

Apr / May
2025

387

Tostock Chronicle

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

The Village is looking for a new Webmaster,
whose main job is to keep the village website
up-to-date.

It's a relatively simple job, so not a lot of
experience is necessary, and some training can
be provided.

If you are interested, email the clerk at
clerk@tostock-pc.gov.uk

The Village Get Together I thought was another
triumph for the Village Hall Committee, who put
on an excellent lunch, with the food provided by
Casper, and the laughs and jollity provided by
everyone who attended.



Coming Soon

Past & Present — Talks on April 1st and May 6th, at the
Village Hall from 7:30pm.

Easter Craft Fayre — Sunday April 13th, 11am to 4pm, at the
Village Hall.

Cars On The Green — Thursday 19th June, on the Green

Tostock Fete — Saturday 21st June, on the Green

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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

Tostock Annual Parish Meeting



Tuesday 8 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Hear reports from the Parish Council, County and District Councillors about what they have been doing for the village in the last 12 months.

Residents will be very welcome to ask questions and/or comment.

Village organisations are also invited to let residents know what they have been doing plus the meeting is an opportunity for anyone to raise anything they consider important to the people of Tostock.

All residents welcome - please come along.

If you have any queries beforehand please contact the Parish Clerk:

clerk@tostock-pc.gov.uk 01359 241009



Mobile Library

The mobile library will be in Tostock on **May 16th** at the following times

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Perkins Way | 15.40 - 16.00 |
| The Gardeners Arms | 16.05 - 16.25 |

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@tostockpc.org.uk

Rates Quarter Page £90 pa
 Half Page £160 pa

Next Edition **Jun / Jul 2025**

Please may I have your contributions on or before **15th MAY**, preferably in Word format

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Our New Village Hall - The Early Years

Mike O'Reilly

Fifty years ago the residents of Tostock got a new Hall and playing field and I was pleased to join the new committee as a newcomer to the village. The driving force for fund raising was the Tostock Community Council and in 1975 they sold the old hall, formerly the village school, in Church Road for £5250. During the next four years the Village Hall Committee took over running the fund raising and in 1979 the Community Council was formally wound up. There were lots of clubs and activities in the village and bookings of the Hall got off to a great start. Both the football and cricket clubs were using the playing field and the need for a childrens play area and tennis court was quickly identified.

As chairman I was faced with two big problems. We had two footpaths across the playing field and the local Ramblers Association took great delight in exercising their right to use the paths when a football or cricket game was in progress. The origin of the footpaths could be traced back to the time when residents did not have a water supply and had to use spring water. One spring was located on Norton Road and the second one was on Flatts Lane at Spring Cottage. Neither route was being used by Residents any more so I set about rerouting the paths around the playing fields. This negotiation took seventeen years to complete.

The second problem arose from the shared use of the playing field and there were constant disputed especially in the area of the cricket square. We decided to try and purchase an extra two acres to the east of the Hall from Suffolk County Council and in 1981 were successful but it meant an extra penny on the local rates for everyone for a few years.

We bought and erected a garage to house the mower equipment in 1977 and bought some swings and a climbing frame for the younger children. The cost and complexity of heating the Hall during the winter months led to a lot of Committee discussions in those days and by 1980 we had put in double glazing, a new floor and new heaters. By then fund raising had become a major problem. Two of the ladies on the committee, Simone Rochford and Heather Spencer, suggested an Art Show as the way forward.

This proved to be a major milestone for our Village Hall and has secured its success to the present day! We borrowed the stands from Stowmarket and after two years in the hall moved it to Tostock Church as a joint venture. In the first year it earned us £540. In 1981 a working party repainted the Hall, including painting and insulating the ceiling and improving the lighting. The Womans Institute donated some trees for the carpark area.

Following the purchase of land to the east of the Hall we had space for a tennis court and got a grant in 1982. The hard work of preparing the new football pitch and picking tons of stones, particularly sharp flints took a lot of organising! In the meantime the first new kitchen was installed in the Hall.

From day one storage was a constant issue. Tostock Operatics (TOADS) had costumes, props and electrical equipment, Indoor Bowls and Tostock Bridge club needed space for their equipment and the Committee room doubled as a football and cricket changing room. The Art show had bought its own stands and the Hall tables and chairs had to be stored somewhere. For a while it appeared that the Hall was not big enough and the Committee actually discussed an extension but the cost made it impossible.

Since that time, a large container was added for storage, the childrens play area was improved and fenced off, the heating system was again replaced, the tennis court was upgraded, the roof was retiled, the third new kitchen was fitted and a Basketball court was built. A disabled toilet was created and disabled access was made available. We have always had a great team of volunteers!



Wild Women of Tostock

Kate Mars

After just two meetings we now have over 40 members in the group. It has been really good to see people getting to know each other at the meetings. We have had many suggestions for activities - including Booze and Brushes; walk and talk; wine tasting and wild swimming!

If you would like to join the group please contact Lizzie - lizziepetrie20@gmail.com or Kate - katiemars@yahoo.com

Tostock Carpet Bowls Club

Doreen Buckle

Tostock Carpet Bowls Club are nearing the end of their Bury League Games. By the beginning of April we shall know how we finished up in the results table. We have had some good wins and also not so good ones! Well done everyone.

In April we will be playing Thursday evenings at 7pm. Visitors are welcome to come along and give us a look. As in previous years we hope to arrange some 'friendly fixtures' to take us through to the autumn.

EASTER CRAFT FAYRE TOSTOCK VILLAGE HALL SUNDAY 13th APRIL

Cream Teas Cakes & Savouries

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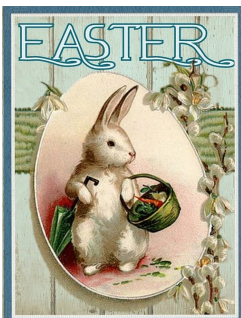
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SPEED QUIZZING!

Get ready for a night of fast-paced excitement at our Speed Quiz on **Wednesday, 3rd April!** Test your knowledge and race against the clock, it's going to be an epic night!

TOSTOCK CARS ON THE GREEN RETURNS!

Mark your calendars - **Thursday, 19th June** as Tostock Cars on the Green returns, and this year is shaping up to be the best one yet!

Expect a stunning lineup of classic, vintage, and performance cars, plus a great atmosphere for all motor enthusiasts. Whether you're showcasing your pride and joy or just coming to admire, it's an event not to be missed!



TIME FOR TEA AT THE GARDENERS ARMS!

Exciting news for all tea and coffee lovers! We are delighted to announce the grand opening of our brand-new tea room on **Wednesday, 2nd April**. Nestled in the heart of Tostock Village, our charming new tea room is the perfect place to relax and indulge in delicious treats.

Come and enjoy a delightful selection of teas and coffees, perfectly complemented by homemade cakes,

traditional cream teas, afternoon tea, freshly made sandwiches, and so much more. Whether you're looking for a cozy spot to catch up with friends, celebrate a special occasion, or simply treat yourself, we have something for everyone.

Join us for our opening day and be among the first to experience the warm, welcoming atmosphere and delicious delights we have to offer. We can't wait to serve you! See you there for a cuppa and a slice of something sweet!

OUR NEW OPENING TIMES

The Tea Room Opening Times

Wednesday to Saturday - 10pm to 4pm

(pre bookings only for afternoon tea)

Pub Opening Times

Wednesday and Thursday - 12.30 - 8pm

Kitchen open 12.30 - 2pm and then 5.30 to 7.30pm

Friday and Saturday 12.30 - 9pm

Kitchen open 12.30 - 2pm and then 5.30 to 7.30pm

Sundays 12.30 - 7pm

Kitchen open 12.30 - 3pm for Sunday Roast (pre bookings only)

St Andrew's Church Tostock

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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



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025

12th May Tostock 7pm St Andrew's Church

It is the time of year when these are held to elect our churchwardens and PCCs who do so much work behind the scenes to keep our churches open, running and active. We are so grateful to all those who serve in this way. Any who are on the church's Electoral Roll are eligible to vote for or stand as PCC members. Churchwardens can be voted for by anyone in the parish.

All are welcome to the meeting.

721 years old !

Jeanne O'Reilly

St. Andrew's Church has stood at the centre of life in Tostock for at least 721 years .The building is believed to be even older but 1304 is the date of the first recorded priest's appointment to our parish, so a celebration has been planned for Saturday July 19th.

A Treasure Hunt , (for all ages !) has been planned to include many "treasures" to be found in and around the Church. Refreshments will be available, cream teas have been mentioned !

Do come and join the Treasure Hunt !

**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 10:00 am.

Songs of Praise 14th April & 19th May at 10am

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

St Andrew's Church Tostock

| APRIL 6TH 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT | | |
|--|--|--|
| 8 am 10 am | Holy Communion (BCP) Family@Church SERVANT KING | Norton Pakenham |
| APRIL 13TH PALM SUNDAY | | |
| 9.30 am 9.30 am 11 am | Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Family Communion | Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham |
| APRIL 17TH MAUNDY THURSDAY | | |
| 7.30 pm | Holy Communion followed by Stripping of the Altar & Vigil until 9pm | Pakenham |
| APRIL 18TH GOOD FRIDAY | | |
| 10.00 am 10:00 am 1.30pm 2:00pm 1.40pm 2:00pm | Good Friday Meditations Easter Garden Service - all ages Walk of witness meet at Village Hall Good Friday Service in church- all ages Walk of Witness meet at Nether Hall gates An Hour at the Cross | Tostock Norton Great Ashfield Great Ashfield Pakenham Pakenham |
| APRIL 20TH EASTER DAY | | |
| 9.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) Family Festival Communion Family Festival Communion Family Festival Communion Family Festival Communion Family Festival Communion (with duck hunt!) | Stowlangtoft Norton Hunston Pakenham Great Ashfield Tostock |
| APRIL 27TH 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER | | |
| 9.30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am | TOAST Morning Worship Family Communion | Great Ashfield Tostock Norton |
| MAY 4TH 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER | | |
| 8.00 am 10:00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) Family@Church RISEN JESUS | Norton Pakenham |
| MAY 11TH 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER | | |
| 9.30 am 9.30 am 11:00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Family Communion | Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham |
| MAY 18TH 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER | | |
| 9.30 am 9.30 am 11:00 am 6:00 pm | Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Family Communion Evening Prayer & Praise | Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Tostock |
| MAY 25TH 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER | | |
| 9.30 am 9.30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am | TOAST Holy Communion Morning Worship Family Communion | Great Ashfield Hunston Tostock Norton |
| MAY 29TH ASCENSION DAY | | |
| 7.30 pm | Deanery Communion | Westhorpe |

Thanks to all who came to celebrate Tostock Village Hall turning 50 years old at our Village Hall Get Together on Sunday, 16th March 2025....great company, tasty food and lots of Village Hall memories shared! A big thanks as well to those who helped organise the day.

Our ground maintenance working party met in early February, luckily the weather was on our side and the team of volunteers were able to achieve a lot in a short space of time. Their help was thanked with a cuppa and a lovely piece of homemade cake at the end of the morning!

The next Village Hall Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29th April 2025. As outlined below, this meeting will include our AGM (Annual General Meeting).

If you have any questions regarding the village hall and its surrounding areas, please do not hesitate to contact us via tostockvillagehall@outlook.com

For all **booking enquiries**, please email tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday, 29th April 2025 - 7pm Tostock Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting

Join us for a drink at the Village Hall and find out more about the work which is being done to maintain and improve the village hall and its outside areas.



With a total prize pot of £383.50 based on 59 members in the club, the 2nd Draw of the Tostock Village Lottery 100 Club was held at the Gardeners Arms on Friday, 7th March 2025. A massive thanks to everyone for their support *Details of our lucky winners were posted on the Tostock Village Hall Facebook page.*



JOIN BY THE START OF JUNE TO BE IN THE NEXT DRAW.

See <https://tostock-pc.gov.uk/100-club> for further details.



Village Hall Improvement Project – Update

Following the approval of the building regulations in January, we are now getting updated quotes for the work that we wish to be undertaken. We are also working with a number of organisations and bodies who potentially may be able to provide funding for the project. Our target is to have a clear breakdown of all the costs associated with the project and of the total amount of funding that is available by the end of this year. In the meantime, we will also be focussing our efforts on our community fundraising efforts. If you have any questions regarding the improvements that we hope to make to the hall, please do not hesitate to email us via tostockvillagehall@outlook.com



HOLD THE DATE for the return of the Tostock Fete!

SATURDAY, 21st June 2025

See back page

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The Inheritance

He said "Simba, all that the light touches, will one day be yours"

... what does that mean ?

... and who's Simba ?

Tostock Parish Council

Jane Storey

Parish Council Meeting 11th March 2025 – brief summary

After the January meeting the vacancy for the Parish Council was advertised by Mid Suffolk District Council. An election was not called so the Parish Council were able to co-opt at this meeting. Sue Smith was the only applicant at the meeting and councillors voted unanimously to co-opt her until the elections in May 2027 and welcomed her to the Council.

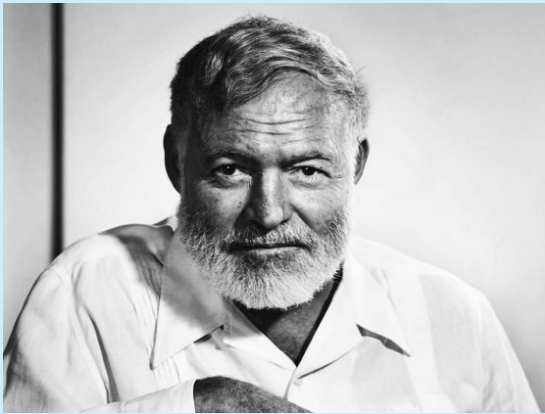
Cllr Andy Sharkey presented a comprehensive and informed report to the meeting about the state of footpaths within the village limits having walked them all in recent times. Other than some signage issues, he considered that all were in a reasonable condition and passable. However, he highlighted the issue of dog owners not acting responsibly by clearing the mess left on paths by their animals.

Cllr Storey advised that she had contacted the local Highways officer about the state of the road between the railway bridge on Norton Road and the bridge over the Blackbourne river. She had also requested information on the process to replace the missing footpath signs.

It was noted that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 13 May at 7.30pm in Tostock Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting (of all village organisations) is on April 8th at 7.30pm, also in the Village Hall.

Tostock Past & Present

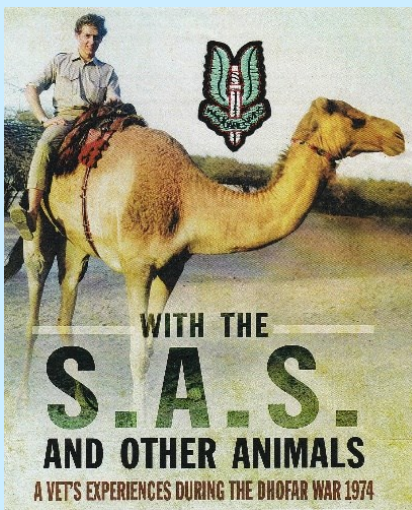
John Parnum



Ernest Hemingway had a fascinating, colourful life which will be brought to life by **Barbara McElroy** at our next talk on **Tuesday April 1st**.

Barbara will tell us about his love of the sea - and many women - his exploits in WW2 and she will also pick out notable events which inspired his books.

Our AGM will be held immediately after Barbara's talk.



Tuesday May 6th **Andrew Higgins** joins us to talk about his experience as a vet during the **Dhofar War 1974**. Copies of his book will be available to buy on the night. All our Meetings start at 7:30pm Tostock Village Hall.

Tostock Get Together





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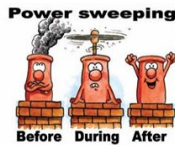
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SECRETARY - SUSIE WALTON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

JOHN AND LIZ ADAMS AND NIGEL KAINES

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ELIZABETH DUNN (07778 216 753) - EJD1@TALKTALK.NET
OR

SUSIE WALTON (07793 406 076) - SUSIEWALTON85@GMAIL.COM

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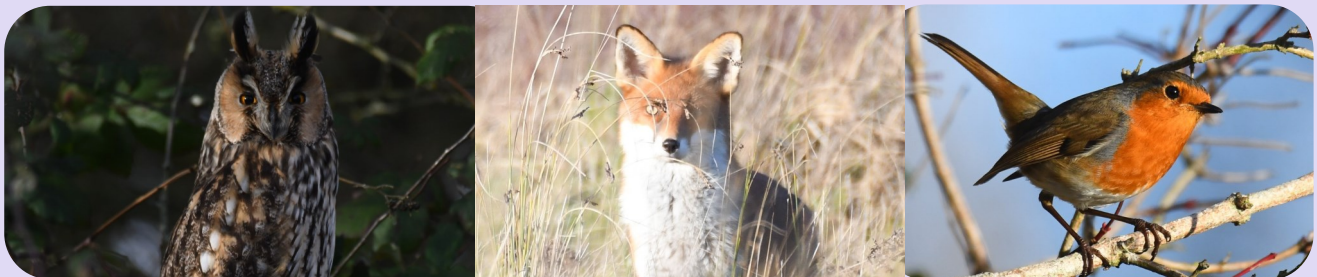
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Covering Suffolk and surrounding areas.

With the BBC's live outside broadcast of Winterwatch, done and dusted. We can now look forward to their Springwatch, with a brand new location. The programme is phenomenal. The astronomical sum of money they must spend in order to bring it to our screens, the vast amount of equipment needed such as thermal image cameras etc., and research that goes into the programme. It simply leaves a single amateur such as myself, scratching my head wondering how on earth can we ever compete against them. Well the fact is to my own astonishment I have managed to take a few shots of some illusive birds and mammals over this last 5 months and winter period. So for this edition I am going to bring you my own Winterwatch. All the photographs were taken locally within a 40 mile radius of Tostock. Hoping you all will enjoy. Without bragging or boasting some are absolutely cracking shots, and I will leave it to your own discretion as to whether I have cracked it in comparison to the BBC programme or not what do you think? There is a continental species of bird migrant to this country called the Hoopoe, we don't recognise it as a British species, you are more likely to see it in southern France or Spain than Britain. However, they do migrate across to our shores. It is one bird on my wanted list. I confess I have never seen one let alone photographed it until now. So on the 20th November 2024 word got around one was present down near Minsmere on the sand dunes between Sizewell and Dunwich Heath, so you can imagine this was my opportunity. Off I went. Within 2 minutes of walking the beach, a dog walker informed me it had just flown over my head, I missed it. I spent the next 4 hours in pursuit of it, when I finally caught up with it at 3pm in the afternoon. This is the shot I managed to capture.



The Long-eared Owl stayed in the bushes for the next 10 days, in all I saw it 5 times, the last day I saw it was Boxing Day the 26th. It is now 3 years I have seen it over the last 6 or 7 years so it must be a resident bird all of the time. The Fox was also taken down in the Blackbourn just before Christmas. The cracking shot of the Robin, I am dedicating it to Jenny and Paul at 5 Wood Close because it was on their front hedge where I just walked out and took the picture. The last two pictures of my Winterwatch are of the Grey Wagtail which was taken locally down at the pond at Pakenham Water Mills, taken the 2nd day of January, I have seen it at least half a dozen times since and finally the stunning Kingfisher. The photo was taken on the 7th January this year at Burwell Fen, down at Charlie's hide should you want to visit.



I hope you all have enjoyed my Winterwatch and photos as much as I have enjoyed taking them.



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@tostockpc.org.uk |
| Tree Officers | Becky Smith | 07813 273474 |
| | Ben Smith | 07989 330649 |
| Footpath Officer | Andy Sharkey | andyshark123@yahoo.co.uk |
| Litter Picker | Oliver Holland | |

Poor's Estate

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

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://tostockpc.org.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.tostockpc.org.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 | |
| Martin & Claire Page | 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 | www.suffolkonboard.com |
| 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



TOSTOCK

Summer Fete

on The Green

Saturday,

21st June 2025

12 – 4pm

The date is agreed & the planning is being done.

A traditional village affair, with all village groups hopefully able to add to the fun.

MORE details in the next Chronicle & on the Village Facebook page.

If you have any ideas for the Fete or would like to be involved,
please email tostockvillagehall@outlook.com

