

NORTON NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE 412

VILLAGE WEBSITE. www.nortonsubhamdon.org.uk

The Newsletter is available on the above website amongst other news and events in the village.

CHURCH WEBSITE. www.nortonchurch.org.uk

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST WEBSITE. www.nortonclt.btck.co.uk

SHOP WEBSITE www.norton-shop.com

FESTIVAL WEBSITE: www.nortonfestival.org

ADVERTS – No new adverts this month

NORTON EVENTS AND NEWS

CRAFTY CRITTERS meet in Norton Village Hall on **Wednesday** afternoons from **2.30pm** and welcome anyone who fancies a natter whilst sewing, knitting, crocheting, making cards or any kind of craft, or just to make new friends and catch up with others over a cuppa. Bring along a friend or someone new to our village. All dates for 2018 are as follows: **February 7th and 21st, March 21st, April 18th, May 30th, June 13th and 27th, July 11th and 25th, August 8th and 22nd, September 5th and 19th, October 3rd, 17th and 31st, November 14th and 28th December 12th.**

THE WATER IS RISING. Join us in the only 'dry' place in the village for Wassail Theatre Company's production of RECLAIMED, a play based on how Somerset communities coped with the floods of 2013/14. In the cosy 'Alley Theatre' you're guaranteed an immersive experience (no pun intended) amongst all the action. At the **Lord Nelson** on **Wednesday 7th February at 8.00pm** Tickets £10 each - on sale now at the pub. Suitable for 12yo+. Pick up a flyer from pub, shop or reading room for more info. Hope to see you there.... Lindsay Higgins

NORTON MOVIE NITES AT THE LORD NELSON: Tuesday 13th February will be a nearly Valentine's Day screening of Roman Holiday (113 mins). Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck star in this 1953 romantic comedy - one of the brightest and most enjoyable film classics. Doors open **7.45 pm, film starts 8.00pm.** £5 tickets in advance only from Norton Shop. Helen at the **Lord Nelson** has kindly devised a special pre-film two-course supper with a glass of prosecco for £20 each, starting at **6.00pm.** Choice of three main courses and three desserts. Booking for the meal is essential, please, before 7th February. 01935 881473 mark@thelordnelson.biz

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB. December Main Draw Winners: Geoff Byham, Jennie Harris, Rob Vaux (2), Claire Wiggins, Richard Raven, Nick Fox, Mary Batstone, John Forrest, Peter Willshire. Pub Draw Winners: Lindsay Higgins, Dave Rogers, Kim Hendricks, Roger Webb. The next draw will be on **Friday 16th February at 7.00pm** Shares for this club are still available @ £1 per month. Please call Roger Webb on 881096 for a form.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF WINE CLUB DRAW DATES FOR 2018 - Fridays in the Lord Nelson, commencing at **7.00pm.** **16th February, 16th March, 13th April, 18th May, 15th June, 13th July, 17th August, 14th September, 12th October, 16th November, 14th December.** All proceeds for the maintenance of Norton church.

LADIES GROUP Our New Year Dinner was held at The Lord Nelson and was, as usual, well supported. Everyone enjoyed the evening with only a few quiet times when the food arrived. The evening flew by and thanks must go to Helen and Mark and their team for making it a success. **Tuesday 20th February** is the date for our next meeting. This will be held in the **Reading Room at 7.30pm** when our speaker will be Dr Francis Burroughes. His talk 'Don't put your Daughter on the Stage', will, I'm sure, be very amusing and will be illustrated by a few quirky props. Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 20th March.** We welcome new members and visitors at any time, so if you are thinking of joining our friendly group, why not come along and see for yourself at our next meeting in February. Sue Lowder 881805

NORTON SUB HAMDON VILLAGE HALL. We have finally had the last of our 3 big jobs on the hall completed. The Veranda has been replaced – just a little snagging work to do when weather gets drier. The exterior has been repainted. The double door on to the veranda has been replaced and it looks amazing. Thanks to Hamdon View Windows, Jamie Brodie. So the grants we were lucky to receive helped us with these major works. Thanks to everyone. We will be having our AGM at the **Hall Meeting Room on Tuesday February 20th at 7/00pm.** Everyone is welcome. It would be lovely to see you. Please come and hear how the hall is doing, and hear about the plans in mind for this year.

THE HAMSTONE WINE SOCIETY We are delighted to announce that two or three of us have been recently considering forming a Wine Society for the local villagers, to be known as The Hamstone Wine Society. The idea is to establish a

club which would meet once a month for wine tasting. The tastings would be presented by either an outside speaker or a local representative/agent and, during the evening, we would discuss and taste the wines they have brought. We see the society to be informal and friendly and whilst there are some very knowledgeable wine buffs in the area, we believe every one, of every level, will have their own individual taste and price bracket. We want to taste interesting wines and are also keen to learn more about what makes a great wine. The first wines we will be tasting will all be from Portugal. The wines will be supplied by a company which Ian and I have known for the past few months and they offer some exceptional value wines from all the regions of Portugal. The inaugural meeting will be held on **Thursday 22nd February in The Reading Room**. We will be tasting some white aperitif Ports, some young white wines from the Douro region and one or two delightful red wines from the Alentejo region. It promises to be a very interesting tasting evening and we can assure you the wines will be of exceptional value. Tickets have to be limited to 24 and will only be available from The Norton Cafe from **Wednesday 31st January - 10.00 to 4.00pm**. The cost of the evening will be £15.00 per head to include the wines, bread, cheeses and coffee. Peter Callaghan

COFFEE MORNINGS The Norton Coffee Mornings for 2018 have been announced:- **28th February at The Old Rectory** (Bring & Buy theme – ‘Herbs & spice & all things nice; plus Fairtrade Stall); **28th March at 3 Highwoods Close**; **25th April at The Herb Garden, Higher Street**; **23rd May at Shepherds Cottage, Higher Street**; **26th September at Highwoods House**; **24th October at The Coach House, Great Street** and **28th November at The Hollies, Higher Street**. The Coffee Mornings, which support Norton Church, begin at **10.45am**. Each one invites participation in a themed Bring & Buy but other items are always welcomed and an enjoyable social occasion is guaranteed.

NORTON PANTOMIME SOCIETY will be telling you the story of Hansel and Gretel this year in their own unique way. Performances will be on **Thursday 8th, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th March at Norton Village Hall**. Tickets will be on sale at Norton Community Shop from **Monday 12th February**.

OUR SPRING JUMBLE SALE will be held on **Saturday March 24th**. More details next month. The committee would like to thank everyone for their support as always. Jennie Harris.

NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW - dates for the diary Plant Sale - **Saturday April 28th, 11.00am – 3.00pm** Flower Show - **Saturday August 18th 2.00pm – 5.00pm**. We are also looking for an Auditor to review The Flower Show accounts. If you would be interested please contact our Treasurer, Mary Batstone on 01935 882644

FESTIVAL DATES In 2018 the Norton Festival will be presenting a series of Concerts:- **Wednesday 11th April** - The Yeovil Military Wives Choir embracing a wide range of musical genres. **Saturday 19th May** - Sine Nomine Medieval and renaissance music on reproduction instruments. **Saturday 14th July** - Colours of the Organ - an afternoon demonstration by Chris Denman. **Saturday 6th October** - The Brue Boys - possibly the best 50 strong male voice choir in Somerset. **Saturday 1st December** – Cantamus Sacred, secular and consort music for Advent All Concerts at **7.30pm** unless otherwise indicated or for further information visit www.nortonfestival.org Richard Terrell

THE READING ROOM.

Christmas Tree. Special thanks go once again to Jack Hardisty for generously giving us our village Christmas Tree. It was much appreciated and is now becoming a regular feature - thanks Jack.

Café news. At last the telephone line was finally fitted allowing us to offer free WiFi in the Café. Already the service is beginning to be used and for those wishing to telephone bookings for the Café, the number is 01935 881 505. Naturally the line is to take INCOMING calls only, except in cases of Emergency.

Congratulations Jo for giving the Café such an imaginative make over. So many people appreciate the new look you have given the room - it really now has a great atmosphere - thank you so much. Those who haven't yet been into the Café, you are missing a treat.

Computer Classes Now we have Wi Fi we can offer a new service - Computer 'classes' and Social Media studies. The Committee are delighted that Josie Taylor has agreed to hold 2 classes during her February half term and 2 in the Easter holidays. Some of us remember the two she classes she held in 2016, why? - because we have forgotten what we learnt and need a refresher class or two! So if you are interested please pop into the Reading Room and put your name on the list. Josie will let us know the dates and times and the moderate costs of the classes. The Trustees and Committee wish everyone a very Happy New Year. Peter Callaghan Chairman.

CAROL SINGING RESULT A big, heartfelt thank you to all singers, contributors, party hosts and attendees for your generosity of giving. I gave £165 to the FNC for church fabric expenses and sent £165 to GOSH for baby research projects. The total £330 was brilliant. Cilla Caswell

STRAWBERRY FIELDS, NEW ROAD. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused during the work to our driveway. We are told that it should only last for about a week. For safety reasons the pathway from New Road to the Recreation Ground that runs next to Strawberry Fields will have to be closed. Jenny and Geoff Byham.

THE SOMERSET AND DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY has moved to Unit 1A, Broadway House, Peter Street, Yeovil, BA201PN. e-mail sdfhs@btconnect.com and web site <http://www.sdfhs.org/> Peter Street is located not far from

Middle Street. There is a ground floor entrance to the Centre from Peter Street. The Research Room, Somerset and Dorset parish records and most of the library will be housed on the 1st floor. The book sales, archives and meeting room will be on the top floor. The Centre will open in January 2018 and it is proposed to host open days for the regional groups and individuals to look around. If you are planning to visit the Society in the near future please check the website for up-to-date information.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF NORTON SCHOOL (FONS) our outdoor musical equipment has arrived! We are awaiting installation but we're hoping this will happen in the next month. Plans are afoot for a sponsored book read in February leading up to World Book Day on March 1st. This will be hosted by Usborne Books but the pupils will benefit directly from the monies raised by receiving Usborne vouchers as well as the School receiving books. We're also planning a film night and a disco. There will be a clothes collection in the week of **April 9th**, after the jumble sale and School holidays, by Bag2School for which we receive 40p per kilo. Details of what they can accept can be found at www.bag2school.com/what-we-collect so please start collecting! Also, anything suitable that is not sold at the jumble sale will be sent to Bag2School. If you have ideas for any of these events, for future fundraising, or you would like to lend a hand, then please feel free to share your ideas with us when you see us in School, or message us via our Facebook page: Friends of Norton Sub Hamdon School or email Emily at ejwaters40@yahoo.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR JANUARY

Planning: The Clerk received notification from SSDC planning department regarding the following:

17/03987/LBC The Georgian Wing, Great St. Removal of C20th infill to restore the hall to its correct double height space. Replacement of modern incorrect skirting boards in the drawing room, bedroom and bathroom - APPROVED

Annual Village Litter Pick: The date for the village litter pick had been set for **Saturday 17th March** and will begin at 9.30am (Finishes by 11.15am) This will start from the Reading Room. If anyone could please spare an hour or so of your time we would really appreciate it. It would be lovely to see some new faces. We look forward to your help.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 12th February at 7.30pm** in the **Reading Room**. Members of the general public are more than welcome to attend. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) 881882

FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES IN NORTON

Sunday 4 6.30pm Praise Evening

Sunday 11 9.30am Communion

Sunday 18 6.30pm Compline

Sunday 25 8.00am Communion

HAM HILL VILLAGES BENEFICE This legally came into being on December 31st 2017 at a service, attended by all 7 parishes, at Chiselborough Church with the Archdeacon of Wells (Ven. Anne Gell). This means that Peter is now Rector – which makes sense when living in the Rectory. What this does is give a greater sense of security to the Benefice (which has had a number of changes in recent years). At the service other members of our Benefice Team were licensed or authorised - Rev Annie Gurner as Associate Vicar, Rev Gary Edmunds as Assistant Curate; Rev Richard Terrell (retired Priest); and as (Lay) Readers Barbara Foy, Colleen Jerrold, Chris Stock, David Mangles, Susan Laycock, and Anthony Russell as Reader Emeritus: Barbara Aldridge, Barbara Foy, Martyn Hamlin, Mary Brown, Sam Lewis and Susan Laycock as Lay Pastoral Assistants. What a Team!

Special Services in February Ash Wednesday – February 14th – a communion service including the imposition of ashes – will take place in **West Chinnock church at 10.00 am**. (a similar service at **7.30 at Montacute**).

Lent These will include a group at the Rectory starting on **Wednesday February 21st at 7.30pm** looking at '40 days of Hope' (The stories within the course give an insight into prison life and point to the hope we can find as followers of Jesus – info at ctbi.org.uk/lent)

Compline - Each Sunday evening during Lent there will be a service of Compline at **6.30pm**. This reflective service, based on monastic worship, lasts about 30 minutes. (At Norton Sunday 18th February).

Women's World Day of Prayer This year's theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good" prepared by the women of Suriname (formerly Dutch Guiana in South America). A short service will be held on **Friday March 2nd at 10.30am** at All Saints Hall in Stoke (opposite the Fleur de Lis).

Education Sunday – March 4th As in recent years we are holding a special service in Norton School on March 4th for Education Sunday. The service will be at 11.00 am and all are welcome, especially those involved in education as pupils, parents, teachers or governors.

OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS

HONEY POT will be open **every Saturday in February: 10.00 - 12 noon** at Chiselborough Rectory. Look out for 'Pop Up Honey Pot' at various events during Fairtrade Fortnight: **Monday 26th February - Sunday 11th March** - that

wonderful couple of weeks, when you have every excuse to try out some delicious products AND benefit a charity which works worldwide. Any donations to Fairtrade Exchange will be doubled by the government, between now and April, so all Honey Pot profits from sales will be donated to the charity, during Fairtrade Fortnight. Anne Thomas 881202

BOOK CLUB has been reading 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' by Anne Bronte - so lots to talk about when we meet at **2.30 - 4.00pm on Tuesday 6th February, in Chiselborough Village Hall**. All book lovers are welcome to join us for tea, cake and chat - bring your library card if you would like to use the mobile library service. Doing this, helps us retain the service. Anne Thomas 881202

MARTOCK CHURCH CONCERT Thursday 8th February 7.30pm The Sunset Cafe Stompers. Mike Denham's 7-piece New Orleans band will be playing ragtime to popular inter-war tunes. Vocalist Hamish Maxwell. Tickets £9 on door or £8 from 01935 822706. Accompanied children under 16 free.

TREASURE ISLAND - THE PANTOMIME. Performances are as follows: **Martock Parish Hall – Saturday 3rd February Matinee 2.30 pm Evening 7.30 pm Sunday 4th February Matinee 2.30 pm Friday 9th February Evening 7.30 pm Saturday 10th February Matinee 2.30 pm Evening 7.30 pm Sunday 11th February Matinee 2.30 pm** Ticket prices are – £7 pre-booked through www.eventbrite.co.uk – 12161358747- or follow the link on 'Martock Online' or £8 on the door. If you need any further details please contact Sue on 07860 903426. We look forward to welcoming you!

ONE FAMILY'S STORY Recently at the Taunton warehouse of Raft (refugeeaidfromtaunton.org.uk) I heard the story of one Syrian family from a volunteer who has worked with Raft from its inception in 2015. She received a phone call from a friend in Devon about a fellow worshipper in the friend's church, and in this way became involved with a young man, his wife and children who arrived in Devon in 2014 (with a visa) to join other family members already living there. He found work hoping his family would be accepted too. In 2015 he returned to Syria to rescue them. However, his wife and their young children had already fled as refugees. Happily, they were reunited during the hazardous journey across Europe, reaching Boulogne on the French coast. By this time his visa had expired and his circumstances changed. The Raft volunteer was contacted to help this destitute family.

It was arranged that a small caravan fitted with a log-burning stove for heating and cooking, supplied by volunteers to the then Calais camp, would be allocated to the family. Raft volunteers then delivered essential equipment, some donated, some bought with donated money, including clothing, footwear, bedding, food, toiletries, medication etc. Knowing the children's ages meant that appropriate clothing and small toys could be acquired. The Calais camp was emptied and destroyed in October 2016 and eventually the family was legally settled in East Anglia. However hundreds of thousands of other families still exist in refugee camps in the Middle East and Europe and others do not even have that security. Charities still need donations of our good unwanted items and of money to buy essentials, all listed above. Please donate to Raft and please attend Refugee Support Group fundraising events: **Friday February 23rd Coffee morning in Merriott Church 10.30am to 12 midday. Friday March 23rd Coffee morning in Crewkerne Museum 10.30 to 12 midday** Geraldine Downey, 3 Gough Close, Merriott 01460 271358 (for donated goods)

SOUTH PETHERTON CONCERT Saturday, February 24th. Jonathan Weeks plays and talks about his Medieval Musical Instruments - 2.30pm at South Petherton Parish Church. Tickets £5 (children half price) includes tea & cake , from N&D News or 01460 249288

STOKE GARDENING CLUB. The next event will be on **Wednesday February 28th** in **Stoke Memorial Hall** at **7.30pm** and will be the AGM and a talk on the History of the Flower Pot by Jonathan Garratt. For further information contact Sue Winwood on 823671.

THIS MONTH Valentine's Day Saint Valentine's Day, the fourteenth of February, was once thought to be the day on which birds chose their mates but it is also a day that has many romantic traditions and tales associated with it. The first man an unmarried woman saw on that day, it is said, would be her husband. If she saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day she would marry a sailor. If it was a sparrow, she would marry a poor man but would be very happy. However she might really rather see a goldfinch for that meant she would marry a rich man! History associates a number of 'Valentines' with this day. I like the apocryphal story of an imprisoned third century priest or bishop of Rome restoring the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. He 'secretly' fell in love and sent a love letter signed 'From your Valentine'. The result of his amorous advance isn't recorded! Whatever the origins, Valentine's Day sparks an estimated annual spend of £500m on cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts designed to woo – and not always given anonymously! Richard Terrell

VILLAGE AGENT UPDATE Long dark days with lots of time to fill? Have you thought about what might happen if you suddenly passed away? Have you left your finances and final wishes in order? It may feel like a tedious and rather gloomy job so why not do it now before the days get longer and are more enjoyable. The daffodils are coming up already!

Make sure you have left a note of all your passwords, passport number, official documents and useful information somewhere safe where your relatives know to access it. A metal box will make it more flood and fire proof and a set of copies somewhere else is even better!

Paying for your funeral in advance is one way of sharing your funds with your family without needing to worry about 'deprivation of funds' for care and inheritance tax purposes. You buy your funeral at today's prices but you secure the services for the future. You can ensure your wishes are met and reduce financial and organisational pressure when you pass away.

A will doesn't need to cost a fortune and there is support on how to write a free one should you prefer to do so. Some charities such as British Legion will support you with this for a donation. It is important to do this so you decide who gets your property not the state and it reduces the inheritance tax paid on a property. You can begin by making a list of your possessions and what you would like to happen to them at any point.

If you suffer from a deteriorating condition, you can instruct a "Lasting Power of Attorney" to allow the person of your choice to support you in handling your affairs. You can make the decision whilst you are still able and so ensure that your wishes are met. Don't forget to consider how you feel about organ donation too.

There is a booklet available, called "Planning Ahead" designed by the NHS with a beautiful bluebell wood on the front to cheer you up when thinking about such things. It supplies all the details and provides you with a space to list your wishes and details. They are available in NHS settings and we have some available too. The Money Advice Service on the internet has lots of information. You can go to the library to access it if you don't have the internet at home.

How to get urgent health care at the weekends this winter

The pressure on the NHS this year has been widely documented. The recommendation is to avoid going to accident and emergency and also to consult your pharmacist as an alternative.

The NHS have a website with much information, including when to call 111. This is the NHS non-emergency number, it is fast, easy and free. When you call 111 you will speak to a highly trained adviser, supported by healthcare professionals. They will ask you a series of questions to assess your symptoms and immediately direct you to the best medical care. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

I hope this will leave you feeling prepared and ready to enjoy spring - it is almost here!

Not sure who to turn to? Village Agents are a charity that work with individuals and social groups to give confidential support and advice. We can enable people to be more independent in their home, manage personal finances, care for family members and advise on just about anything! You can find Cath at local coffee mornings and events. Call and email me. cath@somersetcc.org.uk 07968521746

ONE OFF ADVERTS: None this month

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 except near Christmas when the deadline is the **12th**.

NEWCOMERS TO OUR VILLAGE. If you know of anyone who has moved in to Norton, please ring one of the editors on the phone numbers below 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), Assistant Editor Mrs Daphne Bishop (881888) 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 Editors of the Norton Newsletter. None of the information published within expresses the views of either of the Editors 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

Wednesday 7 February Crafty Critters Village Hall 2.30pm
Wednesday 7 February Wassail Theatre Company Play Lord Nelson 8.00pm
Monday 12 February Parish Council Meeting Reading Room 7.30pm
Tuesday 13 February Movie Nites Lord Nelson 7.45pm
Friday 16 February FNC Wine Club Draw Lord Nelson 7.00pm
Tuesday 20 February Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm
Wednesday 21 February Crafty Critters Village Hall 2.30pm
Thursday 22 February Hamstone Wine Club Reading Room
Wednesday 28 February Village Coffee Morning Old Rectory 10.45am
Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8,9 and 10 March Pantomime Village Hall
Saturday 17 March Village Litter Pick start from Reading Room 9.30am
Tuesday 20 March Ladies Group AGM Reading Room 7.30pm
Saturday 24 March Jumble Sale Village Hall 11.00am
Wednesday 28 March Village Coffee Morning 3 Highwoods Close 10.45am
Wednesday 11 April Yeovil Military Wives concert 7.30pm

Saturday 28 April Flower Show Plant Sale 11.00am
Saturday 19 May Medieval Music Sine Nomine concert 7.30pm
Saturday 14 July Chris Denman Colours of the Organ Afternoon
Saturday 18 August Flower Show 2.00pm
Saturday 6 October The Brue Boys concert 7.30pm
Saturday 1 December Cantamus concert 7.30pm