

Norton News

December 2025 Edition



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

Local Government Re-organisation

Since the beginning of the year, Gloucestershire's seven district councils have been working together to develop proposals for the future of local government in the county. Three alternative proposals have been submitted to the Government for consideration.

a) One unitary council for the whole of Gloucestershire.

b) Two unitary councils: one for the West (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, and Stroud) and one for the East (Cheltenham, Cotswold, and Tewkesbury).

c) Two unitary councils: an expanded Gloucester City, called Greater Gloucester, taking in several nearby parishes (but not Norton), with the other council covering the remainder of the county.

Four of Gloucestershire's seven councils, including Tewkesbury Borough Council, preferred option (a): a single county-wide unitary council. Before voting, Tewkesbury consulted its local parish councils on the three options. Norton Parish Council also preferred option (a) believing it to be a simpler, more cost-efficient choice.

Expected timeline:

Spring 2026: Government consults Gloucestershire residents on the proposals for a new unitary structure.

Summer 2026: Government decides which proposal should be implemented in the county.

May 2027: Elections held for the new unitary structure.

May 2028: The new unitary council(s) takes over from the current district councils.

Our Parish Council's chairman, Richard Page, sits on an advisory body which will be involved in the implementation of the new unitary structure.

Emergency planning for a flooding event

The Parish Council is currently working on an emergency plan documenting how the council would deal with a significant flooding event in the parish. Localised flooding issues will be discussed at the Council's next meeting on Wednesday 14 January, when the draft plan will be submitted for approval.

Power outages in Norton

Following an increasing number of brief power outages in the parish in recent months, the Parish Council contacted National Grid to find out why this keeps happening.

National Grid said that the primary reason is the increased demand for supply placed on an ageing infrastructure by new housing development in the area. National Grid is working hard to increase capacity and believes that these outages are a short-term problem. The Council is monitoring the situation.

Mobile Phone Coverage in the Parish

As reported in October, the Parish Council is in active discussions with Atlas Tower Group about the erection of a phone mast in the parish to improve local mobile coverage and reception. Community support is one of Atlas' main priorities and consequently they have asked the Parish Council to circulate a "poll of interest" to residents. Please click on the link below to complete the poll.

https://form.jotform.com/252591906232356

Parish Councillor Resigns

At the Parish Council meeting on 12 November it was reported that Councillor Jennifer Richardson had resigned for personal reasons. The Council thanked Jennifer for her many contributions to parish affairs during her three years of service as a councillor.

The process to fill the vacancy is underway.

Village Hall Committee Update

Thank you to those residents who've already volunteered to join the Village Hall Committee. There are still one or two places left to fill, so if you're interested it's not too late to put your name forward - just email Richard Page on rfnpage@yahoo.co.uk for further details.

A new Committee is expected to be in place before Christmas, with a full update in the next edition of the Norton News.

Norton's Big Festive Weekend

What an amazing weekend at St Mary's as part of Norton's big Christmas Weekend!

Happy feet and voices of Norton's schoolchildren with their amazing Nativity competition entries on Friday; mulled wine and mince pies for grown-ups and the Leadonvale Singers on Saturday evening. A wonderful bell peal and carol service for everyone on Sunday afternoon and a steady continuous flow of our local people through the Festival over the whole 3 days. A real happy "community" experience.

Thank you to everyone who supported in so many different ways. Here's to the next one...whatever it may be. Meanwhile watch the star as it shines out throughout the Christmas season.

Happy Christmas



Norton Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Fair on Saturday. Together we have raised over £600 for our school (so far!)

If you were unable to make it we still have raffle tickets for sale which will be drawn on Friday 12th December.

There are lots of fabulous prizes to be won. (See the list below).

We also have some lovely potted mini Christmas trees for sale, £4 each, which would make a lovely gift or addition to your garden for years to come.

If you would like to purchase any tickets or trees please contact norton.sch.pta@gmail.com

Norton PTA Christmas Raffle 2025 Prizes

Kara Hair and Beauty Voucher : Tewkesbury Park Brunch for 2
270 Climbing Voucher : Batsford Arboretum Family Ticket
Cotswold Farm Park Voucher : Roses Theatre Film Tickets
Royal Three Counties Show Tickets : Puzzlewood Voucher
GL1 Family Swim : Massage Voucher -Peace of Mind
Nature in Art Voucher : Browns Butchers Vouchers
Christmas Gnome : Pamper Hamper : Chocolate Hamper
Bottle of Gin: Lego Set
Homemade Wooden Chopping Board - Becky Smale
Garden design and advice - Louise Lewis Garden Design
Panettone & Prosecco - Tony Crawshaw & Mrs Bluck
Candle holder & coasters - local artist Gill Barrett
Framed light-up Gnome - Sheila Golder
Wooden tealight holder - Wendy Walker
Doggy pattern wrapping paper & tags - Scootsie Creations
Locally grown pumpkin & soup recipe - Beverley Haagensen
Bottle of wine - Jo Lovys

Norton and The Leigh History Society

No Meeting for December but dates for your diary for the first quarter of 2026:

Date: Monday 19th January
Topic: The Work of the MOD War Detectives; tracing the relatives of military personnel who have died and whose bodies continue to be found

Date: Monday 16th January
Topic: Gloucester Comes to the Light; When electricity first come to Gloucester

Date: Monday 16th March
Topic: Catherine Parr - Gloucestershire's Queen; The largely unknown story of Henry VIII's sixth wife

Venue: Committee Room, Norton Village Hall.
Time: 7.15pm for 7.30pm start
Entrance: £3.00
Everyone is welcome.

Next Edition

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

The deadline for submitting items for the December issue is Tuesday 30th December.

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.

Some local charity events that people in the village are involved in:





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: christine1williams@btinternet.com

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.