

# NORTON NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE 504

**NORTON SHOP:** <http://www.nortonshop.co.uk>

**FESTIVAL WEBSITE:** <http://www.nortonfestival.org>

**PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE** <https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/>

**NEW ADVERT – ANGIE’S CAKES 2 CRUMBS – See end of newsletter after the Parish Council Report.**

**CLOCKS GO BACK.** Please note that the clocks go back one hour early on **Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October** when British Summer Time ends.

**FLU VACCINES** Hamdon Medical Centre is running Flu Clinics most days and some Saturdays. To book your appointment, if you are eligible, please phone 01935 822236 and press Option 7.

**VILLAGE AGENT NEWS:** You can have your NHS flu vaccine at: your GP surgery or local Hospital, a local pharmacy offering the service, or your midwifery service if they offer it for pregnant women. Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group are also looking at one-stop shop type locations where people can get Covid testing, flu vaccinations, Covid vaccinations & anti-body testing. If you have your flu vaccine at a pharmacy, you do not have to inform a GP. It's up to the pharmacist to do that. Full details are here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

## **NORTON SHOP AND POST OFFICE**

Now that winter is approaching, we have been considering how best to keep all our customers and our volunteers well and safe through the next months. We would, therefore, ask that, both for your sake and for that of others, if you feel unwell, or think you may have a cold coming, that you consider carefully whether you should come to the Shop or Post Office. We are unable to provide shelter outside the shop while you are waiting to come in and this may impact on your health, particularly if you are not feeling well or you are one of our older or more vulnerable customers. We do have some umbrellas available for customers' use.

But we still want to provide the service and help that you expect from us. So we are extending our 'Phone for Delivery' and our 'Phone and Collect' services to anyone who feels it would not be a good idea to visit us in person.

To sign up for this all you need to do is let us know and we will open an account in your name. We prefer that accounts be paid regularly and they must be paid in full at least once per month. This can be done by phoning the Shop with your card details.

It is easier for us if you phone in your order on Monday afternoons or any time up to about 4.30 p.m. on Tuesdays (though phone at any time to suit you). Deliveries are made by our team of volunteer drivers on Wednesday afternoons and we prefer, if you are using the Phone and Collect service, that you collect on Wednesday afternoons, although other times for collection can be arranged.

You can order anything you want with the service – we have bread (and cakes, rolls, buns and croissants etc) for pre-orders delivered every day; milk and dairy products can be ordered; as can fresh fruit and vegetables. We also have a wonderful arrangement with the Butcher who supplies our sausages, bacon and ham whereby, if you order in advance, we can get any meat you want – from your Sunday roast to mince, from stewing steak to chicken portions. We have responded to requests for such things as liver, black pudding, lamb mince, chicken thighs, kidneys, rump steaks and all manner of meats for roasting. Just ask us and we will see what our Butcher can do. The meat orders are, of course, also available to customers coming to the Shop.

We will always look forward to seeing you in person and you can dip in and out of the delivery or collection services as and when necessary – our main thought is with doing everything we can both to serve everyone in this community and to keep everyone as well and safe as possible.

To help us with the Phone for Delivery and Phone and Collect services, we will, for the meantime, continue to close the Shop (not the Post Office) on Wednesday afternoons for dealing with both arrangements.

You have probably noticed that the Post Office has changed its hours. This is in response to customer needs – we have very few customers to the Post Office after the post has gone at 4.00 p.m. so we have decided that, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays the PO will not close for lunch, staying open right through from 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. On Wednesdays and Thursdays (to comply with employment law) the PO will close from 1.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. and then close at 4.30 p.m. (4.00 p.m. on Wednesdays). Saturday hours remain unchanged (9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon)

We have enjoyed meeting new customers as well as continuing to help our existing customers and being able to provide these services over the last months and hope you will continue to support us in our endeavours to support you and all this community for the future. We will always try to respond to any requests for items you may want. We will continue to work with the Parish Councils and the Churches to try to ensure that everyone in our lovely villages is kept safe and knows where to turn for help.

**CONTACT NUMBERS FOR THE COMMUNITY SHOP and TAKEAWAYS:** Community Shop phone number 01935 881200 **Lord Nelson** - email [mark@thelordnelson.co.uk](mailto:mark@thelordnelson.co.uk) or phone 01935 881473 for collection or delivery. **Reading Room Café** 01935 881505 or via Amanda's Facebook page.

**NORTON MOVIE NITES Tuesday 13th October.** Following Covid guidelines, we will again be in the covered carport at Manor Farmhouse, Great Street (next to the shop and opposite New Road). Socially distanced seating will give you a chance to clearly see **The Personal History of David Copperfield** (cert PG, 119 mins), directed by the innovative Armando Iannucci. An entertaining version of Charles Dickens's classic novel, starring Dev Patel, Hugh Laurie, Peter Capaldi, Tilda Swinton and many more familiar faces. Arrive **7.45 pm for an 8.00pm start**, bring your own drinks, nibbles and warm clothing. The DVD will be raffled, so bring £1 if you'd like a chance to win. Tickets £5 on sale in Norton Shop

**NORTON READING ROOM.** The Committee of the Reading Room plans to refurbish the Reading Room in order to promote its use by groups and individuals, once Covid 19 restrictions permit. The Committee invites all interested groups and individuals to suggest how they might wish to use the Reading Room. These suggestions will be taken into consideration by the Reading Room Committee

when drawing up plans for the refurbishment. **Please write your suggestions on the form provided on the back page of this newsletter and place the form in the post box at 5 Little Street, Norton by 7<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you.**

**NORTON VILLAGE HALL** The Hall is open, and being used by a few of our regular classes only. They all abide by the current rules and regulations, which you know are altering frequently. We are kept up to date by The Community Council for Somerset, who have been such a help to us and all other village halls who belong to the Organisation....We have always been members, and we are so grateful for all the help and support we are receiving, especially in the present climate. The Committee are all fully aware of all the changes and we all work together to make our Hall a safe and secure place for hirers to use. We all look forward to when we can begin to take other bookings again, but it doesn't look very hopeful for the near future. We will keep you informed. We are welcoming the National Blood Transfusion Service in October, as one of our Essential Service users. In last month's issue, we asked if there was anyone who would like to help with the running of our amazing Hall. We were lucky enough to receive 2 offers, for which we are very grateful. If anyone is still thinking about it, would more information, or what is involved, please either speak to any of our Committee Members or phone me Jennie Harris ( Secretary ) on 01935 881718..... email us on trevorharris55@btinternet.com Many thanks. Stay safe and well.

**JUMBLE SALES** There are a lot of things that we can no longer do in these sad times.... alas. Something that is missed here, in Norton, and surrounding villages are the 2 Jumble Sales, held in March and October. The Village Hall committee organise and run them as their only fund raising events every year. The March one this year was cancelled because the Pantomime Society put on their amazing bi-annual Panto....Camelot, which was performed a week or so before the Lockdown. Phew...Lucky. And they kindly donated their profits as they always do which the Hall was very grateful for. The Jumble Sales have been held for many years, and have become very popular and well attended. In fact we often get told we hold the best one in the area, and we have lots of regular customers, some from quite a way away, who always look out for our adverts. We are lucky as we receive lots of donations from residents in the nearby villages and we have had lots of offers from people to donate recently as they are de cluttering or moving house, and they want to support us. But as we cannot store items, we have had to refuse their offers which is so sad, for us and them. This is what made us think of an alternative way of maybe having some sort of sale to benefit the village in general. which could help individuals, and organisations instead of just the Hall. How does a ' Fumble in the Jumble ' sound.....We are just putting this out there as the basis of an idea, which will obviously need a lot more thought. The idea is that we have a Jumble Sale Trail .....This would involve any resident that would be interested in having a table/ stall outside their house, selling any items that they want to get rid of for their own profit. Organisations could get together and set up stalls etc for their own fundraising. It would all depend on the situation at the time, and would probably need to be next Spring. We really would like to know if the interest is there, or whether we just wait until things, hopefully, improve. There will be a Box in Norton Shop to put your thoughts and suggestions in from October 1st. We will be glad to receive your feedback. Thanks in advance. It could be fun..... Jennie Harris. 01935881718....email trevorharris55@btinternet.com.

**CONCERT POSTPONEMENT** Coronavirus constraints have caused the postponement of the planned Concert by Cantamus in November. The Concert has been rearranged for November 2021.

**MOBILE LIBRARY** The next date and times for the Mobile Library will be **2.20pm until 3.00pm at Chiselborough** and **3.10pm until 3.40pm in Higher Street, Norton on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October.**

**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.** The Annual Church Meeting will take place on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7:30pm** in the **Church.**

**THE ELECTORAL ROLL** will be revised during the period 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to be on the Church Electoral Roll, a form can be obtained from: Martyn Hamlin, email: martynhamlin@hotmail.com phone: 07966 364831

**NORTON "BOUNDS" BREAKFAST WALK SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020 Starting at 8.30 am. at The Lord Nelson** Enjoy an early morning autumn walk followed by a "Full Monty" breakfast at the **Lord Nelson**. The walk will start and finish at the Pub and circumnavigate the village following the rights of way nearest to the village boundary, covering about 6 miles and taking about 2-2.5 hours to complete. However there are plenty of shortcuts for those who don't want to do the full distance. At the end of the walk (available at 11-11.30 a.m.)The Lord Nelson will serve full English Breakfast including coffee, orange juice and toast at £7.50/head. Please book direct with the Pub beforehand to avoid disappointment. If you have any queries contact John Bailey ( 01935 881227)

**FNC WINE CLUB** Winners of the Friends of Norton Church Wine Club Subscription Draw for **August** are as follows: Malcolm Reid, Rob Vaux, David Parkinson, Penny Cudmore (2), Myles Wickstead (2), Alec Seccombe, and Roger Webb, and the results for **September** are: Roger Hardisty, Charles Campbell , Janet Hutton, Jeremy Reid, Myles Wickstead, Barry Eastley, Lindsay Elliott, Richard More and Christine Brook. To join the club contact Jonathan Binns on 01935 881063

**A BIG THANKYOU** to Lindsay Higgins and her helpers for a unique and very enjoyable afternoon watching the Norton Show Safari. What a clever idea! And so well planned, with four different venues, four very varied and enjoyable acts, complete 'Covid safety' allowed for - and the sun shone too! A huge thank you for all the work you put in to organise such a successful afternoon's entertainment. Liz Maunder

**NORTON SHOW SAFARI** - Outdoor entertainment success. Lots of thanks to everyone who helped to make this a sell out and what was described as a fantastic afternoon and a great community event. Firstly to the audience for supporting us and the performers on the day, and for your very generous donations. To the Somerset performers who staged terrific work within very tight time and financial limits. To the volunteers who made it possible and all the people who loaned us equipment. To our local business sponsors for their generosity in difficult times. To the Parish and District councils who gave their permission for use of the venues. Thank you Lindsay and John

**NEW ARRIVALS** We welcome Tim and Pam Williams who have moved into Carpenters recently and hope they will be very happy in our wonderful village. Also a warm welcome to all those moving in to Bramley Fields over the past few months. If you have moved in

to the village or know of anyone coming to live here who would like a mention in the newsletter, please email nortonnews@hotmail.com. Thank you.

**NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS** The first couple of weeks at school have gone exceptionally well with a real buzz of excitement amongst children and staff and many positive comments from parents. The children have been really focused and all including the new Reception are settling in really well. Children have loved seeing and spending time with their friends and teachers again. Thanks to the fundraising of the FONS (The Friends of Norton School), the central area of Norton School is now kitted out with state-of-the-art book cases and iPad charging station. There are obviously lots of Covid Secure measures in place and staff have been working hard to get ready for new ways of working. We are always looking at how we can further improve and take care of our schools. We would welcome any help with flower beds, hanging baskets and autumn leaf clearing. Do get in touch if this is something you would be happy to volunteer with. Mr Jamie Caswell Co-Headteacher NortonSH@educ.somerset.gov.uk

**SCHOOL SITE MANAGER** required for caretaking duties at Norton and West Chinnock schools. Approx 15 hours per week. If you'd like more information, please contact Mrs Rachel Haley at the School Office. NortonSH@educ.somerset.gov.uk 01935 881815

**A COMPLICATED SITUATION RAFT (Refugee aid from Taunton)** volunteers are trying very hard to resume their normal activity, supporting refugees in the Middle East, Europe and Africa, but are hampered by complex restrictions, some from the coronavirus and some perhaps political. For example, previously donations for Syria were shipped to Turkey as Syrian ports are unavailable, and quickly transported to Syria by road. The Turkish government is now refusing entry to used clothing but will allow used medical equipment. In other countries quarantine regulations have to be taken into account. Set out below is the current situation for donations. SYRIA: only new clothing and footwear is requested for men women and children along with new underwear, toiletries and off-the-shelf medication which have always been requested. It is just possible that some persons may have suitable washable items of clothing which are unwanted and are willing to donate them. Two new blankets sewn from knitted squares were gratefully accepted but no other bedding please. In addition crutches, walkers and wheelchairs in reasonable condition are allowed through Turkey. GREECE: to date Raft has only been asked for lower body clothing - trousers, jeans, leggings for men, women and children and long skirts for women - because upper body items and footwear are available from elsewhere. For Lesbos, after the Moria camp fire, new hygiene essentials are desperately needed, toothpaste and brushes, shower gel, deodorant, sanitary wear and nappies. NORTHERN FRANCE: sleeping bags, tents, backpacks and blankets are still requested and various ways to deliver while meeting quarantine restrictions are being sought, eg volunteers already going to France. RAFT does not know when they will be asked to vacate their premises on the old market site so they are now wary of filling their building with items not immediately required having been in that situation at lockdown. Therefore bedding and other household goods are not needed until further notice. All requested items to me for delivery to Raft. Thank you to all. Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

**BEWARE OF SCAMS** Scams to watch out for: Phone calls from 'someone' linked with Amazon 'so-called' saying that money has been debited from an Amazon account - or that the cost of various subscriptions has been raised extortionately. It doesn't matter if you don't even have an Amazon account they still try. An email from a 'so-called' TV Licensing authority wanting to update your account. These emails usually don't read properly and the English is usually not right. There have also been calls from a 'so-called' Detective Sergeant apparently from the Avon and Somerset constabulary. He has a certain amount of personal information and will claim he has a relative or carer etc in custody and is presumably trying to get bail money.

**STOKE GARDENING CLUB** Contact the Gardening Club on 01935 829408 for information.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Parish Council managed to have a very successful monthly virtual meeting via Zoom at the beginning of September.

**Due to the continuing situation with Covid-19, we have been informed that all Parish Council meetings (at least until Jan2021) will be held virtually by Zoom only. As soon as the circumstances change, we will inform you all immediately and public face to face meetings will resume in the village hall.**

**New Parish Councillor:** The Parish Council is delighted to announce that at the September meeting, Rachel Cumberbatch was Co-Opted onto the Parish Council. We really look forward to having Rachel working alongside the other Parish Councillors for Norton.

#### **Planning:**

20/01971/HOU 1, Barn Orchard, New Road. Conversion of Integral garage into home office. The Parish Council had no Objection to this application.

20/01915/FUL - Erection of two dwellings/houses. Land To The West Of Barn Orchard New Road Norton Sub Hamdon 5 out of 6 Parish Councillors objected to this application.

Therefore MAJORITY OBJECTION BY THE PARISH COUNCIL – The following reasons were submitted to SSDC)

- 1.How can further development be allowed when we have already been informed that we have exceeded the number of new houses recommended in the local plan?
- 2.Two more houses would take the number to twenty seven from the original twenty and there are huge concerns that to allow further development would set a precedent allowing the remaining fields to be developed.
- 3.Historic Village – Norton sub Hamdon is a village steeped in history. Sitting just below Ham Hill - a geological site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Iron Age Hill Fort, Roman site, Local Nature Reserve and Country Park. This planning application (along with Bramley Fields) is viewed from the top of Ham Hill, and is also visible from many other vantage points on this Iron Age Fort. This historic village should be protected from further development as it is part of England's heritage.
- 4.Highway Safety – The entrance to this site is on New Road. The entrance sits opposite a primary school. Norton sub Hamdon already is at full capacity with regards to traffic with a road structure that leaves this area very vulnerable to a fatal accident happening. The road cannot cope with the capacity of traffic it already has. At school drop off/collection times this danger is accentuated to hazardous levels. Bramley Felds has already added to this problem with added vehicles vacating the entrance, as well as more parking on New Road. THIS IS A VERY TREACHEROUS AREA ALREADY AND FURTHER TRAFFIC ENTERING THIS AREA WILL ONLY ADD TO THE SAFETY ISSUES HERE.
- 5.Flooding – We have a history of flooding in this village. This past winter 2019/20 we have had many problems with flooding on both Great Street and New road, much of which in areas where we have not had flooding before. This has been exacerbated by the loss of trees that have been removed to accommodate Bramley Fields already. The fact that another 5 houses were then

'added' to the Bramley Fields development which meant an attenuation pond that was originally requested from planners was suddenly given a 'U' turn and no longer required??! The majority of this flooding over the past winter has been caused from water runoff from The Old Fruit Farm Site, which is now being pushed towards the Turnpike entrance off the A356, due to having nowhere to run. The more you allow this area to be concreted over will just cause more flooding misery for local residents. It will have a huge impact on the value of their properties as well as insurance costs. THERE IS NO FLOODING REPORT ON SSDC WEBSITE FOR THIS PLANNING PROPOSAL - WITH NORTON'S HISTORY OF FLOODING, WHY HASN'T THIS BEEN REQUESTED?

6. Bramley Fields still has numerous houses for sale. In total we currently have 7 large executive/luxury/prestigious properties for sale in Norton sub Hamdon (Rightmove 18.08.20), plus smaller properties. This is before the 5 extra houses are even built on the Bramley Fields site that were approved in 2018. Norton sub Hamdon does not need any more new houses.

7. No to a spur road – Why is there a turning area?? There is no need for this with ample turning space already. The Parish Council do not support a spur road here. This has purely been added to allow for access for further development in the future which is not required. Houses need to be positioned differently to block off the possibility of further development, or trees with TPO's need to be planted.

8. Wildlife/Nature conservation. Norton sub Hamdon have already lost much wildlife from the development of Bramley Fields. This remaining area needs protecting from species that may well be rare or extinct.

9. Noise and Disturbance – The development of Bramley Fields has already created much noise and disturbance to local residents. Police presence has been witnessed on many occasions in what has always previously been a quiet and beautiful environment to live in. There is also much noise pollution already from Barn Orchard which affects residents who live in close proximity. There is no consideration for privacy of neighbours.

10. Why haven't local residents been informed about this development? A number of houses that back onto this proposal have not even been notified.

### **Future of Local Government in Somerset:**

Following Somerset County Council's bid to become a Unitary Council giving them complete control of Somerset and scrapping all 5 District Councils, SSDC (alongside the other District Councils) have submitted a counter bid, called **The Stronger Somerset**

### **Business Case.**

Somerset's District Council have announced they will work towards a plan to create **two new "unitary authorities" across Somerset.**

The plans are reported to possibly include two separate Unitary Councils - one which would see Somerset West and Taunton merge with Sedgemoor District Council and the other seeing Mendip merge with South Somerset.

The District Councils have put together a cross-party Business Case for submission to the Secretary of State.

The Stronger Somerset Business Case wants to scrap all Councils in Somerset and replace them with two new Unitary Authorities: one for West Somerset which will cover the existing Somerset West & Taunton and Sedgemoor areas, and a new East Somerset Council which will cover the existing Mendip and SSDC areas.

In addition, the Stronger Somerset Business Case will see the creation of a new Combined Authority and potentially an elected Mayor for the area.

This Business Case comes in response to a meeting with the Minister, Simon Clarke. Government are insisting that District Councils be scrapped and are keen on the creation of Combined Authorities and Mayoralties.

The proposed new Councils will reach the mandated 300k population by 2031, whereas the County proposed single Unitary would reach the mandated ceiling of 600k population in the same time frame.

Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council do not support the Somerset County Council's bid for a single Unitary, SSDC have a very good working relationship with Norton sub Hamdon and this would be lost completely. Having a single Unitary will take away the VITAL LINK between Parish Council/Local Communities. District Councils are a fundamental tier to Local Government. The Parish Council feel very strongly that a loss of elected representatives would lead to a Democratic Deficit.

The scale of the new Councils will mean that people are closer to their elected representatives, and to decision making. (This will avoid the democratic deficit inherent in the County's proposals - Stronger Somerset = 1 Cllr per 2,800 population versus Somerset County Council's bid - 1 per 5,600 under County case).

**Footpaths:** The footpath is now open again at the bottom of Higher Street, going across to Chiselborough. One completely new bridge has been installed and the second Chiselborough bridge has undergone a complete refurbishment. **However, we seem to have a problem with some people leaving gates open. The gates around the footpaths that run around Blackspir Hill and the footpath that runs alongside the river, between Little Street and Chiselborough, are being left open most days. There are now sheep in some of these fields.** PLEASE CAN YOU MAKE SURE ALL GATES CLICK SHUT BEHIND YOU. Many thanks.

If you see any fault that you need to report on any footpath in Norton, then please email the Clerk with the issue. Many Thanks

**PARKING:** Once again, we have received numerous concerns regarding people parking right up to the junctions of both Higher Street into Great Street and New Road into Great Street. When you park your vehicle on either of these junctions, before you walk away, please be aware as to whether you have left a problem for others not being able to see oncoming traffic. There seems to be a very dangerous problem developing with the New Road junction to Great St in particular, with people parking their cars/van right up to the yellow lines. Just because you have not parked on the yellow line, does not mean you have left your vehicle in a safe place.

Please park considerately. The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 12th October at 7.30pm VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM.** Members of the general public are more than welcome to attend. (Please email the Clerk for details to login to the meeting) Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

**NEW ADVERT ANGIE'S CAKES 2 CRUMBS.** It's time to open up the diary again for your baked Christmas goodies. I will be selling boozy Christmas cakes, Stollen and Cup Cakes this year. For further details check out my facebook page Angie's Cakes 2 crumbs or call me 0792517400. Book early to avoid disappointment and secure your collection date.

**TO ADVERTISE** in this newsletter the fee is £18 for twelve monthly adverts or £1.50 for single months. Contact the editor on 881566 or email nortonnews@hotmail.com

**ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER** should be in the box on the **Post Office counter**, or sent by email to: nortonnews@hotmail.com by **4.00pm on the 19th of each month.** In December the deadline is a week before.

**NEWCOMERS TO OUR VILLAGE.** If you know of anyone who has moved in to Norton, please ring or email the editor with their details so that we can welcome them to our village.

**THE NEWSLETTER** is produced monthly by the Newsletter Committee and is distributed free to every house in the village by volunteers who give their services free of charge. The Editor is Mrs Janet Hutton (881566),email: nortonnews@hotmail.com NB. All emails are replied to as soon as possible - please check if no acknowledgement is received by the deadline date.

**DISCLAIMER.** This edition of the Newsletter contains information which has been supplied directly to the Editor of the Norton Newsletter. None of the information published within expresses the views of either of the Editor or Members of the Norton sub Hamdon Newsletter Committee and should not be relied upon. Any comments should be addressed to the Committee via the Newsletter email address.

**DIARY OF NORTON EVENTS**

Tuesday 6 October Mobile Library Higher Street 3.10pm  
Monday 12 October Parish Council Zoom Meeting 7.30pm  
Tuesday 13 October Movie Nites Manor Farmhouse 7.45pm  
Saturday 24 October Bounds Walk Start Lord Nelson 8.30am

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**NORTON READING ROOM REFURBISHMENT**

Name of individual or group (OPTIONAL):

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Suggestion for the use of the Reading Room, including number of persons to be accommodated:

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Facilities / equipment requirements (if any):

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