



NORTON NATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE STOCKTON PARISH



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& GROUPS



Cover photograph: Becks Bagnall

WINTER IN NORTON...

This edition's selected poem is 'On Wenlock Edge' and is one of the most famous poems from A. E. Housman's collection of 63 poems, A Shropshire Lad (1896). Although Housman barely knew Shropshire – he was born in neighbouring Worcestershire.

The wintry poem describes a historic place called Uriconium. Some of you may know that Uriconium was the name of the ancient Roman settlement which stood on the site of modern-day Wroxeter between Ironbridge and Shrewsbury.

It is this ancient and long-vanished world, some two thousand years earlier during the Roman occupation of Britain, that 'On Wenlock Edge' calls up.

This was not some remote outpost of Roman Britain: it had a substantial population, and is thought to have been perhaps the fourth-largest Roman settlement in Britain.

Although Shropshire is a much changed place two thousand years on, it's this time of year that stands the test of time.

The wintry descriptions, the troubles of everyday life and feelings of nostalgia, that the festive season brings, come to us all.

There's no better excuse to check on your neighbour, raise some festive cheer and be grateful for the small things that keep us safe, warm and part of a community in a beautiful part of the world.





THIS MONTH'S EVENTS THE PARISH PUMP



Every Tuesday & Thursday

Norton's walking and running group meet at 6:00pm every Tuesday and Thursday at the Village Hall. All fitness levels welcome to join and walk or run 5k or 10k. As the nights draw in 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

January Parish Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at Norton Village Hall - all are most welcome to attend to raise items of interest or concern.

The Bowling Club

Anyone interested in joining the Bowling Club can ring Jeanette Bennett on 01952 730339. The club meets twice a week during the summer just off the Bridgnorth Road.

The Village Hall

Our Village Hall is being redecorated and modernised in the Spring. After Apley Estate have completed some plastering work we'll be awarding the decorating job to the best quotation received.

Did you know you can rent Norton Village Hall for as little as £10 per hour? It's an ideal venue for family parties, events, workshops, meetings, classes and much more!

The committee organises the popular annual car boot sales in order to raise essential funds to keep the building open.

If you would like to volunteer and get involved please contact Paula on 01952 730664

Parish Council meetings: The Parish Council held its bi-monthly meeting in November with a number of projects under active discussion within this municipal year. The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at Norton Village Hall at which the Parish precept will be set for 23/24, all are most welcome to attend to raise items of interest or concern.

Parish Projects: The main focus of the Parish Council has been around highways with the clearance of the footpath on the A442 from the Lodge to the entrance of Stockton Church and Stockton House. Improvements to the passing places along Astol and work scheduled for Cheswardine Lane on a major ditch to help resolve flooding on the lane. There has also been a delay in resurfacing works on the A442 which the Parish Council has been pressing for which should be resolved in the early part of 2023.

In terms of Parish Council assets the Grade II listed stocks and whipping stick from the centre of Norton have been removed for repairs to the bottom of the uprights which are rotten. Discussions have also taken place with the Apley Branch of the Royal British Legion for a replacement bench outside the Estate Office in Village Road with a target date of mid 2023 for completion.

Work continues to improve the Play Park on Windmill Lane through ongoing maintenance to the structures. The site has also been registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy programme with planting that has already taken place to create a new hedge line. This will continue around the site and a project grant application has been submitted to Veolia to help fund the creation of a willow sculpture on the site.

A pilot verges project is also underway and Parishioners may well have seen the sign and activity on a site outside of the Old Shop to reduce mowing and reintroduce wildflowers for pollinators like bees. This is the first pilot area and the Parish Council will be working with partners to develop a second pilot along the lane that leads to Stockton Church and Stockton House over the winter.

The Parish Council have been supporting Shropshire Council with the Stockton Housing Survey underway that will look at the current and future housing needs in the parish. The outcomes will be looked at and discussed with partners. Please see the attached (next page) poster in circulation for further information.

Parishioners feedback would be really helpful on the projects that are developing, anyone willing to volunteer for environmental project activity please contact the Clerk, details below.



Photograph: Emma Higgins

DID YOU KNOW: IN JAPAN, A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER IS TO GO TO KFC.



Stockton

Take the Housing Survey Today

We're running a survey to understand whether everyone in Stockton is in a home that meets their current and future housing needs.

Whether you want to upsize, downsize or simply get on the ladder, complete our short survey today and help us ensure everyone can access the right home for their needs.

Please visit the link below
www.righthomerightplace.co.uk/housing-needs-survey-questionnaire

Or scan with your
camera phone



17TH DECEMBER FROM 6:30PM

CAROLS BY THE VILLAGE TREE

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS AT
THE VILLAGE HALL.



STOCKTON'S TRIUMPHANT BOWLING CLUB

Stockton Bowling Club ended the 2022 season on a high, winning the Highley League Division 2 Knockout Competition against Much Wenlock.

Mo Parton was runner up in the Ladies' Singles and John Prichard won the Division 2 Singles Competition held at Stockton alongside the 'Mark Bennett Memorial' which was won by Cheryl Caswell.

John Baines and Jeanette Bennett brought the trophy home in the Division 2 Doubles.

In the league we came third place with only 2 points off second and automatic promotion. It came down to the last game with 3 teams in line to win the league.

This year we introduced social/practice evenings that were a great success. We saw lots of new faces and even gained a few new members as a result.

We were very happy to see some of the locals there too taking advantage of the on-site bar, enjoying the evening and leaving the bowls to the professionals!

We will be running these events again next year so keep your eyes peeled for events on the Facebook page.

Anyone interested in joining the club can do so by contacting Jeanette Bennett on 01952 730339

Many thanks for your continued support.

Stockton Bowling Club



Congratulations!

STOCKTON BOWLING CLUB



COMMUNITY NEWS

Norton's experiment in growing a meadow verge

With the help of the Parish Council, Shropshire Council's Janet Cobb and the 'Restoring Shropshire Verges Project', Norton is embarking on an experiment to grow a small meadow on the roadside verge alongside the Old Village Shop.

Many hands make light work!

The verge had been missed out from the council cut this year. As you can see in the photograph the grass was far too high for a domestic mower to deal with so Adam Morris kindly offered to trim it, with Andrew and Jackie Bennett raking up and removing the leavings.



Rasp then lent his scarifier - which proved so efficient it easily exposed the required 50 percent of earth. Janet Cobb provided Yellow Rattle, Knapweed and Agrimony seeds for sowing.

These seeds had been gathered this year from another meadow at New Invention Telford. Most of them have been broadcast and trodden in now but we've also sown some in trays in the hope of getting strong plug plants to supplement the patch in spring.

They need some cold weather to get them going but with a bit of luck they should start showing.

Hopes for the Spring

Yellow rattle is known as the meadow maker and is a semi parasitic plant that weakens the grass growth and allows wildflowers to establish more quickly.

When left to grow wildflowers provide pollinators like bees and butterflies with food and shelter for small mammals, birds and other invertebrates. Wild flower meadows are one of our most threatened habitats.

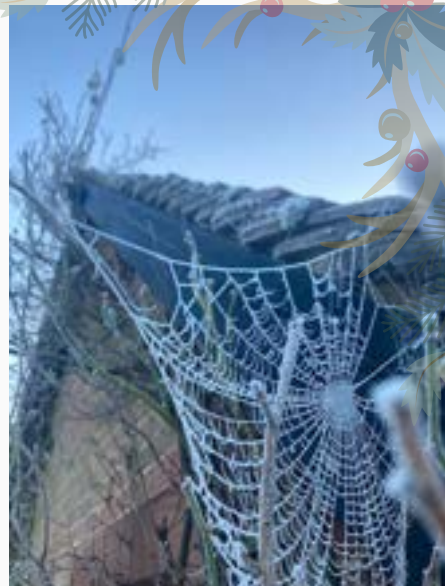
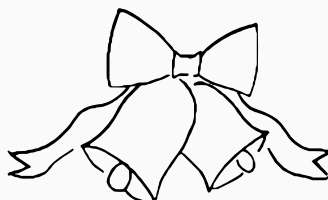


Using the verges to recreate those vital habitats is such a good idea. When the time is right, we'll be growing on and adding more plug plants such as dog daisy, poppies, cowslip and many more.

Hopefully it will provide some good food for the pollinators and look great too. All we have to do now is convince our postie to stop driving over it!

The council have been asked to only cut once late in the year and we'll be putting a 'Don't Mow' sign up to remind them!

**DID YOU KNOW:
JINGLE BELLS WAS
THE FIRST SONG
PLAYED IN SPACE.**



Photograph: Marie Bough

ART CLASSES

David Walker is a Shropshire artist, illustrator and tutor who is hoping to get some art classes and workshops started to be held in Norton Village Hall.

If you would be interested in joining please give him a call on the number provided. This will enable him to gauge local interest and help him to schedule them for a date and time to suit.

Are you Looking for.....
ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Theme Throughout - 'ENJOYMENT'
Develop Your Artistic Skills in a Fun and Friendly Environment.
Low Numbers - Individual Tuition
All Levels welcome.
Skills and Techniques leaflets
Local Venues for Convenience

Contact David Walker
ARTIST - ILLUSTRATOR - TUTOR
01691 682169

NORTON WOMBLES

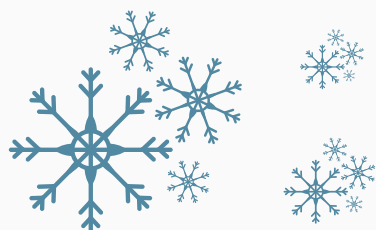


Norton wombles active and in action!

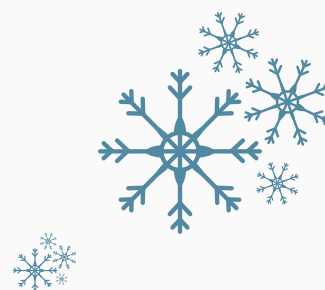
There have been two successful 'Wombles' up and down the A442 in Norton this year. One included the newly uncovered pathway to the church.

The Wombles hope to carry out another in December (date to be confirmed) Please check out the Norton Community Facebook pages for the updates...

Everyone is welcome. Remember you're a WOMBLE...



Well done & thank you!
NORTON WOMBLES



A NOTE FROM THE APLEY ESTATE OFFICE

Amid an uncertain year where the war in Ukraine has impacted so many of us, we were contacted by Lynn Cooper, the founder of Help Ukraine Telford, to see if we could support their work.

We willingly helped the registered charity by providing warehouse facilities, free of charge, on the estate. This base acted as a drop off point and allowed the charity space to organise vital deliveries to send to the Ukraine.

In September their needs changed, and they required a retail space with good footfall to raise money for much needed essential items. The Estate again assisted by relocating Help Ukraine Telford to one of our commercial properties on Bridgnorth High Street, again free of charge, where they will stay until the end of the year.

With the impact of the Ukrainian war still in our thoughts, our Farm Shop then recognised that they could help our community with the increasing cost of living by launching '2 for £10' on our butcher quality meat.

This offer has proved popular and will continue to be a regular feature in the farm shop.

On a more local level, earlier in the year Shropshire based Architect Hannah Beaman won a Conservation Management Plan award for her plans for Ewdness house to be sympathetically restored and we're delighted to share that work has now begun on the renovations.

The Grade II listed farmhouse dates back to the late 1500's and has since had many extensions including a 1950's addition which will be removed as part of the work to reveal the original aspects of the house.

We face several challenges in caring for this estate asset but we're confident this will be achieved by Summer 2023.

DID YOU KNOW: THE SONG 'WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS' WAS ORIGINALLY USED AS A THREAT.

NORTON BOOK EXCHANGE

'Hi-Tech' solution down at Norton Telephone Book Exchange and a promise of more children's titles to come!

A few people have mentioned that they find the heavy door of the telephone box difficult to open and to hold open when dropping off or picking up books.

It does seem rather stiff but the heaviness of the door is part of the design and helps to keep the weather out so we're not sure we can easily adjust it.

However, we've installed a broom stave which is kept down the left-hand side of the bookcase. If you wedge it as shown in the picture it keeps the door open leaving you free to use both hands to rummage through the books.

The leaking windows have hopefully been successfully sealed for the winter and are looking good so far!

We noticed several comments left asking for more children's books particularly in the 8-10 years range.

So, after speaking to Shropshire Library Service, they have promised to sort some out from their discarded stock and unwanted donations.

There is a small charge for this which Stockton Parish Council have agreed to fund. Keep your eyes peeled over the next few weeks to see what arrives. Thank you to all those who are using the book exchange.

Please pass the word around, it's completely free and the more exchanges that happen the more the stock keeps turning over.

Any queries to Jackie Bennett (01952 730325) or Jackie.a.bennett@hotmail.com. Thank you.



WINTER RECIPE



Paula's Pantry

A seasonal delight as we head towards the festive countdown.

Fruity Gingerbread

Ingredients:

- 8 oz plain flour
- 3 oz sultanas
- 2oz soft brown sugar
- ¼ pint milk
- 4 oz golden syrup
- 1 egg beaten
- 2 level tsp ground ginger
- 4oz lard
- 4 oz black treacle
- 1 level tsp bicarbonate of soda

Method:

Preheat your oven gas mark 4 – or 180c (Fan 160c)

Line a shallow 7 x 10inch tin with greaseproof paper. Sift the flour and ginger and add it to the sultanas and sugar.

Warm the milk in a pan and pour into a jug to set aside. Warm the lard, treacle and syrup in a pan and heat until the lard has melted. Add the bicarbonate of soda to the milk and stir until dissolved.

Pour the lard mixture into the centre of the dry ingredients (flour, ginger, sultanas and sugar) followed by the milk mixture and the beaten egg.

Beat well until smooth. Pour into the prepared tin and place just below the centre of the oven for 40-45 minutes.

Remove the tin from the oven and leave until almost cold. Remove the paper and cool on a wire rack. Cut into 15 squares when required.

Happy Christmas!
Enjoy!



WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE

While there has been lots in the media and press about increasing demand on the NHS, The West Midlands Ambulance service will always send the nearest available emergency ambulance to a patient in cardiac arrest. But what you do as a member of the public in those first few vital moments before the ambulance arrives is all part of the 'Chain of Survival' and can make a huge difference about whether the patient survives.

Every minute that passes the patient chances of survival reduces by 10%, so the sooner Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is started, and a defibrillator is used, the better chance of survival.

Doing CPR may seem scary, but it really is simple. By pressing on the centre of the chest, hard and fast approximately 120 times a minute you will be doing the job of the heart, circulating blood around the body and to the brain.

A defibrillator can be used by anyone, and no training is needed.

It gives you verbal instructions on how to use it and it makes the decision about whether a shock is required, so you don't have to. A defibrillator is designed to shock an abnormal heart rhythm to try and get the heart beating again.

Defibrillators can be found in a variety of different places, such as shopping centres, schools, community centres, but do you know where your nearest one is? Check out www.defibfinder.uk to find your nearest one. In Norton, we have one at the Norton Village Hall.

If you know of a defibrillator that isn't listed, then the person or organisation responsible for it should register it on The Circuit – the national defibrillator database – www.thecircuit.uk as this will ensure the ambulance service knows about it and can direct someone to get it in an emergency.



**DID YOU KNOW:
CHRISTMAS PUDDING
WAS ORIGINALLY A
SOUP MADE WITH
RAISINS AND WINE.**

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The Parish Council is looking to refresh it's Place Plan, a list of potential capital projects and ideas submitted to Shropshire Council to help fund if money becomes available in the future.

The list is set out below, please contact the Clerk if you agree, disagree or would like to add other items to the list before the end of the year.

- Consideration of a by-pass for Norton Village.

- Investment to resolve speeding traffic on the A442 through Norton and overtaking on double white lines.

- ANPR cameras on the A442 that records speed and registration numbers.

- A better road surface on the A442 that decreases the noise levels from vehicles.

- Footpath resurfacing on the A442 from the Lodge to the entrance to Stockton Church and Stockton House.

- Footpath extension needed on the A442 from Astol crossroads to Apley Farm Shop.

- The reduction of speeding by large agricultural vehicles along Cheswardine Lane.

- The resurfacing of Cheswardine Lane.

- Better street parking that resolves parking on footpaths and verges.

- Improved provision of car parking for the bowls club and Village Hall.

- Improved bus service between Telford and Bridgnorth.

- Development Plan for waste and infill areas in Norton to include the provision of more bungalows.

- Improvements to the poor state of the village pond in Norton.

- The use of Stockton Church as a focal point with community support

- Additional initiatives that support community safety and the reduction of rural crime like burglaries.



Before and after pictures from the ditch works carried out by Samco on Cheswardine Lane, part funded by the Parish Council and the Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance Grant.



Pictures of the treatment works to the pull-ins undertaken by Samco at Astol part funded by the Parish Council and Environment Maintenance Grant from Shropshire Council



Before and after pictures re A442 footpath clearance by Samco from the Lodge to the junction of Stockton Church & Stockton House, part funded by the Parish Council and the Environment Maintenance Grant from Shropshire Council





A VIEW FROM SHIREHALL

Richard Marshall

**Your Local Councillor and Cabinet Member
for Highways and Regulatory Services**



As your local councillor, I am here to represent you at Shirehall and ensure that the residents of Norton have their views best put forward. As a resident of Norton, everything I do for you has a direct impact on my family and I also.

Most people will have received their purple top new bin by now, if they ordered it before April, if you haven't received one please re-order online and you will have yours over the next couple of Months , as we start to deliver the second phase of bins across the county.

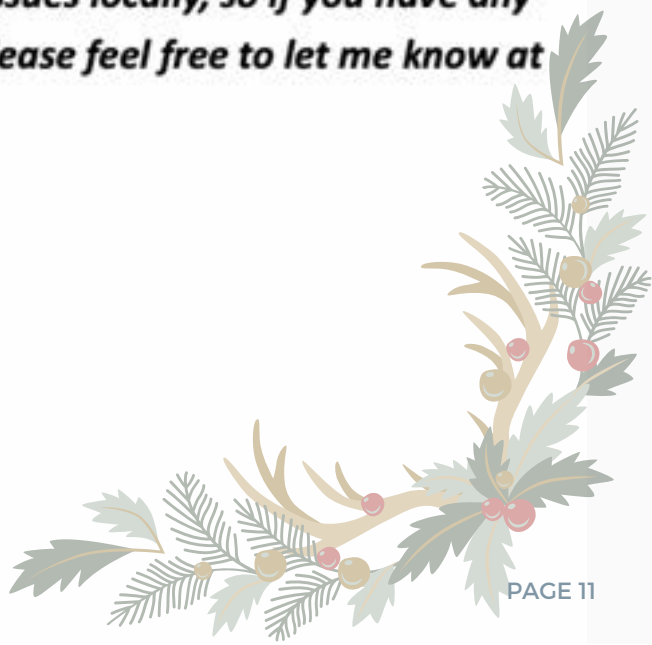
Summer is beginning to feel like a distant memory and I fondly think of how the Parishes of Stockton and Sutton Maddock came together to celebrate Her Majesty The Queens Platinum Jubilee. It was a great honour to open the festivities on that day. Little did we know that within a few weeks we would be hearing the news of the sad passing of her Majesty, a great constant in many of our lives.



As the cabinet member for Highways, it is my responsibility to head all Highways functions and a major part of that is to ensure our winter maintenance programme is ready.

I recently visited one of the Highways depots, to check through and sign off on the winter maintenance programme, ensuring we are ready for any eventuality. I was extremely impressed with the amount of work and planning that has gone in to ensuring we are ready .

Remember, I am here to represent you and your issues locally, so if you have any issues or just fancy a chat about all things local please feel free to let me know at richard.marshall@shropshire.gov.uk



NOTE FROM THE RECTORY

On Remembrance Sunday at Stockton Church the standard of the Apley Branch of the Royal British Legion was laid up at the end of the service, now that the branch has closed.

It is in a wooden holder in the south transept matching the other three standards already in church.

The war memorial in the church yard was also rededicated after the service in a short ceremony after its recent cleaning, refurbishment and re-lettering of the names of men from the parish who died in the two world wars.

The next service at church will be the Christmas communion with carols at 11am Sunday 18th December.

You may hear the bells rung on 10th December at the last of this year's church weddings at Stockton House.

Plough Sunday will be in January to mark the traditional start of the farming year.

Information and news can be found on the Six Parishes website Beckburygroupministry which you can find at <http://www.wwwbeeson.co.uk/beckbury/> and click on Information Page and scroll down to the monthly newsletters.

MEET YOUR SHIFNAL AND ALBRIGHTON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

There are currently four members of the SNT that are now working out of a Police Base on Tudor Way, Shifnal, TF11 8DJ.

PC Amanda Cooper 2350
PCSO Steven Breese 6458
PCSO Sam Newbrook 40447
PC Karanjit Singh 22068

If you need to contact the team for any reason please feel free to send us an e-mail on sa.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Photograph: Michelle Smith



Or alternatively pop in and see us at our police base. Although we don't have the facilities to take reports of crime, our door is always open to answer any questions or queries you may have.

Cold mornings

Although vehicle crime is low across West Mercia, every winter the force receives a number of reports from drivers who have had their cars stolen after leaving the engine running, while they wait in the warmth of their home for it to heat up and defrost the windscreen.

Some vehicle owners nip inside for just a few seconds to collect a bag or finish the last mouthful of their breakfast coffee - but that's all the time an opportunist thief needs. To 'freeze out' the thieves, West Mercia Police advises motorists to:

- Clear windscreens with de-icer and a scraper
- Sit in vehicles while the heater demists the windscreen

Drivers who ignore this advice are taking big risks. Thieves will drive around residential areas looking for likely targets - when they spot a vehicle with its engine left running on a drive or outside a home, it's there for the taking.

One person will be dropped off, gets into the target vehicle and simply drives away.

Many of the vehicles are never recovered, and some - especially high value models such as Mercedes, BMW and Audi - may be shipped overseas.

It is also worth remembering if your car is stolen when keys have been left in it, you may find your insurance will not cover you. If your house keys are stolen along with your car, your home is then vulnerable too.

So, this winter, don't give criminals an easy ride by leaving your car running unattended.

Winter security

It's that time of year again when the darker nights are upon us. A simple method of leaving a light on in your home in the evening or late at night can significantly reduce the chance of being a victim of a burglary.

This time of year there is generally a peak in dwelling burglaries across the county. Thankfully we do get very few dwelling burglaries in our policing area but having a light on may help deter any opportunist thieves looking to target outbuildings.

Warm Places

Don't be cold or lonely this winter. With the rising energy and heating costs and falling temperatures, come and enjoy company, a chat and a hot drink at one of the Warm Welcome Spaces.

The following venues hope to be open soon as Warm Welcome Spaces if they are needed.

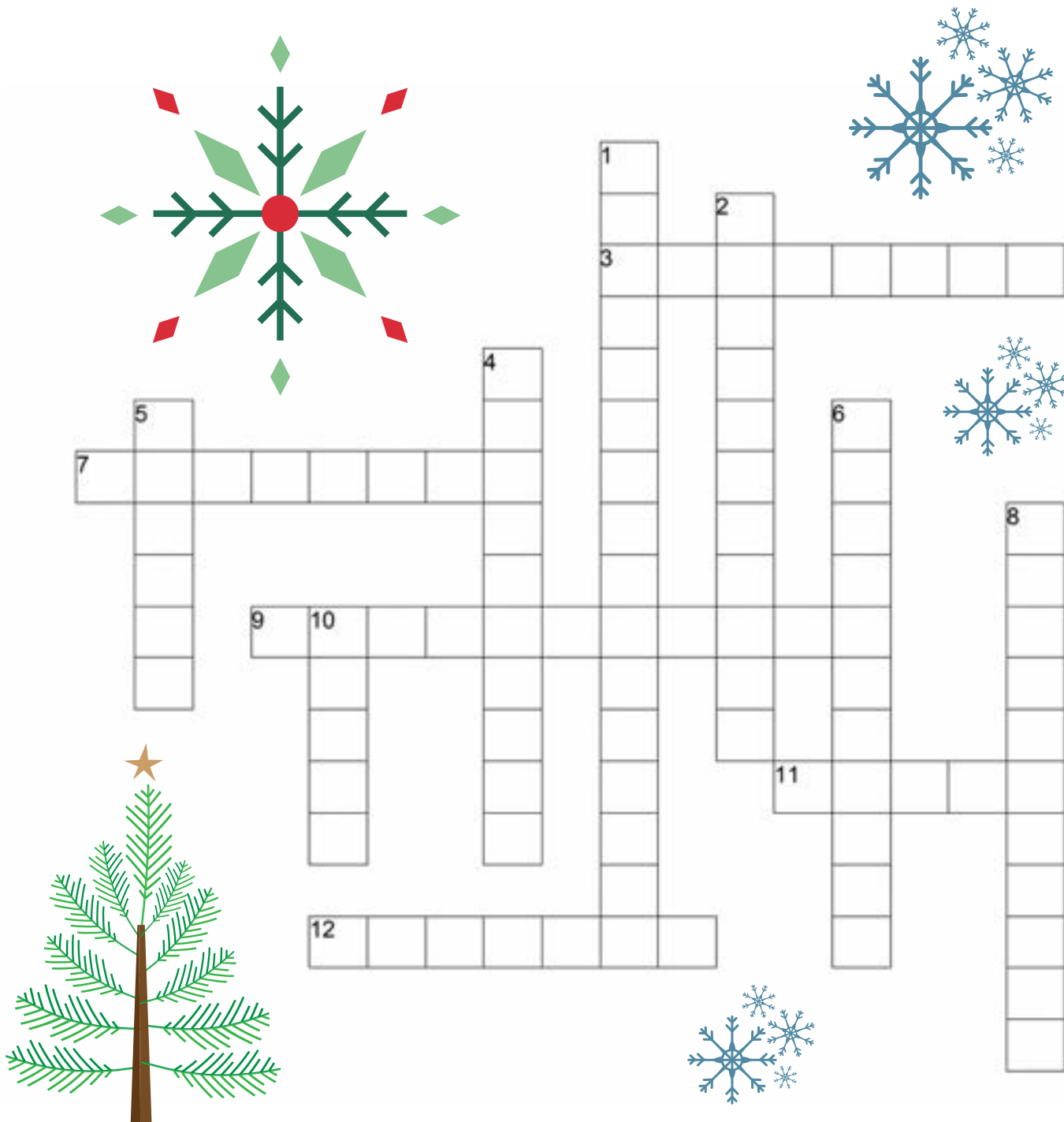
- Shifnal old fire station, Shrewsbury, Shifnal, TF11 8AL
- Community Hub, Tudor Way, Shifnal, TF11 8DJ

St Andrews Church, Shifnal, TF11 9AB is open each day 10 - 4pm Monday to Friday and 10 - 12pm on a Saturday. Serving hot drinks and soup. **PAGE 12**

FESTIVE CROSSWORD

Jackie Bennett has put together this fantastic crossword with all things festive!

Let us know how you get on and perhaps if you ask Jackie nicely she'll share the answers on Norton Facebook Community page!



Across

- 3. More like Rudolph
- 7. Pudding coin
- 9. A snow lover
- 11. Where Jack has been
- 12. Festive cocktail

Down

- 1. Give it a stir (8,7)
- 2. A long winter sleep
- 4. Small festive orange
- 5. Time of water (Germanic)
- 6. Spicy biscuit you can build with
- 8. One of the winter zodiacs
- 10. Danish Coziness

A Shropshire Lad 31: On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble

On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble;
His forest fleece the Wrekin heaves;
The gale, it plies the saplings double,
And thick on Severn snow the leaves.

'Twould blow like this through holt and hanger
When Uricon the city stood:
'Tis the old wind in the old anger,
But then it threshed another wood.

Then, 'twas before my time, the Roman
At yonder heaving hill would stare:
The blood that warms an English yeoman,
The thoughts that hurt him, they were there.

There, like the wind through woods in riot,
Through him the gale of life blew high;
The tree of man was never quiet:
Then 'twas the Roman, now 'tis I.

The gale, it plies the saplings double,
It blows so hard, 'twill soon be gone:
To-day the Roman and his trouble
Are ashes under Uricon.

A.E. Houseman, 1896

Season's Greetings!

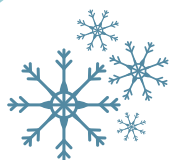
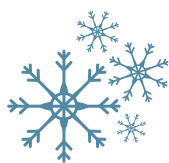
EDITORIAL TEAM

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

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Norton Natter, please get in touch.
Send your events, news, photographs and
contributions for future editions to
Marc Hornby marc.hornby@hotmail.com
Follow our Parish Facebook page
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 printed on 27th March
2023. Stay safe and very best wishes for the
New Year.





HairForce

Mobile Men's Hairdressing




Bridgnorth & Surrounding Area

Traditional & Modern
Barbering at home
25 years experience


Emma: 07427 606590

**Come & see us
Open 7 days a week**



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Enjoy lunch at the Apley Kitchen • Shop local at the Apley Farm Shop



Foodhall • Butcher • Delicatessen • Apley Kitchen • Scotty's Animals
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