NORTON NEWS

DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE

Please email NNEditor@nortonparish.com Deadline for next month's issue: 16TH DEC 2022

NORTON VILLAGE HALL - UPDATE

The Parish Council promised an update about the state of the Village Hall once we had received the structural engineer's report about the roof.

Well, the report's in - and it's good news! The survey report confirms that "the roof can be stabilised in its present position" and sets out the work required to do so.

Since then everything's moved fast. The materials have been ordered and will be delivered next week. The repairs will be carried out by local tradesmen who, for the most part, will be giving their services for free. Their work will be inspected and signed off by the structural engineer before the Hall is re-opened. If all goes well, everything should be completed in time for the school to use the Hall again in January.

However, this isn't a permanent solution to the problems with the Village Hall roof - it's only a temporary repair designed to get the Hall open again as soon as possible and give the Parish a breathing space to decide what to do next. With this in mind, the Parish Council and the Hall's Management Committee will be holding a public meeting in the new year to explain the options and get parishioners' views.



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT & SPEED LIMITS

The Parish Council has decided to apply for a grant from the County Council's Community Speed Watch Fund. This funding could be used to provide vehicle-activated "speed awareness" signs that detect and display a passing vehicle's speed using a solar powered radar device, plus a range of warning signs, including "rumble strips" that create a change in the road surface to alert drivers, "dragon's teeth" to denote a narrowing of the road, and "Slow" and the "30" speed limit painted on the road surface.

Following the recent serious accident on the A38 at Birch Drive, the Chairman has written to the County Council proposing that the 40mph speed limit that begins at the Longford roundabout be extended from the junction with Down Hatherley Lane and the entrance to the Golden Castle to beyond the turning to Old Tewkesbury Road and the Primary School.

TREE PLANTING

Plans to plant trees in the village to commemorate the death of Queen Elizabeth and the accession of King Charles are well advanced. Discussions are also taking place with the County Council about planting on highway land, especially the triangle of land at the entrance to the village by the school.

Local residents came together on 13th November to assist Dylan with the installation of a plaque on the Green. This is to mark the trees that were planted there in the Spring in celebration of Her Late Majesty The Queen's Jubilee.

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.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

There will be a Carol service on Wednesday 21st December at Norton church at 6.00pm. On Christmas Day there is a service at Sandhurst of Holy Communion at 10.00am.

See http://seventowers.org.uk/ for more details

COVID-SAFE COBALT CHRISTMAS AND GREETINGS CARDS SALE IN SANDHURST

Sadly, for the third year running, we still don't feel it is safe enough yet to hold our usual sociable card sale day. However, we have still made lots of lovely cards which we hope you will buy in aid of Cobalt.

To arrange an individual appointment, to come and choose your cards at a time to suit you, from mid-October onwards, please phone 01452 731519 and leave a clear answerphone message if no-one is available to answer your call.

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

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT HUB LAUNCHES

The County Council has launched a "Support Hub" to help residents get faster access to any support they might need to cope with cost of living challenges.

The Hub is split into five areas - money, food, energy, warm spaces, and protecting health and wellbeing. It's based online at http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/support-hub with hardcopy alternatives available very soon.

Warm and welcoming spaces will also be provided within libraries, offering:

- Warm places to relax
- Hot drinks
- Free access to internet and Wi-Fi.
- Charging points for devices
- Signposting to further advice and support
- Free activities such as homework help, knit and natter, and library clubs.

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.

Why not donate using the idea of a "REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR"? The Reverse Advent Calendar is a fun and easy way to help your local foodbank and get the younger generation involved. You only need a box and a pen – each day you add something to the box, either from a list or a calendar grid, and mark it off. At the end of the month, once all your donations are in you just bring the box to the foodbank collection point.

This winter promises to be the busiest yet for foodbanks and they need all our support helping struggling families at this time of year.

LIGHT UP A LIFE

Longfield Community Hospice has launched its annual Light up a Life appeal, giving local people of Gloucestershire the chance to remember and celebrate someone special and attend an uplifting celebration evening in the run-up to Christmas.

As part of the appeal, Longfield is organising two celebration services, featuring festive carols, readings and the chance for people to light a candle in memory of a loved one. There are two events to choose from:

- **Thursday 1st December at Gloucester Cathedral**
- **Monday 12th December at Minchinhampton Parish Church**

To donate or to book your place at one of the celebration evenings, visit longfield.org.uk/light-up-a-life or call the fundraising team on 01453 886868. The events are free to attend, but booking is essential. Please arrive at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.





NORTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL - UPDATE

Norton C of E Primary School are continuing to turn our school values (strive, think, act and respect) into real actions. Our School Council has been instrumental in raising awareness for our community, both local and global. We had one of the most successful food bank collections for the Harvest and we collected 42 shoe boxes for the Christmas appeal.

Currently we are studying the local history of WW1 using Norton and the Leigh Historical Society website to research the local men who gave their lives. Four children accompanied a member of our Governors to represent the school at the Remembrance Service. The school held its own service and put up a commemorative display on the external windows to share the names of the soldiers with the community.

We have welcomed Rev Joe to our school for the Harvest celebrations and look forward to working more closely with him and the church in the future.

We also look forward to working with the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and the Local Authority to ensure that the Village Hall, as a community asset, serves the most precious members of our community once more - the children.