Tostock Chronicle

OCT / NOV 2026
#396

There has been so much going on in Tostock over the last two months, and so much to come, that this edition is now 20 pages. The Chronicle is funded by advertisers and the Parish Council. Please support the advertisers where and when you can. Thank you. The Editors.

Tostock Crochet Group

🌺 Remembering Loved Ones This Remembrance Sunday 🌺

For last year's Remembrance Sunday our crochet group created a giant poppy for the village green.

This year we would like to invite villagers to have a single crochet poppy 'planted' around it in memory of a loved one. Their name will be included on a remembrance plaque.

To dedicate a poppy please email their name to: reader-family@tiscali.co.uk.

🌺 Lest we forget. 🌺

Sarah Reader



Coming Soon
Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 10th Nov in the Village Hall – see Parish Council news for 2027 dates and location
Leys/Pond clean up – Sunday 25th October, 10.00am
Panto – Sunday, 13th December - see back page.
Tostock Village Quiz – Friday 13th November, in the Village Hall
Remembrance Service – Sunday 8th November, 10.45 am

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Regulars

Past & Present — Every 1st Tuesday of the month from 7.30 pm in the village hall

Coffee Mornings — Every 2nd 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

BOWLS CLUB NEWS

This season we will be bowling at Norton Village Hall due to the forthcoming building work in our hall. Thanks to our volunteers for transporting our Bowls equipment to Norton.

Our first game at home will be against Ashley on 9 October, this is in the knock-out competition. The away game against Ashley is on 10 November.

League Fixtures:

Thursday 29 October - away against Stanningfield

Monday 16 November - away against Cockfield

Our annual Bowls lunch takes place on Sunday 4 October at Stowmarket Golf Club for members and guests.

Doreen Buckle

Advertising in the Chronicle

Parish Clerk clerk@tostock-pc.gov.uk
New Rates from Dec 2026 edition
A5 vertical ¼ page £100 per annum (£20 single advert)
A5 horizontal ½ page £175 per annum (£35 single advert)
6 editions per year, charged pro rata for part year or one-off advertisements

Tostock Village Hall

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Your Local Venue

Contact **Doreen Buckle**
01359 270605
or email
tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk
to reserve it for your event

Next Edition **December 2026 / January 2027**

Please may we have your contributions on or before 14th November - thank you
jane-storey@btconnect.com

TOSTOCK ART SHOW 2026

A Wonderful Celebration of Art at the 46th Tostock Art Show

The 46th Tostock Art Show was once again a great success, bringing colour, creativity and a wonderful community atmosphere to St Andrew's Church.

This year's exhibition featured an impressive 255 exhibits, showcasing the talents of artists working in a wide variety of medium. Visitors were treated to an eclectic and inspiring collection, with plenty to admire and something to suit every taste.

The standard of the work was exceptionally high, making it difficult to choose the winner of Best Picture as visitors had to pick their favourite. The prize was awarded to Frances Barthorpe for her beautiful watercolour, *Solitude at Sunrise*. The painting was particularly admired for its atmospheric quality and delicate use of colour that was undoubtedly a worthy winner.

As usual, the Show extended beyond the church, with the marquee providing a further attraction for visitors. Here, an amazing array of over 950 greeting cards, 450 prints and wonderful homemade fudge and jams were available to browse and purchase.

The marquee was also the place to stop to taste the delicious homemade cakes and savouries, providing welcome sustenance and a chance for visitors to sit, chat and catch up with friends and neighbours.

The exhibition relies on a dedicated band of volunteers, too many to thank individually; a big thank you is owed to every volunteer who helped before the event, including putting up the marquee and display boards, promoting and signposting the event, providing the toilet, printing the catalogue, baking and donating cakes and savouries, serving in the marquee and stewarding in the church. Also, a thank you to those who gave their time on Bank Holiday Monday to help with dismantling and moving everything.

The Art Show has once again demonstrated the wealth of artistic talent and community spirit, continuing this much-loved village tradition that will hopefully flourish for many years to come.







The past 3 months has been a busy time in the Health Centre. We have received a total of 11,256 Anima requests, averaging 185 per day.

Contacting us

We are proud to offer our patients different options for contacting the health centre, online using Anima, via our reception team or through Andi.

- *We remind patients using the telephone for access that they can utilise the callback function if there is a queue.*

Un-attended Appointments

In the last 3 months 4% of the 4,440 face to face GP appointments were un-attended and not cancelled.

This wastes 35 hours of time dedicated to patients, equating to 175 appointments that would have been available over the 3-month period.

Reminder to Patients

Please remember to contact the health centre if you need to cancel your appointment. You can do this over the phone or via the NHS app. Every appointment missed and not cancelled is an appointment that could be used by someone you know who needs our help.



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TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8th September 2026

This meeting was attended by 8 parish councillors, the clerk and one member of the public (one of the tree officers).

There was discussion in the Finance section about introducing an increase to the advertising rates for the Chronicle. There was a feeling that the rates should not be put up if the Chronicle was just about breaking even. The alternative view was that printing costs were likely to go up and this should be taken into account. The Chairman, as one of the editors of the Chronicle, abstained from voting and the resolution was passed 4 – 3.

Another source of much discussion was the area around the Leys and the pond. The Council considered matters identified and raised by its working group of Cllr Callow, Cllr Cross and Cllr Sharkey who had met to discuss how best to manage the whole location given fire and other risks posed especially by climate change. After careful and considered discussion, various actions were agreed. Initial work would be carried out on the pond, tackling bullrushes and saplings and with the aim of securing the edges to the pond and tackling its base to ensure effective water retention.

Anyone wishing to help can join a 'morning of action' – 10.00 am on Sunday 25th October at the pond.

Cllr Sharkey also noted that he had contacted the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and that a representative would be meeting with him to discuss pond management for the future. The Leys itself would be cut more regularly going forward, seeking to restrict grass height to three inches with, as far as possible, weeds and cut grass removed from the site, thereby minimising the fire risk. Cllr Cross would speak accordingly with those who kindly cut the site.

The 'Best Kept Village' sign, dating from 1977, would be removed at the earliest opportunity as, in its current state, it represented a serious safety concern. It was agreed that it be offered to the Village Hall (charity) for potential incorporation as a feature in its redevelopment. Finally, given wider concerns about fire risks to village fields, it was felt that the Council should write to local landowners to highlight, on behalf of residents, the need for their help in taking climate change mitigation measures.

Minutes of the meeting will be recorded on the village website.

Please note that there are (potentially) Parish Council elections in May 2027 and some councillors may already be considering standing down. Anyone interested in standing for election next year is welcome to talk to any current councillor, or the clerk, about what the role entails.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th November at 7.30 pm and will be the last one for the year to be held in the Village Hall.

Given the redevelopment of Tostock Village Hall, meetings in early 2027 will be held in the Committee Room at Norton Village Hall with each starting at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 12 January - Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council;

Tuesday 9 March - Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council;

Tuesday 13 April - Tostock Annual Parish Meeting; and

Tuesday 11 May - Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Anyone wishing to have a matter raised for discussion at these meetings is invited to attend in person or to contact the Clerk or the Chairman.

Tostock Past & Present Society



Richard Allen's talk will now be on **THURSDAY OCTOBER 15th**. Richard will talk about his Dad's wartime experience from being a Flying Instructor to completing **30 operations over Germany** in Bomber Command flying the Handley Page Halifax.



In **November** don't miss our **Gardening Special**. Kate Elliott joins us to talk about a **Garden Love affair** - she is Head Gardener at Columbine Hall. This will also be an opportunity for Kate to answer your **Gardening questions** so our very own **TOSTOCK GARDENERS QUESTION TIME**. **Tuesday 3rd Nov.**



TOSTOCK TENNIS CLUB

WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT –

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP - ELIZABETH DUNN 07778 216 753

Looking for new members and those willing to serve on the committee to help keep the club running.

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2026

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	£40	COUPLES MEMBERSHIP	£25
ADULT (SINGLE) MEMBERSHIP	£15	GUEST COURT FEES, ADULT	£2
CHILDRENS (UNDER 16'S) MEMBERSHIP	£5	GUEST COURT FEES, CHILD	£1

We would like fees to be paid by Bank Transfer please

Bank Account number 01082391, Sort code 30-91-49. Please state your name as Reference.

If you would like any further information about the club or would like to contact us, call or email:-
ELIZABETH DUNN 07778 216 753, email EJD1@talktalk.net



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Rector Revd Katherine Valentine

Telephone 01359 235095

Email kavalentine677@gmail.com

Website for more details of all our churches - including Tostock – see the national Church of England website www.achurchnearyou.com

Our benefice Church magazine is also available online at www.vcnews.org.uk

CHURCH NEWS

The Art Show was a great success again this year, lovely paintings, so many people who came to view and buy, it doesn't seem possible that it was started 46 years ago by two amazing Tostock ladies, Heather Spencer and Simone Rochford. It was with great sadness that we learned that Heather Spencer died on Monday, September 14th, aged 93. She loved Tostock very much. Now a new team have taken over, Linda Stock with Mike and Kath Lord who are keeping up some of the old ways, and introducing new ideas.

The Tea Tent was very busy, lots of cakes and cups of tea were sold. So much depends on those kind people who turn up to do the "background " jobs for such a big event - thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

Harvest Festival is on Sunday September 27th at 11am. Everyone is welcome. If you can spare some gifts of packets or tins of food for Womens Aid in Bury St, Edmunds, we would be very grateful. Items can be left in Church if you can't come to the Service.

Our next Coffee Morning is on Tuesday October 13th at 10:30am in the Village Hall.

PET SERVICE held on 23rd August - everyone was welcome to bring their pets to this service where we gave thanks to God for all pets and animals. Each pet received a special blessing – even the stick insect.



St Andrew's Church Tostock

Open daily for visitors and private prayer.
TOSTOCK services are highlighted in bold.

OCTOBER

4th	**18th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Norton
10am	Family@Church HARVEST	Pakenham
11th	**19th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**	
9.30am	**Holy Communion (BCP)**	**Tostock**
9.30am	Morning Worship	Great Ashfield
11am	Family Communion	Pakenham
18th	**20th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**	
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Pakenham
11am	Family Communion	Great Ashfield
11am	Morning Worship	Norton
6pm	**Evening Prayer & Praise**	**Tostock**
25th	**BIBLE SUNDAY**	
9.30am	TOAST	Great Ashfield
9.30am	Holy Communion	Hunston
11am	Family Communion	Norton
11am	**Morning Worship**	**Tostock**

NOVEMBER

1st	**ALL SAINTS DAY**	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Norton
10am	Family@Church REMEMBERING	Pakenham
3pm	Memorial Service	Pakenham
4.30pm	Memorial Service	Norton
5pm	Memorial Service	Great Ashfield
8th	**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Pakenham
10am	Act of Remembrance	Norton War Memorial
10.45am	Remembrance Service	Great Ashfield
10.45am	Remembrance Service	Norton
10.45am	**Remembrance Service**	**Tostock**
10.45am	Act of Remembrance	Stowlangtoft
3pm	Remembrance Service	Pakenham
15th	**2nd SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**	
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Pakenham
11am	Family Communion	Great Ashfield
11am	Morning Worship	Norton
6pm	**Evening Prayer & Praise**	**Tostock**
22nd	**CHRIST THE KING**	
9.30am	TOAST	Great Ashfield
9.30am	Family Communion	Norton
11am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Hunston
11am	**Morning Worship**	**Tostock**

29TH **1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
10am Benefice Communion Stowlangtoft

Songs of Praise at Romney Cottage

Mondays 26th October 10am & 16th November at 10am.
All are welcome to this informal worship where we sing and pray together for our village, and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

MEMORIAL SERVICES - 1st November 2026
Come and light a candle for your loved one
This time of year is traditionally the season when we remember and give thanks for the lives of those we have loved who have died. As in previous years we will be holding Memorial and Thanksgiving Services across the benefice. During the services names will be read out and there will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of each person, whether named or remembered in silence. Refreshments will be served afterwards.
All Memorial Service dates and times are:
St Mary's Pakenham 3pm (Stowlangtoft names will also be read at this service)
St Andrew's Norton 4.30pm (Tostock names will also be read at this service)
All Saints Great Ashfield 5pm (Hunston names will also be read at this service)
We will be sending invitations to the families of those for whom we have conducted funerals during the last two years. However, all are welcome to come no matter how long ago you were bereaved. In that case please let us know if you would like us to include your loved one's name/s in the service. Please contact Revd. Katherine Valentine with details (01359 235095).
(NB these memorial services are not to be confused with the Remembrance Service on November 13th when we remember those who died and suffered in war).

CHURCH WINDOWS - work in progress

Not for the first time in its history, Tostock church needs its windows repairing. We are going to replace the glass and restore the lead fittings and the surrounding stonework of the six "nave" windows in the main body of the church.

There has been a church on the site since Saxon days but the current nave windows date from the 1400s. Of course they have often been repaired and the current glazing is early Victorian. Nearly two hundred years later, the opaque glass panes and lead surrounds, set into the medieval stonework, are much decayed. Unless they are restored, they will collapse - leaving the church open to the wind and rain.

We have started restoring the most endangered window, the one above the font. The speed of progress on the other five will depend on the pace of fundraising. We estimate the cost is in the region of £72,000. The old glass will be replaced by clear panes which will let in much more light. Norton church recently did this and the effect is wonderful.

£72,000 is a lot to find. Tostock church is not funded by the government or by the Church of England centrally. It is self-supporting, by means of fund-raising events and regular giving by the congregation.

The good news is that we hope to receive some grants from heritage and other bodies, not least because the building is Grade I listed. We hope, however, that our neighbours in Tostock will help us to repair this beautiful building, which belongs to us all.

More news in the next issue. Meanwhile, do drop into the church, any time during the day, to watch the progress.

Martin Davies, Church Warden

Tostock Village Hall News – October 2026

The last **Village Hall Committee Meeting** was held on Tuesday, 15th September 2026 - at this meeting the committee focused on the building work which will shortly commence at the hall.

TOSTOCK VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO BEGIN!

What is being done to the Hall? FIND OUT MORE….

DROP IN INFORMATION SESSION –11.30am – 12.30pm Saturday, 24th Oct 2026

Pop by the Village Hall between **11.30am – 12.30pm** on **Saturday, 24th October 2026** to find out more about the building improvements which are being made to the hall.

VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENT WORKS – External Work to start in late September 2026



As we have previously outlined the works to improve Tostock Village Hall will be done using a phased approach, and with the funding for the first two phases of the improvement project now in place, the building work is able to begin. John Cutmore Build have been selected to manage the work at the hall and are scheduled to start at the end of September.

The plan of work means that the Village Hall will remain in use up to the end of 2026 whilst the builders focus on the external groundworks. There will, however, be one week's closure to prepare for the external work and to allow for the internal area to be boarded up and made safe – it is likely that this week will be at the start of October 2026 - w/c 5th October 2026, but we will confirm the exact dates via email directly to all of affected users as soon as we are able to.

If you are a daytime user of the hall, please note that there may well be significant noise from the building work which is being done to the side of the hall, and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause. Late afternoon or evening user groups should not be affected by this noise.

The Hall will then need to close for all use from 1st January 2027, and subject to all works running to time, it is currently scheduled that the hall will be able to re-open in May 2027.

We would like to thank all of the hall's users for their understanding during the months ahead. We have done our best to allow for the hall to remain safely in use for as long as possible during the build, and hope that the period of full closure can be kept to the minimum.

To find out more about the improvements that we are making, or to ask any questions that you may have, pop into the **Information Session that we will be running at the Hall from 11.30am – 12.30pm on Saturday, 24th October 2026**. In the meantime, should you have further questions, please contact us on tostockvillagehall@outlook.com We will remain in regular contact with our Community User Groups, and will be using the 'Tostock Village Hall Suffolk' Facebook page to post updates, which we will also share with the Tostock Village Facebook page.

OUR FUNDING JOURNEY….. so far

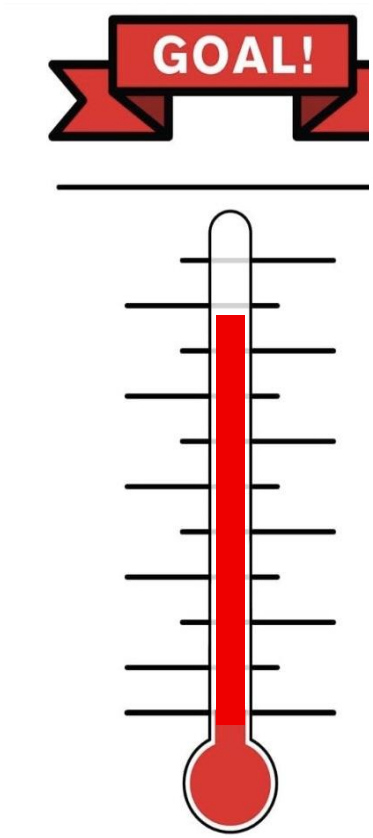
We would like to thank all of the organisations who have provided the advice and funding which have enabled us to start the first two phases of our improvement works - in particular, Tostock Parish Council, BMSDC and The National Lottery Awards For All Fund. We would also like to thank everyone in our local community who so willingly supports the Hall in all of its fundraising activities, such as The Annual Tostock Art Show and The Quarterly Village Lottery – 100 Club Draws, plus the numerous other village events that have been held in recent years.

We are confident that the money we have raised - a staggering £268,654 - will allow us to complete the first two phases of the improvement project works. The completion of these stages will allow the Hall to re-open and be used again.

HOWEVER in order to complete the final phase of the improvement works, we still need to raise just over £81,000. We are putting on our thinking caps for any new ways of raising these vital funds and if anyone has any ideas please let us know via tostockvillagehall@outlook.com In the meantime, we will, of course, continue to work hard to fundraise locally, as well as searching for new grants that may be possible sources of new funding.

TOSTOCK VILLAGE HALL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING

£350,000



BMSDC CIL* Funding
£148,654

Tostock Parish Council CIL* Funding
£40,000

BMSDC Community Development Grant £20,000

National Lottery Award For All Grant
£20,000

Village Hall Funds & Community Fundraising
£40,000

£268,654
TOTAL RAISED
September 2026

£81,346
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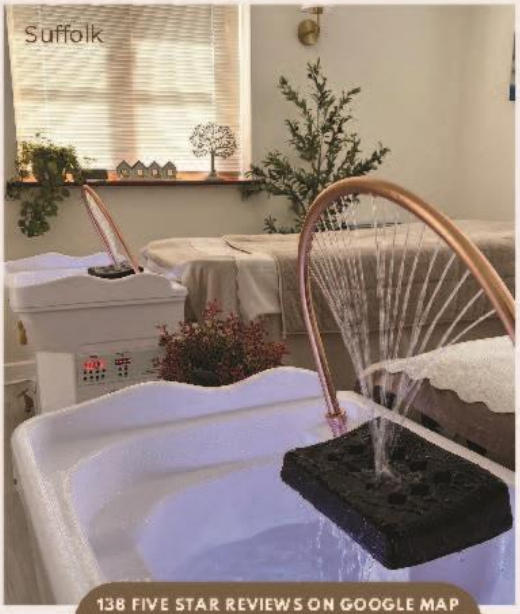
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What a Difference a Day Makes!

Set up by three mums in 1992, Happy Days Children's Charity based in Hitchin organises and funds special days such as trips to the seaside, theatres, zoos, museums, outdoor activity centres, sporting events and other educational and cultural activities for children right across the UK living with mental, physical and emotional difficulties. As well as helping individual families, Happy Days also provides a vital lifeline to hundreds of disability support groups and special educational needs (SEND) schools and arranges special days for other charities including children's hospitals, women's refuges and victim support services, to name just a few.

This Christmas, we're thrilled to be bringing '*Robin Hood: a Pantomime'* to the Village Hall stage on Sunday 13th December! Edward and I will both be taking on the 2027 TCS London Marathon and the money raised from this year's panto will count towards our fundraising targets in support of Happy Days Children's Charity, who kindly gifted me my Marathon place. Fundraising for this wonderful organisation is a privilege and deeply personal to us both following the tragic loss of our dear nephew, Teddy Nott, at just nine years old in September 2025. Happy Days had generously provided Teddy, his mummy, daddy, and little sister with a holiday to Center Parks in 2022, so raising funds that will enable other families to enjoy special moments together feels like a very fitting thing to do in Teddy's memory.

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting **tiny.cc/robin-hood-panto**, or from Tostock's very own box office at The Wayletts, Church Road. Doors will open at 12.15 with the performance starting at 13.00. We hope to see you all in December!

With thanks and very best wishes to all. Andrew and Edward Marriott.

Contacts in our community

Parish Councillors
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Sue Smith (Poors) s.suesmiths@outlook.com

Village Officers
Parish Clerk - Doug Reed clerk@tostock-pc.gov.uk
Tree Officers - Becky Smith 07813 273474 and Ben Smith 07989 330649
Footpaths – Andy Sharkey – as above
Litter Picker – Oliver Holland
Defibrillator – Daisie Mildenhall 07449 796030 and Caren Mildenhall 07971 204661

Poors Estate
Sharon Markell 07891 467273

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

Clubs
Bingo – Arthur Brewer 01359 271127
Book club – Julie Harrison 01359 270247
Brownies and Rainbows – 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

Community Services

Energy power failures and Emergencies 08007 838 866
Anglian Water 08457 145 145

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

Relate 01284767 305
Samaritans (free) 116 123
Drugs hotline 0800 253253
Citizens Advice 01284 753675

Police – non emergency 101
Police – emergency 999

Suffolk County Council 0345 606 6067
Mid Suffolk District 0300 1234 000

Thurston Community College 01359 230885
Norton Pre-school 01359 232736
Norton Primary School 01359 230520

The Gardeners Arms
Martin and Claire Page 01473 354758

John Peel Centre 01449 774678
Theatre Royal 01284 769505
Apex 01284 758 000
Picture House 01284 754477
Regal 01449 612815
Bus timetable
www.suffolkonboard.com
Greater Anglia www.greateranglia.co.uk
Dial A Ride 01440 712 048

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www.tostock-pc.gov.uk

Tostock Village Hall- Sunday 13th December 2026

Doors open at 12.15 and the show starts at 13.00



The Marriott brothers present:

Robin Hood

A pantomime

Tickets:

Standard-£9|under 12's-£7.50|under 3's- go free

Proceeds go to Happy Days Children's Charity

Book tickets at tiny.cc/robin-hood-panto

happy days children's charity