

Norton Community Trust

Newsletter No 25 – March 2024

The beginning of the project to adapt the former church as a community hub dates back to November 2019 but finally we can confirm that the Norton Community Hub is finished! We're delighted to announce that the completion certificate has been issued by the project architect which means the building is once more under community control following a year of work by the contractor, Firth Construction.

The overall project cost will be £220,000. This extraordinary sum was raised by a combination of hard work on grant awards and generous local fundraising initiatives. It really is a remarkable achievement for such a small community. Our thanks to everyone who has contributed to making the original vision a reality.

We're almost at final completion of the project with one thing awaited - the delayed installation of foul water services and the consequent restoration of the churchyard path. We don't envisage any actual problems with this, it's just that we're in a queue. This is likely to take a further 4-6 weeks and in the meantime the building unfortunately cannot be used for public events. However, small meetings are allowed and, better still, we can organise an Open Day. This will give everyone in the community a chance to come and see the adapted building and share some thoughts about how it can be used by the community in the future. The Open Day is planned for Monday 1st April. More details will be available shortly.

In the meantime there has been, and will still be, plenty of activity by our magnificent team of volunteers to get the Hub ready for use. Cleaning and decorating following the building works has been carried out. Furniture and equipment that has been in storage is being moved in. The programme committee are planning a core calendar of village and hub-based events for 2024, including a formal opening event. And the new Norton Show committee will be planning this year's event. Hub bookings are already coming in for the period after 1st May, so please remember to consider the Hub for that special family event - it's not too early to book us as your venue!

To start promoting the new Hub and remind the whole of the Norton community of its benefits we will be producing a special edition brochure to send to every house in the village in mid-March, so watch out for that (and if you can help to deliver these, we'd love to hear from you).

If you haven't been able to help with the Hub up to now but would like to get involved, we are always delighted to welcome new volunteers - the type of help needed is unlimited. Our volunteer co-ordinator is Dave Rowing and he'd love to hear from you - volunteering.nct@gmail.com

Contacts: For enquiries about this Newsletter, contact Maggie James on 01544267109, or email nortoncommunitytrust@gmail.com

To volunteer: volunteering.nct@gmail.com

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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 several generous grants and donations – a full list is attached to this newsletter.