciding on the subject to bring to you for this edition. In fact, it is a very special history making edition. It was undoubtedly a natural progression when social media on the webcam, also local press announced that a group of some of the most exotic birds had migrated to our east of Norfolk coast here in the U.K. Arriving all the way from southern Africa, or even possibly India (just imagine birds coming here all the way from India) The birds in question are the European Bee-eaters, one of the most colourful birds in the whole world. To have them arrive here in Norfolk is a sheer delightful bonus. You may recall in my Kingfisher feature last year April/May Number 38 edition, that Bee-eaters are part of the Kingfisher family.



Alcedinidae, which is one of 7 families belonging to the Coraciiformes, Alcedinidae are divided into 2 sub families. The other being Daceloninae which comprise Hoopoes, Bee-eaters and Rollers, which do not prey on fish and are not dependant on water as habitat as their name suggests they prey on Bees. The very first week of June a group of 8 Bee-eaters took up residency on the Norfolk coast at Trimmingham disused quarry which is just 4 miles below Cromer. So I couldn't resist the temptation to go and see them for myself. After all its not every day that magnificent birds like these turn up on your own doorstep. In fact I went on 3 separate occasions.

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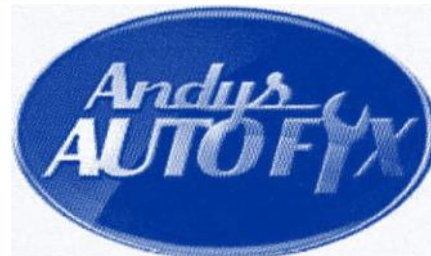
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The whole site was well managed and organised by the RSPB, and set up with the kind permission of the quarry landowner. The birds have attracted many hundreds of admirers from all over the country, each and every day since and hopefully much longer, or for as long as the birds are likely to stay there, before returning back to southern Africa or India to over Winter. The whole experience I gained gives me great pleasure to share this with all you Tostock people. To the moment they were first spotted there, they were making nesting burrows in the sandbanks and we now know that there are at least 2 pairs incubating eggs, in 2 separate burrows or tunnels. Males and females, split the baby-sitting duties, taking it in turns to sit on 4 – 7 rounded white eggs. They take around 20 days to hatch.

On my first visit on the 23rd June there was an enormous amount of activity and song with males serenading the females, and aerial courtship displays with gifts of food passing, and plenty of mating going on, on the telegraph wires as well as tunnelling out sand making burrows which they do with their long beaks and legs. As their name suggests the birds soar in circles in the sky, swooping on insects, Bees, Wasps, Dragonflies, Beetles and Flies, and then return to spend long periods on prominent perches, especially on Telegraph wires. The usual call note is a 'qui-ick, qui-ick' qui-ick' or 'prrrm, prrrm, prrrm'. Let's take a look at my photos from the 1st visit -



The brilliant plumage of the Bee-eaters only shows up in good light, but its long central tail feathers, rather pointed wings, and long thin black bill – 1 ½" of its total length of 11 ins are distinctive. The juveniles are duller than the adults and do not have the long tail feathers. They are irregular visitors on the Northwards passage almost over the last 100 years or so. In 1920 a pair tried to nest near Edinburgh and in 1955 2 out of 3 pairs nested successfully in a sand pit in Sussex. A pair nested in 1956 in Alderney. More recently, their visits to raise a family here seems to be increasing. Since 2001 previous nest sites have been all over, from Isle of Wight to Cumbria, to Co. Durham, the last time was in Nottinghamshire in 2017, and thousands of people flocked from all over the country to see the birds of many colours. Their feathers are a riot of shades which look like they have been handpicked by either an eccentric fashion designer or an imaginative 5 year old child. Bright bursts of yellow, contrasting with rusty reds, marine blues, vibrant oranges and dark greens. They have a lovely yellow throat and a v shape of yellow on top of their backs.

Males and females look pretty similar to each other, their size is that of a Starling and flight is rather Swallow like. The most unique thing about these birds is their ability to destroy Bee and Wasp stings. A single bee sting would be fatal for most small birds, but Bee-eaters overcome the problem, partly by an unusual immunity to Bee and Wasp venom, but mainly by their skill in de-venoming the Worker-bee by rubbing the sting out against a branch. The birds also have the ability to distinguish non-venomous drones.

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CountryLife

Extracting the sting always requires a return to the perch and the considerable amount of feeding done in flight is presumably confined to non-venomous insects. Their nest sites or tunnels are up to 10 feet long and are excavated by male and female. During incubation the nest chamber becomes carpeted with insect remains from the pellets that they de-gorge as an alternative method of defecation. Both parents incubate and feed the young.

Even when viewed from above the Bee-eaters brilliant colourings merges unexpectedly with the landscape. The large V formed by the yellow on the back stands out well in the field, the 2nd photo shows the fantastic shape of the bird, pointed and rounded wings and long fantailed feathers, also its 1 1/2" beak. 3rd picture (below right) it's rubbing the sting out against a branch.



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Photos taken on 2nd visit - 2nd August

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Question we should all be asking and Bee owners alike is how worried or concerned should we be about the amount of Bees which must be consumed by these birds, taking into account the state of our Bees are in at these current times. Simply the answer is no, they eat many different types of flying insects so don't expect this small colony to make any big impact on the local Bee population because they search such a large area for food without too much harm done. Because sightings are on the increase there is a combination of factors but climate change is thought to be playing a major part, it looks like their range will continue to grow and extend further northwards. Now what I am wondering is, dare I stick my neck out and predict, that in the not too distant future that these birds could well invade Suffolk or even Tostock down at our gravel pits which I think could become an appropriate site for these birds to breed for the very first time here in Suffolk. I know they were seen flying around Minsmere area about 12 years ago but did not hang about for too long, so I think I am right in saying that they have never bred in Suffolk but stand corrected if I am wrong.

On the 16th August I made my 3rd and final visit to Trimmingham, if I have got my calculations and judgement right I am expecting some of the juveniles to have fledged from the burrows and to be flying out into the wild open world for the very first time. Unfortunately for me I didn't make up my mind to go until 10 am, arriving up there at 12 pm. I was told on arrival that one of the juveniles did come out of the burrows for a short time then went back in again. So that was the day history was made, Bee-eaters have bred successfully for the very first time in Norfolk.

Below is the photo of the juvenile record maker after it went back into the burrow, you will have to trust me and take my word for it but it is definitely a youngster that has bred and hatched off here in Norfolk.



What a great success story, this is country life at its very best here in our own back yard.

I will leave you with a few more photographs of these lovely birds for you all to enjoy.



Bee-eaters are often seen sitting in groups between feeding forages. Bee-eater's feet have 3 connected toes pointing forward and a single rear toe. Flight is buoyant and easy, the bird soaring after insects then sailing down, ebullient, gay and restless.

Contacts in our Community

Tostock Parish Councillors

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Marie Johansson	oldhallstables@btinternet.com	
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Olivia Boland	olivia@tostockanimalparks.co.uk	

Village Officers

Tree Officer	Vacant
Footpath Officer	Vacant
Litter Picker	Vacant

Poor's Estate

Sharon Markell	01359 271190
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Jeanne O'Reilly		01359 270337
Barney Harrison	barneybees@hotmail.com	
Bell Ringers	Sue Marriott	01359 270143

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Chair		
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Hall Bookings		
Doreen Buckle	tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk	01359 270605

Clubs

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Book Club	Julie Harrison	01359 270247
Brownies	Krystie	07975 556448
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Cribbage	Jim Langlois	01359 270456
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NEXT EDITION

December 2022/January 2023

Please may I have your contributions on or
before **15th NOVEMBER**

preferably in word or publisher format, much appreciated.

kim.mars84@gmail.com

07950 682 499

More details and the latest up to date information can be found on our village website.

www.tostockpc.org.uk

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