

Norton Community Trust

Newsletter No 20

May 2023

It's been a while since the last newsletter and there's a lot of good news.

Let's start with money! We've received a donation of £10,000 from the Moondance Foundation and a grant of £20,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation, plus a further £5000 from our Town Council. These sums mean that - drum roll! - we've reached our magic total of £150,000 for the adaption building work! This is such a huge success (and relief!) for us, and we are so grateful to our small but fantastic funding sub-group who have worked incredibly hard on numerous applications, and been successful in almost all of them. There is one more application outcome still awaited, which would give us a nice comfy cushion on the building works budget.

The focus of our fundraising efforts is now switching to the Hub operation and activities. We already have £5000 in the bank towards the cost of the kitchen, thanks to the Community Foundation Wales (from the Welsh Church Act Fund). And other specific items, including clock restoration, hearing loop system, specialist lighting and sound systems, are being identified so that possible funding sources can be found.

More good news - about the building works. Construction work on the Hub is now gathering pace. The pipework for the water and sewage services has been laid between the building and the Lych Gate, all under the close supervision of the necessary archaeological monitoring. The connections to the mains services are due to be made by Welsh Water during May. Inside, the foundation work for the new floor is underway and the internal drainage runs for the WC and kitchen are being put in place. The build project continues to be the responsibility of the Steering Group whose role will continue until completion of the adaption work which we hope will be in the autumn. The Steering Group members are all Norton residents - Maggie James, John Wilding, Tony Morgan, Brian Price and John Refausse. If you have any questions about the building work, please do feel free to ask any of us, or you can reply to this Newsletter email (details in the yellow box at the end of this newsletter).

And even more good news - looking ahead to the opening of the Hub at the end of the year (impossible to type that without a thrill of excitement!). A Management Committee has been formed to take responsibility for operating the Hub when it is ready for community use. The Committee is currently working closely with the Steering Group to ensure that the appropriate policies and practices are in place in time for the Hub opening. These include financial controls, planning Hub-based activities, agreeing relevant policies such as safeguarding, identifying equipment and furniture needs, and planning local fundraising. The Management Committee members are also all Norton residents - Catherine O'Rourke, Andre Vanhuls, David Rowing, Chris Ruby, Elizabeth Stone, Chris Refausse, Martin Brockington, Tracey McAdam, Steve Foster, Dick Sawle and Elizabeth Preston, with John Refausse acting as interim chair. Again, please do feel free to ask any questions.

And so, of course, with funding still very much in mind, we hope you'll support these upcoming village events:

Norton Open Gardens - Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May. Tickets will cost £10 per head for entry to all 12 participating gardens and include a cream tea at Corte Cottage. Please support this lovely event, a great chance to meet fellow villagers and swap gardening ideas. Full details are on the attached poster. And we need volunteers to help with preparation and on the event days themselves - please help if you can, contact our volunteer co-ordinator David on volunteering.nct@gmail.com

Norton Village Show - Sunday 30th July, on Watkins Field at Offa's Green. A welcome return to the village for our lovely Show. Poster attached with all the details. Another great chance for the village to come together. Again, we really need volunteers to help with planning and on the day - contact our volunteer co-ordinator David on volunteering.nct@gmail.com

Also, just to let you know that the Craft Fair that had been tentatively planned for August has been postponed, and we're hoping instead to have a Christmas Fair in the newly opened Hub. Watch this space!

And finally - just in case you haven't already seen the results of the Norton Community Hub 100 Club Draws since our last newsletter:
March Draw: 1st prize - No. 67, £30; 2nd prize - No. 32 - £20; 3rd prize - No. 38, £10; donation to Hub funds £60.

April Draw: 1st prize - No. 9, £30; 2nd prize - No. 84 - £20; 3rd prize - No. 22, £10; donation to Hub funds £60.

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Website: www.nortonhub.uk

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The Norton Community Hub project is managed by the Presteigne and Norton Community Trust, a registered charity No: 1195888. It is supported by funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Presteigne and Norton Town Council, the Church in Wales, the UK Community Renewal Fund, the National Lottery Community Fund, the Moondance Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, and the Norton community.