



NORTON NATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE STOCKTON PARISH

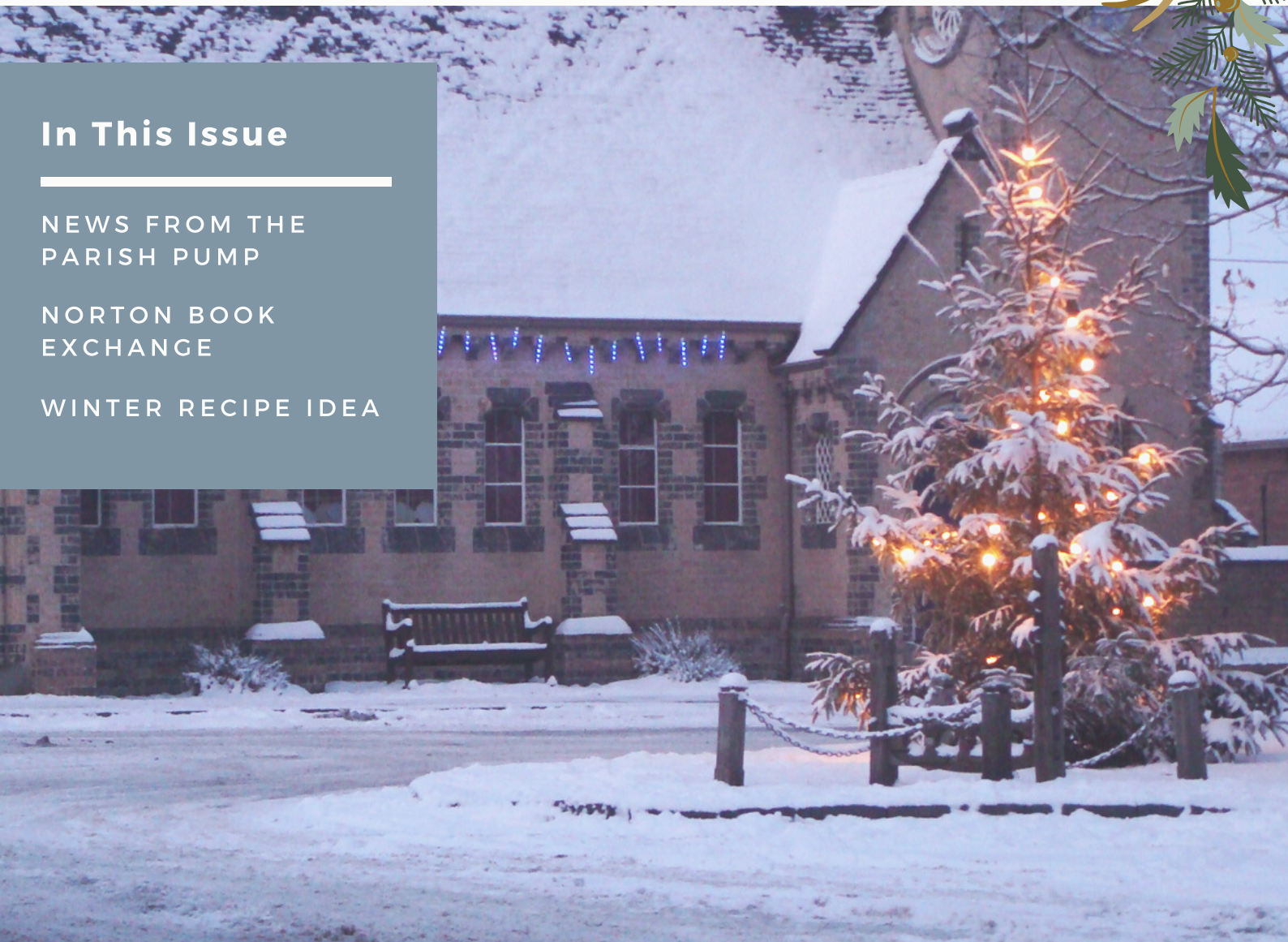


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Cover photograph: Andrew Bennett

THE NORTH WIND DOTTH BLOW...

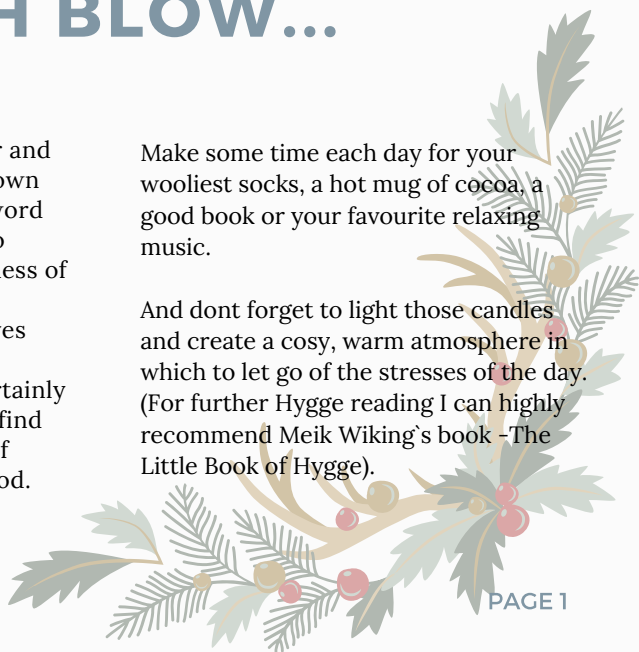
We're well on our way into colder, darker days now, but don't despair, this gives us the perfect reason to get cosy, pop the kettle on and stop for a while to enjoy this season's Norton Natter!

I imagine most of us can recite the first verse of the old poem in our headline, "The North wind doth blow..." I wonder though, if anyone knows the full five verses? We've printed it on the back page for you to have a read through if you'd like.

On the subject of wintery weather and cosy times, I wonder how well known the word Hygge is? It's a Danish word that doesn't directly translate into English but roughly means a cosiness of the soul and soothing, comforting experiences. It traditionally involves lots and lots of candles! During the winter months and certainly during these strange times we all find ourselves in, I think a good dose of Hygge can do you the world of good.

Make some time each day for your wooliest socks, a hot mug of cocoa, a good book or your favourite relaxing music.

And don't forget to light those candles and create a cosy, warm atmosphere in which to let go of the stresses of the day. (For further Hygge reading I can highly recommend Meik Wiking's book -The Little Book of Hygge).





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

Wednesday 4th November

Norton Parish Meeting at 7:30pm held virtually with details in the Parish Pump article in this newsletter.

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

The Village Hall

This facility is available for all kinds of community events from village parties, workshops, meetings to private hire. 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 Andrew Bennett (secretary)

Andrew.r.bennett@hotmail.com – 07904 209272. While the hall is getting "COVID-19 ready" it isn't available for booking, but any booking enquiries, please contact Marie Manton on 01952 730873 or Becks Bagnall on 01952 730397. There is a Norton Village Hall Facebook page for updates. There is also a website - currently being updated details to follow.

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.

Parish Council meetings: The Parish Council continues to meet 'virtually' and any Parishioner wishing to join the meetings are very welcome. For details contact the Parish Clerk who can send a direct invitation. The next meeting which will set the precept for 2021/2022 will be held on Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 7.30pm.

Newsletter: The Parish Council wished to place on record their sincere thanks for the team who has pulled together and re-started the news letter Norton Natter. Along with those who have helped to deliver it, advertise within it and contribute articles for it. The long term aim is to launch the news letter as a community business venture run by volunteers and supported by grants and advertising with a set of rules and bank account. Anyone who would be interested in 'having a go' and volunteering to bring Norton Natter to their neighbours please ring or email the Clerk on the details below.

A big thank you: A big thank you to the Norton Wombles for undertaking litter picking around the Village and the bulb planting this year along the A442, all will see the fruits of their labour in the coming spring.



Remembrance: The Parish Council have again placed large poppies on lamp posts around the Parish as a mark of respect to the fallen during many conflicts over the decades and will be purchasing additional large poppies for next year.

A season of goodwill: The Parish Council has once again agreed to give £50 donations to a number of charitable organisations as we start to approach the season of goodwill for the work they carry out with and for those less fortunate within society. They are the Citizens Advice, Mind, Severn Hospice and the Macmillan Cancer Research.

Update from the November meeting of the Parish Council:

The Parish Council held its by-monthly zoom meeting on Wednesday 4th November 2020. Several items of discussion took place with a particular focus around the 'A' boards at the Hundred House; repairs and refurbishment to the village bench and bus shelter and the play parks recent ROSPA inspection and equipment repairs.

Covid-19 Helpline and on-line information

For non-medical support and enquires call direct Covid-19 Helpline 0345 6789028 or email customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk.

On the Shropshire Council website, there is a wide range of information available to help you support people. Find the full range of information here: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/>. This includes the three directories on: food provision, community support and community social networks.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust:

Have free bird feeder kits to give to anyone across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin who is experiencing difficulties due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This includes: elderly, people with physical or mental health difficulties, people shielding and key workers.

The trust would love to hear how people are getting on with their free feeders so will send a follow-up questionnaire to gather some feedback. So far we have distributed over 650 kits across the county and have worked with organisations such as Ludlow Pulling Together, Age UK Shropshire, Bluebird Care, Ellesmere Town Council, Pontesbury Parish Council and Market Drayton Rotary and MIND. Contact LizzieS@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk to request an application form.

If you would like more information on forming a group or putting your name forward to get involved in existing groups please contact the Parish Clerk, Graham Bould, Stockton Parish Council Clerk: 18, Mendip Close, Little Dawley, Telford, TF4 3JG gbouldparish@yahoo.co.uk, 0779 230 0702

A NOTE FROM THE APLEY ESTATE OFFICE



So we find ourselves in another lockdown. Hopefully, as they say, it'll all be over in time for Christmas.

At Apley our staff are continuing working as near to normal as we possibly can. The Estate Office is open with all our staff working as normal but we aren't accepting any visitors at the moment – we hope to resume normal service as soon as possible.

Our building and estate maintenance teams are concentrating on outside work at the moment. Our farmers having been busy with autumn field work planting our crops for harvest next summer. The autumn has been rather easier than last year with much better weather, so the crops are coming through and the fields are greening up.

This year we are also planting some over winter green covers on land where the final crops will be planted in the Spring, this is part of our commitment to making environmental improvements across the farm and estate – more information on our website which we are relaunching in the new year.

At the farm shop we are preparing for Christmas whilst making sure that we comply with the Government's Covid guidelines – we are still having socially distanced Father Christmas visits starting at the end of November, we have locally grown Christmas Trees available and you can order a Shropshire Turkey and many other treats and Christmas essentials. This year we are offering a wider range of hampers so why not send a hamper to friends or family that you may not be able to visit.

Wishing all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

NOTE FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

Regrettably due to Covid 19, Norton Village hall remains closed for the time being. However, the committee are hoping to use the downtime well and have plans to fit a new boiler, complete required electrical testing and hopefully with Apley Estate's help fix some roof leaks. It is also hoped that the hall will be able to be open again whenever the time is right in 2021.

However, your Village Hall is in need of volunteers from the community, people who are willing to step forward and get involved. In March '21 there will be an Annual General Meeting where many of the committee roles will be vacant.

Many readers will remember fondly the wide variety of activities the hall has hosted over recent years. Think about the children's playgroup, the art class, the exercise sessions, over 60's and the ladies group and countless craft workshops. Who could forget the Norton Christmas Fair and fantastic annual children's party? Possibly hundreds of wedding receptions, birthdays, wakes and New Year celebrations. The Halloween, quiz, skittles, bingo, live music, Burns, St Patrick and ceilidh nights. What about the charity fundraising events; tea parties, charity auctions, raffles, table top sales and concerts? You name it and the chances are the hall has been used for it. If only those walls could talk!

So, this is an appeal for your Village Hall. Please, during the winter months have a think about what you could do to help get it up and running again. Help to keep open this relevant and vital resource for the local community. It could be that as the world struggles to navigate it's way out of this Pandemic that a local Village Hall will be even more important than it has ever been. So please look out for the notices of the AGM in the spring and please, please get involved.

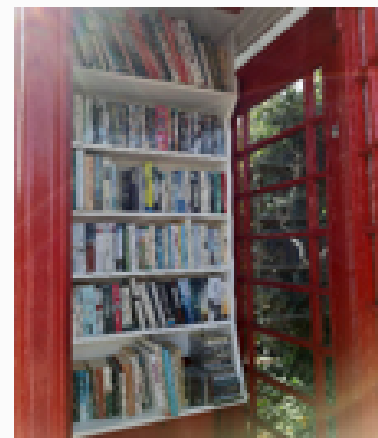


Photograph: Bec Bagnall

NORTON BOOK EXCHANGE

The book exchange is going from strength to strength and rapidly becoming a popular community resource. The collection covers a wide range of tastes and is refreshed frequently.

Please help yourself to whatever you fancy and if you can drop something off at the same time to keep the choice interesting and varied.



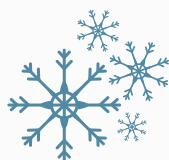
As we head towards winter and to extend its appeal why not drop off any unwanted jigsaw puzzles and board games to help wile away the dark nights!

There is a comments book so if there is something specific that you would like to see try writing a note in the comments book and maybe someone will have it at home?

For those without access to the internet the telephone box also houses a 'Norton Natter' collection envelope to receive anything you want to include in the next edition of the newsletter.

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





NOTE FROM THE RECTORY

Words from Revd Keith Hodson

Strange Times part two! Having had our churches closed in the first Spring lock down, they were closed again in the November national lock down. This caused some confusion about Remembrance Sunday services which the government did not permit, so the BBC recommended watching their London Cenotaph coverage on tv and observing the two minutes silence at home.

But the government did at short notice allow "Acts of Remembrance" outside at war memorials so we did in fact have such an "Act" at Stockton Church with one short hymn, the Last Post and Reveille and the National Anthem.

Apley Branch British Legion chairman Graham Jones said the Tribute and Kohima, and also read the names of the fallen from three parishes, as Kemberton and Sutton Maddock could not have their indoor services. Sid Speke our local 98 year old WW2 Royal Navy veteran laid the wreath.

As I write this in early November we are waiting to see what happens after the lockdown review date in December. We think that churches will open, but if social distancing is still required that will adversely affect lots of churches holding their usual popular Christmas services. And if the pre lockdown rules are applied again, we have to wear masks and cannot sing carols. So it may be "Silent Night" at many churches.

What services we manage to arrange at St Chad's (if any) will be publicised on the church notice board and the village hall notice board, or you can contact me.

email: keithhodson@talk21.com
phone 01952 750774



WINTER RECIPE

A really easy, warming supper for those cold winter nights from PAULA's PANTRY

Camp Fire Stew

Serves 6

Ingredients:

- A gammon joint smoked or unsmoked to your preference
- 2 tins of baked beans
- 2-3 garlic cloves chopped
- 2 orange peppers
- 1 red chilli finely chopped
- 1 x large onion chopped
- 1 tbs smoked paprika

Method:

Trim all the fat off the gammon joint and place in a slow cooker (or a casserole dish if you haven't got one) Simply add all the ingredients and cook on medium for at least 6 hours. Using two forks pull the gammon joint apart and serve with seasonal veg and a jacket potato .

What better welcome home from a cold winter's day than the comforting aroma of this delicious meal! ENJOY! Paula Davies







Same Day, Next Day Everyday We Get There!

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POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, my role is to ensure your priorities are acted on, your voice is heard and your community is kept safe. This Christmas, maintaining that safety takes on a unique challenge as we face the global pandemic together.

It is a Christmas with circumstances we all wish were different, and one where we must adapt our celebrations. This does not change the nature of the holiday; it is still a time for family and friends but this year, more than ever, we must also make sure that we're looking out for the most vulnerable in our communities, including those that are isolated.

It is important we spend time with our loved ones, but it is vital we do so sensibly by acting responsibly and following the guidelines in place. If we all follow these rules, we can protect not only ourselves and our families, but each and every member of our community this winter.

Wishing you a safe Merry Christmas and New Year

John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
Email: opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk.
Phone: 01905 331656



For more information about my role, my priorities, and the work I do within our community, visit my website: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/>

WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE

How Will You Mark 2020? For most people, 2020 will be a year that they want to forget. COVID-19 has brought so many challenges; illness, deaths, lockdowns, being cut off from family and friends. However, it has not all been doom and gloom. Over the last year, thousands of people across the West Midlands have committed themselves to becoming lifesavers and here is my festive challenge to you.

Through all the sadness of 2020, why not end the year by committing to do something amazing in 2021 and become a lifesaver. My role with West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) is as a Community Response Manager. I am one of the staff who spend their time teaching people how to do CPR – cardiopulmonary resuscitation – and helping groups to fundraise to purchase a defibrillator.

Each year, WMAS staff attend about 4,000 cardiac arrests, but despite all of our efforts, only 7% of those people will survive! It's a shocking figure, especially when in some countries like Denmark, the figure is around 25%. It comes down to whether people know CPR and are prepared to do it. A cardiac arrest is scary. It's not a heart attack. If a patient has a cardiac arrest, they will be unconscious, but more worryingly, their heart won't be beating; they are clinically dead.

The only way to save someone is give CPR; it buys the patient time until a defibrillator can be used to shock the person's heart. You can't hurt them; doing something can only help. For every minute after the patient's heart has stopped, their chance of survival drops by 10%, so time is of the essence. I can tell you, saving a life is the most incredible experience; knowing that your actions mean someone will get to spend time with their loved ones when they wouldn't otherwise have had that chance is the best feeling in the world.

A cardiac arrest can strike anyone at any time: it could be a loved one, a friend, a stranger, but you could help save their life if you know CPR. It doesn't take long to learn and there are courses all over the place.

My challenge to you is to mark 2020 by making 2021 just that little bit better by committing to learn how to do CPR.

Equally, why not work with us to raise money so that we can increase the number of defibs in your community. Together these actions will save lives. What better way to start 2021 than by becoming a lifesaver?



Cliff Medlicott Community Response Manager, West Mercia

LOOKING BACK

The man in this picture is my maternal Grandad, Charles Webb. He lived in Norton, for over 50 years having moved from his home town of Stratton near Cirencester just after the end of WW1.

He came to Shropshire to work for his brother-in-law, Tom Shord who had become the landlord of the Hundred House Hotel in Norton.



I was only 12 when he died and even as his grandson he wasn't an easy man to get on with. I knew some of his war details from family stories, he was in the Royal Artillery, he had been wounded by shrapnel from an air burst shell and had a thumb sized hole in his back.

I did some research and although his record was not available I found he had originally joined the Gloucestershire Regiment according to his service number he was in the 10th battalion. At the battle of Loos the battalion was almost wiped out and I believe he was probably wounded here.

I thought this was the end of the story, but among the family records was a copy of a certificate showing he had taken a 'course in a Aeronautics'. I found some RAF records online at the PRO and not expecting much I searched on his name. Surprisingly I found his RAF record, identified by his Gloucesters service number, he joined the RAF in July 1918. The record showed he was actually training to be a pilot at RAF Wye, in Kent when the war ended.

I believe he is wearing an RAF Cadet pilot's uniform in the picture, denoted by the white cap band. So this rather curmudgeonly old man that I remember, had not only survived being wounded in a horrific battle, he had then volunteered for a job where life expectancy was weeks and new recruits had done well if they survived 20 minutes. I only wish he had been able to talk about it, but maybe I would've been too young to listen.

> A post script to this is that he lost his only son in August 1944 killed by a mine in Northern France while serving with the Royal Engineers. (Mrs P Brooks)

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After the last edition of the Norton Natter someone got in touch from Bolton to ask if they could have an electronic version of the newsletter. They had grown up in Norton and still has family ties to the village. It got us thinking... how far in the world the newsletter could reach? So, if you have any ex residents, family members or friends who live beyond the Shropshire County please send a photo of them in their location and we'll see how many virtual miles we can cover!

APLEY FARM SHOP ARE HERE FOR YOU AGAIN THIS LOCKDOWN!

We have brought back our Drive-Thru Collection and Delivery service to help you shop for your essential items.

Collect your order for the Farm Shop without having to leave your car! Simply email your order to enquiries@apleyfarmshop.co.uk

Please note we ask for at least 48 hours notice of your order with your contact number, any orders sent after 4pm will be classed as the next day's order so will be 48 hours from the following day.

A member of the team will call you on the morning of your collection, update you on stock availability, any substitutions, or additions, take payment & confirm your collection slot. Once you have arrived on-site, please call us on 01952 581002 and a member of the team will run your delivery out to your car.

“-----”

COLLECT YOUR ORDER FOR THE FARM SHOP WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE YOUR CAR!

-----”



APLEY FARM SHOP

Apley Farm Shop Delivery Service

How do I order?
Email your order through and we will call you the morning of your Delivery to take payment over the phone. Please note require at least 48 hours notice of your order.

Deliveries over £50 receive FREE delivery. Orders under £50 will require a £5 delivery charge

Where do you deliver to?	
Tuesday Norton Shifnal Sutton Maddock Ryton/Beckbury Kemberton	Wednesday Worfield Bromley Harrington Badger
Thursday Birdgnorth	Friday TF1, TF2, TF3 TF4, TF7, TF8

ENQUIRIES@APLEYFARMSHOP.CO.UK

You can't forget your Christmas essentials too! From Turkeys to Christmas Cakes, we have what you need this Christmas Season. Head into the Farm Shop and speak to one of our lovely members of staff who will get you started with your order.

Can't make it to the Farm Shop? Just send an email to enquiries@apleyfarmshop.co.uk and we can send you an order form. We will be providing a VIP Collection service with your own time slot, this will be given to you near your collection date.

Orders must be by returned by 15th December, if you order before 15th November, you will receive £5 off your final bill! Please note a £25 deposit is required.

For an updated stock list for your Collection/Delivery Order or our Christmas Essentials stock list please email enquiries@apleyfarmshop.co.uk or call 01952 581002 for any further information.

Drive Thru-Collection Service



Order your essential shopping & collect, we'll even bring it to your car!

How do I order?
Email your order through and we will call you the morning of your collection to take payment over the phone.

Please allow 48 hours notice

ENQUIRIES@APLEYFARMSHOP.CO.UK

Aren't able to come and collect your order? Don't worry, we will be bringing back our delivery service from Tuesday 10th November. We deliver to Norton on Tuesday's! Deliveries over £50 will receive FREE delivery. Orders under £50 will require a £5 delivery charge.

“-----”

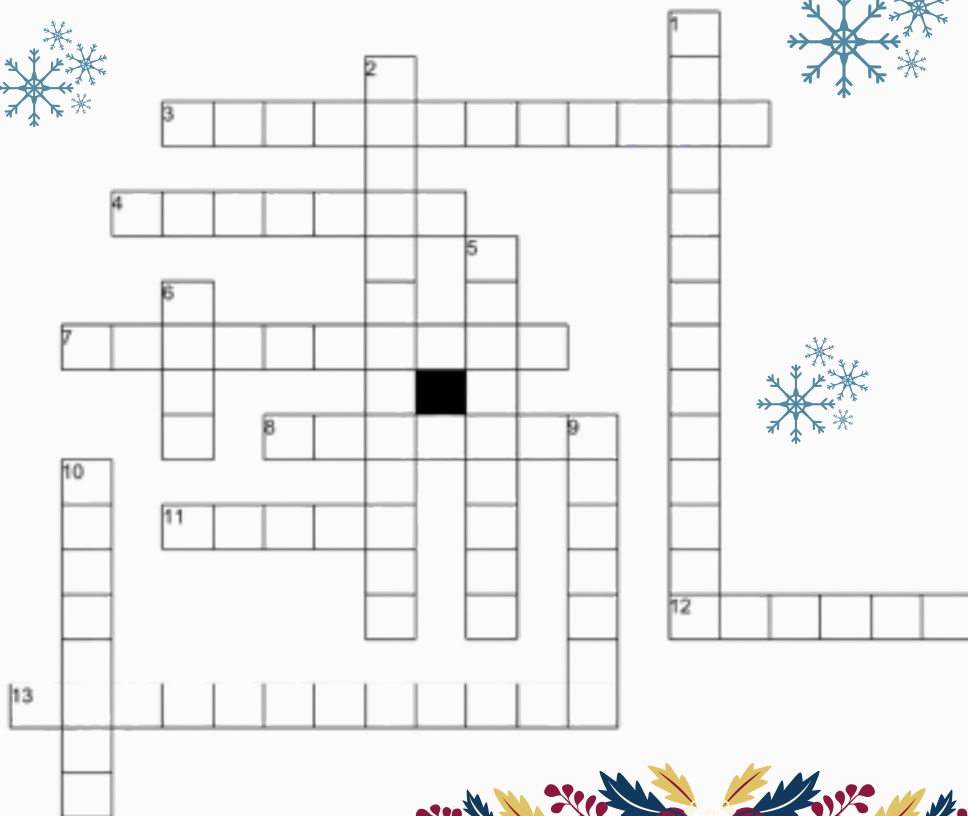
FROM TURKEYS TO CHRISTMAS CAKES, WE HAVE WHAT YOU NEED THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.

-----”

Order Your Christmas Turkey From Simon, Our Master Butcher!



NORTON NATTER CROSSWORD



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

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. Where can you get a book for free?
- 4. Henry's Century
- 7. Clever liquid
- 8. This group will clear up
- 11. Tree
- 12. Punishing graves
- 13. A winter warmer

Down

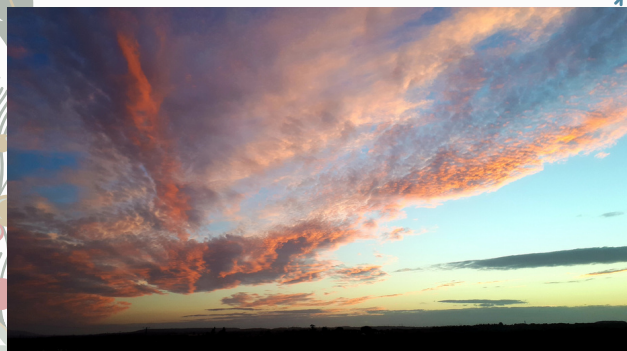
- 1. Popular local animal farm
- 2. Order your turkey from here
- 5. What made Norton rename itself and move?
- 6. Boxing clever you can see them around
- 9. A common bird
- 10. Game bird



Same Day, Next Day Everyday We Get There!

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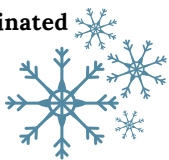
Photograph: Emma Hornby



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(A British nursery rhyme. Believed to have originated in the 16th Century).



The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will poor robin do then, poor thing?
He'll sit in a barn,
And keep himself warm,
And hide himself under his wing, poor thing!

The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will the swallow do then, poor thing?
Oh, do you not know
That he's off long ago
To a country where he'll find spring, poor thing!

The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will the dormouse do then, poor thing?
Roll'd up like a ball,
In his nest snug and small,
He'll sleep til warm weather comes in, poor thing!

The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will the honey-bee do then, poor thing?
In his hive he will stay,
Til the cold is away,
And then he'll come out in the spring, poor thing!

The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will the children do then, poor things?
When lessons are done,
They must skip, jump and run,
Until they have made themselves warm, poor things!

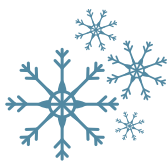
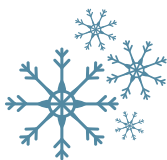
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Graham Bould - Parish Clerk
Marc Hornby - Editor
John Pigg - Distribution
Emily Taylor - Reporter

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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. 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 31st March 2021. Stay safe and very best wishes for the New Year.



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Liz & Jack - Bride & Groom

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