

APRIL 2023

NORTON NATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE STOCKTON PARISH



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SPRING IN NORTON...

Norton is such a beautiful village regardless of the time of year, but I do love seeing the village coming to life in the spring time.

Noticing the early to blossom blackthorn trees and hedges is one of my favourite moments. They're like little clouds of snow bursting to life and lining the fields. Full with birds preparing their nests and singing throughout the day with what seems like all of their might!

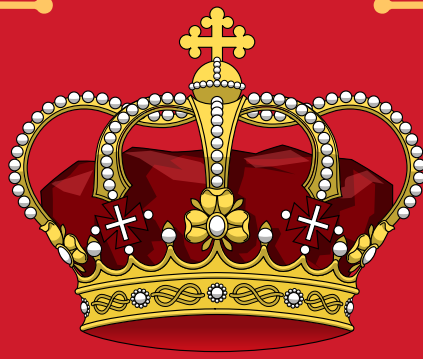
For this edition, we chose a sonnet by William Shakespeare (on the back page). It's Sonnet 98 and quite apt for Shakespeare was born and died in the spring. But it's the way Shakespeare describes the spring in this sonnet that I think is still relevant today.

In this case, Shakespeare describes the beauty of spring and all it offers, but he can't appreciate it as he feels the absence of a loved one.

Taking a moment to stop and notice what's going on around us can only be good for how we feel. Checking in, seeing where we're at and pausing to reflect on the beauty and tranquility that unfolds before us helps us appreciate what we have.

So take 10 minutes, make yourself a nice cuppa and enjoy the pages of this spring's Norton Natter!

Cover photo by Becks Bagnall



THE KING'S CORONATION VILLAGE PARTY

Saturday 6th May - 4pm 'til late

FREE ENTRY & LIVE MUSIC

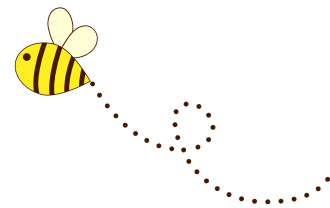
Lady & The Sax | light refreshments | bouncy castle | face painting

No ticket charge, but booking essential

Contact Paula: 01952 730664 or Martin: 07437 537461

VENUE: Dalton's Barn, Village Road, TF11 9ED

**Bring your own food & drink, table & chairs.
No gazebos required as under cover.**



PARISH PUMP

The Parish Council held its bi-monthly meeting in March with a number of projects under active discussion for the new municipal year 2023-24.

The next set of meetings will be the Annual Parishioners meeting, the Annual Parish meeting and ordinary Parish Council meeting all to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at Norton Village Hall.

Annual Parishioners' Meeting

The key speaker at the Annual Parishioners meeting will be Luke Neal, Land and Water Team Deputy Manager at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust on the subject of the Worfe Wild-side Project at Higford.

The Parish Council have also set their meeting schedule for the remaining of the municipal year at meeting will be advertised for the 5th July, 6th September and 1st November 2023 and the 3rd January, 6th March and 1st May 2024. all are most welcome to attend to raise items of interest or concern.

Parish projects and Initiatives

Some of the focus at the last Parish Council meeting revolved around the continued discussions about highways in particular the A442 which are reflected in the attached Place Plan. The meeting also received and discussed the recent Stockton Housing survey a copy of which can be requested from the Clerk.

The Kings Coronation was also discussed and the Parish Council have agreed to support the music at the party being organised by Norton Village Hall on the 6th May 2023.

The planning for the second pilot verge has started to take shape as those involved at the wedding venue at Stockton House are enthusiastic about "getting their hands dirty" with re-planting up the two verges leading from the A442 towards Stockton Church and Stockton House with wild meadow plants.

The next steps are to start and plan a clearance, planting and maintenance programme for the verges. Anyone who would like to find out more please contact the Clerk and if you would like to 'adopt' a stretch of verge close to your home or business for the planting and management with wild meadow plants please get in touch.

Parishioners feedback would be really helpful on ideas and projects that are needed within the Parish, please contact the Clerk.

Parish Council Place Plan

The Parish Council has refreshed it's Place Plan, a list of potential capital projects and ideas will be submitted to Shropshire Council to help fund if money becomes available in the future. The list is set out as follows:

- 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 South 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 and improved pothole management along Cheswardine Lane.
- 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.
- Development of wild flower meadow planting in verges.
- Improvements and upgrading of street furniture.

Your help is needed

The Parish Council is always on the look out for volunteers to help with environmental projects around the area; plus anyone who would like to help with this newsletter particularly providing any local interest articles and pictures.

Contact details: Stockton Parish Council Clerk Graham Bould, 18, Mendip Close, Little Dawley, Telford. TF4 3JG.
gbouldparish@yahoo.co.uk,
07792 300 702 (m)



APRIL 2023

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Norton Natter will be holding its first art & photography competition Summer 2023 which will be open to any resident in the Parish to enter.

The theme of the competition is:

‘A Real Shropshire Summer’

The winner will receive £50 in prize money and their winning entry will be announced and published in the Autumn Norton Natter.

The following work will be accepted for competition purposes:

- Paintings, drawings, original prints, photographic and mixed media works.
- Images of the original painting/drawing will be accepted for consideration, however if you wish to submit the original, please contact Jackie Bennett to arrange.
- It sounds obvious but the work must have been produced by the person submitting the entry.

The closing date for entries will be 31st August 2023.

Please send your submission to Jackie Bennett at jackie.a.bennett@hotmail.com – or deliver to The Old Shop, 8 Bridgnorth Rd, Norton.

Please provide your name, telephone number and address – Please note this information will be destroyed after the competition.

We will return any original art works after the competition has been judged.

The editors of the Norton Natter will decide the winner. Good luck everyone!

COMPETITION



Thanks to Becks Bagnall and Sara Houtt for all of the fabulous photographs around Norton.



COMPETITION



COMPETITION



COMMUNITY NEWS

Norton Telephone Book Exchange

Did you know that our book exchange has a Geocache cunningly hidden inside it?



For those of you who don't know what geocaching is, it's often described as treasure hunting for the digital generation. Started at the turn of this century it uses the GPS system to track down hidden boxes.

These usually have a log inside where people record their names and the dates they visited and typically leave a souvenir of their visit. The finder can take one of these trinkets away on the understanding that they leave something of similar value in exchange.



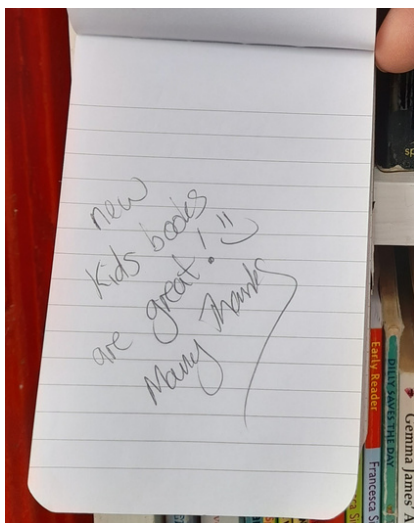
Sometimes there are additional riddles and puzzles to solve before you can open the cache. A truly global phenomena, there is said to be millions of geocaches hidden in over 190 countries worldwide. In the UK alone geocaching is popular with thousands of people and is frequently promoted by organisations such as The National Trust and National Ordnance Survey as a way of encouraging outdoor physical activity.



What it means for our little telephone box is that Geocache enthusiasts from far and wide visit the book exchange, bag the Geocache and maybe take and leave a book or two while they are here.

In other book exchange news; the window repairs have worked well over the winter period and stopped all but the heaviest downpours which can get the floor wet.

We also took delivery of around 30 books for youngsters 8-15 years from the Shropshire Library service. These were funded by the Parish Council and done because of the requests written in the comments book. We may do this again if the collection of youngsters books runs down.



Please let us know if there are any other categories that you would like to see by leaving a message in the comments book.

Just a reminder that the books are free to anyone and the exchange runs on the general understanding that if you can, please leave a book or two in exchange to keep the stock going. Please avoid dropping off too many books at a time, as a whole bag or box of books just clogs up the telephone box and makes it difficult for others to use the space.

The yard stick is, if you can't comfortably fit it on the shelf then it's probably too much! Please don't leave books directly on the floor as they can get ruined by damp and have to be thrown away rather than taken to charity.

The Seed, Plant & Harvest Swap

The swap table will soon be dusted off and brought up from the cellar and placed outside the village hall once again.



So, if you have any seeds or seedlings spare and to share, please label them up and drop them off at the table for others to make use of.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

By Graham Jones

Spring, a new beginning, something to look forward to. Unfortunately, it feels different now, the future is uncertain. There is war, there are strikes, and there are food banks throughout the country. Television reports present us with dismal stories every day.

What does the future hold, is there anything to look forward to? Yet, what we are experiencing now is nothing new.

I began my schooling at Stockton and Norton C of E School in 1944. Preparations were being made for D-day and convoys of army trucks rattled through the village day and night. We shared the classrooms with evacuees from Liverpool.

The fathers of some of my classmates were serving in foreign lands. A few bombs fell in Apley Park and Bridgnorth but compared with life in the cities Norton was paradise.

Almost everything was rationed, and sweets were rationed for four years after the war. For a growing boy this was real hardship. There was a huge feeling of relief when the war was finally over.

There were casualties of course but those families who had lost a loved one may have felt some comfort from the community. A sense of belonging to a community was so important then and so it must be today.

The war with Germany and Japan was over, the Cold War with Russia began. The Russians occupied East Germany. Great Britain, America and France defended the border between East and West.

Communism was seen as a threat, particularly in the Far East. In 1950 South Korea was invaded by North Korean forces. The north was backed by China and the Soviet Union. The United States defended South Korea, Britain and several other countries were involved.

The young men who served in this war were nearly all national servicemen and that included many Shropshire lads. One local lad, Alec Smith, was severely wounded.

Throughout the 1950s local boys served in a number of 'trouble spots' – Suez, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, and with BAOR, British Army of the Rhine. None of these conflicts had the same effect on moral as the war in Europe.

Throughout the 1950s there was an atmosphere of optimism. The National Health Service was created by an Act of Parliament in 1946, the benefits of this were felt by everyone. The future looked bright, the community came together.

The Village Hall (the Reading Room in those days) was in regular use by The Women's Institute, The British Legion, and The Young Farmer's Club. Dances were organised in Norton and the surrounding villages. All these events helped to strengthen the community spirit.

Sports and pastimes were most important – darts and dominoes in the Hundred House, bowls nearby, cricket and football down Cheswardine Lane.

The Norton football team was a fine example of forgive and forget. The smallest player for Norton FC was Jack Leith. He was the best player and should have been a professional.

When Allied Forces invaded Italy at Anzio in January 1944 Jack was taken prisoner and spent the rest of the war in a coalmine in Poland.

Standing behind him for the team photograph were Billy Beck and Fritz Platt, they were also ex-POWs who worked alongside some old farmhands who had fought in the First World War.



All was forgiven, they were all on the same side. A win against Beckbury or Chelmarsh was now more important than the battles they had fought in Europe.

We cannot put the clock back, nostalgia does not help. The effects of the war in Ukraine and the Covid virus have been devastating. The virus is now under control and surely the efforts of the free world will bring an end to the war in Ukraine.

Apley has played a part in supporting refugees from Ukraine. The community spirit is still with us and this will lead us to a brighter future – replace nostalgia with optimism.

PAULA'S PANTRY

Rhubarb and Ginger Crumble

Keep it seasonal with this lovely spring treat!

Ingredients:

Filling:

- 450g rhubarb washed & chopped
- 25g stem ginger – grated
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp arrowroot or cornflour
- 3 tbsp caster sugar

Crumble:

- 150g self-raising flour
- 75g butter (chilled and cubed)
- 75g caster sugar
- 50g porridge oats
- 50g unsalted nuts chopped (optional)

Method:

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

- Place the flour & butter into a bowl, rub butter into the flour until the mixture

Resembles coarse breadcrumbs

- Add caster sugar, porridge (and nuts if using)
- Set aside.

To make filling:

- Cut rhubarb into chunks (3-4cm)
- Finely chop stem ginger and sprinkle with arrowroot/cornflour and stir to coat the pieces.
- Place the fruit in a baking dish and sprinkle with sugar, stir to combine

To complete:

- Spoon crumble mix over the fruit, place the dish onto a baking tray with sides
- Bake in centre of oven for 40 – 50 minutes
- Served with custard or vanilla ice cream

Enjoy! Spring is here!



NORTON WOMBLES

Norton Wombles were out in force once again on Sunday 26th February. Nine hardy volunteers from the village collected 14 bags of rubbish from the verge side.

Strangest find this time was a large jar of gherkins!

The only question remaining is which one is Great Uncle Bulgaria?



FORESTRY TRAINING

The Forestry Commission, in partnership with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, has launched a new fund to cover the training costs for short, practical forestry courses for individuals who want to start or develop a career in forestry.

The Forestry Training Fund offers grants in the range of £150 to £3,000 to support a wide range of accredited training courses, teaching skills like chainsaw maintenance, coppicing, woodland management, marketing and selling timber, and fencing and hedge laying.

Funding will be paid directly to the training provider for courses to be undertaken between April 2024 and March 2025.

Applications can be made until March 2025 or until funding is exhausted.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP FUNDING

Apply to become a facilitator to bring together groups of farmers, foresters and other land managers to improve local environmental outcomes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/facilitation-fund-2023-countryside-stewardship>



PLACES TO VISIT

Take off to the Royal Air Force Museum Midlands and enjoy a great day out for all the family. Admission is free, simply book your arrival time online and then it's chocks away as you explore the Museum's vast collection of aircraft, vehicles, artefacts, and the fascinating story of the RAF!



The Museum is home to over 75 historic aircraft including the legendary Chinook 'Bravo November' helicopter, the world's oldest Spitfire, the unique TSR2 and the mighty Vulcan bomber to name but a few.

Head to Hangar 1 to see the Museum's NEW arrival Bravo November. The sole surviving Chinook helicopter flown by the RAF during the Falklands campaign is now on display alongside fellow Falklands veteran, the Harrier GR3.

Let your imagination take flight inside the National Cold War Exhibition, where you will discover Cold War stories in immersive Hotspots and explore exciting displays of aircraft, iconic cars, and tanks. Aircraft not to be missed include all three British V Bombers; Vulcan, Victor and Valiant and the English Electric Lightning suspended vertically!

Take a step back in time with the interactive Battle of Britain display, featuring the world's oldest Spitfire, the Hurricane and Defiant! Object displays including flying jackets, medal bars and artefacts from the plotting rooms, share the stories of the people who helped win the Battle, in the air and on the ground.

Opening in May 2023 is a brand-new Bomber Command Exhibition, featuring the Wellington bomber, one of only two remaining examples. The Wellington will be unveiled in Spring after undergoing a decade of conservation work in the Museum's Conservation Centre.

In addition to the aircraft, there is plenty on offer at the Museum for younger visitors. The aviation themed playground with mock control tower, mini hangar and even aircraft to climb onboard is perfect for youngsters who dream of becoming pilots. Of course, no playground would be complete without a slide and climbing frame, these features have been incorporated into the bespoke Handley Page Victor, inspired by the real aircraft on display within the Museum.

You'll find flying entertainment for the whole family in Flight Zone. Experiences on offer include flying with the Red Arrows in the amazing 4D theatre, combining motion picture with physical effects. Pop on your VR goggles and transport yourself into the cockpit of a real Spitfire and take a flight in 360°. Or feel the speed and agility of the Eurofighter Typhoon onboard the Flight Simulator, with a pilot's eye view from the cockpit. Glide through the skies on the ParadrVR. This immersive paragliding flight combines sensational VR content with a thrilling range of motion, transporting users into a virtual world of airborne adventures.



After exploring the hangars, why not stop off in the restaurant where you will find a great selection of food and drink available, with views overlooking the airfield. And before heading home, don't forget to make a visit to the Museum Shop for a memento of your day.

Throughout 2023, visitors to the RAF Museum Midlands can expect to see some brand-new additions to the events calendar including a fun packed Pilot Training experience during the Easter break, an out of this world Jet and Space Week in October, and the chance to enrol in Elf Cadet Training next Christmas. Forthcoming events include:

Event	Date
Model Mania	30 April - 1 May (bank holiday)
1940s Week	27 May - 4 June (half term)
RAF Cosford Air Show	11 June
Community Family Fun Day	17 June
Summer Holiday Activities (to be revealed...)	22 July - 3 September (Summer holidays)
Spitfire 10K	27 August
Outdoor Cinema	8 - 10 September
Jet and Space Week	28 October - 5 November (half term)
Photography Workshop	7- 8 October
Remembrance Service	12 November
Elf Cadet training	2-3 December (Christmas)

APRIL 2023

JUST FOR FUN

Wild Flower Word Jumble

1. AMRGOINY_____

2. EREATLLYWOL_____

3. DNUALCLAE_____

4. OCEORCLNCK_____

5. DRILCAIGWL_____

6. WENMOOOEAND_____

7. ERSOWYAPLC_____

8. NOMIULCEB_____

9. ALEBLEHR_____

10. ELEAST_____

11. BSERADSAYTDLW_____

12. ELLUELBB_____

NOTE FROM THE RECTORY

The Vicar writes...

Some of you may have already heard that I am retiring on 20th June. The Diocese of Lichfield keeps to the national Church of England policy that vicars (not clergy team members) should retire at age 70.

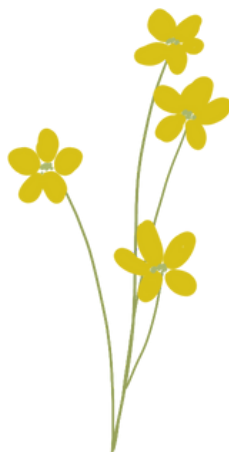
I do have permission to take weddings in July and August until we move house from the Rectory at Beckbury. So you may see me around even after I have retired, although we have a lot of sorting out to do so I will be quite busy at home.

At present our six church councils are meeting to start making arrangements for dealing with services and enquiries after I have retired.

Those details will eventually be put onto our church website - search for "*beckburygroupministry*"

My farewell will be on Sunday 18th June - check with local church members or the church notice board for details.

Keith Hodson



HairForce
Mobile Men's Hairdressing

**Bridgnorth &
Surrounding Area**
Traditional & Modern
Barbering at home
25 years experience

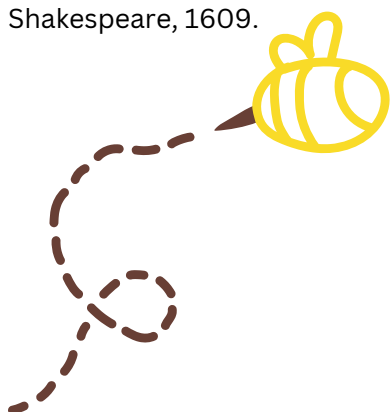
Emma: 07427 606590

SONNET 98

"From you have I been absent in the spring,
When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,
That heavy Saturn laughed and leaped with him.
Yet nor the lays of birds, nor the sweet smell
Of different flowers in odour and in hue,
Could make me any summer's story tell,
Or from their proud lap pluck them where they
grew:

Nor did I wonder at the lily's white,
Nor praise the deep vermilion in the rose;
They were but sweet, but figures of delight
Drawn after you, – you pattern of all those.
Yet seem'd it winter still, and, you away,
As with your shadow I with these did play."

William Shakespeare, 1609.



EDITORIAL TEAM

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

Printed by Apley Estate and Published by Stockton
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Natter and we welcome ideas and suggestions to
improve the content and add news and updates to
the newsletter and Facebook pages.



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