

Dec / Jan  
2025

# 391

# Tostock Chronicle

[www.tostock-pc.gov.uk](http://www.tostock-pc.gov.uk)

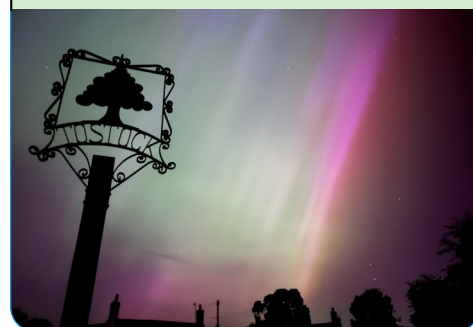
*Get the latest on news and events, a digital copy of the Chronicle, and a village map, all online*

## A fond farewell ...

After three and a half years I am now retiring as the editor of the Chronicle. Jane Storey will take over from me from the next issue. Thanks for all the support and kind words I've received during my time as editor.

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## Coming Soon

**Salvation Army Carol Singing** – Thursday 11th December  
(See page 8)

**Casino Fun Night** – Saturday 14th March Village Hall (see back page)



## Regulars

**Past & Present** — Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7.30 pm in the village hall

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

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

## Tostock Bowls Club

Doreen Buckle

Members and guests met for the annual Bowls lunch at Bradfield Manger in September, all enjoyed the meal and a get together socially.

We have now begun the Bury winter league. Our first game in October was at Cockfield for the knock-out cup, with a win. The second leg was the home game in November, with a win. We now go to the next round when we shall meet Thurston.

Two other league games against Woolpit and Stanningfield, we also won. We have a few new members which we include in the games. Well done everyone.

## Allotment Plots

There are some vacant allotment plots available to let. Please contact Mrs Sharon Markell Tel 07891 467273 for more information.

Sharon Markell

## Advertising

Parish Clerk [clerk@tostock-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@tostock-pc.gov.uk)

Rates Quarter Page £90 pa (vertical A5)  
Half Page £160 pa (horizontal A5)

## Tostock Poors Estate

Sharon Markell

If there are any older residents of Tostock (must have been a resident for two years) who wish to apply for the Christmas Contribution could they please contact Sharon Markell on 07891467273 for an application form. All enquiries are treated in strict confidence. Previous applicants will automatically receive a form.

## Tostock Village Hall

- Competitive Rates of Hire
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Your Local Venue

Contact Doreen Buckle  
**01359 270605**

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

## Next Edition

Feb / Mar 2026

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

[jane-storey@btconnect.com](mailto:jane-storey@btconnect.com)  
01359 270214 / 0771 442 7097

## Tostock Past & Present

*John Parnum*

Tostock Past and Present Society have their last meeting of the year on **Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>** when we welcome **The Lavenham Shanty Folk** who will entertain us with their music. We will all bring a plate of food to share.

No need to be a member just pay £5 on the door.

**All Welcome.**

Tostock Village Hall. 7:30pm.



Next years program starts on **Tuesday Feb 3rd** when Helen Taylor will entertain us with her experiences of **nursing in the 1950's**. After Helen's talk we will have our AGM for those who are members



# Save the date Sat 14th March 2026 **CASINO FUN NIGHT**

Back by popular demand!  
At Tostock Village Hall  
Enjoy playing Blackjack, Horse racing, Poker,  
Roulette, Skittles  
Price will include supper and funny money  
**Full details in next Chronicle**



## Crochet Group Update 2025

Sarah Reader

By the time you read this article the village green will be adorned with the crochet Christmas tree, gingerbread house and nutcracker, plus a new addition somewhere in the village for you to find!



The new addition was the brainchild of Nicki aka Our Mystery Topper maker from lockdown! It has taken over 220 square and many hours of head scratching to work out the best way to make and display, it was not as simple as it may look!

We have also been making a 4ft nutcracker, a replica of the one on the green to be displayed in a local care home over the Christmas period.

We all enjoyed the summer fete on the green, albeit one of the hottest days of the year, where we had a hoopla stall which seemed to go down well with both children and adults.

Some very creative toppers have been displayed on both post boxes this year and where possible we like to recycle, so we used last years poppy toppers to make our giant poppy for this Remembrance Day. The Octopus from our summer 'underwater theme' topper has also gone to a good home and getting cuddles daily. We were kindly given a donation for this, which we gave to the Macmillan Coffee morning in remembrance of Dianne one of our members who we sadly lost this year.

Children should look out for the SANTA POST BOX on Tostock Green this Christmas. Letters posted will be greeted by a Christmas tune played by the post box!



So as 2025 draws to a close we are already thinking of next years projects to keep us all busy and occupied for 2026. We have an on going project of making kitten blankets for a local rescue centre to accompany kittens to their new home, any donations of wool would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, we would all like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year and hope you find something from us hidden around the village on your Christmas walks!



## MacMillan Coffee Morning

Photos by Jane Parnum



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## A Special Thank You

Sue Marriott

On behalf of Hannah, Andy, Ava and all the family I would like to express our most sincere thanks for all messages, cards and support we have received since the loss of our darling Teddy. A special thank you to Rosemary Lister, Gail Moyle, Janet and Jon Walker for organising the refreshments in the village hall and to all you wonderful people who made and donated food, it really was an outstanding spread. I think everyone who came to the village hall could not help but be impressed with the decorations made by Hannah's friends which just expressed Teddy so well. Thankyou to all those who came to Teddy's special service in Church it was lovely to see the Church full, Thanks must go to the staff from Andrew Bingham Funeral Services for their support and kindness and Revd Katherine Valentine for her support and guidance over these past few very difficult weeks.

Tostock is a very special place to live and knows just when to we all need a hug. Thank you all once again.



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## Tostock STEM Day

### 5th Tostock STEM Club Sat 25th October

An excited group of 32 children aged 6 to 12 enjoyed a fun afternoon of 8 different STEM activities at Tostock Village Hall. This included experimenting with Robots, Microscopes, Invisible Ink, Catapults, Locks, Coin Battery, Litmus Paper, Balloon Cars. Thanks to all the adult helpers who made this event such a success.



Second 'Booze and Brushes' session in the Village Hall in November.

Robins on a slate!

## 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 above for times and dates for all our Christmas services across the benefice - you should find something to suit your family celebrations.

**Salvation Army carol singing** in St Andrew's Church Tostock on Thursday 11th at 7.30pm come and sing along - in aid of Salvation Army and St Nicholas's Hospice.

**Tostock Carol service 14th Dec 3pm** Please bring gifts for children at Bury Women's Aid centre.

**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.

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

We look forward to seeing you!

Happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.  
Revd Katherine Valentine.

Our Harvest Festival took place on September 28th, as usual the Church was beautifully decorated by our dedicated team of arrangers. Di Barker led the Service and we would like to thank her for the many times that she has taken Services for us during her time as a Reader, and wish her a "Happy Retirement!" Gifts of Food were later taken to the Women's Aid Refuge, thanks to all who contributed.

On September 26th The Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support was held at the Village Hall, in memory of Dianne Brewer, who had held so many successful occasions at her home. The Hall was full of people choosing from the wonderful selection of cakes and savouries which had been donated. An enormous number of prizes were donated for the Raffle and following a very enjoyable morning it was amazing to hear that £1104.24p had been raised for such an important cause! Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Coffee Morning happen, and to everyone who came along to make it a success.

The Floodlights are sponsored in November by Jean Le Fleming, in loving memory of her husband Peter.

### **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. Usually on the third Monday morning of the month at 11:00 am.

**Songs of Praise 8th December 2025 & 19th January 2026 at 11am**



# St Andrew's Church Tostock

## DECEMBER 7TH 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00am  
10:00am

Holy Communion (BCP)  
Family@Church HCHRISTINGLE

Norton  
Pakenham

## DECEMBER 14TH 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am  
11.00 am  
2:30 pm  
**3:00 pm**

Family Communion  
Family Communion  
CAROL SERVICE  
**CAROL SERVICE**

Great Ashfield  
Pakenham  
Hunston  
**Tostock**

## DECEMBER 21ST 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**9.30am**  
3:00pm  
4:00pm  
5:00pm  
6.30pm

**Holy Communion (BCP)**  
CAROL SERVICE  
UNITED VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE  
CAROL SERVICE  
CAROL SERVICE

**Tostock**  
Stowlangtoft  
Norton Salvation Army  
Great Ashfield  
Pakenham

## DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE

**3:00pm**  
11.30pm

**CRIB SERVICE**  
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

**Tostock**  
Pakenham

## DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am  
**9.30am**  
10.30am  
11.15am  
11:00am

FAMILY FESTIVAL COMMUNION  
**FAMILY FESTIVAL COMMUNION**  
CRIB SERVICE  
FAMILY FESTIVAL COMMUNION  
FAMILY FESTIVAL COMMUNION

Hunston  
**Tostock**  
Great Ashfield  
Pakenham  
Norton

## DECEMBER 28TH 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10:00am

Benefice Communion Service

Norton

## JANUARY 4TH EPIPHANY SUNDAY

8:00 am  
10:00 am

Holy Communion (BCP)  
Family@Church EPIPHANY

Norton  
Pakenham

## JANUARY 11TH BAPTISM OF CHRIST

**9.30am**  
9.30am  
11:00am

**Holy Communion (BCP)**  
Morning Worship  
Family Communion

**Tostock**  
Great Ashfield  
Pakenham

## JANUARY 18TH 2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9.30 am  
9.30 am  
11:00 am  
4:00 pm

Holy Communion (BCP)  
Morning Worship  
Family Communion  
United service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Pakenham  
Norton  
Great Ashfield  
Norton Salvation Army

## JANUARY 25TH 3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9.30 am  
9.30 am  
**11:00 am**  
11:00 am

TOAST  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
**Morning Worship**  
Family Communion

Great Ashfield  
Hunston  
**Tostock**  
Norton



The Committee held their last meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Our next quarterly meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. If you have any questions regarding the village hall and its surrounding areas, please contact us via [tostockvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:tostockvillagehall@outlook.com). For all booking enquiries, please email [tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk)

Please read below for the latest Tostock Village Hall News, and on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, may we wish you and your family peace, hope and happiness this Festive Season.

The **Tostock Annual Village Quiz** took place in the Village Hall on **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. Many thanks to Rebecca, Paul, Lisa, Jonnie, Rebecca & Peter for putting together such a well-planned quiz and fun evening. The quiz raised money for MollyOllys, which is a charity close to their hearts that provides much needed support to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families ([mollyolly.co.uk](http://mollyolly.co.uk)). A total of £723 was raised! Well done to our winning team: Viv, Andy, Jackie, Claire, Paul & Sarah who have taken on the challenge of organising next year's quiz!

**HOLD THE DATE:** The popular **Tostock Casino Night** is to return on **Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. Please see separate notice for further details. Information on how to secure your tickets will be available early in the new year.



### The Tostock Village Lottery 100 Club: December Draw set to be the BIGGEST PRIZE FUND YET!

The Lottery 100 Club is heading into its second year with its biggest draw yet. All entries received by the 1<sup>st</sup> working day in December will be included in the quarterly draw which is being held at **The Gardeners Arms** on **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup>**

**December** at around 6pm. Thank you so much to everyone who has joined.

If you haven't entered yet, **SIGN UP NOW** to be included in the **MARCH 2026** quarterly draw.

**Entry is just £1 a week, paid as £13 per quarter.**

Your £13 Quarterly Entry can be set up as a standing order using the following Business Account details: **Account Name: Tostock Village Hall; Sort Code 20-16-12; Account Number: 90198668.**

Please subsequently confirm your name & contact details to [tostockvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:tostockvillagehall@outlook.com)

For all further information please see <https://tostock-pc.gov.uk/100-club/>

## Village Hall Improvement Project Update

We are currently making good progress with some of the main grant applications associated with the Village Hall Project and our key focus is to decide how we will phase the work, as it is clear that we won't get the funding to do everything at the same time. A phased approach will also help to minimise the impact of the improvement work, ensuring that wherever possible and safe, the hall is able to remain open for us to use.

If you have any questions regarding the Improvement project, please do not hesitate to contact us on [tostockvillagehall@outlook.co.uk](mailto:tostockvillagehall@outlook.co.uk)



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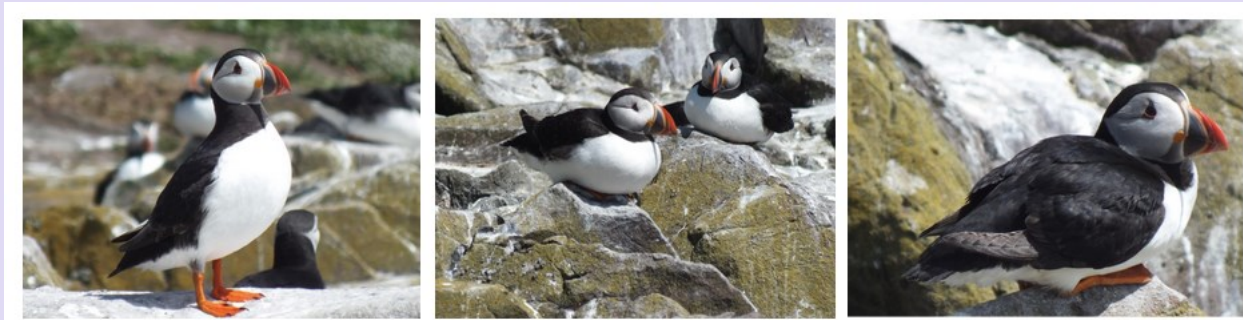
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Norton, IP31 3LU

I was very intrigued by our clergy's Rev. Katherine's letter in the August 2025 edition of the Village and Church news where she went on to praise Norton Primary School for their good behaviour politeness and manners, not forgetting their pleases and thank-you's. So I thought for this edition I would take a leaf out of their book and say a big thank you to all the faithful Tostock people and the do-gooders. I will take up the rest of my space naming you all – you all know who you are.

You only need to open the Chronicle on the back page whether it be Parish Councillors or Officers, St. Andrew's Church, Village Hall Committee, all our 9 Village clubs, The Gardeners Arms, and all fund raisers and organisers – Village Quiz, Art Shows, Coffee mornings, Past and Present, Bingo, Poors charity, not forgetting the fund raisers (Fayres and Bazaars) Lottery, You are all marvellous and magnificent – well done to you all, not forgetting Kim the editor. Unfortunately, about 25% of us could do better including myself and just sit back and do nothing. As a reward to all you good doers I am dedicating these 5 photographs as a thank you for your hard work and dedication. There is no better attractive looking bird throughout Gt. Britain or more popular and loved than our Puffin so please enjoy.



Photos taken at Holy Island Lindisfarne. Puffins are probably the best known of all sea birds, and their comical appearance is familiar to many who have never seen them in the flesh. Yet despite the affection it is held the Puffin numbers have been decreasing. Puffins nest colonially in burrows lined with dry grass on soft ground on top of rocky islands. The birds arrive in early Spring, numbers building up just offshore for some days before flying onto the land en-masse. courtship involves much clashing of the brightly coloured bills, and furious fights occasionally take place. A single white egg is laid, and both parents incubate in turn through the 6 weeks it takes to hatch. The chick is fed on sand eels, whiting and spratts brought in beakfulls of up to 11 at a time. Here are 2 more pictures taken on Mull.





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*It's a dog's life*

## Merry Christmas



Look ... it's Santa !

... and the fat guy

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## TOSTOCK TENNIS CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

### COMMITTEE 2024-25

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TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP - ELIZABETH DUNN  
SECRETARY - SUSIE WALTON  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS -  
JOHN AND LIZ ADAMS AND NIGEL KAINES

### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2024-25

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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 (07778 216 753) - [EJD1@TALKTALK.NET](mailto:EJD1@TALKTALK.NET)  
OR

SUSIE WALTON (07793 406 076) - [SUSIEWALTON85@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUSIEWALTON85@GMAIL.COM)



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*Andrew Bingham*

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## Contacts in our Community

### Tostock Parish Councillors

Jane Storey (Ch)	jane-storey@btconnect.com
Roger Cross (VH)	roger.cross64@icloud.com
David Blundell	tostock.design@btinternet.com
Michael Baully (Poors)	mikebaully@btinternet.com
Paul Callow	paul_callow@hotmail.com
Julian Kearsley (Finance)	juliankearsley@btinternet.com
Glenn Lebbon	glenn@oakparkproperties.co.uk
Andy Sharkey	andyshark123@yahoo.co.uk
Susan Smith	s.suesmiths@outlook.com

### Village Officers

Parish Clerk	Doug Reed	clerk@tostock-pc.gov.uk
Tree Officers	Becky Smith	07813 273474
	Ben Smith	07989 330649
Footpath Officer	Andy Sharkey	andyshark123@yahoo.co.uk
Litter Picker	Oliver Holland	
Defibrillator	Daisie	07449 796030
	Caren	07971 204661

### Poor's Estate

Sharon Markell	01359 271190
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### St Andrews Church

Rector	
Katherine Valentine	kavalentine677@gmail.com 01359 235095
Church Wardens	
Jeanne O'Reilly	01359 270337
Barney Harrison	barneybees@hotmail.com
Bell Ringers	Sue Marriott 01359 270143

### Village Hall

Chair	
Graham MacDowell	crispincottage@hotmail.com
Hall Bookings	
Doreen Buckle	tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk 01359 270605

### Clubs

Bingo	Diane Brewer	01359 271127
Book Club	Julie Harrison	01359 270247
Brownies	Krystie	07975 556448
Carpet Bowls	Doreen Buckle	01359 270605
Cribbage	Jim Debenham	07932 619106
Crochet	Sarah Reader	reader-family@tiscali.co.uk
Past & Present	John Parnum	johnparnum@yahoo.com
Rainbows	Krystie	07975 556448
Tennis Club		
Elizabeth Dunn	ejd1@talktalk.net	01359 270270
Susie Walton	susiewalton85@gmail.com	07793 406076

### Village Map

<https://tostock-pc.gov.uk/our-village/tostock-village-map/>

### TostockPC Website

Vacant

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

[www.tostock-pc.gov.uk](http://www.tostock-pc.gov.uk)

## Community Services

**Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance 999**

### Utilities

Energy power failures & Emergencies	08007 838 866
Anglian water	08457 145 145

### Health

Woolpit Health Centre	01359 240 298
Out of Hours	111
West Suffolk Hospital	01284 713 000
BMI Hospital	01284 701 371
St Nicholas Hospice	01284 766 133

### Advice

Relate	01284 767 305
Samaritans (free call)	116 123
Drugs Hotline	0800 253 253
Citizens Advice Bureau	01284 753 675

### Police

Non-emergency	101
Crime Stoppers	555

### Councils

Suffolk County Council	03456 066 067
Mid Suffolk District Council	0300 1234 000

### Education

Thurston Community College	01359230 885
Norton Pre-school	01359 232 736
Norton Primary School	01359 230 520

### Pub

The Gardeners Arms	
<b>Martin &amp; Claire Page</b>	01473 354 758

### Leisure

Cineworld	0330 3334 444
Theatre Royal	01284 769 505
Apex	01284 758 000
Picture House	01284 754 477
Everyman Cinema	01233 555 642

### Travel

Bus Timetable	<a href="http://www.suffolkonboard.com">www.suffolkonboard.com</a>
Rail	0845 7484 950
Dial a Ride	01440 712 048

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



Save the date  
Sat 14th March 2026

# CASINO FUN NIGHT

Back by popular demand!  
At Tostock Village Hall  
Enjoy playing Blackjack, Horse racing, Poker,  
Roulette, Skittles  
Price will include supper and funny money  
Full details in next Chronicle

