# NORTON NEWS

JANUARY 2021 ISSUE

Please email NNEditor@nortonparish.com  Deadline for next month's issue: 12th Feb 2021

# Happy New Year!

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

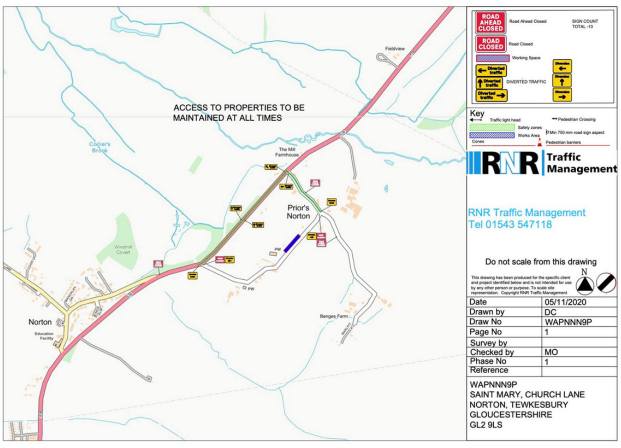
### PLAY SPACE

**As residents will have seen, the equipment for the new Play Space is now all sited and causing excitement for our young Parishioners (and some of the older ones too). Due to the wet weather we have experienced over recent weeks, we are having to wait for standing water to soak away to be able to add the "finishing touches". We are hopeful that a cold winter snap will help with this, if anyone has a way to stop the rain that would be greatly appreciated!**

**In the New Year we will be planting trees in the area along the fence lines, and so are looking for volunteers to help with this. If you are able to assist then please email the Clerk - nortoncouncil@gmail.com who will be compiling a list of supporters and arranging the date and time.**

### **ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION**

**Church Lane, Priors Norton**
**The road will be closed (as per the plan below) on 10/02/2021 (08.00 – 16.30)**
**This is to allow for a telegraph pole replacement on behalf of BT. (Access/egress to frontages is to remain at all times)**
**If you require any further information regarding this closure please contact Gloucestershire Highways on 08000 514 514.**






### DOORSTEP CAROL SERVICE

**The Parish came together on Christmas Eve through the power of Facebook Live to sing carols on their doorsteps. Well done to everyone for taking part and refusing to be beaten by COVID-19. "The Best Way to Spread Christmas Cheer, is Singing Loud for All to Hear."**

### VILLAGE SIGNAGE

**It's important for Norton to have a separate identity so that it's not seen as a suburb of Gloucester. To help boost Norton's village identity, the Parish Council plan to erect ornamental "Welcome to Norton" signs at entry points to the village. These signs, incorporating an image of the village and perhaps the legend "Please drive carefully", would be an attractive alternative to the current utilitarian road signs.**

**The Council will be considering a number of options, ranging from a sign mounted on a wooden gateway to a metal sign incorporating a simple logo or motif.**

**Additionally, the Council is looking at the possibility of erecting a decorative sign, depicting the history and culture of the area and mounted on a green oak post like a traditional inn sign, to mark the centre of the village. The Green is a possible location.**

**The Council will be applying for grants to help pay for these items."**

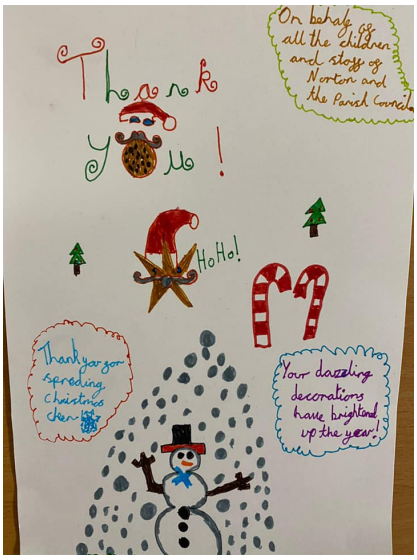
There is a regular collection of donations for the Gloucester Food Bank at St Mary's in Prior's Norton. Please drop any food items and toiletries on a Wednesday morning. If you can't get to Prior's Norton, please email: NNEditor@nortonparish.com

## NORTON SCHOOL

To spread some Christmas cheer this year, our pupils asked the community to decorate trees and their homes with lights, with a co-ordinated switch on. It was a huge success and the children have asked for their gratitude to passed on to the village, with a special thanks to the Daniels family, who out did themselves again this year!

In keeping with our aim to spread Christmas cheer, Key Stage 1 put on a tremendous Nativity in their bubbles. Key Stage 2 partnered with two care homes to design and make snowflakes and Christmas cards for the residents. We also featured on Channel 5 news with our virtual choir: www.youtube.com/channel/UCcdOXjmmlRw5yINCBnGFR%w/videos ! Classes also created a star and sheep for the nativity scene in Sandhurst. Christmas was different, but it was still magical for our children (and staff!).

A huge thank you for the donation of toys for our Little Learners, the children have loved exploring them.






A thank you to the residents of Norton from all at Norton CofE Primary School




## A POLITE REQUEST FROM A YOUNG PARISHIONER

Since a very young age, I have been really passionate about wildlife and the environment. A few years back my friend and I started litter picking around the village. Last year we created High Five 4 Wildlife, where either myself, or my friend and I, go litter picking each week. I have noticed an insane amount of rubbish, especially recently, for such a small village. It was very sad to find a little robin next to a piece of litter looking for food. People seem to dismiss the fact that wildlife is affected by littering. Many thanks to those in our community who take a proactive approach to this problem, together we are the solution.

## SANDHURST COBALT CARD GROUP

We are delighted and amazed to report that somehow, during this challenging past year, we have managed to raise just over £1,700. This money will be doubled by a generous benefactor, and will contribute to the purchase of a specialist machine to analyse blood samples immediately prior to a scan, thus eliminating the need for a separate appointment elsewhere beforehand, which will enable an urgent diagnosis to be made much more speedily.

A huge "Thank you!" to everyone who donned their PPE and came to buy cards, and to those who made generous donations.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all of us, and we look forward to a safer and more sociable year in 2021.

## NORTON RFC

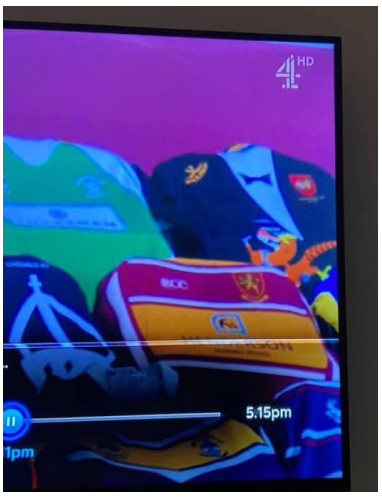
**The club returned to training in a COVID-compliant way on the 10th December. We faced our old rivals Westbury on the 14 December at Norton. This friendly under the new, revised laws of the game, was the first time the Warpigs have played since March!**

**If you watched the Autumn Nations Cup, you may have seen a Norton shirt on the seats at Twickenham. This was an initiative by the RFU to get as many of its member clubs represented at rugby HQ, while spectators couldn't be present. (See the photos opposite). Let's hope it is not the last time a Norton shirt is present at Twickenham, as each year, with the RFU club cup competition we are only 7 games away from playing a final at Twickenham!**

**The Warpig Trotters running club have been going out for 5km night runs on Thursday evenings. If you want to join, please get in touch.**

**Keep updated with all the latest news about the club on the Norton RFC Community group on Facebook.**






## 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.**

## NORTON CHURCH

**Although we are not having any services in the church at the moment we are open on a Tuesday from 10-4.00pm for private prayer.**
**For services in the Benefice please go to: seventowers.org.uk**

## USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

http://nortonparish.com

http://seventowers.org.uk/

nortoncouncil@gmail.com

Norton History

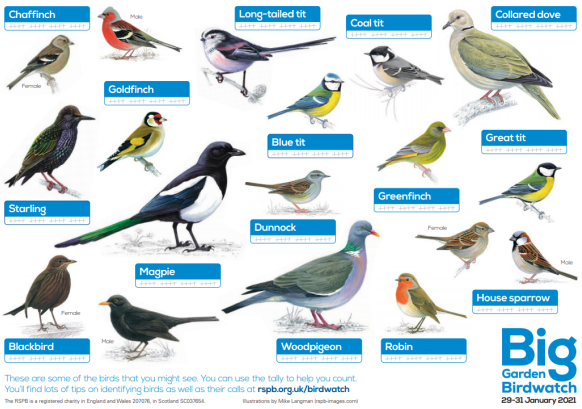
Norton Village Hall

NHS 111 online

Police Non-Emergency: 101

## RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

**To take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, choose any hour between 29 and 31 January and count the birds that land in your garden, local park, or on your balcony. Then submit your results online at rspb.org.uk/birdwatch from 29 January until 19 February or by post by downloading a submission form. Taking part is an important way to help gather data and increases understanding of the challenges faced by wildlife in our area.**




## 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**