THE BRADLING STONE

THE NORTON IN HALES MAGAZINE

Issue 2—May 2019

Spring has well and truly sprung…!

Each month, the cover of the newsletter will feature an iconic image from the village or around the parish. This month's photograph was provided by Chris Green and shows St. Chad's Church in all of its springtime glory.

We'd love you to share your photos with us and each month we'll choose the one which best represents the season or what's happening in and around the village. Send your shots to: editorbradlingstone@gmail.com

What's On In May?....

Date	Event	Where	Time	Extra Info.
Wed 1	Mucklestone WI	Jubilee Hall	7:15 pm	Ginger & Spice Competition: 4 Gingerbread Men
Thu 2	Norton in Bloom Meeting	Hind's Head	7:30 pm	Come and join us
Sat 4	2nd vs Newcastle 3rd	Norton in Hales CC	1:00 pm	
Sun 5	Praise and Worship with Holy Baptism	Saint Chad's	11:15 am	Flowers & Brasses: Mrs M Lockwood Cleaning: Gwen Lovatt & Jenny Hall
Mon 6	Bank Holiday			
Tue 7	Coffee Morning	**Closed until October**		Reopens on Tuesday 1st October
Sat 11	2nd vs Kidsgrove 2nd	Norton in Hales CC	1:00 pm	
	Duck Race	Forge Farm	2:30 pm	Always popular
Sun 12	BCP Morning Prayer	Saint Chad's	11:15 am	Flowers & Brasses: Mrs M Lockwood Cleaning: Gwen Lovatt & Jenny Hall
Tue 14	Norton Parish Council AGM	Jubilee Hall	7:30 pm	
Sat 18	1st vs Kidsgrove	Norton in Hales CC	12:30 pm	
Sun 19	Family Service	Saint Chad's	11:15 am	Flowers & Brasses: Linda Neary Cleaning: Gwen Lovatt & Jenny Hall
Sat 25	2nd vs Endon 3rd	Norton in Hales CC	1:00 pm	
Sun 26	BCP Holy Communion	Saint Chad's	11:15 am	Flowers & Brasses: Linda Neary Cleaning: Gwen Lovatt & Jenny Hall

Further Ahead....

1-2 June	British Eventing Horse Trials	Brand Hall		Two day event
1 Jun	Plant Sale	Bus Shelter	10:00 am – 14:00 pm	
1 Jun	Folk Evening—Lost Highway	Jubilee Hall	8:00 pm	Tickets £7:50 from Jeff Harrall 653081 or David Rigby 654202 Own drink, nibbles & glasses.
15 Jun	Village Festival	Village Green	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	
Reminders	Date for the next month should be sent to secretarybradlingstone@gmail.com by the 15th of the month at the latest. Future events can be flagged up as required. Articles/contributions should be sent to editorbradlingstone@gmail.com by the 18th of the month.			

Patrons have contributed to the annual cost of the magazine and we wish to thank them for their valuable contributions.
If you would like to become a patron then please contact the secretary: secretarybradlingstone@gmail.com

A Message from Rev Don Alcock of St Chad's Church

I hope my new photo in this second issue of The Bradling Stone, our village magazine, prints more clearly than in the first issue, which was fuzzy in appearance. That blurriness got me thinking about life. So many people lack a clear vision of who they are and where they are going in life. Some just stumble along from day to day, never sure what will happen next or where they will end up. The uncertainties of this world can be overwhelming sometimes. Do you ever feel a little lost? I do!

We are still celebrating the Easter season in the Church. The Resurrection of our Saviour Jesus is not a one-day story. It actually lasts for 50 days, until the day we call Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church. Why so long? Probably because the story is so amazing and shocking that it takes a long time to bring it all into focus. I can only imagine how Jesus' followers reacted and felt as they came to terms with the fact that He had risen from the dead!

Easter is a story of redemption. God loves us and has always desired for us to live with him forever in his eternal Kingdom. Alas, because of all the wrong-doings (sins) in our lives, we just kept getting farther and farther away from him. There didn't seem to be any way of reconciling. A great chasm opened between us and there was no way of bridging the gap; until Jesus died on the Cross and His Cross became our saving grace—the means by which we can traverse that great divide!

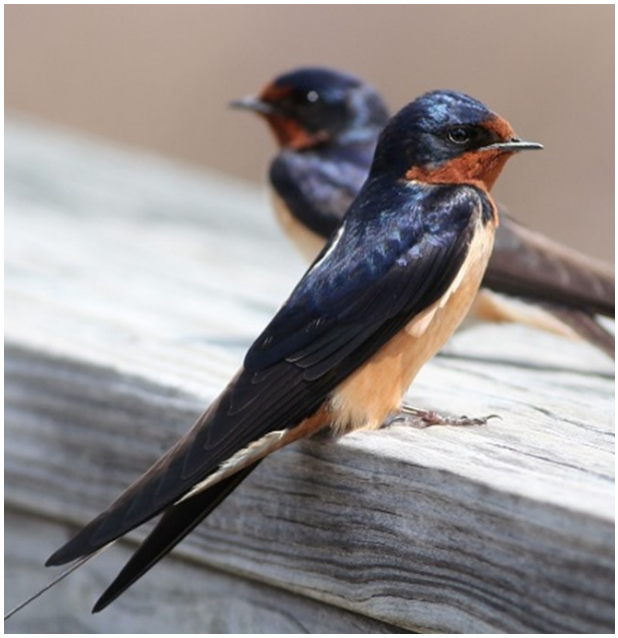
It is a story of love and forgiveness; a story of hope. Jesus died on the Cross to atone for everyone's sins. The wrongs we commit deserve the death penalty in the end; no life in God's Kingdom. But God loved us enough to sacrifice his only Son to save us. By his grace, we are forgiven and offered eternal life. All we have to do is acknowledge that we are sinners and accept Jesus as our Saviour, that his death freed us from our sins to enable us to enter the eternal Kingdom.

Because of Jesus, we have hope! This world often appears to be sinking deeper and deeper into blackness, pure evil. There doesn't seem to be any way of escaping, and as a result, many are without hope for the future. I once believed I was too sinful for God to forgive me. I seriously didn't think the Cross was big enough to cover all that I had done wrong. One day, God showed me just how much he loves us. He told me to take my sins and leave them at the foot of the Cross. My first thought was an image of a small cross (the size of one worn on a chain around one's neck), so it would be too small. God responded, "I'll make it bigger." My second image was one like a pectoral cross a former priest used to wear, and it was, in my mind, still too small. God said, "I'll make it bigger." My logical, progressive mind then imagined a cross about the size of one we find on many church altars. This time, however, God skipped ahead and out of the ground beside me exploded a giant cross about 3 meters by 3 meters and soaring high above me. There I was standing, looking up in total amazement and wonder, when a drop of blood fell down and covered my sins (represented along the way with ever growing sizes of balls). As I continued to look up, I could see God's smile and heard him say, "Now is it big enough for you?" I was overwhelmed by God's love. I understood the depth of his mercy and grace for me (and for everyone who comes to him). I had new hope! I had a clear vision of who I am, as a child of God—loved, forgiven, and precious in my heavenly Father's eyes.

That is what Easter is about and that is why it is celebrated for such a long time! There's still time for you to join the party. Come to Jesus and discover new hope for your life, now and for eternity!

100 Club April Results: 77 Roly Tavernor, 78 Christopher Chitty, 74 Stephen and Fiona Bailey. If you haven't joined the 100 Club there's still the opportunity to join for the rest of the year. Please contact Jean on 653878 or Carol on 658983

Nature



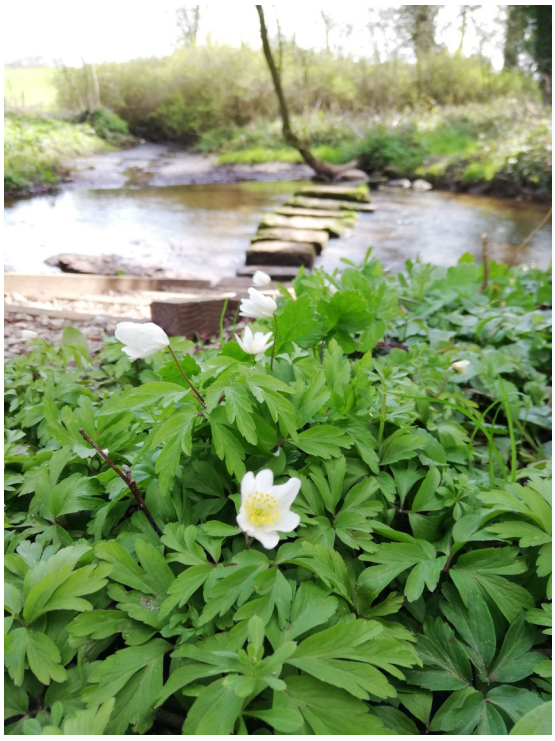
The swallows have arrived! Curley had the first sighting on Tuesday 9th April - two pairs were squabbling in flight over his garden. I saw my first on the 10th and the odd one or two since, but these birds were just passing through. This first sighting last year was the 8th April. There is no doubt that these delightful birds are a harbinger of summer and most of us will know of a location where they are bound to turn up and nest. Our swallows have travelled 200 miles a day to get back to their favourite village!

Near the end of March, Jeff and Judith observed a boxing match between two hares. No longer a common sight, we do have some pairs in the Parish. They favour open pasture and their young (leverets) are born in a shallow hollow in the long grass of an open field.

Sarah and Millie told me all about a barn owl that they enjoy watching most evenings – the bird has a regular hunting route and favoured perches. Alastair also reported a barn owl at the end of March. This was out along the Bellaport Road, so we have now had reports from all corners of the village. Next time you are out in the late evening for a walk, stop for a few minutes and look out over the fields and there is a good chance you will see this fantastic bird – the breeding season for the barn owl may have started on late February so they will be busy hunting for rats, mice and voles.

At the start of April Dick noticed an increase in jackdaws visiting his garden – seven at the highest count. These corvids had taken a liking to the fat balls and coconut halves that Dick puts out in the garden. Jackdaws are a very sociable bird and apart from gathering and nesting on our church they favour holes in tree trunks. The old ash tree you pass on the walk down to Partons Pool has a pair already lining last years nest ready for laying a clutch of black and grey speckled eggs.

On sunny days this month I have seen brimstone, peacock, comma and orange tip butterfly and you may have noticed bats on milder evenings, our pipistrelles are increasingly active now. On the 17th April I disturbed a bird that was skulking under a bush and it turned out to be a juvenile blackbird, probably a week out of the nest. Given that the blue-green speckled eggs hatch in about a fortnight, and then the young are fed by both parents for another two weeks, the eggs must have been laid in the first week of March. It has been reported that many of our smaller birds suffered greatly in the harsh conditions brought by ‘The Beast from the East’ from last winter so fingers crossed they have a good breeding season and populations recover.



While you’re out and about, look out for the lovely, delicate foliage and flowers of the Wood Anemone

Please continue to share your nature sightings:

Notes

Frogs have been spawning again in Partons Pool and several large masses could be seen on the pond edge near the path. Unfortunately the frogs decided to choose a spot right next to the drain that leads to the river and I think some may have been lost in the current. Hopefully some of you have had some spawn in your own garden ponds. Whilst at the pool recently a male blackcap was in full song and a chiffchaff was delivering its familiar call. An orange tip butterfly was busy among the yellow archangel (or yellow dead-nettle) - these plants form dense patches and on closer inspection you will notice brown markings on the bright yellow flower lips which apparently guide the bee to the pollen.

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Norton In Bloom

There are a couple of events organised by the In Bloom group coming up in the near future and, one a little later, to tell you about this month.

The first one is the **Duck Race** to be held a Forge Farm on Saturday 11th May courtesy of Richard and Ann Holland and Gwen Lovatt. This is held in a lovely setting in the valley by the River Tern at the end of Forge lane and is fun for children up to the age of about 90! It will start at 2.00pm with the first of six races at 2.15pm. Racing ducks can be 'bought' for £1 each and there will be up to 48 ducks in each race. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ducks to cross the finishing line. Teas and soft drinks will be available along with hot-dogs which can be enjoyed in Ann's lovely garden. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult who must also be responsible for their safety at all times. Do come along!

The next event is the **Plant Sale** which will be on Saturday 1st June between 10.00am and 2.00pm in the centre of the village by the bus shelter. This is always a popular place to pick up some very reasonably priced plants. We would appeal to anyone who can let the group have plants that they have taken from their own gardens and are surplus to requirements. It would be appreciated if they could be dropped off on the morning of the sale after 9.00am so that they can be priced up ready for the 10.00am start.

Both the Duck Race and Plant Sale had been very popular in the past, but now for something new, '**The Doorstep Floral Challenge'**. A prize will be awarded for what is considered to be the best floral doorstep in the village. There are no constraints, so containers and choice of plants is completely up to you . The judging will take place sometime in the latter half of July, just before the Britain in Bloom judging on August 5th, so there is plenty of time to plant up those tubs round your front door. This competition is separate from the 'Best Front Gardens' which hopefully will be judged round about the same time, but no doubt a colourful front doorstep will increase the chances if you are aiming to do well in that.

The cost of planting the village is quite high although of course all the labour is from volunteers. The next two events will help raise money towards that and we are very grateful to the Parish Council for their help in that respect, but this month a special thank you goes to the Brassington family for a very generous donation to assist in this year's purchases.

The Bloom group meet once a month and the next meeting is on 2nd May at the Hinds Head, 7.30pm. We are a friendly group as can be seen from this photo of the April meeting, so come and join us!

Next In Bloom Meeting: 7.30 PM on 2 May in the Hinds Head

In Your Garden

It is nearly time to plant out tender annuals, which can be at the end of the month or slightly before if the weather forecast does not predict frosts. Keep them well watered to start off with and a bit of mulch helps to save water later on. Hoe weeds off to keep on top of them this month. In fact it pays to hoe before they appear as they are then killed off at the germination stage. Bulbs like daffodils can be lifted and clumps split as the foliage dies off and this will encourage flowering in the future.

Now is the time to sow seeds of wallflowers and pansies ready for next spring. Gardeners are always looking ahead! In the vegetable garden it is time to really get planting, Sow direct: hardy broad beans, cabbage, lettuce, bunching onions, parsnip, peas, shallots, turnips, rocket, and summer spinach.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs such as japonica or Japanese quince (*Chaenomeles*), *Choisya* and *Ribes* after flowering. Remove one stem in three from *Kerria* and *Spiraea* 'Arguta', and shorten the other flowered stems to a suitable sideshoot. Evergreens such as *Viburnum tinus* can also still be trimmed this month.

Prune overcrowded, dead or diseased stems of *Clematis montana* once it has finished flowering. Untangling the stems can be fiddly, but once you can see where you are cutting, you need not worry about pruning this plant - it will take even hard cutting back very well.

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Of A Lifetime…..

Mary was a lifelong inhabitant of Norton in Hales and was a tremendous stalwart of all manner of activities that took place in the village. This is a further extract from her memoires which can be read in full on the village website.

Food and Drink

Milk deliveries were made by a local farmer T Batho, Forge Farm, who came round with a horse and cart and delivered butter and milk. He just dished it out from a measure from the churn straight into your jug. Surplus milk was taken to the local railway station to go to the milk factory at Pipe Gate. This went on till the station was axed by Mr Beeching on May 7, 1956. Bread was delivered straight to the door from the bakery. The butcher also delivered into the village, so did the fish cart. Also the paraffin man came round with paraffin and oil for Tilly lamps and stoves. Old clothes were cut up and pegged to make mats for the hearth, and clothes that were not suitable for rugs were sold to the rag and bone man in exchange for a goldfish or a few coppers.

Bricks were put in the oven during the daytime and wrapped up in a cloth and put in the bed at night. The men of the village would catch rabbits with ferrets or wire hangers, and most people kept hens and a pig. The pig was eventually killed and salted by John Southerton who lived in the village, and then the hams were hung up in muslin bags in the kitchen. Brawn and sausages were also made, in fact everything except the pigs squeak was used. Eggs were preserved in isinglass and kidney beans were salted and put in stone jars.

As Mary's article this month focusses on food and drink, here's an old photograph of the Hinds Head. Interestingly, the pub was then a Joule's house (should it be Jowls or Jools?), so it's nice to see that a traditional brewery from Stone in Staffordshire has jumped the county border into Market Drayton in Shropshire for us all to enjoy (rather too much!!)

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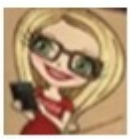
Slimming World with Jules.....



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Norton in Hales Parish Council Report

Norton in Hales Parish Council held its March Meeting on 12th March 2019. Five members of the public attended the Meeting. Cllr R Aldcroft was in attendance.

Councillors received representations from Members of the public regarding the final plans for the proposed community car park, an update on the community website, a request to have a local footpath resurfaced and to receive a request for the Parish Council to consider renewing its funding of Neighbourhood Watch membership for parishioners.

Minutes of the previous Meeting were approved and duly signed off. Councillors discussed the 3 Parishes Neighbourhood Plan and the forthcoming quiz/supper evening being held to raise awareness of the Plan. Two planning applications were considered, and previous determinations noted. Councillors discussed the proposed plans for the community car park and agreed that they were content with the details as presented, noting future proofing measures such as car charging points. The Members agreed to finance the planning application for the car park. The Councillors considered the request to extend the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and duly approved the expenditure. Remedial works required for the playground were discussed. It was agreed that the handyman be engaged to undertake the works and that the Clerk would place orders for parts as necessary from Wicksteed with the aim of completing the works in time for Easter. It was reported that the Parish Hall Committee has agreed to have wifi installed into the Hall. The Parish Councillor has agreed to finance the installation and monthly costs. This will be progressed once quotes have been obtained. Councillors agreed that this will be of benefit, not only to the Parish Council for their meetings, but also for all Hall events/users. The Councillors agreed to make a donation to the new community newsletter and to the community website to assist with running costs. A further grant was made in favour of the PCC to finance the maintenance of the Church clock. All other invoices were approved for payment, including the provision and fitting of a new thermostat for the defibrillator.

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14th May 2019. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mrs M Joyce
Clerk:

Tel: 01948 841945
email: nortoninhalespc@yahoo.co.uk
website: www.nortoninhalesparishcouncil.org.uk

Next Meeting 14th May

Brand Hall International Horse Trials

Brand Hall, with its Georgian house and some 200 acres of rolling parkland has produced a Horse Trials since 2009.

Our hosts, Mr & Mrs Taylor, once a year allow their beautiful park to be used, with three international sections plus Novice and BE 90, it has become an event in the equine calendar not to be missed.

Named the Festival of Youth, the International sections include the Charles Owen British Pony Championships, plus the IEC Equine Solutions International CCIJ2* which is solely for under 18 year olds. The adults also get in on the act with a hotly contested Rookery Park International at CCI2*.

These trials are an opportunity for the Selectors to watch the potential European Championships combinations, before making their final team selection.

Event Organiser and Cross Country Course Designer, Janet Plant is busy planning the new 2019 course utilising the naturally undulating parkland, which has provided her with many design opportunities. There is a Sunken-road crossing using the disused railway line behind the house and a water complex so the chances of someone getting wet are high!

In the past we have had top class competitors and even royalty when the Queen's granddaughter Zara Tindall rode two horses plus dual Junior European Champion Laura Collett, Badminton winner, Oliver Townend and Olympic, World and European medallist Jeanette Brakewell all of which often bring their younger horses for education.

The juniors one year decided to raise money for Cancer research and they all dressed up as film characters. Some very amusing costumes came to the first trot up where the Vets and Ground Jury Officials inspect the horses before they are allowed to compete

The action on the day is always fun to watch for the whole family.

2019 dates 31st May – 2nd June

You Can Ring My Bell!

Do you like to hear the bells ringing out at our church? Would you like to support this village tradition? Are you looking for a new activity for 2019? Ringing stimulates the brain, helps keep you fit - and it is fun and interesting. Come and see how it's done - and give it a try

We are looking for both experienced lapsed ringers and inexperienced but enthusiastic people from age 12 upwards to continue this tradition. You do not have to be a churchgoer to join us - we welcome everyone. We ring on Sundays between 10.45 and 11.15am and can arrange for half-hour practise sessions either before 10.45 or on a convenient mid-week evening.

For the first few weeks we would teach you to become confident in controlling a bell, and then you would progress to call change ringing with the rest of the band. We should add that this is not a major commitment – once competent, then you would join our band for half an hour on a Sunday morning whenever you are able to make it. We do also ring for weddings at the church, typically 3 or 4 times a year.

If you would like to find out what it is all about and give it a try, then please contact Dick Walton on 01630 654734 or on 07960 724758.

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The fabulous restaurant area here at The Hinds Head serves not only high-quality food but also offers an exciting atmosphere. With locally sourced ingredients, freshly cooked by our head chefs, you are never stuck for choice. Whether you are stopping by for a quick lunch or a peaceful evening meal, you are guaranteed to receive outstanding food.

The Hinds Head also offers a wide choice of drinks and selection of traditional cask ales to suit your palette. We stock a variety of local ales and an excellent wine list from Addison Wines of Telford.

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Sunday Lunch - 4 Roasts Available - From £11, booking recommended

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Let's Play Bowls..

It was wonderful to see some new faces at our first inhouse competition on Sunday 7th April.

New events coming up, with afternoon tea and raffle :-

- Sunday12th May 2.00pm - Mixed Doubles and Chelmick Challenge.
- Sunday 9th June 2.00pm—Eccleshall Friendly

If you would like to come and have a game on these very friendly relaxed afternoons please let Juliette know on 07896 977425)

The Season is now well underway and all our Teams are enjoying getting back into the game.

Practice Night is on a Wednesday Evening 7.00pm if you would like to come and have a game with some of our players.

If you would like further information about bowling please contact Juliette on 07896 977425.

Cricket Scene—Three Peaks Success!

A massive achievement by a team of eight walkers and one driver to raise funds for the junior facilities at the Cricket Club. Battling freezing temperatures, gale force winds and sore limbs the team managed to complete the challenge. Broken sleep did not deter them as they ascended Ben Nevis at 4am after a long journey from the village. Completed by lunch there was then a six hour journey south to Scafell, a shorter but more treacherous climb - hot food and drink from Mary Tavernor was most welcome on arrival! This English peak was completed by midnight and everyone then had just four hours to rest and recover before attempting Snowdon! It took real grit and determination to complete this peak and there was much support and encouragement from within the team. An overall time of 31 hours was recorded with 18 hours walking (26 miles and 3000m ascent) and 13 hours on the road (just over 1000 miles).

An unbelievable challenge to raise money to improve the facilities for our thriving Junior Section. Please go to the following just giving page – there is still time to donate:

wwwjustgiving.com/crowdfunding/nih-three-peaks

Thanks to everyone who joined us at the sports pavilion for the NatWest Cricket Force event. Much work was done and the facilities are looking fantastic.

Upcoming fixtures – please come and support us!

	1st XI	Venue	Time	2nd XI	Venue	Time
27 April	Alsager CC	h	12.30 PM			
4 May	Stafford CC	a	12.30 PM	Newcastle & Hartshill 3rd XI	h	1.00 PM
5 May	Stone SP CC	h	1.00 PM (Talbot Cup)			
11 May	Silverdale CC	a	12.30 PM	Kidsgrove CC 2nd XI	h	1.00 PM
18 May	Kidsgrove CC	h	12.30 PM			
25 May	Woore CC	a	12.30 PM	Endon CC 2nd XI	h	1.00 PM

The very successful All Stars coaching sessions for 5-8 year olds start on the 10th May. This is based at the cricket club on Friday nights from 6pm. To register please visit https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars. The NIHCC Academy are also looking for children to join both our under 8's and under 10's cricket teams. If you think your child will enjoy this great team sport in a friendly atmosphere and safe environment then please get in touch. Boys and girls of all cricketing abilities are welcome. Please contact Junior Coach, Simon Belfield on 07542 651759 for more information about the Junior Academy.

Please follow us on Instagram (@nortoninhlaescc) and keep an eye on our website, www.nortoninhalescricketclub.com