



# NORTON NATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE STOCKTON PARISH

summer

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Cover photograph: Ian Edwards

## FAIR WEATHER

Well, "Fair weather and foul" to give the poem by William Morris its full title, but Fair Weather makes a much jollier header!

We've had a really mixed bag since the last Norton Natter; wind, rain and now sunshine too. Lots of rain needn't have us feeling down in the dumps though. If you don't already have a water butt in your garden or some sort of container to dip your watering can in, it would be a great idea to get one.

Rainwater is better for your plants than water out of your tap or hose and using it saves drinking water which can only be a good thing.

Often on rainy days, we find ourselves rushing from house to car, car to another building, even changing plans, postponing picnics.

I was watching some juvenile Blue Tits on our bird feeder a couple of weeks ago, getting a good soaking in the rain. House Sparrows flitting from the roof to get some seeds, feathers wet, just getting on with things despite the showers. It reminded me that a bit of water won't dissolve us like the Wicked Witch of the West in the Wizard of Oz, so on went the wellies and out I went for a very good walk and felt all the better for it.

Now we're having quite the opposite kind of weather and I'm finding myself having to top up the bowl for the birds to drink from daily. The water in the water butt is coming in very handy indeed!

We live in a beautiful part of the world, let's give ourselves time to get out and appreciate the nature on our doorsteps, whatever the weather. (Full poem on back page).

Foreword by: Emma Hornby



## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS



### The Village Hall AGM

Monday 26th July at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

### Every Tuesday & Thursday

Norton's walking and running group will resume when government guidelines allow. The group meets at 6:00pm every Tuesday and Thursday at the Village Hall. All fitness levels welcome to join and walk or run 5k or 10k. Reflective clothing is a must.

Something to keep the mind and body active whilst being part of a group socially distanced in the fresh air. Any questions call Steve Bagnall 07483 900 183 or email [stevebagnall20@gmail.com](mailto:stevebagnall20@gmail.com)

### The Bowling Club

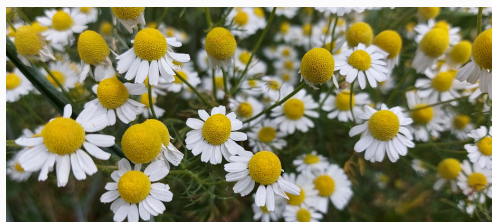
Anyone interested in joining the Bowling Club can ring Mark Bennett on 01952 730 339, the club meets twice a week during the summer just off the Bridgnorth Road

### Norton Wombles

The Norton Wombles do an incredible job volunteering their time to collect rubbish and give a good old spring clean to the parish. The group will meet again following lockdown restrictions being lifted and you can search the Facebook group "Norton Wombles" for latest updates.

### Jubilee Play Park

The Parish Council manages the local play park off the A442 in the centre of Norton. It has wooden rustic play equipment in keeping with the rural location, a small football area and picnic benches that are available with free access to the side.



Photograph: Beck Bagnall

## THE PARISH PUMP



The Parish Council held its first face to face, risk assessed, socially distanced, covid meeting in over twelve months!

The Annual Parish meetings were delayed as the Parish Elections had to be re-run to enable the Parish Council to have enough Councillors to function within their rules. This has been achieved but there are still two vacancies remaining for co-option.

If any Parishioners are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor now or in the future please contact the Clerk. There are three criteria to be eligible. To have lived in the Parish for twelve months, to work in the Parish or to live within three miles of the Parish Boundary.

The Parish Council has had a verbal update that it has secured grant money from Shropshire Councils Environment Management Grant. This year the money will go towards more bulb planting along the entrances to Norton Village and the improvements to the footpath from the Village to the Church on the A442.

Additionally, dialogue has opened with Shropshire Council to look at conducting a housing needs survey with Parishioners across the Parish. The results of any survey could then be used to develop with local Partners and Parishioners a Community led Housing project responding in a practical way to those in housing need through the building of additional homes. The likelihood is that the survey would be carried out within the newsletter.

The Parish Council also agreed to a replacement war memorial bench by the bus shelter in Norton and are investigating a change in the domain name for the web site.

The Parish Council held its first meeting after the local elections and received a report from the Chairman Lord Gavin Hamilton on the past year covering areas such as the pandemic, he thanked the Clerk for his work and praised the endeavours of those involved in the newsletter which has been such a great success.

In welcoming everyone who had been re-elected back to the Parish Council he thanked those who had chosen not to stand this time round for their hard work over many years.

Highways remain a high priority and the Parish Council received an updated report from newly elected Shropshire Councillor Richard Marshall signalling upgrades to the A442.

Councillor David Plant was also re-elected as Vice Chairman to the Parish Council. The Annual Accounts were agreed for dispatch to the external auditor having been signed off by the Parish Councils internal auditor with a clean bill of health. They are available for inspection by Parishioners if they contact the Clerk.

## NOTE FROM THE APLEY OFFICE

So it's been an exciting time at Apley since the last newsletter!

Our solar field at Apley Farm Shop is now live & is expected to generate more than 90% of our daytime electricity requirements, this with our already existing solar panels on the roof of the Playbarn mean that we are generating all electricity that is required on the site during the day.

As we write this we have generated 14.5MW of electricity since the system went live towards the end of May. On some days we've generated more than we need and the surplus is fed back into the grid.

We already have a district heating system using a woodchip boiler so all our heat & hot water is also produced sustainably.

This work is all part of our plan to reduce the estate's dependence on fossil fuels and become more self sufficient in our energy production.

All of this investment is part of our ongoing commitment to reducing carbon & becoming more environmentally sustainable.

Our collaboration with Buglife has started in earnest – we are building the pollinator garden at Apley Farm Shop and talking to local schools about involving them in the project. A member of the Buglife team plus one of our team will be going in to the local primary schools, COVID permitting, before the end of the summer term to talk about the importance of pollinators.



## NORTON TELEPHONE BOOK EXCHANGE

Just goes from strength to strength with the stock changing all the time. There has been a request for more books for 10 year olds please, so if you have any to share, please drop them off. It's great to see that all generations are using the facility.

Please try not to leave books on the floor as there is a leak and in heavy rain the books get damaged. Also try not to leave bags and bags of books all at the same time as it overwhelms the small space of the phone box and makes it difficult to search for things when you can't get in.

Finally, we're finding that DVDs are not really of interest and end up being taken to the charity shop so please don't drop off your whole DVD collection in one go!



## NOTE FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

Many thanks to all those who took the time to return the survey for Norton Village Hall included in the Spring edition of the Norton Natter. Although it was a disappointingly small return compared with the 145 copies sent out. (Only 6 % - 9 households in total) It did capture opinions from every age group and has highlighted some great ideas for the future.

Happily, most of the responses said they were likely to use the Village Hall again, for activities such as voting, exercise classes, meetings, wakes, Christmas fair & club activities.

Many said they felt the Village Hall would benefit from some improvement and the following ideas were raised: Internet connectivity, A 'big screen' telly for major events, improvements to the building particularly the heating, lighting, windows, fixing the damp problem and repairing the roof to the barn. An improved bar area and a dishwasher for the kitchen was also suggested.

In response to the question 'Is there anything not available today that you think would benefit the Village Hall and the community?' The following suggestions were forthcoming: A Post Office service, Baby & Toddler group, Exercise groups, First Aid course, A by-monthly gathering, 'Big' screen sports events and bingo.

Other ideas for events included: Village Fete, Ceilidhs, Youth Club, Exercise class, Craft workshop, starting the art class again, skittles, children's party, coach trips, reinstate the Xmas fayre, coffee & cake mornings, flower arranging classes and table top sales. Sadly, none of the returns said they were prepared to volunteer either to help or to join the committee.

Despite its small response it has thrown up some good ideas and hopefully the future committee will be thinking about how these can be achieved in the post pandemic times. However, what we also need is direct involvement, support and enthusiasm from the community.



## NORTON SEED, PLANT & HARVEST SWAP



## THE VILLAGE HALL AGM

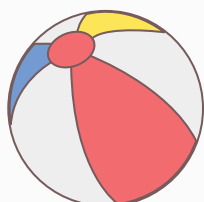
The AGM for Norton Village Hall will take place in the Village Hall on Monday 26th July at 7:30pm.

We urge anyone who would like to get involved to attend the AGM and put themselves forward for a role on the volunteering committee.

The Village Hall is a wonderful resource for our community and one that has benefited many residents over the years.

We're very much looking forward to putting together plans with new committee members as to how we maximise the use of the hall and its facilities.

Spring has seen lots of lovely young plants shared around, which hopefully will lead to a bumper harvest glut landing on the swap table as the summer moves on. If you're digging up or thinning out plants and bulbs don't forget to drop off what you don't need. Please remember to label whatever you leave; people understandably leave things on the table when they don't know what it is.



## NOTE FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends,

Stockton Church council are grateful to Lord Hamilton and Apley Estate staff for repairing and rebuilding the church yard lych gate. It had started to lean a little and we saw that one of the wood beams of the structure had rotted through to the joints. It was temporarily supported with 'acro props' as a safety measure, until it could be dismantled and taken away for repair. It is now back in place with its new base wall and new wood beams.

The word 'lych' comes from an old word meaning 'body' and a lych gate is where bearers carried a coffin to at the entrance to a consecrated burial ground before the burial ceremony. Our Stockton lych gate has inscriptions in the roof beams though they are not easy to read. I believe the gate was made in memory of one of the former Apley Estate landlords.

The new church yard, as we still call it to distinguish it from the area around the church itself, was created to provide extra burial plots for parishioners. The early burial registers are kept at Shropshire Archives in Shrewsbury. The current register begins in 1918 when the Revd Owen took the service of an 81 year old Elizabeth Davies.

The church yard plan was not very well kept, and I spent a lot of time some years ago drawing as accurate a plan as I could from earlier papers and looking in the church yard itself.

Recently we had the Community Payback workers with their supervisor cutting the grass regularly, but Covid restrictions stopped that last year, so it has not been as well maintained as the church council and relatives would like

However with the lifting of restrictions, we hope that they will be back to keep the church yard neat and tidy for visitors and families who visit.

email: keithhodson@talk21.com  
phone 01952 750774



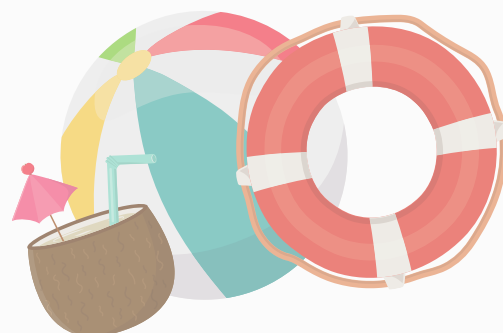
## SUMMER RECIPE

Something out of the ordinary and using up some of those courgettes!

### Summer Hotpot

Ingredients:

- 4 bacon chops/ham
- 2 courgettes
- 1 onion, chopped
- 12 oz new potatoes
- 8 oz button mushrooms
- 15oz apricots
- 2 oz salted peanuts
- 2 oz butter
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 2 tbsp redcurrant jelly
- 2 tbsp red wine
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- ½ oz cornflour
- seasalt & black pepper



Method:

- Preheat your oven gas mark 6 – or 200c (Fan 180c)
- Cut courgettes into ¼ inch thick slices, sprinkle with salt and leave to drain.
- Melt the butter and fry the onion, garlic and potatoes, but do not brown. Add the courgettes and mushrooms and simmer for 10 minutes.
- Add the apricot halves and peanuts.
- Add the cornflour, redcurrant jelly, wine and soy sauce and seasoning.
- Heat to thicken and then place the mixture in an ovenproof dish.
- Arrange the chops/ham on top and cook uncovered for 45 minutes until the meat is fully cooked.

Happy Summer from Paula's Pantry!





# Newsletter

## Shifnal and Albrighton Safer Neighbourhood Team

July 2021



### Your Safer Neighbourhood Team for Shifnal and Albrighton

Badger, Stockton, Beckbury, Rytton, Kemberton, Sutton Maddock, Tong, Bascobel, Donnington, Bonningdale and Sherrifhales

### PC 2350 Mandy COOPER



### PCSO 40447 Sam NEWBROOK



## Car key burglary's and thefts

Over the past couple of months we have once again seen a increase in car key burglary's and thefts. The most recent break in left a male needing hospital treatment. These break in's and thefts have been in both domestic and business properties. A car key burglary involves a house being burgled and car keys being stolen. Think about where

**LOOK CLOSER**

Exploited children and young people don't always look vulnerable and may not act like victims.

If something doesn't feel right, it may not be.

Public spaces like bus and train stations, fast food outlets, hotels and roadside services can be where young victims of child exploitation are most visible.

Help us protect children and young people from exploitation. Don't wait. Report it.

If you are concerned about a child and think it's an emergency, dial 999 or 101. If it's not an emergency, On a train text British Transport Police on 62016. Otherwise contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

#LOOKCLOSER

childrensociety.org.uk/lookcloser

Shropshire Police

### Child exploitation awareness and Crime Prevention Day

On the Friday 16th July ourselves and

You keep your car keys at home. Are they within reach of the letterbox. Have you considered getting outdoor lighting or CCTV? If your vehicle has a keyless system think about putting the key into a shielded wallet or security tin. If you have more than one vehicle, perhaps consider blocking the preferred target vehicle by parking

the less desirable vehicle in front. We encourage people to be vigilant with their vehicle/house security and to keep an eye out for your neighbours. If you are a victim of any kind of burglary, call 999 immediately.

Various other partner agencies will be out in Shifnal High Street speaking with members of public and staff in the local shops and educate them in CE awareness. There will also be a rural and business officer in attendance, to provide crime advice.

## **WHO YOU SHOULD CALL**

### **IN AN EMERGENCY**

**CRIME IN PROGRESS OR THREAT TO LIFE OR PROPERTY**

**DIAL 999**

TO REPORT NON URGENT INCIDENTS OR CRIMES

**CALL 101**

OR REPORT ONLINE AT

[www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

### **PARKING ISSUES**

MOST PARKING ISSUES ARE DEALT WITH BY SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL.

Call Customer Service Centre on 0345 678 9019

OR [www.shropshire.gov.uk/forms/report-illegal-parking/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/forms/report-illegal-parking/)

### **NOISE COMPLAINTS**

Call Customer Service Centre on

0345 678 9000

OR [www.community.protection@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:www.community.protection@shropshire.gov.uk)

### **FLY TIPPING**

Call Customer Service Centre on

0345 678 9000

OR [www.shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/environmental-maintenance/fly-tipping/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/environmental-maintenance/fly-tipping/)

### **STRAY DOGS**

Call Customer Service Centre on

0345 678 9000

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/dogs-and-the-dog-warden/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/dogs-and-the-dog-warden/)

[sa.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sa.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Twitter : @ShifnalCops

Facebook : Shropshire Cops

Phone : 101 ext 7704222 (non-incident line) [www.westmercia.police.co.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.co.uk)



# #UPFORTHECHALLENGE

“Amazing race,  
2nd year doing it.  
My favourite  
race of  
the year.”

PREVIOUS  
ATHLETE

“Love the route,  
love the mud,  
love the hills!”

PREVIOUS  
ATHLETE

“Beautiful race,  
brilliantly  
marshalled  
and directed”

PREVIOUS  
ATHLETE

“Going to  
encourage  
more of my  
club members  
to take part  
next year”

PREVIOUS  
ATHLETE

“This is how  
a race should  
be run”

PREVIOUS  
ATHLETE



## Sunday 26 September 2021

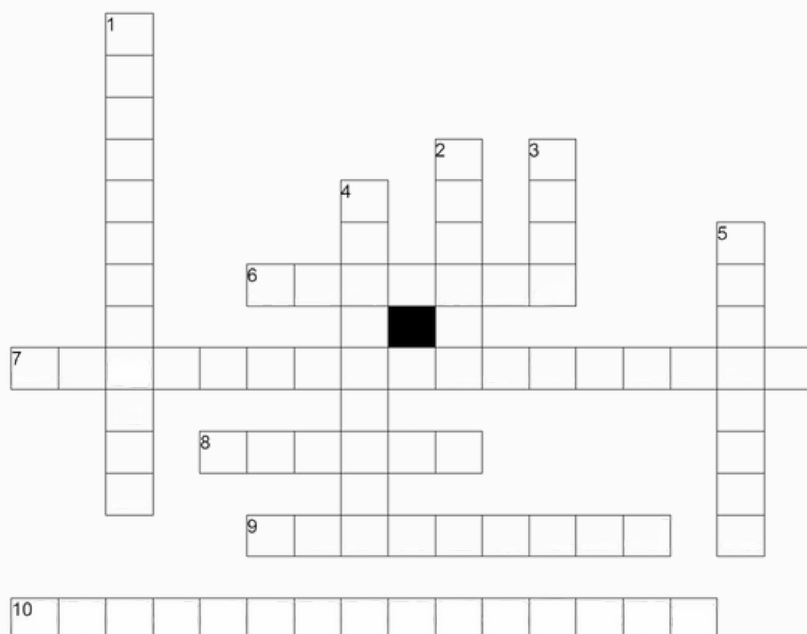
Full details and entry info at [www.wrekinroadrunners.net](http://www.wrekinroadrunners.net)

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Wrekin Road Runners present a series of sell out races in the stunning private parkland of the Apley Estate.  
Free parking. Races start at 10:30am. Proceeds in aid of Stockton Church.



# NORTON NATTER CROSSWORD



Jackie Bennett has put together this fantastic crossword to test your grey matter!

Let us know how you get on - answers in next season's edition or on Norton Facebook Community page if you can't wait until then!

## Across

- 6. Bird of prey spotted in Norton
- 7. County flower of Shropshire
- 8. To chatter or babble pointlessly
- 9. Floral growing competition
- 10. common name for the Field Wood-Rush

## Down

- 1. Mackerel cloud
- 2. Guernsey Lily
- 3. Summer Moon
- 4. National Trust estate nearby
- 5. Flower linked with Wem

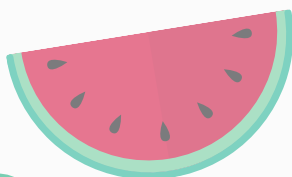
## Answers to Spring crossword:

### Across

- 2. A favour
- 7. catkins
- 8. romaine lettuce
- 10. honey bees
- 11. Easter bonnet

### Down

- 1. Rocket
- 3. Bridal gown
- 4. Mess up
- 5. Forget me not
- 6. Lido
- 9. Hares



## MESSAGES & ADVERTISING

This is now the fourth edition of the Norton Natter and we've been so grateful for everyone's support, feedback and contributions as we try to make this the very best parish newsletter there is!

The purpose of the newsletter is three-fold:

1. For residents - A communication device that connects residents to the parish of Norton. The newsletter should inform, involve and integrate residents and help to know what is happening in our parish and how we can all connect and contribute to the community.
2. For the parish - The newsletter will give the parish an identity and be used to communicate latest news, information, events and knowledge
3. For the community - The newsletter will create and reinforce a respectful culture where residents have a sense of ownership and belonging and good-will for each other.






Same Day, Next Day Everyday We Get There!

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## HairForce

### Mobile Men's Hairdressing

## Bridgnorth & Surrounding Area

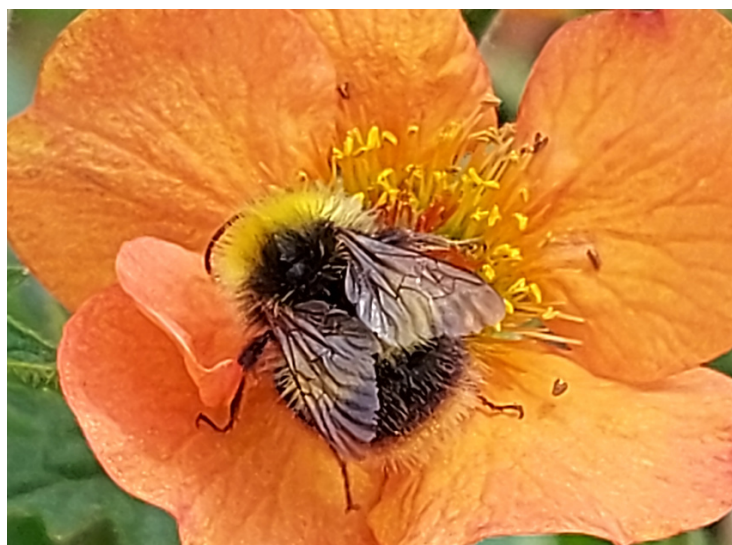
Traditional & Modern  
Barbering at home  
25 years experience

**Emma: 07427 606590**

## Fair Weather and Foul - William Morris (1834 - 1896)

Speak nought, move not, but listen, the sky is full of gold,  
No ripple on the river, no stir in the field or fold,  
All gleams nought doth glisten, but the far-offunseen sea.

Forget days past, heart broken, put all memories by!  
No grief on the hillside, no pity in the sky,  
Joy that may not be spoken fillsmead and flower and tree.



Photograph: Beck Bagnall

## EDITORIAL TEAM

Jackie Bennett - Social & Digital Media  
Graham Bould - Parish Clerk  
Marc Hornby - Editor  
John Pigg - Distribution

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If you'd like to advertise your business in the Norton Natter, please get in touch. Send your events, news, photographs and contributions for future editions to Marc Hornby [marc@caviarandchips.co.uk](mailto:marc@caviarandchips.co.uk). Follow our Parish Facebook page [www.facebook.com/nortoncommunitygroup](https://www.facebook.com/nortoncommunitygroup)

We'd love to hear what you think of the Norton Natter and we welcome ideas and suggestions to improve the content and add news and updates to the newsletter and Facebook pages. The next edition will be with you on 1st October 2021 and we'd love to include your photos, stories and community event ideas.



[www.caviarandchips.co.uk](http://www.caviarandchips.co.uk)  
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*"Catered for my wedding. Utterly amazing - entire experience was geared completely towards ensuring that our day was perfect. Made every effort to ensure both of us and our guests were looked after and taken care of. Food was breathtaking and staff were fantastic"*  
Liz & Jack - Bride & Groom

Come & see us  
Open 7 days a week

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