

WOOD NORTON - THE 1950s

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN

Take a walk down memory lane with this snapshot of 1950 events and what was happening here at that time. You may spot some recurrent issues exercising Wood Norton residents and its various committees ... and a lot of letter writing!

Events being reported in the UK are shown in red.

1950

1 st January	All Saints Church Baptism Register Joanne Davison was baptised (daughter of Harry and Patience Davison, Beck Farm, Hindolveston). Kenneth Bell was baptised (son of Kenneth and Winifred Bell, Lyng Hall Farm).
6 th January	The School reopened after the Christmas Holidays. Jean Myhill and George Hopper have gone to Melton Secondary School. Christopher Cooper was 5yrs on Xmas Day.
12 th January	<i>Listen with Mother</i> is first broadcast on the BBC Light Programme.
25 th January	The School was closed by the Medial Officer due to severe colds and coughs.
2 nd February	The School closed for Scholarship Exams; 3 candidates are going. Attendance very poor due to the continued bad colds.
24 th February	The General Election is won by Labour under Clement Atlee for its second term.
16 th March	<i>The Gambols</i> comic strip appears in the Daily Express.
6 th April	The Parish Council AGM took place at the School. The Charity Commission were asking for 4 persons to act as trustees for the Wood Norton Charity. A complaint was made by Mr Taylor regarding the dumping of soil and rubble at the mouth of the sandpit leading off the Holt Road. Miss Hunt proposed that the notice board be repaired and painted without glass doors; Mr Smith proposed that Mr Mitchell again be asked to carry out these repairs.
April	The Kenwood Chef Food Mixer is introduced.
14 th April	<i>The Eagle</i> comic appears.
17 th April	The School reopened after Easter with two new scholars, Susan Bailey and Ann Clare.
24 th April	The School recorded that this was 'a very stormy morning'.
7 th May	All Saints Church Baptism Register Malcolm Wellington was baptised (son of Milford and Doreen Wellington, staying at the Council Houses. Milford Wellington was a Sergeant in the US Army, based in Germany).
13 th May	The first Grand Prix is held at Silverstone.
21 st May	A tornado tracks across England, from Wendover to Blakeney, Norfolk (68 miles).
26 th May	Motor Fuel Rationing comes to an end, after 11 years.
7 th June	Pilot episode of <i>The Archers</i> on BBC radio.
7 th June	The School recorded that 'the heat has been almost unbearable'.
27 th June	The School closed for the Royal [Norfolk] Show (28 th and 29 th June).

30 th June	The School recorded that Miss Norris came in and spoke of her life in Africa.
11 th July	<i>Andy Pandy is first broadcast on BBC Television.</i>
14 th July	The School recorded that Joy Rix had won a scholarship to Fakenham Grammar School.
15 th August	<i>Princess Anne is born.</i>
3 rd September	All Saints Church Baptism Register Thomas and Jennifer Seaman were baptised (twins; son and daughter of Thomas and Stella Seaman, The White House).
9 th September	<i>Soap Rationing ends.</i>
10 th September	All Saints Church Baptism Register David Rollins was baptised (son of Robert and Constance Rollins)
11 th September	The School reopened after the Summer break, with 20 children on the books, 10 in the Main room and 10 on the Class Room Register.
22 nd December	The School closed today until January 10 th . Attendance has been very bad for a fortnight owing to most inclement weather and severe colds.

1951

1 st January	<i>The Archers begins its long run on BBC radio.</i>
10 th January	The School reopened this morning. John Bone has gone to Melton Secondary School, Pamela Woods to Sidestrand.
5 th February	The School recorded that the nurse had called this morning and found only 6 present through bad colds. She 'phoned Dr Johnston who has closed the school for the rest of the week.
7 th February	All Saints Church Marriage Register Roy Overman (Bintree) and Ruth Dawson (Wood Norton) married.
March	<i>Dennis the Menace first appears in The Beano.</i>
9 th April	The School reported only 7 present owing to rain and flooded roads.
17 th April	<i>The Peak District becomes the first national park of the United Kingdom.</i>
28 th April	<i>Newcastle United win the FA Cup for the fourth time.</i>
3 rd May	<i>King George VI opens the Festival of Britain, including the Royal Festival Hall.</i>
6 th May	All Saints Church Baptism Register Rosalyn Taylor baptised (daughter of Noel and Madeleine Taylor).
May	<i>The Lake District becomes a national park.</i>
27 th May	All Saints Church Baptism Register Keith Myhill baptised (son of Leslie and Ruth Myhill).
28 th May	<i>The Goon Show is first broadcast on the radio.</i>
29 th May	<i>Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean defect to the Soviet Union.</i>
26 th June	<i>The Lavender Hill Mob, the Ealing comedy film, is released.</i>
26 th June	The School recorded bad attendance due to (a) two families (9 children) having chicken pox, (b) a very heavy downpour of rain at noon and on.
8 th July	All Saints Church Baptism Register Martin Warren baptised (son of Stephen and Edith Warren, 180 Woodcock Road, Norwich).
4 th August	All Saints Church Marriage Register Martin Warren (Old Catton, Norwich), and Lucy Bailey (Wood Norton) married.
15 th August	<i>The first Miss World beauty pageant is held as part of the Festival of Britain.</i>
25 th August	All Saints Church Marriage Register Douglas Billman (Great Ryburgh) and Dorothy Hopper (Wood Norton) married.
29 th August	The Parish Council met at the School. A survey of footpaths and public rights of way had been made and was reported to the Council. The Council accepted the proposal from the County Planning Office to make up the 20ft strip of the Northern perimeter track leading on to the Guestwick Road but rejected the proposal to restore the unclassified road. Mr Smith proposed to ask to have the Twyford Road made wider which would serve the purpose and be much less expensive; and proposed that a letter be sent to the RDC asking to have footpaths made through the village with kerb.
17 th September	The School has assembled this morning with 24 present including 3 new scholars.
20 th September	<i>The Festival of Britain ends.</i>
28 th September	The School recorded that the Clare family has left for Sustead.
17 th October	<i>The Austin A30 car is introduced.</i>
24 th October	The School closed for Polling Day and half-term.

26 th October	The General Election is won by the Conservatives, led by Winston Churchill.
28 th October	All Saints Church Baptism Register Edward Wright baptised (son of Alfred and Violet Wright, Barney)
31 st October	Zebra crossings are introduced for the first time.
2 nd November	The Parish Council met at the School. A letter from the RDC regarding the footpaths through the village stated that the work could not be carried out at present. The Council considered a request from the RDC of raising a contribution to the Cathedral fund; Miss Hunt reported that Mrs Norris was arranging a sale for this purpose and it was also proposed to arrange a concert for the evening. Mr Seaman proposed that a Halt sign be placed on the School corner.
November	Snowdonia and Dartmoor become national parks.
October and November	The Village Hut Club Committee called meetings in October and November, but attendance was poor and it was decided to take no action.
December	The Village Hut Club Committee met in early December when there was an attendance of 12. The Rector pointed out that the main question to decide was whether the Club should have its usual winter session which should have started in October. After some discussions it was proposed that the Club should open for the month of December as a trial. Mr Rutherford was asked to purchase a supply of tips for the billiard cues. It was decided to continue the fee for members at 2/6d per month. The question of the fee for lady members was left over for the next meeting.

1952

8 th January	The School recorded all present except Anthony Myhill who was ill.								
16 th January	Sooty, the glove puppet bear, first appears on television.								
16 th January	The School recorded that several children were absent with bad colds.								
23 rd January	The School received the news from Miss Shaw that it was to close at Easter.								
6 th February	King George VI dies at Sandringham (aged 56).								
8 th February	Queen Elizabeth II is proclaimed Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at St James's Palace.								
9 th February	<p>The Village Hut Club Committee met.</p> <p>Mr Rutherford reported having purchased the billiard cue tips and receiving cost of same from the Treasurer.</p> <p>It was agreed that the following rates should operate for the hire of the hut:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Weddings 18/-</td> <td>Meetings in the Afternoon 5/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cricket Supper 18/-</td> <td>Meetings in the Evenings 7/6d</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whist Drives 10/-</td> <td>Bazaars & Sale of Work 8/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Concerts 10/-</td> <td>Mother's Union 5/-</td> </tr> </table> <p>Mr Wright did not agree with the charge of 5/- for the Mother's Union because of the good work the Union had done for the Hut.</p> <p>In addition to the above charges a further 2/6d should be paid if the hirers of the Hut did not clear up after the entertainment.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the Cricket Club's contribution of £1 for the use of the Hut during the cricket season was sufficient.</p> <p>After complaints about the Heating Stove it was agreed that two Electric 2 bar Fires should be purchased; Mrs Crowe and Miss Bailey were deputed to make the purchase. It was also agreed that the Electricity Board should be asked to fit the necessary power points.</p> <p>Mr Wright proposed that Mr Mitchell should be asked to repair any of the chairs that were damaged. The old billiard table cover should be used to cover the top of the worst whist tables. Mr Mitchell was also asked to repair the roof where necessary, the kitchen back door and the door to the entrance of the hut.</p> <p>The subscription fee for the ladies was kept in abeyance.</p>	Weddings 18/-	Meetings in the Afternoon 5/-	Cricket Supper 18/-	Meetings in the Evenings 7/6d	Whist Drives 10/-	Bazaars & Sale of Work 8/-	Concerts 10/-	Mother's Union 5/-
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Cricket Supper 18/-	Meetings in the Evenings 7/6d								
Whist Drives 10/-	Bazaars & Sale of Work 8/-								
Concerts 10/-	Mother's Union 5/-								
15 th February	The funeral of King George VI takes place at St. George's Chapel, Windsor								
21 st February	Compulsory Identity cards issued during WW2, are abolished.								
28 th March	The School recorded that Miss Shaw called this afternoon to tell us that the school would not be finally closed on April 4 th as was at first intended.								
29 th April	The University of Southampton becomes the first post-war university to be established.								
3 rd May	Newcastle United win the FA cup for the fifth time.								
4 th May	All Saints Church Baptism Register Heather Long baptised (daughter of Herbert and Mary Long).								
1 st June	A one shilling charge is introduced for prescription drugs dispensed under the NHS.								
8 th June	All Saints Church Baptism Register Valerie Russell baptised (daughter of William and Leonora Russell).								
27 th June	The School closes today until July 3 rd . The Head Teacher absent "on leave" till July 14 th during which time Miss Chipperfield will be in charge so far as is known.								

29 th June	All Saints Church Baptism Register Margaret Skipper baptised (daughter of Leslie and Mary Skipper, Easton).
14 th July	The School recorded that the headteacher, Miss M. Hunt, returned to duty this morning. Miss Speakman finished on Friday.
31 st July	The School closes today for Summer Holidays and will not be reopened.
24 th September	The Village Hut Club Committee held its AGM. The Chairman reported that the Mother's Union held an afternoon meeting in the Hut. Mrs Norris paid the 5/- fee at the same time protesting against the charge as the Heating Stove was not lit, and the kitchen oil store was not used. Mrs Hunt handed in her resignation as Secretary because of ill health, this was accepted with regret, and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to her, thanking her warmly for her past services, and hoping for an improvement in her health. Mr Cullen also proposed that the action taken in February to open the club to the ladies, should be confirmed as it was clearly laid down in the rules that this was in order. Mr Cullen also proposed that they should be allowed to attend every night that club was open. An amendment was put forward by the Chairman that in addition there should be a special night each week on which the ladies might attend in force – the amendment was defeated by 9 votes to 4 votes. After along discussion it was proposed by Mr Smith that the men's monthly fee should remain at 2/6d and that the ladies fee should be the same. An amendment was put forward that the ladies fee should be 2/- but this was defeated by 11 votes to 3. Eastern Daily Press should be purchased for 5 days of the week. Mr Smith was thanked for promising to supply the club with some bus chairs. Norfolk County Education Committee agreed to accept the offer of £1 per quarter for use of the Hut as a library.
5 th October	Tea Rationing ends.
8 th October	The Village Hut opened with a small whist drive, and tea and cake.
15 th October	The Village Hut held a whist drive.
.20 th November	The Parish Council met. A letter from the RDC was read asking if the Council were making an appeal for the King George Memorial Fund. The question of Coronation Celebrations was discussed at some length, and it was finally settled to call a Public Meeting in the village hut on 5 th December. The question of roads leading out of the village was again brought up; Miss Hunt suggested that the Twyford Road should be improved as it was much too narrow for 2 vehicles to pass. The Chairman proposed that a letter be sent to the RDC asking if something could be done to improve this road in view of the fact notices had been posted on the airfield forbidding all traffic.
25 th November	The first run of Agatha Christie's play, <i>The Mousetrap</i>.
Undated 1952	The Village Hut Club Committee met three further times in 1952 (dates not given). Owing to the closure of the School the Norfolk County Election Registration Office wanted to know if the Hut could be used as a Polling Station at future elections, if so, the appropriate charge. It was put to the Committee and the charge would be £2 10s. Mr Taylor reports that Mr Gill could not repair the chairs, as it was found that they were in a hopeless condition.

	<p>Most people when coming to the Hut found it very cold so it was proposed that we buy a new open stove; Mr Smith should find out price, and Mr Mitchell should fit same.</p> <p>Mr Smith reports that an open stove would be fitted for about £30, and Mr Smith to order stove when next in Norwich.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council Election Office had written to say they were willing to pay the £2 10s for use of the Hut as Polling Station.</p> <p>Mr Smith was thanked for doing the work of buying the stove as it was a big improvement to the Hut, and committee agreed that Mr Mitchell had done a good job of fitting it.</p> <p>Mr Rutherford proposed that a whist drive should be held on Tuesday 27th January.</p>
11 th December	<p>The Parish Council met.</p> <p>The question of the terrible state of the roads through and leading out of the village was again discussed at some length and it was again suggested that this matter be taken up with the RDC as the Air Ministry had closed the Foulsham airfield to all traffic except by permit. The Chairman suggested that the RDC should take the matter up with the County Council and Air Ministry asking to have the old road running by the side of the airfield put in good repair again; failing this to have the Twyford road widened and make this the main road to Foulsham.</p>
12 th December	<i>The Flower Pot Men</i> debuts on BBC television.
25 th December	The Queen makes her first Christmas speech to the Commonwealth.

1953

31 st January – 1 st February	The North Sea Flood kills hundreds of people on the east coast of Britain.
1 February	Pool petrol introduced in WW2 is replaced by individual brands.
5 February	Rationing of sweets ends.
28 th February	James Watson and Francis Crick announce that they have discovered the structure of DNA.
31 st March	The funeral of Queen Mary (died 24 th March) takes place at St. George's Chapel, Windsor.
4 th April	All Saints Church Marriage Register Philip Starling (Foulsham) and Lucy Taylor (Wood Norton) married.
5 th April	All Saints Church Baptism Register Anthony Fisher baptised (son of Thomas and Frances Fisher, Banham).
7 th April	The Parish Council met at the Village Hut. There was a short discussion regarding the proposed improvement to the roads leading out of the village. Mr Smith proposed that the Twyford Road should be made wider, in preference to repairing the old road over the airfield.
April	<i>Watch with Mother</i> starts on BBC television.
13 th April	Ian Fleming publishes his first James Bond Novel, <i>Casino Royale</i> .
15 th April	22-year-old American airman Reis Leming is awarded the George Medal for rescuing 27 people in the North Sea Floods in East Anglia.
16 th April	The Queen launches the Royal Yacht Britannia.
24 th April	Winston Churchill is knighted by the Queen.
24 th May	All Saints Church Baptism Register Wendy Taylor baptised (daughter of Thomas and Hilda Taylor, Council Houses).
29 th May	Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay become the first climbers to conquer Mount Everest.
2 nd June	The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II takes place at Westminster Abbey.
26 th September	Sugar Rationing ends.
30 th September	The Village Hut Club Committee held its AGM. The Secretary reported that few members turned up every night, he thought 3 nights would be enough to open the Hut each week. Mr Smith proposed that the monthly fee be cut to 1/6d, which was agreed. A whist drive was arranged for the 26 th October. The Rector then said he thought that the club could do with some more chairs and the Secretary was asked to see if he could get hold of some second-hand ones.
11 th November	<i>Panorama</i> first airs on BBC television.
20 th December	All Saints Church Baptism Register Glynnis Taylor baptised (daughter of Noel and Madeleine Taylor, 7 Council Houses, Gunthorpe).

1954

20 th February	All Saints Church Marriage Register Edward Broady (Fakenham) and Mary Wright (Wood Norton) married.
26 th March	The Parish Council met at the Village Hut. Again the question of the roads leading out of the village was discussed at some length and it was proposed that the Chairman should take the matter up with the RDC. A discussion followed regarding the distribution of the charity coal; it was suggested by Mr Taylor that this could be equalised better if given to these really in need. It was disclosed that some that received the coal were property and landowners. Mr Taylor also brought up the question of footpaths, one leading from the village to Guist across the Sands was in such a bad state that it was unfit for anyone to use. Mr Smith proposed that the question of the roads should again be taken up with the RDC as the Air Ministry had closed the Foulsham airfield for traffic except for a few yards of one perimeter. Major Sheppard promised to take this matter up at the next meeting of the RDC.
28 th March	All Saints Church Baptism Register Jennifer Betts baptised (daughter of Raymond and Joan Betts, 2 Blacksmiths Yard, Guist).
6 th May	Roger Bannister becomes the first person to break the four-minute mile.
29 th May	Diane Leather becomes the first woman to break the five-minute mile.
4 th July	Meat Rationing ends. This marks the end of fourteen years of rationing during and following WW2.
12 th September	All Saints Church Baptism Register Josephine Broady baptised (daughter of Edward and Mary Broady).
26 th September	All Saints Church Baptism Register Sally Fisher baptised (daughter of Thomas and Frances Fisher, Cornerways, Banham). Kenneth Watson baptised (son of Thomas and Mabel Watson, 33 Wing lane, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard).
September	Hunstanton Secondary Modern School, Norfolk opens. It is considered a key building in modern British architecture.
2 nd November	First airing of <i>Hancock's Half Hour</i> on the radio.
6 th November	All Saints Church Marriage Register Arthur Kerrison (Guist) and Heather Riseborough (Wood Norton) married.
13 th November	The Great Britain national rugby team wins the first Rugby League World Cup in Paris.
November	The Village Hut Club Committee met and proposed that the Hut should be opened for one month to see if enough members would turn up to run it. Windows to be looked at by Mr Mitchell. Mr Taylor to see about chairs. The Committee met again on the 26 th November <i>[there are no further Minutes recorded in the minute book until 1960]</i> .

1955

24 February	A big freeze across Britain results in more than 70 roads being blocked with snow.
5 th April	Winston Churchill resigns as Prime Minister due to ill-health.
6 th April	Anthony Eden becomes Prime Minister.
20 th April	<p>The Parish Council met at the Village Hut.</p> <p>The question of footpaths was again discussed at some length; Major Sheppard explained these were in the hand of the NCC and the parish Council could not at present move in the matter.</p> <p>A complaint was made by Mr Taylor, a tenant of one of the Council Houses regarding the very bad condition of the road leading past the Council Houses after heavy rain, with water more than halfway across the road and no means had been attempted to drain this road; a letter would be sent to the RDC to see if something could be done to improve the road.</p> <p>Mr Barrett complained of the very unsatisfactory way means were provided to clear the roads during the snow drifts through the village; it was 3 days before any attempt was made to clear the roads and it was suggested that a letter of complaint be sent to the RDC. Major Sheppard explained that a letter had already been drafted in the very strong terms by the RDC to the NCC regarding these complaints. Mr Seaman proposed that a letter be sent to the Assistant Surveyor at Holt, asking where to apply in any future emergency for a snow plough.</p> <p>Mr Barrett asked why no council houses had been allocated to this parish and it was explained that applications had been twice given out and at present only one had been returned; Mr Barrett proposed that a letter be sent to the RDC asking for 4 council houses to be built.</p>
4 th -6 th May	A severe gale strips topsoil across Norfolk.
7 th May	Newcastle United win the FA Cup for the sixth time.
27 th May	Anthony Eden wins the general election for the Conservative Party.
29 th May	A strike is called on British Railways which continues to 4 th June, leading to a state of emergency being declared on 31 st May.
13 th June	<p>The Parish Council met at the Village Hut.</p> <p>Letters were read received from the RDC regarding the council houses. Miss Hunt proposed that something should be done in the matter of a playing field for the children of the village; a long discussion followed and it was decided to call a Parish meeting in the near future and form a committee for this purpose.</p>
Summer	Heatwave and associated drought.
13 th July	Ruth Ellis becomes the last woman to be hanged in the UK, for shooting dead her lover on the 10 th April.
17 th July	Stirling Moss becomes the first English winner of the British Grand Prix at Aintree Motor Racing Circuit.
2 nd August	<p>All Saints Church Marriage Register</p> <p>Kenneth Watson (Wood Norton) and Peggy Bailey (Wood Norton) married,</p>
3 August	Ministry of Housing and Local Government issues Circular 42/55 inviting local planning authorities to establish green belts.
27 th August	<i>The Guinness Book of Records</i> is first published.

4 th September	Richard Baker and Kenneth Kendall become the first BBC Television newsreaders to be seen reading the news.
14 th September	Airfix models release their first 1/72 scale model, the Supermarine Spitfire.
22 nd September	ITV begins broadcasting in London, ending the BBC's 18-year monopoly, and the first advert is shown, for Gibbs SR toothpaste advert.
22 nd September	<i>The Archers</i> kills off Grace Archer.
26 th September	Birdseye begins selling fish fingers in Britain.
23 rd October	All Saints Church Baptism Register Rosemary Woods baptised (daughter of Frederick and Bertha Woods, 67 Street, Barney).
31 st October	Princess Margaret announces that she will not marry divorced Group Captain Peter Townsend.
7 th December	Clement Atlee resigns as leader of the Labour Party, after twenty years.
8 th December	The Ealing Studios film, <i>The Ladykillers</i> , is released.
14 th December	Hugh Gaitskell becomes leader of the Labour party.

1956

8 th January	All Saints Church Baptism Register Wendy Billman baptised (daughter of Douglas and Dorothy Billman, Norwich Road, Booton).
24 th January	Plans are announced for the construction of thousands of new homes in the Barbican area of London, devastated by the WW2 bombing.
26 th January	The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is launched.
12 th February	Double yellow lines are introduced for the first time, in Slough.
24 th March	Devon Loch, owned by The Queen Mother and ridden by Dick Francos, collapses fifty yards from the finish line of the Grand National.
28 th March	The Parish Council met at the Village Hut. A discussion again followed regarding the roads to Foulsham. It was proposed by Mr Smith that the Twyford road should be made wider or have some places made in the old road to enable cars and lorries to pass. It was also suggested to send a letter to the RDC asking to have all roads out of the village made convenient this could be done by making lay-bys where the verge of the roads would allow and also ask to have the places repaired on the Rectory Road that were affected with the frost and snow. Mr Baily made a complaint regarding the very untidy condition of the school and asked that a letter be sent to Christ Church college regarding this complaint.
31 st March	All Saints Church Marriage Register Kenneth Stearman (Great Ryburgh) and Giraline Hopper (Wood Norton) married.
2 nd April	All Saints Church Marriage Register Kendrick Phillipso (Wood Norton) and Margaret Woods (Wood Norton) married.
7 th April	Manchester United win the Football League First Division title.
17 th April	The Chancellor of the Exchequer announces the launch of Premium Bonds.
5 th May	Manchester City win the FA Cup.
7 th May	The Minister of Health rejects an anti-smoking campaign, arguing that no ill-effects had yet been proven.
9 th May	The Gower Peninsula of Wales becomes the first area in the British Isles to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
27 th May	All Saints Church Baptism Register Sandra Kerrison baptised (daughter of Arthur and Heather Kerrison, 3 Holt Road, Guist).
1 st June	The first nurse teaching unit is set up in a British university, at the University of Edinburgh.
3 rd June	Third class accommodation on British Railways is redesignated as second class.
5 th July	Parliament passes the Clean Air Act in response to the Great Smog of 1952.
9 th July	Corgi Toys model cars are introduced.
22 nd July	The first UK Albums Chart is published in Record Mirror.
26 th July	Egypt announces the nationalisation of the Suez Canal, triggering the Suez Crisis.

31 st July	Jim Laker sets a record by taking 19 wickets in a first-class cricket match (Old Trafford, 4 th Test between England and Australia).
12 th September	Manchester United become the English team to compete in the European Cup.
5 th October	The Parish Council met at the Village Hut. Letters were read from the RDC in reply to complaints regarding the condition of the roads through the village; owing to lack of funds available this work cannot be proceeded with at present.
15 th October	The RAF retires its last Lancaster Bomber.
3 rd November	All Saints Church Marriage Register Philip Cook (Thorpe Market) and Margaret Woods (Wood Norton) married.
5 th November	<i>What the Papers Say</i> is first aired on television.
29 th November	Petrol rationing is introduced due to the Suez Crisis.
25 th December	PG Tips launches its long-running television advertising campaign, using a chimpanzee's tea party.

1957

9 th January	Anthony Eden resigns due to ill-health.
10 th January	Harold Macmillan succeeds Anthony Eden to become Prime Minister.
16 th January	The Cavern Club opens in Liverpool.
February	Norwich City Council becomes the first British local authority to install a computer (an Elliott 405).
11 th February	East Midland earthquake.
27 th March	The Parish Council met in the Village Hut. A discussion followed regarding the deplorable condition of the School Yard and it was proposed to send a letter to the solicitor acting for the Diocesan Board of Finance to enquire who is responsible. Rev Smith reported that notice had been received from the Melton Hall Estate Offices giving up the tenancy of the fuel allotment farm at Michaelmas 1957. Mr Reynolds the present tenant had also received notice to give up possession of the house and premises, October 1957. Mr Seaman proposed that the farm should be sold and with the money invested this would produce more than the present rent. Councillor Major Sheppard was doubtful if it was possible to compel Mr Reynolds to leave the place.
1 st April	BBC's <i>Panorama</i> spaghetti tree hoax – the first April fool's joke on television.
28 th April	All Saints Church Baptism Register Clive Warren baptised (son of Martin and Lucy Warren, Boundary Fruit Farm, Ash Lane, Carleton Rode).
24 th April	First broadcast of <i>A Sky at Night</i> , presented by Patrick Moore (it runs until his death in 2012).
4 th May	Aston Villa win the FA Cup for a record seventh time.
14 th May	The end of petrol rationing due to the Suez Crisis.
15 th May	Stanley Matthews plays his last international soccer game, ending an international career of almost 23 years.
1 st June	The first Premium Bond winners selected by ERNIE
9 th June	All Saints Church Baptism Register Steven Phillipso baptised (son of Kendrick and Margaret Phillipso, Lyng Hall Cottages).
23 rd June	All Saints Church Baptism Register Julia Long baptised (daughter of Frederick and Violet Long, Brush Cottages).
27 th June	The Medical Research Council publishes a report linking smoking to lung cancer.
June	The 1957-58 influenza pandemic ('Asian flu) reaches Britain (it will kill an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people)
6 th July	Paul McCartney and John Lennon meet as teenagers at a garden fete.
20 th July	Harold Macmillan makes a speech to the Conservative party at Bedford, saying "most of our people have never had it so good".
5 th August	<i>Andy Capp</i> first appears in the northern editions of the Daily Mirror.
10 th September	Tony Lock becomes the last bowler to reach 200 wickets in a first-class season (a feat subsequently impossible due to limited-overs cricket and covered pitches).

15 th September	All Saints Church Baptism Register Paul Stearman baptised (son of Kenneth and Giraline Stearman, Low Farm Cottages).
1 st October	UK introduces a vaccine against 'Asian flu'.
1 st October	<i>Which?</i> Magazine is first published.
2 nd October	David Lean's film, <i>The Bridge on the River Kwai</i> , is released.
3 rd November	All Saints Church Baptism Register Bridget Russell baptised (daughter of Victor and Brenda Russell, Holt Road) David Russell baptised (son of William and Leonora Russell, White House Farm).
11 th October	Jodrell Bank Observatory becomes operational.
28 th October	<i>Today</i> is first broadcast on the BBC Home Service.
25 th December	The Royal Christmas Message is broadcast on television with the Queen on camera for the first time.

1958

6 th February	The Munich air crash was reported. The Manchester United team plane flying back from a European Cup game crashes on take-off; 21 of the 44 on board are killed, including 7 from the Manchester United team, and 8 of the 9 sports journalists.
16 th February	All Saints Church Baptism Register Angela Myhill baptised (daughter of Kenneth and Olive Myhill, Lyng Hall),
21 st February	Duncan Edwards, 21, dies of his injuries following the Munich air crash.
24 th March	Work begins on the M1 motorway.
1 st April	The BBC Radiophonic Workshop is created.
4 th -7 th April	First protest CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) march.
7 th April	The Church of England gives its moral backing to family planning.
11 th April	The Parish Council met at White House, Wood Norton. Owing to the death of Mr Betts it was agreed to advertise locally for a Parish Clerk. J.W.A. Smith agreed to contact Mr Betts (L) regarding the ownership of the School. <i>[After this meeting, the Parish Council did not convene again until 10th August 1960].</i>
3 rd May	Boulton Wanderers win the FA Cup for the fourth time.
4 th June	The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards are presented for the first time at Buckingham Palace.
10 th July	The first parking meters are installed in the UK.
26 th July	The Queen gives Charles the customary title of Prince of Wales.
26 th July	All Saints Church Marriage Register Geoffrey Leithall (East Dereham) and Marguerite Rix (Wood Norton) married.
8 th August	Premiere of <i>Carry on Sergeant</i> , the first Carry On film.
10 th August	All Saints Church Baptism Register Jane Warren baptised (daughter of Martin and Lucy Warren, Boundary Fruit Farm, Ash Lane, Carleton Rode).
1 st September	The first cod war between UK and Iceland breaks out.
5 th September	A severe storm over the South East of England disrupts communications.
17 th September	All Saints Church Marriage Register John Sharpin (South Raynham) and Margery Crowe (Wood Norton) married.
11 th October	<i>Grandstand</i> is first broadcast on BBC television.
16 th October	<i>Blue Peter</i> is first broadcast on BBC television.
19 th October	Mike Hawthorn becomes the first British racing driver to win the Formula One World Championship.
28 th October	The State Opening of Parliament is broadcast on television for the first time.
10 th November	Donald Campbell sets the world water speed record (248.62 mph).
5 th December	The Preston Bypass, the UK's first motorway, is opened by Harold Macmillan.

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29 th January	Dense fog brings chaos to Britain.
14 th March	Norwich City (then a Division Three team) reached the semi-final of the 1958-59 FA Cup and played Luton Town. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.
18 th March	Norwich City and Luton Town held the FA Cup semi-final replay, which ended in a loss for Norwich City (Norwich City 0-1 Luton Town).
2 nd May	Nottingham Forest wins the FA Cup.
3 rd May	All Saints Church Baptism Register Philip Hopper baptised (son of George and Gillian Hopper, Low Farm Cottages).
24 th May	British Empire Day becomes Commonwealth Day.
1 st June	Juke Box Jury airs for the first time on BBC television.
28 th July	UK postcodes are introduced for the first time, as an experiment, in Norwich.
4 th August	Barclays become the first bank to install a computer.
26 th August	The British Motor Corporation launches the iconic Mini.
7 th October	Southend Pier is damaged by fire.
8 th October	The general election results in a record third consecutive Conservative win. The new member of parliament for Finchley is Margaret Thatcher.
30 th October	Ronnie Scott's Jazz club opens in Soho.
2 nd November	The first section of the M1 opens, between Watford and Rugby.
28 th December	First airing of the children's television series <i>Ivor the Engine</i> .

Wood Norton documents used throughout:

- *The School Log Book, 1913-1952 (Norfolk Record Office, C/ED 2/84)*
- *Wood Norton Parish Council Minute Book 1925-1967 (Norfolk Record Office, ACC 2007/375)*
- *Village Hut Club Committee, Minute Book 1937-1966 (Wood Norton Village Hall Committee)*
- *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk Parish Registers, compiled by Shirley and Keith Howell, February 2000; Baptisms and Marriages.*