NORTON NEWS

December 2024 Edition

Please email nneditor@nortonparish.com if you have anything you wish to be included in the Norton News

Housing development in Norton

At its meeting on 13 November, Norton Parish Council approved detailed and robust objections to two proposals for housing development in the village, namely: 45 houses on land at Brookelands Farm adjacent to the A38 and 2 houses on land north of the A38 junction with Old Tewkesbury Road. Copies of the objections may be viewed on the parish council's website at: https://nortonparish.com.

Two further applications where the parish council also objected - 42 houses at Locks Paddock off the A38 and 46 houses at LIme Close - are still being assessed by Tewkesbury Borough Council. There is no news yet on when these applications might be considered by the Planning Committee.

Reduction in the speed limit on the A38

Following further discussions with Gloucestershire County Council (in its capacity as Highway Authority) the parish council has been informed that Highways are now considering lowering the speed limit on the A38 to 40mph from Down Hatherley Lane right through to The Leigh. This would mean that the entire section of the A38 running through the village would have a speed limit of 40mph, rather than the current 50mph.

More news on this matter next month.

More improvements at the Village Hall

Users of the Village Hall will have noticed that the main hall has recently been redecorated, with panelling installed on the lower part of the walls to make retouching of worn or scuffed areas easier. The Committee Room is the next part of the Hall to be redecorated and this will be done over the school holidays, starting on Friday 20 December. Panelling similar to the main hall will be fitted and painted a light grey, with white walls.

Government proposals on remote meetings and proxy voting

Local councils are required by law to hold their meetings in public and in person. This requirement was relaxed during the Covid pandemic when councils were able to hold meetings online and since then there has been mounting pressure on the government to change the law to allow remote (ie online) and hybrid (ie online and in person) attendance at council meetings.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has now launched a public consultation seeking views on the practical implications of remote and hybrid meetings, and also the possibility of allowing councillors to vote by proxy if they were unable to attend a council meeting. The proposals were considered by the Parish Council at its last meeting and councillors agreed to respond to the consultation in support of remote meetings, especially as this could make it easier for local residents to attend, but had concerns about proxy voting as safeguards would be needed.

Interested residents can also respond to the consultation, which can be found at:

remoteattendanceconsultation@communities.gov.uk

St Mary's Church Carol Services

There will two carol services at St Mary's Church this December. Everyone welcome!

Advent Carols:
1st December at 4pm
Traditional Carol Service:
22nd December at 6pm

Norton Christmas Coffee Morning

There is a Norton Christmas Coffee morning on Wednesday 11th December in Norton Village Hall. 10am-11:30am with B&B Table



Norton Nature

As Autumn turns to winter please consider the role hedges and wild areas have in supplying shelter to birds, insects and our under threat wildlife. Not every area of long grass or hedgerow plants needs to be cut down or sprayed in the pursuit of urban neatness. Norton is a countryside village and that area of brambles may be a wonderful home and source of food for all sorts of creatures!



Also, this fall, consider leaving the leaves!

Leaving the leaves does not necessarily mean ignoring them and leaving them where they fell. You can move them to places where they are out of the way, will not kill the grass, and will still help wildlife. Consider raking leaves into areas around trees or using them as winter mulch for perennials or to cover garden beds. A thick layer of leaves provides additional insulation against cold weather and can protect newly planted perennials. A thin layer of leaves can actually help turf grass, too. Fallen leaves are nature's free fertilizer and provide valuable organic matter. They have the same weed suppression and moisture retention properties of shredded wood mulch, and they're free!

Norton Parish Festive Drinks, Quiz and Toy Donation Bank in aid of The Pied Piper



On Thursday 19th December Norton Village Hall will be hosting a Festive Drinks Evening:

- Complimentary Mulled Wine, (apple juice for children) and mince pie on arrival
- Fully stocked Bar
- Sourdough hand stretched pizzas
- Festive Christmas Quiz
- Pied Piper toy donation drop off
- 17:00 - 21:30

Useful Links and Contacts

https://nortonparish.com
https://severntowers.org.uk
nortoncouncil@gmail.com
Norton History
NHS 111
Police Non-Emergency Number 101
Norton Village Hall Website
Norton Village Hall Bookings

Did you know there is a Norton branch of neighbourhood Watch?

With over 100 villagers in the group, it's a great way to keep in contact. Please email to join: christine1williams@btinternet.com

GLOUCESTER FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

There is a regular collection of donations for the Gloucester Food Bank at St Mary's in Priors Norton. Please drop any food or toiletry items every other Wednesday morning.

Norton + The Leigh Historical Society
Programme for 2025

Monday 27th January 2025
A history of military medals — Group Captain Clive Montellier
The MOD Medal Office for the entire country is run from Imjin Barracks in Innsworth.
This talk comes highly recommended as extremely interesting (for both men and women!)
You are welcome to bring along any medals in your possession to find out more about them and/or to display on the evening.

Monday 24th February 2025
William Tyndale "One of the greatest Englishmen" — Alan Pilbeam
Born in Gloucestershire, martyred in 1536

Monday 24th March 2025
Royal Gloucester — Tony Conder
Gloucester's connections with royalty through the ages

Monday 28th April 2025
"A grim poetical justice" : Smallpox in Gloucester in 1896 — Dr Toby Thacker
This fascinating talk, by a lecturer at Cardiff University, comes highly recommended

Monday 19th May 2025 *[N.B. this meeting is week earlier than usual to avoid the Bank Holiday]*
Gloucester Film Makers — John Greene + Mike Morris
A compilation of archive film footage of Gloucester 1920s - 1970s

Monday 23rd June 2025
Tewkesbury Abbey – an armchair guided tour — Richard Goddard

Monday 22nd September 2025
The Gloucestershire water emergency — Dr Tim Brain
Dr Brain, who was Chief Constable of Gloucestershire at the time, will tell us about the 2007 floods from the police perspective

Monday 27th October 2025
Pursuit to Mons - a ride of remembrance 1918 - 2018 — Phil Pembridge
Local historian Phil retraces his grandfather's terrifying horseback journey during WW1

Monday 24th November 2025
A Gloucestershire Christmas — John Putley
Christmas customs of the past in Gloucestershire

Meetings will be held in the Committee Room of Norton Village Hall
Doors open at 7.15pm, talks start at 7.30pm prompt
Everyone welcome
Entrance £3
Please come to these meetings and bring your friends
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