NORTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022 ISSUE

Please email NNEditor@nortonparish.com Deadline for next month's issue: 23rd Sept 2022

NORTON VILLAGE HALL - A STATEMENT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

On 1st July, an incident occurred in which a lump of mortar fell from the main roof of the Village Hall. Fortunately, no-one was hurt. However, on further inspection with a roofing company, the roof structure was found to be faulty.

After this discovery, the Hall was closed as a precautionary measure while a structural engineer was appointed. Following multiple inspections and discussions with several structural engineers, it is clear that after 47 years, the Village Hall roof has reached the end of its serviceable life. Consequently, a significant part of the Village Hall roof will need to be replaced.

Therefore, the main hall and committee room will remain closed until further notice. Fortunately, the changing rooms have a somewhat separate roof structure and the structural engineers are satisfied that these can still be safely used.

The Management Committee is now investigating the cost involved to repair the roof and possible alternative options for the Village Hall and sources of funding. We appreciate that this will have a significant impact on the community and we will endeavour to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

In due course, we intend to hold a Village meeting to discuss our findings and obtain feedback from our residents on our ideas and suggestions on how to move forward.



NORTON PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE - NORTON VILLAGE HALL

As there appears to be some confusion in the village about the closure of the Village Hall, it might be helpful if the Parish Council clarified the situation.

First and foremost, the Village Hall and the Parish Council are two entirely separate entities. Although the Parish Council owns the land, the Village Hall itself is a registered charity which is managed and controlled by its own Management Committee. Consequently, all decisions relating to the running of the Village Hall (including the recent decision to close the Hall on safety grounds) are made by the Management Committee alone, and not by the Parish Council.

However, the Parish Council would like to make it clear that there is no truth in the rumour that the Village Hall is to be sold for redevelopment. This would contravene the terms of the Deed of Gift under which the land was gifted to the Parish.

The current situation regarding the Hall is explained in the Village Hall Management Committee statement which is printed opposite. It is also published on the Council's website and on social media.

NORTON PLAY SPACE

To ensure that the Play Space continues to be a place for all to enjoy we are looking for volunteers from the parish to help keep an eye out for any potential issues. This would include a free training session on how to check the equipment, and full support from the council. There is no advanced knowledge needed and you would not be expected to make any adjustments to the equipment. The only requirement is to report back any findings to the clerk. If you would be interested in finding out more please email the clerk: nortoncouncil@gmail.com.

We are also asking for feedback and thoughts on the Play Space and would appreciate parishioners taking part in a short survey, if you would like to take part please email nortoncouncil@gmail.com

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON ROAD SAFETY POLICY AND CYCLING PLANS

Gloucestershire County Council is currently revising its Road Safety Policy with the aim of delivering safer roads and healthier streets by lowering speed limits where people live and building more pedestrian crossing points. This is a key part of the County's Vision Zero (carbon emissions) by 2050 project. The County Council is keen to build residents' views into the final plan, particularly regarding speed limits, and has launched a public consultation on the proposals, which includes a survey on their website.

Norton parishioners have been vocal about speed limits in the past and therefore the Parish Council encourages everyone to seize this opportunity and help influence the policy's outcome. There will never be a better time to make your views known!

Additionally, the County Council wants to deliver a county-wide network of cycling corridors that link the county's rural towns and villages. To this end, Gloucestershire has published a draft Cycling Improvement Plan and is asking residents to let the Highway Authority know what they think of the proposed cycling corridors in the Plan and whether there are any that have been missed out. Full details and a survey are on their website.

To take part in these two surveys, go onto the County Council website (gloucestershire.gov.uk) and on the Home page scroll down to the "Have your say" box and select "view our consultations".



USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

HTTP://NORTONPARISH.COM
HTTP://SEVENTOWERS.ORG.UK/
NORTONCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM
NORTON HISTORY
NHS 111 ONLINE
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY: 101
NORTON VILLAGE HALL

NORTON CHURCH

Norton church is open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm for private prayer.
For services in the Benefice please go to: seventowers.org.uk

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

The September Village Coffee Morning will be held at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 14th September. Call in anytime between 10am and 12 noon for tea/coffee, cake and biscuits and of course plenty of friendly conversation. (Minimum donation of £1.50 please).

FOODBANK DONATIONS

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 every other Wednesday morning. Food is collected from the church between 1-2pm.

NORTON & THE LEIGH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Monday 26th of September.
Tony Conder will talk about
Gloucestershire and the Atlantic Slave Trade.
Venue tbc
Doors open 7.15pm talk starts 7.30pm
£3 entrance, everybody welcome.

Friday 30th September
Phil Pembridge will talk about his Grandfather's 1916-18 war.
How a baker and confectioner ended up swimming mules and other stories.
Finishing with a tent pegging display on horseback
Phils field, 7pm
£3 entrance, everybody welcome.

Please can you contact me before both events if you are planning to come along as the village hall is out of action at the moment. I also need to know numbers and give details of the venue for Phil's talk.
SUE PHELPS 07754 668898



DEERHURST FLOWER FESTIVAL

Several Norton residents will be involved with the Deerhurst Flower Festival and Oddas Chapel Art & Craft exhibition over August bank holiday 28,29,30th August. Splendid, spectacular flowers and Art and Crafts on show. A brilliant local and community event. Please come and enjoy!



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Did you know there is a Norton branch of Neighbourhood Watch?
With over 80 villagers in the group, it's a great way to keep in contact. Please email to join:

christine1williams@btinternet.com

WRITE A WILL SCHEME

Longfield Community Hospice has teamed up with three local solicitors to offer a Write a Will scheme during September.

Writing a Will is one important way to make sure loved ones are taken care of in the future, but many of us still haven't done it.

Throughout September, each solicitor is giving their time for free to support the hospice's work. Instead of paying legal fees, people taking part in the scheme will make a much-needed donation to help patients and families across Gloucestershire. The suggested donation is £90 for a single basic Will and £160 for a pair of basic 'mirror' Wills.

"We'd like to say a huge thank you to the solicitors for getting involved and supporting Longfield in this way," said Rachel Jones, Head of Fundraising and Marketing. "By giving their time and expertise for free, they're helping us provide care for families across Gloucestershire when they need it the most."

"We're also grateful to everyone who chooses to leave a gift in their Will to Longfield, which is not a mandatory part of the scheme. It's an incredibly generous gesture and means we can continue our vital work supporting patients, families and carers, now and in the future."

To find out more about the Write a Will scheme, visit www.longfield.org.uk/write-a-will or call the team on 01453 886868.

