

Norton News



September 2025 Edition

Please email editor@nortonnews.uk if you have anything you wish to be included in the Norton News

Next meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting of Norton Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 17 September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The agenda (copies will be posted on the parish council's website and on the noticeboard outside the village hall) will include a discussion on speeding concerns, including the County Council's "Community 20s" initiative, and an update on plans for better mobile phone reception in the parish.

Come along to the meeting and have your say before the parish council debates these items.

Parish says "thank you" to Brad and Helen

The parish recently said a fond farewell to Brad Smith and Helen Costin who have moved to Cheltenham. Because of this house move, Brad and Helen have resigned as Trustees of the Village Hall charity (Helen was the charity's Treasurer) and as members of the Hall's Management Committee.

The Parish Council wants to say a big "thank you" to Brad and Helen for their outstanding contributions to the day to day running of the Village Hall and the management of its finances, which have benefitted the many users of the Hall and the wider Norton community. We wish them both well in their new home.

Lynne Berry has joined the Management Committee as the Village Hall's new Treasurer.

Appeal for new Village Hall Committee members

The Village Hall is run by a dedicated group of volunteers and without their continuing efforts the village wouldn't have this vibrant community asset. However, in recent months the Hall's Management Committee has lost several members because of house moves and job changes - and those volunteers need to be replaced.

The Committee is therefore issuing an appeal for new members to help run the Hall and oversee improvements to its facilities.

Interested residents should contact Richard Page at rfnpage@yahoo.co.uk or on 01452 731608 to find out more.

Update on First Aid Essentials course

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in attending a First Aid Essentials course to be run by St John Ambulance in the Village Hall. Arrangements for the course are being made, and when that's done parishioners who said that they would like to attend will be contacted individually by email.

If you haven't already put your name forward - it's not too late - just email rfnpage@yahoo.co.uk to put your name on the list.

Don't lose your vote - check your voter registration details

Tewkesbury Borough Council has started its annual Electoral Registration canvass to make sure that the voter information on the Electoral Register for every address is accurate and up to date, and to record any changes. To do this, the Council's Electoral Services unit will be writing to each household explaining how to check their voter registration details.

Residents are urged to check their details to avoid losing their chance to vote at local and parliamentary elections.

Help needed with the annual Electoral Register canvass

If a householder doesn't respond to Tewkesbury Borough Council's Electoral Registration canvass, even after several reminders, a visit to the property must be made to try and obtain the necessary information, or to leave a registration form to be filled in and returned.

The Borough Council is therefore appealing for volunteer canvassers to undertake these doorstep visits.

The visits will need to take place between Friday 10 October and Monday 3 November and can be carried out at a time to suit the canvasser on weekdays and weekends, but before 6:30pm in the evening. Canvassers will receive payment for every property visited, irrespective of whether they are able to obtain a completed form. Training will be provided before any work is undertaken.

If you might be able to help, or would like to find out more, please contact Electoral Services at elections@tewkesbury.gov.uk or ring 01684 272025.

Don't forget to renew your postal vote

Under new election security rules, postal votes must be renewed every three years. If you currently have a "permanent" postal vote for all elections, it will expire on 31 January 2026, unless you renew it before then. The email or letter you receive about voter registration will tell you how to renew your postal vote.

Don't forget - do it now.

County Councillor's surgery

Norton's County Councillor, Richard Stanley, holds surgeries on the last Saturday of every month to meet his constituents, listen to their concerns and discuss any issues they may be facing. The next surgery date is Saturday 27 September, between 11.30am and 12.30pm in the New Dawn Inn.

Richard plans to hold surgeries in Norton on the last Saturday of every month.

Morning Coffee and Cake Sale in aid of Breast Cancer Now: 2nd August

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to this event and enjoyed some delicious cake; and to everyone who made a donation or contributed their time and baking skills. The event raised a whopping £600 plus a further £150 of Gift Aid which was far beyond expectations and a fine testament to the goodwill of the people of Norton.

Liz's Raspberry Shortbread was a firm favourite at the event and we've received a number of requests for the recipe which I have converted to metric and added below:

300g Plain Flour
90g Sugar
250g Butter

Heat your oven to 180°C. Combine the ingredients to form a crumble mixture and flatten about half the mixture in a baking tin. Part bake for 10 minutes. Allow to cool slightly and spread with raspberry jam, the remaining crumble mixture and a sprinkle of sugar. Cook for a further 10 minutes or until golden. Enjoy.

Norton Walking Groups

Did you know there are two walking groups in the village and anyone is welcome to join either group.

The Tuesday Totters aim for about 5-6 miles and try to avoid serious hills, it is quite a social group and always look for 'coffee and cake' whenever possible.

The Wainlode Walkers meet on Fridays and are a more serious group with walks that are usually 8 miles and over, so walkers need a good level of fitness. A coffee stop at 11:00 seems to be part of the non-existent rule book and is often under a tree but if at some point the walk ends at or near a pub…. well anything goes!

Both groups meet at the village hall before 9:30am and if travelling somewhere try to share transport as parking at the start point may have limited parking.

Requests to join either group should be sent to Andrew Mason at Masonap@me.com

Here's a contribution from Andrew after a recent visit to the Incinerator at Junction 12 on the M5….

A Look Inside the M5 J12 Incinerator – Gloucestershire Energy from Waste



Most of us have spotted the incinerator by the M5 at Junction 12. It's one of those landmarks you can't miss. Some people welcome it, others aren't so sure, but like it or not, it now plays a key role in how we deal with our waste. To find out more, a group of 24 local residents recently went on a guided tour of the facility.



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The story goes back to 2009, when the county council first bought the land. After years of planning and construction, the plant finally opened in early 2020. It's licensed to handle up to 190,000 tons of rubbish every year. To put that into perspective, that's the equivalent of at least 7,300 of the biggest refuse lorries—waste that would otherwise have gone straight into landfill.

Instead, the incinerator processes it in a controlled way. Metals are separated for recycling, ash that can't be burnt is used in road building, and only around 5,000 tons of material ends up in landfill each year. Emissions are filtered so that what you see leaving the chimney is mainly steam.

The plant runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, closing just two weeks a year for deep cleaning and maintenance. During that time, waste is stored safely inside the vast storage bays.

The process itself is surprisingly clever. Once the fire is going, it doesn't need extra fuel—just a steady supply of waste. The heat boils water in a closed system, creating steam that drives turbines. This not only powers the plant itself but also generates enough electricity for around 25,000 homes.

So, what did we learn from our visit? That while the incinerator is an effective way to deal with waste that can't be recycled, the real answer is to cut down on what we throw away in the first place. The "4 Rs" sum it up nicely: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**, and **Recovery**. If we all do our bit, we'll keep landfill to a minimum and make the most of the resources we already have.

You can arrange family, individual or group tours of the site but be prepared to book at least 6 months in advance at gloucestershireefw.co.uk/education

Local Events

Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy table

Date: Wednesday 17th Sept. 10.30am - 12noon
Venue: Norton Church

"The Gloucestershire Water Emergency" with Dr Tim Brain.

Dr Brain was Chief Constable of Gloucestershire at the time of the 2007 floods.

Date: Monday 22nd Sept. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start
Venue: Norton Village Hall,
Price: £3 per person

Call My Bluff Wine Tasting Evening
Wine tasting with a twist

Do you know your Malbecs from your Riojas? Can you sniff out a Sauvignon Blanc? Join us for a relaxed and informative evening as we sample a selection of wines with an added fun element. No wine knowledge required, just come along and enjoy.

Date: Saturday 11th October 7.30pm to 10.30pm
Venue: Norton Village Hall
Price: £16 per person

Buy your tickets here. Limited Availability

Next Edition

Please send any items, including graphics if you have them, to me at editor@nortonnews.uk

I am away at the end of September so the deadline for submitting items for the October issue is Wednesday 24th September.

If anyone wishes to be added to the mailing list for Norton News, for data protection purposes they must either email me directly from the email account that they wish to be added or you can sign up at nortonnews.uk/sign-up-to-the-e-mailing-list.

Norton Call my Bluff Wine Tasting



Sat 11 Oct 2025 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Do you know your Malbecs from your Riojas? Can you sniff out a Sauvignon Blanc? Join us for a relaxed and informative evening as we sample a selection of wines with an added fun element. No wine knowledge required, just come along and enjoy.

At £16 per person this is intended as a purely social event and non-profit-making. A sell-out would help us to achieve this. Pay by Paypal, credit/debit card or bank transfer.

We will supply samples of 6 different wines and a modest selection of cheese and biscuits but feel free to bring some snacks if you like.

Availability is limited.

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 regarding emergency and security issues.

Please email to join:

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.

TIRED OF
POTHOLES
FLY-TIPPING
LOOSE PAVING
DOG POOP VANDALISM
BROKEN STREET LIGHTING?

REPORT THEM TO THE COUNCIL WITH FixMyStreet

FixMyStreet.com

Useful Links and Contacts

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

www.FixMyStreet.com is a powerful website for reporting common street problems like - potholes, broken streetlights, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, missing or unreadable road signs, abandoned road works or traffic signs, overgrown hedges and trees, blocked footpaths, dog fouling, dead deer etc. - to your local council.

It is run by the UK charity mySociety and it covers all of the UK. The great thing about FixMyStreet is that you don't need to know who's responsible for fixing the problem; you just put a pin on a map, and FixMyStreet does the rest, a 'one stop' reporting site.