

The Sexton's Wheel

Issue 272

The magazine for Long Stratton & Wacton



September 2026

Long Stratton Village Hall - Booking Information



The hall can be booked as follows:

Via our facebook page, search Long Stratton Village Hall

Via our website www.longstrattonvillagehall.org.uk

Email us at longstrattonvillagehall@outlook.com

Call Kirsty Dye on 07986942804 and leave a message

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Email: bookings@wactonvillagehall.co.uk

Licenced bar available through Wacton Social Club. Contact stevemaz51@outlook.com

Church Contacts

Stratton St Mary's Rev Becki Bensusan - (01508) 813900

St Michael's Rev Becki Bensusan (01508) 813900

Tharston St Mary's Rev Becki Bensusan (01508) 813900

All Saints' Rev John Madinda (01953) 789240

Congregational Church June Braddock (01508) 470701

Church Parish Office

Due to a change in circumstances the Parish Office will no longer open.

If you know of anyone who is unwell or would benefit from a visit from a member of our ministry team, please contact Rev Becki Bensusan. (01508) 813900.

Long Stratton Town Council, The Pavilion, Manor Road, Long Stratton

Usual office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 10am and 2pm and by appointment on Wednesday.

Tel: Clerk Becky Buck 01508 530524 E-mail: clerk@longstrattoncouncil.info

For general enquiries Email: office@longstrattontowncouncil.info

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Violins & Aquaducts

One of my favourite poems is 'The touch of the Master's hand' by Myra Brooks Welch. I recommend you look it up. It tells of an old battered and scarred violin being auctioned for a pittance until an old grey bearded man plays a beautiful tune on it. The violin then sells for a thousand times the initial bids, but the crowd don't understand why.

The poem serves as a metaphor for a human life redeemed and transformed.

The Battered Violin: Represents a human life that has been broken, worn down, or torn by sin, hardships, or poor choices.

The Auction: Symbolises how society or the world often devalues or discards those who are struggling, treating them as worthless.

The Master: Represents God or Jesus Christ, who sees the true potential and inner beauty of every soul.

The Touch: Represents God's love, healing, and guidance. Just as the master musician brings beautiful music out of an old instrument, God restores broken lives and gives them profound worth and purpose.

Sometimes we may feel battered and scarred by life, and undervalued by others, but we can, like the violin, still show our true worth by fulfilling our purpose, even if we are unappreciated by the crowd. We each have our own talents and purpose which when used can bring beauty and joy into our life and the lives of others.

It is important to use our gifts. A story is told of the aquaduct built by the Romans in Segovia, central Spain. For nearly 2000 years it transported lifegiving water to the people there. In 1973 it was decided that such an important monument should be preserved, so they laid iron pipes to transport the water instead. As a result the aqueduct dried out and cracked. What years of use couldn't destroy, lack of use started to.

Matthew 8:1-4 tells of the leper shunned by his community who because of his faith is healed by Jesus. He is told to present himself to the priests at the temple and give offerings of thanks. This was to allow him to be accepted back into society.

We are all offered the transforming and healing love of God and the chance to fulfil our purpose, like the leper we need to accept it.

May your life be filled with beauty and joy as you fulfil your purpose and use your talents with the assurance of God's transforming love.

Rev Malcolm Simpkin - Long Stratton Congregational Church



Messy Church News

As the autumn term arrives and the school year starts again it is great to be back to planning Messy Church and getting ready to welcome you to our first Messy Church of this academic year.

During the summer we have had a chance to do our usual admin and planning, including reviews of our safeguarding practices and training, risk assessments, and deciding themes for upcoming sessions. It's always good to take these chances to celebrate the bits that have been great and to work to improve things that aren't quite as good as we would like.

Here are some highlights over the last year. We have done over 35 crafts alongside other games and activities. Some of our favourites have been apple carving, junk modelling, decorating jars, sand art, egg boxes for the Easter egg hunt, and windsocks. We introduced some new songs and even a dance to Thank you from iSing Pop, as well as singing some of our favourites, like Rend Collective's My Lighthouse and Ask, Seek, Knock by Beci and David Wakerley. Our stories have been linked with the stories Jesus told, called Parables, with some extras added in, like the story of creation, the thankful leper, and the birthday of the Church. We dare not think about how many muffins we have eaten between us, but we know they're always popular!

What a time we have had! We have welcomed new families this year and seen some fantastic familiar faces. Thank you all for being part of our Messy Church fun! We would love to hear from you about some of your favourite bits too, so please get in touch and tell us all about it.

As promised, we're back with more Messy fun for all the family. We have new themes for the looking at some of the characters in the Bible and their stories. Our September meeting is on Saturday 26th September, at 4pm. See the poster for details. Our first character will be Noah. You are all welcome and we can't wait to see you there. If you want to be in touch with the team for any reason, then please feel free to email us on ***strattonmessychurch@gmail.com***

- Door to door dial-a-ride service into the local towns.
- Weekly members outings throughout the year
- Group hires for not-for-profit organisations



Borderhoppa Outings for September 2026

Tues 1st – Bressingham Garden Centre – Dial-a-Ride
 Thurs 3rd – The Chip Inn, Long Stratton – Dial-a-Ride
 Mon 7th – Lunch at Earsham Hall Tea Rooms - £8.00
 Wed 9th – Bury Market Day (Diss Area) – £18.00
 Mon 14th – Anglia Retail Park, Ipswich - £18.00
 Thurs 17th – Attleborough Market Day - £15.00
 Mon 21st – Brunch at Wortham Tea Rooms – Dial-a-Ride
 Mon 28th – Stowmarket - £15.00

To book or for more information please call **01379 854800** or visit our website **www.borderhoppa.org**



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One Wobbly Window

What's up with St Mary's church in Long Stratton? You've probably noticed that for the last few months one of the windows has been boarded up. Is this the work of a vandal sneering at a useless old building? Quite the opposite. The church is a busy, much-loved place. It's not just the inspiring services every Sunday but bell ringing on Mondays (one of the bells dating from 1350); Let's chat on Tuesdays, singing on Wednesdays; food bank on Fridays; Messy Church on Saturdays and, of course weddings and funerals. So, it's not surprising that someone noticed one of the windows was literally falling apart. The surprise is that a few miles away in Great Moulton there is a specialist "in the craft of design, conservation and restoration of stained glass windows." (to quote the web site of Devlin Plummer.)

The church windows were surveyed and the church council accepted the estimate of nearly £4000 for this window to be restored. At the end of May this was the company that carefully removed the window and boarded up the space. On July 11th we were invited to visit the stained glass workshop and see the work in progress. Up a narrow country lane we found a farm house with a collection of ordinary looking sheds. There was nothing ordinary once we gathered inside where we were given a cup of coffee and left our bags at the entrance. This was to avoid the danger of knocking delicate items off the long table running the whole length of the room (no, it really wasn't a shed!) Everywhere there were pieces of lead, sheets of coloured glass and mysterious tools. Mr. Devlin explained the work they do on windows, ranging from a church in Copenhagen to the Houses of Parliament.

In spite of this international importance, the Long Stratton church window was given the same care and attention to detail. That was when we were introduced to the apprentice who was actually working on our window. He carefully placed each piece of glass in the correct place and then soldered strips of lead to fit them in place. It was incredibly delicate work and would be dangerous without the proper training and equipment. We were very impressed by his skill.

We can expect the window back soon, but this is not the end of the story. The survey also revealed that the vast East window which contains priceless medieval glass is at risk and will cost over £100,000 to repair. There is no point in working on it while the church is so damp because of the leaking roof (repairs at an estimated cost of over £300,000). So that's the task facing us: fix the roof before the stained glass falls out!

The church council is actively seeking grants but also needs to raise match funding. If you would like to contribute towards these huge repair costs, please use the QR code below to donate online. Alternatively, you could visit the church and see the many historic features including the actual **Sexton's Wheel** (one of only two known to exist in the world). The church is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Donations can also be given using the contactless card machine in the church or by contacting the **church treasurer, ian.hetherington2@btinternet.com**. If you are a tax-payer, please use the Gift Aid option that adds an extra 25% to your donation at no additional cost to you. Thank you.



Long Stratton Town Council

Pavilion, Manor Road Playing Fields, Manor Road,

Long Stratton, NR15 2XR. Clerk: Mrs B Buck

Tel: 01508 530524 office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk

Hot Weather

With the hot weather we'd like to remind everyone to stay careful in the heat. Drink plenty of water, apply suncream and find shade.

Tuck Shop

The tuck shop will be run every Friday during term time from 3pm – 5pm. There will be sweets, drinks, cakes, scones and sausage rolls available, and all are welcome. Cash and card accepted.

Pavilion Bookings

If you're looking for a space to hold parties, meetings or community events, the Pavilion at Manor Road Playing Field is available! If you'd be interested in hiring the Pavilion, email or call the Long Stratton Town Council office to enquire.

Upcoming Full Council meeting dates

The Full Council meetings are held in the Pavilion community room. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings and, whilst members of the public cannot participate, a short period of time is given for members of the public to air their views on matters directly related to the Town Council.

We ask that all members of the public who attend remain respectful and only speak when invited to do so by the Chairman, to ensure the meeting runs smoothly for all.

All councillors are volunteers who give up their time to be at the meetings.

The next meeting will be on Monday 14th September 2026 at 7pm.



St Mary's Quiz Night

Long Stratton Village Hall

Saturday 10th October

£7.50 per person

price includes Ploughmans at half time.

6:30pm for 7.00pm start

To book please ring Janet on:

01508 530121

Please bring your own drinks of choice.



2ND LONG STRATTON BROWNIES

At the end of term we had a wonderful evening celebrating Girlguiding in Long Stratton and specifically 50 years of 2nd Long Stratton Brownies, 20 years of 1st Long Stratton Rainbows and 10 years of 1st Long Stratton Rangers. It was wonderful to see all the age groups having fun together. A big thank you to our District Commissioner Fiona Lawrence for applying for a grant which covered most of our expenses, putting up posters, advertising via social media, promoting it all on Radio Norfolk and leading the event and presentations. And thanks to all the Unit Leaders for their support before and at the event. The banners, gazebo, etc from Anglia and Norfolk Girlguiding were a great help too.

Girls from all our Guiding Units and their families, the local community, many who had been previous members of all or some of the Units over the years, senior Norfolk Guiders and those who have helped us on many occasions came along and joined us for this busy evening. There was a very popular bouncy castle, soft tomahawk throwing (Thank you to the Scouts), a campfire and s'mores and songs, craft, music and a choir and lots of memorabilia. Many found themselves in old photos and lots of memories were exchanged. There was also some delicious food available from the Cloud 9 van, ice creams and another thank you to those who served many hot and cold drinks from the Congregational Church hall kitchen. At the end of the evening after completing an activity 'passport' many girls took home a Big Birthday 2026 badge, as did previous members and a few siblings!

An especial well done to Brown Owl, Josie Thurston, who started 2nd Long Stratton Brownies in 1976 and has encouraged Girlguiding to grow in Long Stratton ever since.

Long Stratton Guiders



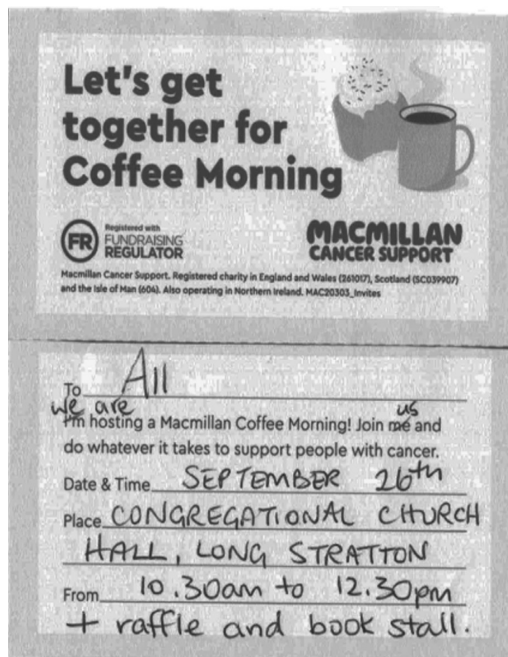
Could you help Borderhoppa?

We're looking for a few new volunteer Trustees to join the Borderhoppa board and help guide our community transport charity.

You don't need previous trustee experience – just an interest in supporting your local community. Skills in areas such as finance, HR, fundraising or marketing are always welcome, but they're certainly not essential.

The commitment is small, with board meetings usually held once a month (often less), giving you the chance to make a real difference to people who rely on our services.

If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch. See p7



LONG STRATTON LIONS CLUB

Long Stratton Lions have just celebrated 40 years of service in Long Stratton and the surrounding area with a lunch at a local restaurant; two former members who still assist with collections were also there in support. It was a good time for reflecting over what we have achieved over the years. President John. Secretary Roy, and Founder Member Bob received awards from Lions Cubs International for their service over the years. At one of our June meetings, we had a visit from two members of the Town Events Committee who were given a short talk on how Lions Clubs International began and how our local club was formed. Our pile of scrapbooks gave them a few surprises and those present, as always. many happy and often very amusing memories.

In July we had our annual outing for Harker House and Depwade Court to a hotel on the banks of the Broads at Hoveton where they had lunch.

With the start of the football season, our small but valiant group of members are geared up to run our Charity carpark in Norwich again, Two adjacent premises near the ground make their staff car parks available to us to fund raise at every home match. We will be hoping for a good season, and for good weather for the task! .

If you are interested to know more about Lions, do give me a ring on 01508 531406 to arrange a visit with no obligation. Some people also sometimes help out at events without actually committing to be a full member. Our meeting dates are published in the centre pages of the Sextons Wheel.

Roy Woodhouse
Secretary



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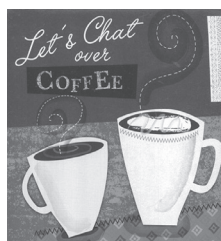
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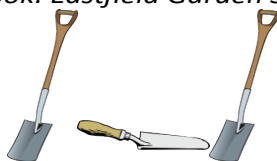
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LONG STRATTON & DISTRICT WI

Last month's meeting was on Wednesday 15th July, the same night as England didn't win the World Cup. Of course, we weren't to know the result as our meeting began but most of us got home in good time to see the end of the match. Yes, even W.I. ladies can be interested in football.

We had a good evening at the village hall with a strawberry tea organised by the committee. Following our donation of handmade blankets for the end-of-life ward at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital we were contacted by Christine, a volunteer in that department. She is one of the Butterfly Volunteers at the hospital who support patients and their families in the last stages of their life. She offered to come along to our meeting and explain their work and the difference donations such as ours can make. It was a very interesting and encouraging talk.

On Wednesday 16th September we are pleased to welcome back Wally Webb who will be talking about his adventures on the Norfolk Broads. We meet at 7.30pm in Long Stratton Village Hall and visitors are always welcome. Just come along on the evening and you will be made very welcome.

If you need further information telephone our member on **01508 531154**. *If no one answers you can leave a message and your call will be returned.*

The Pulham Market Society

The 2026/27 programme starts on Wednesday 16th September with a talk on:

Pablo Fanque's Fair & The Victorian Circus.

Pablo Fanque who was born in Norwich was the first recognised Black circus proprietor. He is mentioned in lyrics written by John Lennon for the Sgt Pepper Album.

All talks start at 7.30 pm The Memorial Hall, The Green, Pulham Market, IP21 4SU

Membership details: **Sue Smee (01379 608842) sue.smee@hotmail.co.uk**

Programme details: **Steve Hewitt (07762 159279) sandsj.hewitt@gmail.com**

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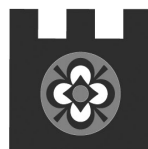
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M	T	W	T
	1 Community Sing Wacton Village Hall 1900 Lets chat see p14 Pilates - Hempnall Village Hall see p29 Coffee Morning Wacton Village Hall 10.30am	2 Chatter& Natter Long Stratton Leisure Centre 1300-1500 Wacton Parish Council Meeting 18:00pm	3 Pilates - Wacton see
7 Local Walk - see page 38	8 Community Sing Wacton Village Hall 1900 Lets chat see p14 Pilates - Hempnall Village Hall see p29	9 Chatter& Natter Long Stratton Leisure Centre 1300-1500 Lions Club Meeting Phone Roy Woodhouse for details on 01508 531406 Cup of Hope Pavillion community Room 08:50am - 11:30am	10 Pilates - Wacton see Lunch Club 12 Long S Congregation Call 0796871 Tharston& Wacton V 7:30
14 LSTC meeting Pavillion meeting room Manor Road 1900.	15 Community Sing Wacton Village Hall 1900 Lets Chat St Mary's Church 10:00am to 12:00pm Pilates - Hempnall Village Hall see p29 Coffee Morning Wacton Village Hall 10.30am	16 Chatter& Natter Long Stratton Leisure Centre 1300-1500 Long Stratton & District W.I LS Village Hall 7:30pm	17 Pilates - Wacton see
21	22 Community Sing Wacton Village Hall 1900 Lets Chat St Mary's Church 10:00am to 12:00pm Pilates - Hempnall Village Hall see p29	23 Chatter& Natter Long Stratton Leisure Centre 1300-1500 Lions Club Meeting Phone Roy Woodhouse for details on 01508 531406 Cup of Hope Pavillion community Room 08:50am - 11:30am	24 Pilates - Wacton see
28	29 Community Sing Wacton Village Hall 1900 Lets Chat St Mary's Church 10:00am to 12:00pm Pilates - Hempnall Village Hall see p29	30 Chatter& Natter Long Stratton Leisure Centre 1300-1500	Pilates - Wacton see

	F	S	S
on Village Hall p31	4 Wacton Social Club open 7.00pm - 11.00pm with Bingo	5 Air Ambulance Collection see p22	6 Hope church Service St Mary's Academy 10:30am.
n Village Hall p31 2:00 - 2:00pm Stratton al Church Hall 6698 to book District W.I. illage Hall 0pm	11 Tuck shop Long Stratton Community Centre 3:00pm - 5:00pm	12 Wacton Church Coffee Morning 1030am.	13
on Village Hall p31	18 Wacton Social Club open 7.00pm - 11.00pm pool,darts etc	19	20 Community Family Breakfast 9:45am at Long Stratton Congregational Church Hall Hope church St Mary's Junior Academy 10:30am see p19
on Village Hall p31	25	26 Messy Church St Mary's Church 4pm to 5:30pm see p6	27
on Village Hall p31			

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Harleston Choral Society begin their Autumn/winter term on Monday 7th September. We warmly welcome new members to our sizeable and wonderful choir and are particularly keen to expand our tenor population! We rehearse at the London Road Church in Harleston IP20 9BH on Monday nights from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

A date for your diary - our Christmas Concert is on Saturday 5th December when we will be performing Saint- Saëns Christmas Oratorio and Cecilia McDowell's Christus Est as well as many seasonal favourites. It is sure to be a moving and uplifting evening for all. Contact Caroline on ***chair1@harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk 01986 782545***

AIR AMBULANCE SUPPORT

I am very pleased to give an update regarding the amount raised from our copper coins appeal.

June. £55.24

July. £42.10

August. £87.01.

Total £184.35.

An incredible amount raised in the space of 3 months.

It is also interesting to report, it's not just copper coins being donated, 5,10 and 50p coins are also in the bucket.

Thank you.

Our next collection is the **5th of September.**

Recently, I have been contacted by people after having birthdays and funerals.

Rather than have gifts some have requested donations are made to Air Ambulance Charity. However, they've been unsure where to deposit the amount raised.

I am very happy to receive any donation and pass it on to Air Ambulance on your behalf.

Contact me on, ***messenger, email, notenoughkeiths@gmail.com or phone, 07753 749282.***

Finally. Something Extraordinary will be happening on the 14th of November, my Christmas lights switch on. An event for everyone.

Exciting details in the next Sexton's Wheel.

Tharston Spanish Walk & Tapas Afternoon

Join us for an enjoyable afternoon of walking, conversation and Spanish flavours!



Guided Spanish Walk

Explore the local history of Tharston and its links to Spain.

Walk 1 (approx. 3.5 miles) commences at 3pm/ **Walk 2** (approx. 1.5 miles) commences at 3:45pm



Spanish Snacks & Refreshments

After the walk, relax and enjoy a selection of traditional Spanish-inspired snacks and treats.



Saturday 12th September | ⌚ 3:00pm – 6:00pm | 📍

Tharston, meet at the Church NR15 2YG

Tickets £6 and need to be booked in advance (available until 07/09/2026) from Chris Lawson email@chrisandhelen.co.uk or Sue Hubbard naicura@icloud.com

Come along, stretch your legs, and enjoy a taste of Spain in Tharston!

THARSTON CHURCH. - Re Imagined.

Tharston are at the very beginning of a project to firstly repair the Chancel , then re imagine the layout of the Nave to bring it up to date for community use, with the addition of a toilet and a kitchen. The removal of some pews to create space for meetings and events.

To encourage residents and visitors to get involved we have set up a teapoint and invite you to pop in and, have a cuppa, leave your comments and view the progress board.

Our next social get together is on Sept 12 in the form of a 'Spanish Walk'.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY FROM 10 - 4.30.

One of the things I know that we all love most about South Norfolk is the countryside. Whether it is our quiet lanes, open fields, woodland walks or picturesque villages, we are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country.

That is why I was so disappointed recently when, while out walking my dog Timo, I came across a large-scale fly tipping incident along one of our rural lanes. What I found appeared to be a significant amount of construction waste and household rubbish deliberately dumped in the countryside and strewn across a large stretch of the lane. Quite frankly, I was furious. Our countryside is not a dumping ground. It belongs to all of us and we all benefit from the landscapes that make South Norfolk such a wonderful place to live. Fly tipping shows complete disregard for South Norfolk's residents, landowners, taxpayers and the environment.

I wrote in more detail about this incident, including my immediate reaction on discovering the fly-tipping, on my website. You can read the full article here: [**https://bengoldsborough.co.uk/news/f/this-is-not-littering-its-an-attack-on-south-norfolk**](https://bengoldsborough.co.uk/news/f/this-is-not-littering-its-an-attack-on-south-norfolk)

I immediately reported what I found to the relevant authorities and was pleased to see South Norfolk District Council act quickly to clear the waste and restore the area. The team did a fantastic job and deserve credit for their swift response.

However, many residents rightly asked an important question: who pays for this? The answer is simple. We all do. Every fly tipping incident comes at a cost to local taxpayers. In this case, the clean-up bill is likely to have run into well over £1,000. That is money which could otherwise have been spent supporting local services, improving our communities or helping to keep costs down for residents.

Sadly, the story did not end there. Just a short distance further along the same lane later that week, I discovered another pile of dumped waste. This suggests the area may be becoming a hotspot, and I have asked that further action be considered by the relevant authorities to help prevent future incidents. The good news is that the law has recently been strengthened. Those caught fly tipping now face substantial financial penalties, and authorities have stronger powers to seize and crush vehicles used in these offences. These measures are designed to send a clear message that fly tipping is not a minor offence and will not be tolerated. But enforcement alone is not enough.

We all have a role to play in protecting the places we love. If you come across fly tipping anywhere in South Norfolk, please report it to the relevant local authority. I would also encourage you to let myself and my office know.

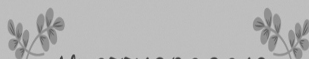
You can email me at [**ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk**](mailto:ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk) or ring **01603 570332** to speak to a member of my team in South Norfolk. The more information we receive, the easier it becomes to identify patterns and highlight problem areas for the relevant authorities to investigate further. The overwhelming majority of people in South Norfolk take great pride in where they live. We should not allow a selfish minority to damage our countryside, burden taxpayers and spoil the communities we all care about. Please be assured that I will continue working with local authorities, landowners and residents to tackle fly tipping wherever it occurs. We must do everything we can to protect the countryside that makes South Norfolk such a special place to call home.

Ben Goldsborough MP

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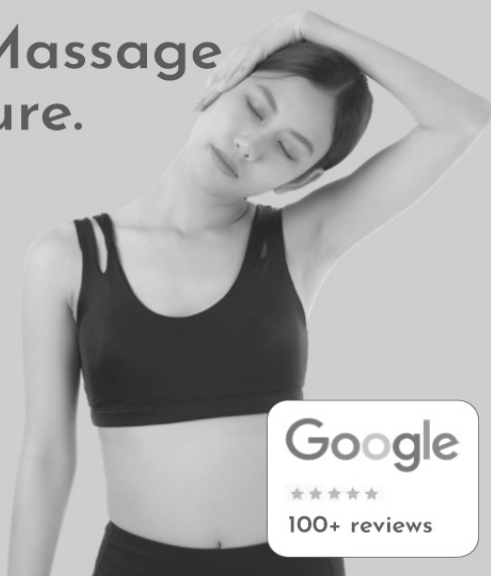


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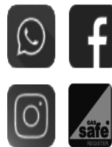
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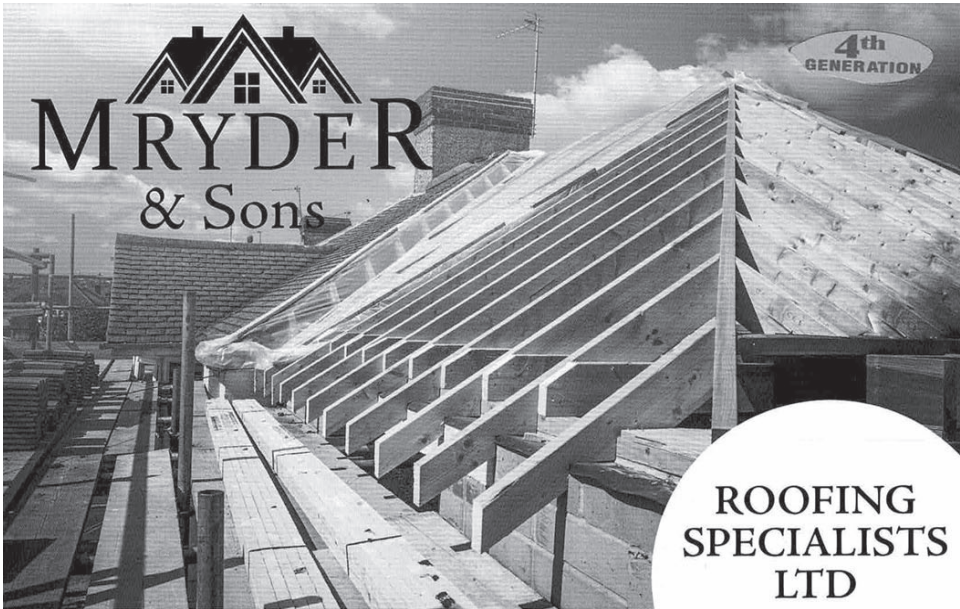
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Local Walk

10 of us met at the co-op car park and in three cars we journeyed a very short distance to Tharston and parked near to St Mary's Church . On commencement of walk we turned left and soon walked through an orchard of young fruit trees . Apparently this area was once the site of a school room. A pathway led us along with fencing on both sides, we crossed a road and then onto another pathway which led across a stubble field. At its far end we turned left and soon after crossed over a dry ditch on a wooden plank. Eventually we arrived close to Model Farm with it's large square house, possibly built in the Georgian/Victorian era. The walk took us to Plump Road and at its T-junction we took a path adjacent to it onto a concreted road, past several houses, this path then reduced to a mud track and we soon went through a kissing gate, continuing right along a hedge and into a field, there was a free-standing oak tree in its middle, still fairly young about, 15 feet high or so.

Then into another field with short grass , we then found ourselves at a high vantage point which gave us lovely views of the fields and also a row of electricity pylons stretched across the landscape, it looked quite dramatic! Above our heads we heard and saw two buzzards and a pair of red kites among the song of skylarks. We walked on under the pylons in a downward sloping incline to the field's edge and we could see another emerge with a crop of maize, the growth looked rather stunted on account of our extremely dry hot summer weather. A clump of scentless may weed flowers seen at field edge. We turned left onto a road, Long Lane. Further along we saw three hares flitting about in a nearby field, we found tree cover both sides of road, and it provided much appreciated coolness and shade from the very hot sun. Walking on we went over a red brick railway arch, beneath it was the London to Norwich line, still in use. More buzzards were heard as we walked on our way and down a sloping road, this time through a red brick archway, the track once served Fornsett then going on to Ashwellthorpe and onto Wymondham rail stations. Two horses in a field whinnied at us and came up to the fence to have a bit of attention, they had fly protection cover over their eyes. The road took us over the river Tas at a bridge with iron railings on both sides, it was lovely to look at water plants such as duck weed, lily leaves afloat and leaves of the alder trees drooping over the water, with trumpet shaped white flowers of bindweed at the waters edge. Further on from the bridge we walked in a marshy area following the river Tas, It could be imagined quite a damp place normally, but for now it was fairly dry.

Thistledown seed floated on the breezes. The fields around undulating in relief, certainly not flat as mostly expected of South Norfolk. The short stubble was bleached a lovely blonde colour and the hedges dotted with mature trees gave a contrasting dark green colour. In Tharston village we soon arrived at a large pink Farm House, Hawthorn Farm, were there two very friendly pigs in the front garden which came up to see us and were fussed over . Then onward we came to the village sign which sparked off conversation about it being a replica of a millstone and one walker knew the person who helped with it's iron-work surround. We soon arrived back at St Mary's Church and some of us went inside to have a look, others had a wander in the church yard . Thank you Louise for planning this most enjoyable walk. Please join us for next walk 10am Monday 7th September .

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6th September - 9:00am - BCP Holy Communion at Stratton, St Michael
9:30am - Morning Prayer - Wacton
11:00am - Morning Service at Stratton, St Mary

13th September - 9:45am - Word and Worship at Tharston, St Mary
11:00am - All-Age Communion at Stratton, St Mary

20th September - 9:00am - BCP Holy Communion at Stratton, St Michael
11:00am - Baptism Service at Stratton, St Mary

27th September - 9:30am - Holy Communion - Wacton
11:00am - Holy Communion at Stratton, St Mary

Congregational Church

6th September -10:45am – Family Service incl. Holy Communion - Lee Saunders

13th September -10:45am – Family Service - Rev Malcolm Simpkin

20th September - 9:45am – Community Family Breakfast
10:45am – HARVEST Family Service - Rev Ian Jones

27th September - 9:45am - Prayer Meeting
10:45am - Family Service - Pat Mottram

Hope Church

6th - 10:30am - Service for all ages -St Mary's Junior Academy NR15 2UY
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