NORTON NEWS

DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE

Please email NNEditor@nortonparish.com Deadline for next month's issue: 17th Dec 2020

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Update from the Parish Council Chairman

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to offer our appreciation to Eirwyn Jenkins who has recently resigned from the Parish Council. Many will know Eirwyn and how much he did for the Parish, a perfect embodiment of selfless commitment. He will be missed.

Doorstep Christmas Carol Singing **Following the success of lockdown clapping for the NHS in these challenging times, we were wondering would a group festive singalong help lift spirits? If so, we are wondering if the Parish could rally together and support us in raising some much-needed Christmas cheer.**



When? 24 Dec - 6pm
Where? Your doorstep
How? Sing along with synchronised playlist over Zoom/Webex/YouTube. A very kind parishioner has offered to help with the coordination and playlist. More details to follow...keep an eye on the Parish Council website.

If you are interested in helping out with this idea, perhaps with coordinating neighbours, please email chairman@nortonparish.com for further details. But please remember, stay in your household bubbles!

Any tree is a Christmas tree **In the absence of decorating a communal tree this year, which was one of the ideas from the village workshop earlier in the year, it would be great if parishioners might like to decorate prominent trees around the Parish to spread a little festive cheer. If you do decide to decorate trees around the Parish, could I kindly request that you also remember to take the decorations down again in the New Year- we could recycle again next year!**







The Play Space has been delivered and is under construction, with a lot of help, support and time from local residents, especially Jo Robson. A very special thank you to Jeremy Phelps, who helped unload. Weather challenges have slowed progress slightly, but we have great faith that we'll get there...i'm sure we can all wait a few more weeks for what will be a great community space! When the Play Space equipment is in place we will be looking for helpers to assist with planting and landscaping. Please get in touch to volunteer: nortoncouncil@gmail.com

In order to make our case that traffic calming and speed reduction measures are needed in the village, we are talking to the Highways Department about using a system called TrafficTrax to monitor traffic volumes on Old Tewkesbury Road and Wainlode Lane.
We are planning to apply for grants to pay for traffic calming and improved warning signs for the village.
Depending on the Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time, a local campaign to improve road safety and speed awareness will be launched in the new year.

LINKS & CONTACTS

http://nortonparish.com

http://seventowers.org.uk/

nortoncouncil@gmail.com

Norton History

Norton Village Hall

NHS 111 online

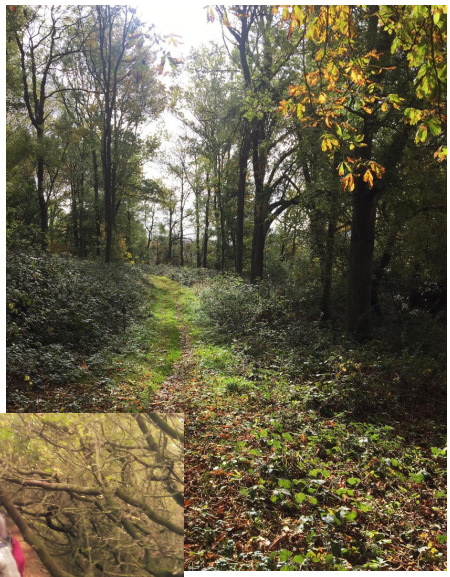
Police Non-Emergency: 101





WAINLODE WALKERS

As Wainlodes Walkers is not able to meet in the usual large numbers, Tuesday Trotters has formed to give more people the opportunity of walking each week , whilst WW continues to walk on Friday. We have a core of six local people who walk each week, with others occasionally joining us if a usual member is unavailable. We have have enjoyed exploring local footpaths and travelled a little further afield too - Alderton, Newent, Maisemore, Edgecombe, Selsey and Woodchester, as well as an urban walk taking in 9 parks in Cheltenham. We have discovered interesting history, beautiful views and wildlife. We are looking forward to the day when we can again walk in larger groups with Wainlodes Walkers. Thank you to Sue and Jeremy Phelps for inspiring us to walk regularly. Call Sue on 07754 668898 for more information.





PUMPKIN AUCTION

Thank you to Coombe Hill Farm Shop for hosting and donating the pumpkin for the brilliant "Pumpkin Auction" which took place before lockdown.
A special thanks to Cllr Jenkins, for his ever skilful knack of getting people to part with their money! In the end, £150 was raised for Norton CoE Primary School, which will be greatly appreciated. Well done to Cllr Holden and family on the winning bid for the extra large pumpkin!

NORTON VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to all who attended the Village Hall AGM via Zoom on the 28th October. To have such a great turn out from the Parish was excellent. A new committee was elected, as listed below, all of whom are very eager to start work.

Your new committee comprises: -

Geoff Pollard	Chairman
Helen Costin	Treasure/Booking Clerk
Brad Smith	Secretary
Jonathan Dring	
Louis Spencer	
Sue Phelps	
Selina Bostock	Norton Primary School Rep
Richard Page	Norton Parish Council Rep
Gary Edgecombe	Norton RFC Rep

As the new Chairman, I take this opportunity to thank the previous committee for their dedicated hard work over many years of service in the management and upkeep of your Village Hall.

We have set to work on making the Hall COVID secure, in anticipation of its re-opening sometime in the future, so please take every opportunity to make use of our excellent Village Hall and its facilities as and when we can re-open.

Everyone is welcome to attend our regular committee meetings with the next one being scheduled for 16th December 2020. For details on how to participate, please email: norton.booking@gmail.com

Gloucester foodbank

There is a regular collection of donations for the Gloucester Food Bank at St Mary's in Prior's Norton. Please drop any food items and toiletries on a Wednesday morning. If you can't get to Prior's Norton, please email: NNEditor@nortonparish.com

NORTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning is as fun and interesting as ever at Norton. Our Reception and Key Stage One team have even managed to organise a Christmas Nativity – of sorts - for our families to enjoy during the build up to the festive season.

On Remembrance Sunday, staff laid a poppy wreath at the memorial at St Mary's Church on behalf of the entire school community. Each class commemorated our Service People in their own unique way. Year 6 led the two minutes silence on Armistice Day, ringing the bell at 11:00 am and playing the last post at 11:02am.

While we cannot welcome our community in to the school, we can offer a virtual tour for all those who are curious about wonderful things happen within our walls:
https://youtu.be/36_efdjEBfo

Please support Friends of Norton School on #easyfundraising, you can raise FREE donations when you do your Christmas shopping online with over 4,300 retailers. Sign up here:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/.../friendsofnortonschool











NORTON RFC

The 2020-21 season has now been cancelled and we return to Stage A on the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap. We hope that we will be able to play some sort of rugby in the spring of 2021. We should also look ahead to next summer when Norton RFC will celebrate our 10-year anniversary. While many events have been discussed to celebrate this landmark, we will have to review the situation next year, to see how this can be appropriately marked.

During October, we formed the Norton Warpigs Running Club to encourage regular fitness among our community. Post lockdown, we will continue this and it is open to everyone, not just players. If you want to be involved, please watch out for updates on our Norton RFC Community Facebook page.

NORTON & THE LEIGH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

If you are interested in the history of Norton, there is a link via the Parish Council website that will give you lots of local information.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Did you know there is a Norton branch of Neighbourhood Watch? With over 60 villagers in the group, it's a great way to keep in contact in these difficult times. Please email to join:

christine1williams@btinternet.com