

Christmas time again ! There's lots happening in December, and not just Christmas shopping !

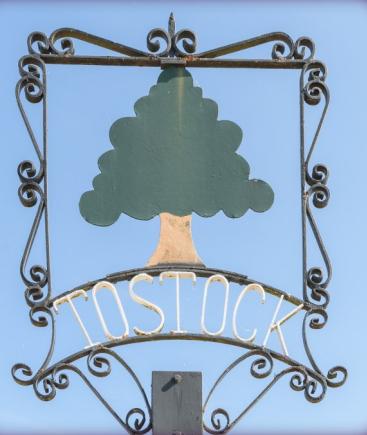
A key village event is happening on the 6th December, held by the Past and Present Society in the Village Hall at 7:30pm. Normally they have great guest speakers (and December is no exception, with Doug Paterson) but this time, being the last one for the year, it is an open and free (donations appreciated) event for anyone in the village to come along and bring a plate of food to share, and your own drinks and glasses. Anyone who was at the Jubilee event in the summer would testify that that was a fantastic event, with a fantastic turnout. This is a great opportunity for everyone, especially newcomers in the village, to get together and have a good ol' chin wag and a laugh. The website has a detailed description of what Doug will be talking about, and his past talks have been very entertaining, so do come along.

The Quiz Night was another big success. The organiser, Tonia, would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended the village Quiz Night, and that proceeds have gone to Children in Need. Congratulations to the winners Stuart and Dave and Co ('The Tostock Tarts'), who of course will organise next year's event. Luckily my table came second.

Finally a big 'ho, ho, ho' to you all, have a nice Christmas and a bright new year.

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## Regulars

### Coffee Mornings

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10.30 am. In the village hall.

### Past & Present

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7.30 pm in the village hall

### Bingo

Every last Tuesday of the month from 2.00 pm in the village hall

## Events

**Past & Present** an evening with Doug Paterson  
December 6th Village Hall 7:30pm

**The Salvation Army Band**  
December 20th St Andrews Church 7:30 pm

**Parish Council Meeting**  
January 23rd Village Hall 7:30pm

**If you want to write an article for  
the Chronicle, just let me know.**

## Tostock Christmas Cards



### St Andrew's Church, Tostock **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

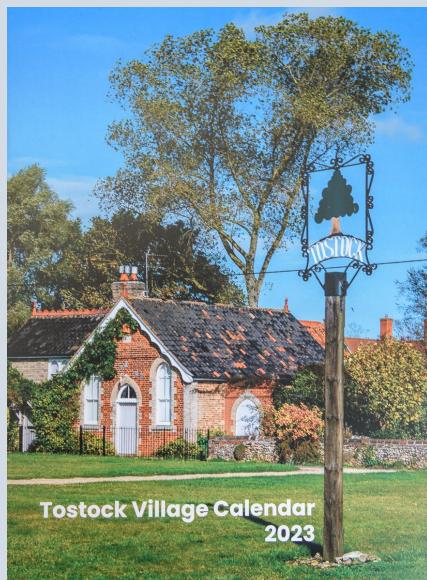
£1.20 each  
or  
£5 for any 5

Available from

Jean O'Reilly 01359 270337  
Maureen Cytacki 01359 271481  
Gail Moyle 01359 270787  
Jim Langlois 01359 270456

All Profits go to St Andrew's Church  
Tostock

## Tostock Calendar 2023



Tostock Village Calendar  
2023

The calendars are now available at £6 each, with the profits shared between the Village Hall and St. Andrew's Church, Tostock.

They can be purchased from the people listed below, and will also be on sale at the Christmas Fair.

Jim Langlois 01359 270456.  
Derrick Poole 01359 270197  
Maureen Cytacki 01359 271481

## Tostock Media

### Tostock Chronicle Editor



Kim Mars  
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07950 682499

### Photographer



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01359 270456

### Tostock Website



Adrian Malcom  
[adrianjmalcom@aol.com](mailto:adrianjmalcom@aol.com)  
07921 010 878

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**01359 270605**

Or email **[tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk)**  
to reserve it for your event

# Tostock Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee met on 31st October 2022. Our next meeting will take place on Monday, 16th January 2023.

It was decided that the next Tostock Art Show will be held over the weekend of 2nd – 3rd September 2023, with the popular Preview Evening taking place on Friday, 1st September 2023. A show not to be missed.

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](mailto:tostockvillagehall@outlook.com).



**May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.**

## VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

As outlined in the last Chronicle, the Village Hall Improvement Project has entered its fund-raising stage which involves looking at grant applications. Given the current economic climate, funding is becoming increasingly harder to obtain, and the remit of the project will require ongoing scoping to allow applications to stand more chance of succeeding.

This stage of the improvement project management process 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.

## JUBILEE TREES – VILLAGE HALL PLAYING FIELDS

By the time you read this, a number of young trees will have been planted on the Village Hall Playing fields to celebrate our Late Queen's Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Photos to follow in the next Chronicle.



## ANOTHER ENJOYABLE TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL BONFIRE & FIREWORKS – THANKS TO ALL!

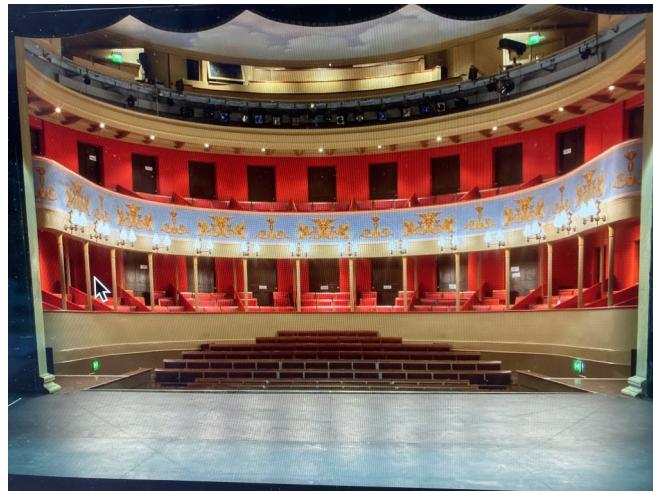
The Parish Council Bonfire & Fireworks evening took place on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Many thanks to all of the team who were involved in organizing and delivering this year's event. There is a lot that has to be done before, during and after the evening, and everyone's help in terms of their time and/or donation of equipment is much appreciated. Specific thanks to Mike & Bee Bauly for their continued support, **Loopee Loos** who kindly donated two toilets for the evening and Gerda Security Products for their generous supply of wood. It was also great to be joined by Abbie & Lucy from **F O L K About** this year, who came to serve hot drinks and treats. As with previous years, a share of this year's profits will be donated to two local charities.

## Tostock Past & Present Society

The Society held its AGM on November 1st. A revised constitution and fee structure was agreed.

The AGM was immediately followed with an illustrated talk by Rory O'Brien on the History of the Theatre Royal. The talk was excellent and the history surrounding the

Theatre was of great interest to members. We hope to arrange a tour of the theatre with Rory later in 2023.



Our final meeting of the year sees the return of Doug Patterson who will be giving an illustrated talk entitled "Egyptian Pyramids to Suffolk Landscapes and Other Journeys"

The meeting is open to members and non members. There will be no fee and a donations bucket will be available. Since this is our Christmas event please bring a plate of food to share and your own drink and glasses.

### Speakers for Tostock Past & Present Society 2023

(7:30 pm in the Village Hall)

February 7th - John Parnum Inventions from the last 600 years which have benefited us (from the printing press, vaccines, LED's, lego, velcro, MRI & CT scanners)

March 7th - Chris Parfitt The Isles of Scilly (an exploration of these lovely islands at the southern tip of England)

April 4th – George Agnew The History of Rougham Hall

May 2nd - Terry O'Donoghue The Guildhall Bury St Edmunds - 850 years a witness to the town and county

June 6th - Pip Fletcher The Real Sound of Music

September 5th- Clive Stevens The Friendly Invasion-Part 2

October 3rd - The Samaritans

November 7th - AGM + Helen Simmons The Battle of Fornham:17th October 1173

December 5th – Jim Langlois & Anthony Scully Tostock Archives

## 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.

## News from St Andrew's Church Tostock

Our Remembrance Service was held in the church again after a couple of years of outdoor remembrance and all services have returned to the usual pattern.

As we approach Christmas, do bear in mind that Tostock Christmas cards are available from the church. If you don't get to the Christmas Fair, please contact Jim Langlois, Jeanne O'Reilly, Gail Moyle, Maureen Cytacki - or ask any member of the Parochial Church Council.

As before, we will have many Christmas events and plenty of carol singing, including the Carol Service at 3 pm on 11th December, when we will collect gifts for the children at the Bury Refuge. There is always a wonderful response to our appeal so if you are able to bring a present please mark it for a girl or boy and approximate age. We will all be very grateful for your help.

The Salvation Army Band will play carols for us in church at 7.30 pm on Sunday 20th December, followed by light refreshments – all welcome.

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.

Looking ahead to January, a full schedule of services will be held.

\* \* \*

The Flood lights are sponsored in December by Margaret and Keith Osborne, to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 23rd. Congratulations from us all!

A Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to everyone !

**Martin Davies**

## Tostock Carpet Bowls Club

The Bury League games have commenced. We have played three games, two home and one away, collecting 16 points over the three games. We have one game arranged for December which is away to Thurston on 7th.

January 19 - home to Stanton

February 2 - home to Cockfield  
16 – home to Thurston

Club sessions continue on Thursdays.



**Doreen Buckle**

# St Andrew's Church Tostock

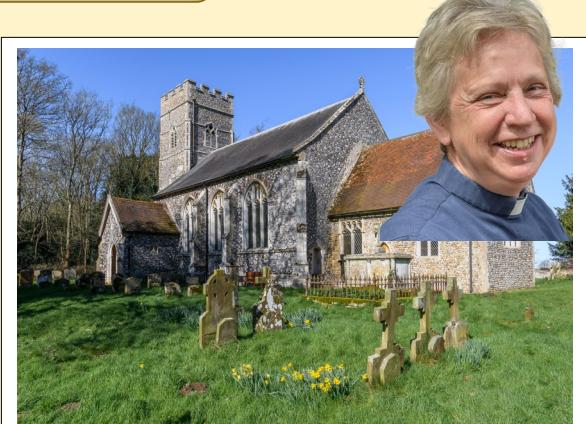
## Benefice of Pakenham, Norton & Tostock with Great Ashfield, Hunston & Stowlangtoft

**Rector** Revd Katherine Valentine Tel 01359 235095

**Email** [kavalentine677@gmail.com](mailto:kavalentine677@gmail.com)

**Website** for more details of all our churches - including Tostock - see the national Church of England website [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

**Our benefice Church magazine** is also available online at [www.vcnews.org.uk](http://www.vcnews.org.uk)



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

See the table on the right for times and dates for our Christmas services across the benefice - so you should find something to suit your family celebrations.

Crib services at Tostock on Christmas Eve and at Great Ashfield on Christmas Day. Children are invited to come dressed as Angels, Shepherds or Wise Men.

The Carol Service on the 11th Dec - you are invited to bring a gift for a child to put under the Christmas Tree - all gifts will be passed to the Bury Women's Aid Centre.

Christmas Day Services are for the whole family and will include some treats!

St Andrews's is delighted to welcome back **The Salvation Army** on Tuesday 20th December at 7:30pm in the church, for an evening of Carols followed by light refreshments. **All welcome.**

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18TH-25TH JANUARY 2023 Norton Churches Together

UNITED SERVICE AT THE SALVATION ARMY SUNDAY 22ND JAN AT 6PM

All are welcome to this annual service in which Christian Churches around the world of all denominations join together in worship. The year's theme is racial justice focussing on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023.

The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

## Services at Romney Cottage, The Green, Tostock.

All are welcome to this informal worship where we sing and pray together for our village, and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

**Carols and readings:** Monday 12th December 11am (note later time) followed by Christmassy refreshments.

**Songs of Praise:** Monday 16th January 10am

# St Andrew's Church Tostock

## DECEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023 CHURCH SERVICES

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

| DECEMBER 4TH      2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT                       |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am<br>10:00 am                                          | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Family@Church CHRISTINGLE                                                                                       | Norton<br>Pakenham                                                                         |
| DECEMBER 11TH      3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT                      |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| 9:30 am<br>11:00 am<br>2:30 pm<br><b>3:00 pm</b>             | Family Communion<br>Holy Communion<br>CAROL SERVICE<br><b>CAROL SERVICE</b>                                                             | Great Ashfield<br>Pakenham<br>Hunston<br><b>Tostock</b>                                    |
| DECEMBER 18TH      4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT                      |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| <b>9:30 am</b><br>3:00 pm<br>4:00 pm<br>5:00 pm<br>6:30 pm   | <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b><br>CAROL SERVICE<br>NORTON VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE<br>CAROL SERVICE<br>CAROL SERVICE                          | <b>Tostock</b><br>Stowlangtoff<br>Norton Salvation Army Hall<br>Great Ashfield<br>Pakenham |
| DECEMBER 24TH      CHRISTMAS EVE                             |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| <b>3:00 pm</b><br>11:30 pm                                   | <b>CRIB SERVICE</b><br>Midnight communion                                                                                               | <b>Tostock</b><br>Pakenham                                                                 |
| DECEMBER 25TH      CHRISTMAS DAY                             |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| 9:30 am<br>9:30 am<br>10:30 am<br>11:00 am<br>11:00 am       | <b>Family Festival Communion</b><br>Family Festival Communion<br>CRIB SERVICE<br>Family Festival Communion<br>Family Festival Communion | <b>Tostock</b><br>Norton<br>Great Ashfield<br>Hunston<br>Pakenham                          |
| JANUARY 1ST      EPIPHANY SUNDAY                             |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| 10:00 am                                                     | Family@Church - EPIPHANY                                                                                                                | Pakenham                                                                                   |
| JANUARY 8TH      BAPTISM OF CHRIST                           |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| <b>9:30 am</b><br>9:30 am<br>11:00 am                        | <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b><br>Morning Worship<br>Family Communion                                                                      | <b>Tostock</b><br>Great Ashfield<br>Pakenham                                               |
| JANUARY 15TH      2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY                     |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| 9:30 am<br>11:00 am<br>11:00 am<br><b>6:00 pm</b>            | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Morning Worship<br>Family Communion<br><b>Evening Prayer &amp; Praise</b>                                       | Pakenham<br>Norton<br>Great Ashfield<br><b>Tostock</b>                                     |
| JANUARY 22ND      3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY                     |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| 9:30 am<br>9:30 am<br>11:00 am<br><b>11:00 am</b><br>6:00 pm | TOAST<br>Family Communion<br>Holy Communion (BCP)<br><b>Morning Worship</b><br>United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity    | Great Ashfield<br>Norton<br>Hunston<br><b>Tostock</b><br>Unity Salvation Army Hall         |
| JANUARY 29TH      4TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY                     |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                            |
| 10:00 am                                                     | Benefice Holy Communion                                                                                                                 | Stowlangtoff                                                                               |

## History of the Post Office

This article is the history of Tostock's Post Masters and Post Mistresses. Credit must be given to Jean Wheeler and Reta Stevens who have gathered a wealth of information and written on this subject and also the Old Post Office.

**1854–1864.** This is the start of any form of Post Office in Tostock. For 10 years Henry Smith delivered the mail via Woolpit from Bury St Edmunds at 8am and then collected the mail at 5.45pm. His workplace in Tostock was the 'Gardeners Arms'.

**1868–1883.** John Crofts was the sub-post master. Where he worked from in the village is unknown. The mail arrived from Bury St Edmunds at 0630am and delivered at 0700am. Posted letters left the village at 7.10pm.

**1883–1904.** The sub-post mistress was Mrs Mary Ann Crofts and it is believed that the post office was at Romney Cottage on The Green. On 27<sup>th</sup> May 1898 the village had its own postman Archibald Knock ex Navy (father of Mrs Honey Manning). On his retirement (approximately 1915) he received a pension of £16-18-3 (£16.91).

**1904–1916.** The sub-post master is William Walton. On the retirement of Mrs Mary Ann Crofts, the sub-post office was incorporated into the Grocery shop which is what we now know as the Old Post Office.

The picture below was originally taken from a postcard in 1905 showing the Post Office. Also note that this is before the Crofts were built.



**1916–1953.** The sub-post master is Henry Boyce Hayhoe. It is believed that he was first owner of a car in the village, an Austin 7. The picture on the next page was taken in 1926 and again originally taken from a postcard. The gentleman by the car is likely to be Henry and his Austin 7.

*Cont..*

## History of the Post Office



**1953-1959.** The sub-post master is Mr William Grimwood and his sister Mrs. Phoebe Louisa Allen ran the shop. A letter was received from William in 1991 giving some insight to his life as sub post master. His weekly pay was £5. He used to open the door to his living room at 5.30am for the mail to be put inside by the post office van driver.

The postman at the time was George Waylett who retired in October 1964. He was born in Emswell and moved to Tostock with his parents when he was 6 years old and stayed.

He served in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War in Lord Kitchener's army. On leaving the army he set up a horse and van carrier business in the village. But with the coming of motor transport, he became a postman for 36 years.

**1959-1961.** The sub-post master is Mr. William Henry Buckley. His daughter Mary Fairweather and grand daughter Gillian also lived here. William's wife died prior to taking over the Post Office.

**1961-1965.** The sub-post master is Major Edwin John Woodcock. Major Woodcock made changes in the Post Office by installing new shelves and changes to the position of the counters. The Major made a visit to the village in 1991 and gave Jean and Rita an insight to his memories of the Post Office. When he moved into the Post Office there was no bathroom, lavatory or basin! The lavatory was an Elsan in the backhouse in the rear garden. Every two weeks he had to dig a hole in the garden to empty the contents. There was no hot water so they had old washing machine that they kept filled and ran all day.

Mail was delivered at 6.30am which initially meant him getting up early. But the solution was to lock the inside door and leave the outside door of the porch open. So, the van driver would leave the bag of mail inside the porch. At the time there was no safe so he would put all the stamps, papers, cash etc into a suitcase and take up to bed at night.

*Cont..*

## History of the Post Office

At some point he says he did a deal with the Post Office who supplied a safe for nothing. But he had to pay for it to be transported from Bury St Edmunds and the installation! It took six men to put into position.

The Major had fond memories of George Waylett the postman (mentioned previously). He did have one funny story of which he had asked George what he did with an 'EXPRESS' letter they had one day. The answer was that he ran instead of walking with it.

**1965-1966.** Sub-post mistress is Mrs. Rosemary Hammerton Meacham. Not much has been recorded on her. Mrs Freda Largent (nee Everitt) worked in the shop and said she often left on her own to manage the shop and at times the Post Office. Freda went on to work for Jean and Reta. The postman at this stage was James Wheeler.

1966-1997. The sub-post mistress is Miss Jean Evelyn Wheeler with Miss Reta Miriam Stevens as joint partner. This was their first venture into running a shop and Post Office. Mrs Freda Largent was instrumental in supporting and advising them on what had to be done. As the pair settled in Freda left as she was wanting to work longer hours.

In Jean's records she mentions the 'Top Shop' on the Leys Road. They existed happily with the other shop helping each other when necessary. On its closure in 1977 Jean took over the news agency. Villagers had to collect their papers in the morning from the Post Office.

In April 1978 the Post Office advised Jean that all mail work was to be withdrawn with responsibility given to Sub Postmaster at Norton. This meant that Mr Howlett the current postman would be based at Norton. In light of this they also informed her that this would have an effect on her salary. But they did agree to give her a lump sum to compensate for the loss of work!

During 1989 and 1993 Mrs Jo Goodenough was postwoman. During the 1980's customer numbers declined. Many afternoons were spent with an empty shop until the school bus arrived and perhaps a couple of children coming in for sweets or an ice cream.

In April 1990 they sought and got permission to close the post office during the afternoon inline with the shop. The shop closed in 1994 and at that point Jean submitted her resignation as Sub-Post Mistress. In November of 1994 the Post Office putout a vacancy of Sub Post Master but with the requirement that the applicant would have to supply their own premises. No applicants were forthcoming so Jean and Rita volunteered to open on a Monday and Thursday morning only for the payment of pensions and allowances.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1997 the Post Office and Shop officially closed for the last time. The last customer was Mrs Liz Duvall of Willow Lodge.

*Cont..*

## History of the Post Office



This picture is of Jean Wheeler (left) and Reta Stevens (right).

Jean is being presented with her Long Service certificate.

The original post box was fixed into the wall on the Old Post Office to the right of what was the shop door. In the 1970's the fitting deteriorated and the Head Post Office decided to install a box in the front garden by a fence. But when the post office closed in 1997 it was not allowed to stay in the garden because of insurance issues. In 1998 the post box was installed by the telephone kiosk.

Of additional interest all mail that was posted in the Old Post Office was stamped with the date and Tostock until 1981 by Jean and Reta. Postcards of the village were being printed and sold from the early 1900's to the mid 1960's.

**Jim Langlois and Anthony Scully**



*Andrew Bingham*

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

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TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP - ELIZABETH DUNN  
SECRETARY - SUSIE WALTON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS -  
JOHN AND LIZ ADAMS AND NIGEL KAINES

### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2022-23

|                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|
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| COUPLES MEMBERSHIP                        | £25 |
| ADULT (SINGLE) MEMBERSHIP                 | £15 |
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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](mailto:EJD1@TALKTALK.NET)  
OR  
SUSIE WALTON (07793 406076) - [SUSIEWALTON85@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUSIEWALTON85@GMAIL.COM)

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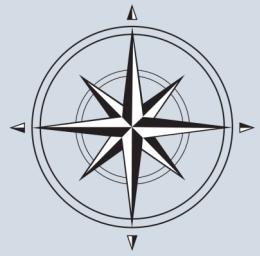
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Christmas is once again almost upon us. It doesn't seem 5 minutes since the last one, I suppose it's because the older you get, the faster time fly's by. Going back to my early childhood days when Christmases way back then in the early 50's, it was always my influence and determination to decorate the Christmas tree. One of the family traditions then was to tie onto the tree sugar mice, a tradition that I've continued on with right through to this day. I do find that these little small mammals are very fascinating and rather cute creatures and very photogenic from a photographers point of view. So there you have it, that's my subject for this edition, after all they are a big part of our country life – where you have humans you will also find these little rodents. I am not quite so sure about the bigger cousins the brown rats. So now I am using some of my intuition skills and imagination by showing you some of my photographs I have taken of these loveable, adorable little creatures. I am starting with a famous poem by Sir John Betjeman called "**The Diary of a Church Mouse**" as my theme. John Betjeman shows tremendous imagination by getting right into the mind of the Harvest Mouse so that you sense that the poem is coming straight from the mouth of the mouse – it is indeed really great work. Hope you agree -

*Cont..*



Harvest Mouse

*Here among long-discarded cassocks, damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,  
Here where the vicar never looks I nibble through old service books.  
Lean and alone I spend my days behind this Church of England baize.  
I share my dark forgotten room with two oil-lamps and half a broom.  
The cleaner never bothers me, so here I eat my frugal tea.  
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw, my jam is polish from the floor.  
Christmas and Easter may be feasts for congregations and for priests,  
And so may Whitsun. All the same, they do not fill my meagre frame.  
For me the only feast at all is Autumn's Harvest Festival,  
When I can satisfy my want with ears of corn around the font.  
I climb the eagles brazen head to burrow through a loaf of bread.  
I scramble up the pulpit stair and gnaw the marrows hanging there  
It is enjoyable to taste, these items ere they go to waste,  
But how annoying when one finds that other mice with pagan minds  
come into Church my food to share who have no proper business there.  
Two field mice who have no desire to be baptised, invade the Choir,  
A large and most unfriendly rat comes in to see what we are at.  
He says he thinks there is no god and yet he comes ... its rather odd.  
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat (its screened our special preacher's seat)  
And prosperous mice from fields away come in to hear the organ play,  
And undercover of its notes ate through the alter's sheaf of oats.  
A low church mouse, who thinks that I am too papistical, and high,  
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong to munch through Harvest Evensong,  
While I, who starve the whole year through, must share my food with rodents who  
except at this time of year not once inside the Church appear  
Within the human world I know such goings-on could not be so,  
For human beings only do what their religion tells them to.  
They read the bible everyday and always, night and morning, pray,  
Just like me, the good church mouse worship each week in gods own house,  
But all the same its strange to me how very full the Church can be  
With people I don't see at all except at Harvest Festival.*



Harvest Mouse



The European **Harvest Mouse** is the smallest rodent in Britain. It has an extraordinary tail, which is used like a 5th limb. The Harvest Mouse can wrap its tail around grass and corn stems, using it for balance, climbing and grasping. They eat grass, berries, cereals, fruit, insects and seeds. Harvest mice are at risk from pesticides and combine harvesters, but their natural predators include crows, cats and weasels. The spherical nests built by pregnant females are very complicated structures. They are woven from grass and can measure 10 cm in diameter almost like a tennis ball. Golden brown fur, small rounded ears, blunt nose, broad feet with gripping toes and long grasping tails. Scientific name *Micromys Minutus*, size 5-6 cm, weight 4-6 g, habitat grasslands, fields, breeding 3-7 litters a year, 1-8 young in each, could be as many as 50+ a year.



Wood Mouse



**Wood Mouse** - also known as the long-tailed field mouse. Although Wood mice are normally nocturnal, they may be spotted during daylight hours at breeding times. They eat a wide range of food, including moss, seeds, small insects and nuts. Males are very aggressive and often fight one another to protect their territories. They have even been known to kill young mice. Wood mice have orangy/brown chestnut fur, large ears and eyes, white or grey belly and a long tail. They sometimes enter houses looking for food, they are also very good climbers and can often be spotted in trees. Scientific name *Apodemus Sylvaticus*, size 8-10 cm, weight 13-27 g, habitat widespread. Breeding 7 litters every year with 2-9 young in each.



House Mouse



**House Mice** - although mice are very common mammals, it is unusual to see them because they are most active at night. They first came from Asia, but are now found around the world, almost anywhere humans live. During winter they may come into our houses, often setting up a home in roof spaces, under floorboards or in outbuildings, and are able to fit into the smallest of spaces to search for food, such as seed berries, snails and spiders. They have large ears, beady eyes, pointed snout covered with whiskers, long tail, colour of fur can vary from grey to brown to black and pale fur underneath. Scientific name *Mus Musculus*, size 6-10 cm, weight 12-22 g, habitat widespread, breeding 4-8 young.

Cont..

## CountryLife

It is easy to confuse Wood mice and Yellow-necked mice as they are very similar in size and appearance. The only distinguished mark is the patch of yellow fur on a Yellow-necked mouse's. neck, but this is often difficult to spot especially as mice are fast movers. Yellow-necked mice are mostly nocturnal and excellent climbers. They eat seeds, fruit, buds and seedlings. These mice live in some regions of England and Wales. When the young are born they are blind and helpless. They open their eyes when they are about 16 days old, and just 5 days later they are completely independent. Brown fur on the back, a bib of yellowish fur on the chest, white or cream belly and a long tail. Now we go onto bank and field voles. At first glance, a vole can easily be mistaken for a mouse. However, if they stay still long enough their plump bodies, smaller ears and short furry tails are obvious. Their tails are nowhere near as long as ordinary mice. Bank voles live in woodland, hedgerows, parks and gardens where they eat fruit, nuts and small insects. They are very active animals, and frequently seen, sometimes even visiting bird tables. They are eaten by Weasels, Stoats, Foxes and birds of prey.

*Cont..*

## Mobile Library

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

December 2nd  
December 30th

Perkins Way 15.40 - 16.00  
Gardners Arms 16.05 - 16.25

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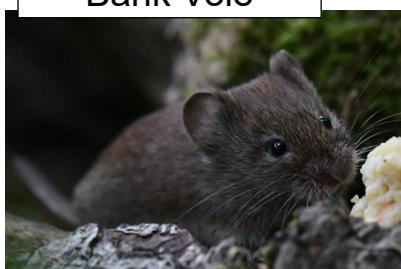
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## Bank Vole



**Bank Voles** live dangerous lives and few survive more than 5 months. They are not only hunted by other animals but males often die after fighting one another. Short fur, rusty brown on the back with greyish sides, short tail which is worm like, white fur underneath, small eyes and a rounded snout. Scientific name Clethrionomys Glareolus, size 9-12 cm, weight 20-40 g, habitat grassland. Breeding can give birth to their first litter of 3-8 young when only 5 weeks old.

**Field Voles** (also known as short tailed Voles), are one of Britains most common mammals, although they are rarely spotted. They are very common in grassland, as well as heathland and moorland where they feed on seeds, roots and leaves. They spend much of their time in runs and burrows and are less likely to be seen than Bank Voles. Field Voles are eaten by many predators, especially Kestrels and Barn Owls. The Field Vole is a sandier brown colour than the Bank Vole with a shorter tail covered in short fur, pale fur on the underside, grey-brown or sandy on the back, have a blunt snout and small ears and slightly bigger eyes than the Bank Voles, 1 female can have up to 5 litters a year. If each litter contains 5 babies this is a total of 25 babies a year. Mating from March to October, Scientific name Microtus Agrestis, size 8-13 cm, weight 15-50g.

So this is just about it. A few years back I have to admit that I was an ardent fan of the famous cartoon characters Tom and Jerry, I obviously took the side supporting Jerry as I am not a great lover of cats. Jerry always seemed to outwit the clueless Tom. This draws me into the conclusion as to whatever happened to them and their history. Are they still going or did it die of a natural death, perhaps you can enlighten me.

Finally I will leave you with some food for thought, which is the favourite fruit for most of these mammals which I have spoken about, a photo of blackberries I took from the hedgerows down the ride behind Wood Close, also a piece of my own art work which is a drawing using water colours of Harvest Mice of which I'm rather proud of. Hope you all enjoyed this, especially the poem.



Barn Owls are the main predators to the Field Voles, this photo was taken at Norton churchyard earlier this year

# Contacts in our Community

## Tostock Parish Councillors

|                  |                                                                                            |                     |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Andrew Mellen    | <a href="mailto:andrew.mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk">andrew.mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk</a>       | County councillor   |
| Harry Richardson | <a href="mailto:harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk">harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk</a> | District councillor |
| Graham MacDowell | <a href="mailto:crispincottage@hotmail.com">crispincottage@hotmail.com</a>                 |                     |
| Marie Johansson  | <a href="mailto:oldhallstables@btinternet.com">oldhallstables@btinternet.com</a>           |                     |
| Peter Boland     | <a href="mailto:peter.boland@gmail.com">peter.boland@gmail.com</a>                         |                     |
| Olivia Boland    | <a href="mailto:olivia@tostock animalparks.co.uk">olivia@tostock animalparks.co.uk</a>     |                     |

## Village Officers

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Tree Officer     | <b>Vacant</b>         |
| Footpath Officer | <b>Vacant</b>         |
| Litter Picker    | <b>Oliver Holland</b> |

## Poor's Estate

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Sharon Markell | 01359 271190 |
|----------------|--------------|

## St Andrews Church

|                            |                                                                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                     |                                                                        |
| <b>Katherine Valentine</b> | <a href="mailto:kavalentine677@gmail.com">kavalentine677@gmail.com</a> |
| Church Wardens             |                                                                        |
| <b>Jeanne O'Reilly</b>     | 01359 270337                                                           |
| <b>Barney Harrison</b>     | <a href="mailto:barneybees@hotmail.com">barneybees@hotmail.com</a>     |
| Bell Ringers               | <b>Sue Marriott</b>                                                    |
|                            | 01359 270143                                                           |

## Village Hall

|                         |                                                                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair                   |                                                                            |
| <b>Graham MacDowell</b> | <a href="mailto:crispincottage@hotmail.com">crispincottage@hotmail.com</a> |
| Hall Bookings           |                                                                            |
| <b>Doreen Buckle</b>    | <a href="mailto:tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk">tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk</a>     |
|                         | 01359 270605                                                               |

## Clubs

|                       |                                                                      |                                                                              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bingo                 | <b>Diane Brewer</b>                                                  | 01359 271127                                                                 |
| Book Club             | <b>Julie Harrison</b>                                                | 01359 270247                                                                 |
| Brownies              | <b>Krystie</b>                                                       | 07975 556448                                                                 |
| Carpet Bowls          | <b>Doreen Buckle</b>                                                 | 01359 270605                                                                 |
| Cribbage              | <b>Jim Langlois</b>                                                  | 01359 270456                                                                 |
| Crochet               | <b>Sarah Reader</b>                                                  | <a href="mailto:reader-family@tiscali.co.uk">reader-family@tiscali.co.uk</a> |
| Past & Present        | <b>Anthony Scully</b>                                                | 01359 270482                                                                 |
| Rainbows              | <b>Krystie</b>                                                       | 07975 556448                                                                 |
| Tennis Club           |                                                                      |                                                                              |
| <b>Elizabeth Dunn</b> | <a href="mailto:ejd1@talktalk.net">ejd1@talktalk.net</a>             | 01359 270270                                                                 |
| <b>Susie Walton</b>   | <a href="mailto:susiewalton85@gmail.com">susiewalton85@gmail.com</a> | 07793 406076                                                                 |

## NEXT EDITION

## February 2023/March 2023

Please may I have your contributions on or before **15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

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**

## Community Services

**Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance 999**

### Utilities

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| Energy power failures | 08007 838866 |
| & Emergencies         | 08457 145145 |
| Anglian water         |              |

### Health

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|-----------------------|--------------|
| Woolpit Health Centre | 01359 240298 |
| Out of Hours          | 111          |
| West Suffolk Hospital | 01284 713000 |
| BMI Hospital          | 01284 701371 |
| St Nicholas Hospice   | 01284 766133 |

### Advice

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Relate                          | 01284 767305 |
| Samaritans ( <b>free call</b> ) | 116 123      |
| Drugs Hotline                   | 0800 253 253 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau          | 01284 753675 |

### Police

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Non-emergency  | 101 |
| Crime Stoppers | 555 |

### Councils

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Suffolk County Council       | 03456 066067 |
| Mid Suffolk District Council | 0300 1234000 |

### Education

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Thurston Community College | 01359230885  |
| Norton Pre-school          | 01359 232736 |

### Pub

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| The Gardners                    |              |
| <b>Steve &amp; Jill Gardner</b> | 01359 270460 |

### Leisure

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Cineworld     | 0330 3334444 |
| Theatre Royal | 01284 769505 |
| Apex          | 01284 758000 |
| Picture House | 01284 754477 |

### Travel

|               |                                                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bus Timetable | <a href="http://www.suffolkonboard.com">www.suffolkonboard.com</a> |
| Rail          | 0845 7484950                                                       |
| Dial a Ride   | 01440 712048                                                       |

*The Tostock Chronicle is a bi-monthly newsletter for the people of Tostock, published by the Tostock Parish Council, and partially funded by advertising*

# Christingle Service



**EVERYONE!** Join us at 9.30am to help make the Christingles.  
Delicious breakfast refreshments will also be available before and after the family@church service which starts at the new time of 10.00am. See you there.



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