

NORTON NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019 ISSUE 423

VILLAGE WEBSITE. <http://www.nortonsubhamdon.org.uk>

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST – The CLT is now included in the above website, where it has its own page.

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

CHURCH WEBSITE: <http://www.nortonchurch.org.uk>

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

CHURCH FLAG The George Cross flag will fly until **Saturday 6th January for Epiphany.**

NEW ADVERTS – none this month

NORTON EVENTS AND NEWS

NORTON SHOP The CLT is very happy to tell you that we have appointed a new Shop Deputy. We are delighted that Cheryl Middleditch has accepted the post. Cheryl has been one of our volunteers right from the start and has proved herself worthy of appointment in many ways over the years. As many of you know, Cheryl has lived in Norton, raising her family, for a long time so it is very appropriate, for the CLT, that we have been able to appoint someone from within our community to replace Dickon. We hope that Cheryl will enjoy working for us and we know that she will make a very able replacement for Dickon, working alongside Claire to keep our Community Shop going. We are very fortunate in our team of Volunteers. We have a motto – ‘The Dream Works because the team Works’ – but our pool of stalwarts is dwindling a bit after over four years of helping us keep our Community Shop open for everyone. If you have a few hours to spare – weekly, fortnightly or just occasionally – please consider joining the team. You will get full training and support; you will not be expected to do tasks you would rather not do; you will find it’s a wonderful way to keep up with all that happens in our villages, to meet people and have something fun and interesting to do. And, of course, you will know that you are playing YOUR part to keep the shop going. Without enough volunteers, the shop will not be able to carry on. Please come and find out what’s involved and pick up a form – they are in the rack just inside the door.

PETER & ANNE THOMAS' FAREWELL SERVICE & TEA Everyone is warmly invited to join with the Thomas family at **Norton Church** on **January 6th at 3.00pm** for Peter’s final service in the Benefice. It will be a Songs of Praise service with Peter & Anne and their sons Colin & Simon – each will be selecting 2 of the hymns/songs. This will be followed by tea & cake in **Norton Village Hall at 4.00 pm.**

READING ROOM Please note that from **1st January 2019** all booking enquiries for the Reading Room should be made to Sophie Snow, the Treasurer, either by email at sophiefsnow@aol.com or by phone on 01935 881099. Thank you. The Committee would like to wish all users of the Reading Room all the best for 2019. Tricia Walton, Secretary.

NORTON MOVIE NITES at the Lord Nelson. Celebrate the start of 2019 on **Tuesday 8th January** with feel-good comedy *Swimming With Men* (cert. 12A, 96 minutes), based on a true-life story about a group of men who formed a synchronised swimming group to allay their various mid-life crises. Starring Rob Brydon, Jim Carter, Rupert Graves and Jane Horrocks among many other well-known faces. Doors open **7.45pm**, film starts **8.00pm**. Tickets £5 in advance only from Norton Shop. Contact John Bailey with any queries, 881227 - please don't phone the shop. Forthcoming attractions, both on Tuesdays: **12th February**, *The Children Act*, based on Ian McEwan's book; **12th March**, *King of Thieves*, about the Hatton Garden bank raid.

LADIES GROUP Our Annual Christmas Party, was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves,. We were able to make good use of the space provided in the village hall - a very sociable evening with lots of participation from our members which made this one of our most enjoyable social events. We shall be holding our New Year Dinner at the **Lord Nelson on Tuesday January 15th** - please ensure your name is on our list if you wish to come along, the closing date is **22nd December**. Our next meeting will be held in the **Reading Room on Tuesday 19th February at 7.30pm**. New members and visitors will be sure of a warm welcome. On behalf of all the committee I would like to wish our members a Happy and Healthy 2019

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH TALK On **Friday 18th January** Alec Seccombe will present an illustrated talk on 'The work of the **Rhino Rescue Trust** - a trust for all endangered wildlife' Alec Seccombe lives in Norton-sub-Hamdon and has had a lifelong interest in wildlife and conservation, travelling extensively in East Africa. He became a Trustee of "Rhino Rescue Trust" in 1990 and worked closely with the original founder of the trust, Count Maurice Coreth, in setting up and helping to run the operation. When Count Coreth died, Alec took over as Chairman, and retains that role today. The Trust's mission is to protect all endangered species and to help surrounding communities affected by wildlife conflicts. The Trust's work embraces the protection of wildlife from poaching, particularly the Black Rhino, Elephant and Giraffe in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Namibia in Africa and the Indian Rhino, and Tiger in India. The event will be held in **Norton-sub-Hamdon Village Hall** commencing at **7:00 for 7:30 pm**. A wine and soft drinks bar and nibbles will be available before the presentation. Tickets costing £7 are available from Norton Community Shop or £8 at the door. All proceeds will be used to support the fabric of Norton Church

THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH AGM will take place on **Thursday 31st January** in the **Reading Room at 7.30pm**. All welcome.

WINE CLUB The December wine club draw has been deferred until next month. For details about joining the club contact Jonathan Binns on 881605.

GRAND MORNINGS OUT The Coffee Morning in November brought the 2018 Season to an end. It raised £277.14 for the Parish Church. Thanks are expressed to everyone for their support during the year and to the Coordinators, Tricia Kirkham and Anna Terrell. The 2019 Season of Grand Mornings Out kicks off on **Wednesday 23rd January** when there will be a Coffee Morning at **Knapp Farmhouse, Higher Street at 10.45am** with an invitation to take part in a Bring & Buy of homemade marmalade, pots, goodies and other items. The 2019 Programme is now available. It can be obtained from the Church or the Coordinators. The Coffee Mornings, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, provide an opportunity to natter and to meet friends old and new. Everyone is invited to attend. Richard Terrell

NEW ARRIVALS Welcome to Matt and Abby Mc Kellar who have recently moved into Little Norton Mill. We hope they will be very happy in our close knit community.

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. This has been a very busy year for the hall and committee. We are especially grateful to the Co-op Community Fund, and all our Supporters who raised and donated a massive £5,316.96p over the past year. Thank you all so much. It will be put to good use. We don't have a committee meeting in December, so after our January meeting, we will be able to give you all a report about how and what the hall committee will be doing in the future, including details of our AGM in February. We are pleased to welcome Sue Lowder from Norton Ladies Group to our committee. A belated welcome Sue. On behalf of the committee members, I would like to wish everyone the Compliments of the Season, and a very Happy and Healthy 2019. Jennie Harris for Norton Village Hall committee.

JUST A THOUGHT. After sorting out lots of stuff at home and for our last Jumble Sale I started to think about a fund-raising idea. At the moment it is only in my head. I wondered about having ' A New to You Sale ' or similar at the Hall in the New year. I have been chatting about this to people, and they agree with me - they have items at home, new, or hardly ever used. Unwanted presents, things that are too good to throw away, things others might use and be glad of. I am really just throwing it out there to see if others might be interested and with Christmas coming, there could be more items that could be re-cycled, and re-used. Maybe a bit like an indoor Table/Boot Sale. With refreshments etc. Book a table to make yourself some extra cash, maybe. Just give it some thought please. If anyone is interested or has other ideas please contact me and let me know what you think. Thanks. Jennie Harris Phone 01935 881718. or email trevorharris55@btinternet.com. or 5 New Road. Norton - or just catch me out and about. Season Greetings to you all.

SCHOOL NEWS What a successful term! We have raised over £2700 (£1419 at the Christmas Fair!), run some great events and handed over some iPads to the school in assembly. The children have had a great time taking part in Bingo, the Smartie challenge, Disco, Film night and the Christmas Fair. We have given the school £200 to spend on Christmas craft items so that the children can get creative for the festive season. Thank you for your support this term in helping us to be as successful as we have been. If you have a Co Op member's card, please log on to your membership account and select us as your local charity so that we can benefit from 1% of your spend on CoOp branded products/services. Sign up once and you don't need to do anything else! Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year, from all at the FONS

THIS MONTH New Year Resolutions The tradition of making a Resolution at the turn of the year is said to go back to 153 BC and to Janus, a mythical Roman king. Janus is always depicted as having two heads and could look back on past events and forward to the future. It is from him that we get the name of the first month of the year – January. Though many people do not take seriously the making of a New Year Resolution, it is no bad thing to reflect upon the shortcomings of our past and at least make an attempt to resolve to act differently in future. Richard Terrell

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6 3.00pm Songs of Praise

Sunday 13	9.30am	Communion
Sunday 20	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 27	8.00am	Communion

OUR VICAR'S FAREWELL I am writing this piece with 1 carol service sung and 7 to go. I anticipate many opportunities across the next couple of weeks to celebrate with you the birth of Jesus. We have so much valued life in Chiselborough and around Ham Hill – when we arrived our boys were teenagers at university, now they are property owners who have worked for a decade. There is a sense of bereavement for us - we are strongly discouraged from returning to these parishes (despite all the friends we have made across nearly 14 years since my interview). Thank you for sharing life with us across that time.

People often ask what we are going to do. Anne is working on a second novel and I intend to do an MA in Art History (and, no I can't paint - but enjoy both history and art). I will not be allowed to take any services anywhere for 6 months (to give a real sense of retiring from public ministry). Over the years we eventually created the Ham Hill Villages Benefice – which means the new appointment will be the Rector of the 7 parishes. The process of selecting my successor is already starting – the Archdeacon has met with wardens and there is a meeting with all PCC members in early January. Realistically September would be the earliest possible date when a new appointment could be made – but you have an excellent team of ordained and lay ministers to serve you. We are moving, actually on January 3rd, to 8 Irwell Green, TAUNTON TA1 2TA and our e-mails Thomas5@aol.com and apthomas@hotmail.co.uk are not changing. We would value continuing contact - but only clergy or wardens should contact us on any church related matters. Retiring is very different from moving to a new job. I have had the privilege across 38 years of ordained ministry of conducting around 500 weddings, 500 baptisms and 1200 funerals. There may be 10s of thousands of people with whom I have sought to share something of the Good News of Jesus in the context of those services and across approaching 6000 acts of worship on Sundays.

The message hasn't changed in those years - indeed hasn't changed in the nearly 2000 years since John recorded that 'God so loved the World that he gave his only Son that whoever believed in him should have eternal life'. The central demonstrations of that love remain Christmas and Good Friday (with Easter and Resurrection providing the joyful proof that death has been conquered). Our belief remains that, in the words of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, the 'chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever' – and that is our prayer for you. Every blessing for 2019

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2018

Planning: The Parish Council received two planning applications to consider for this month. 18/03680/HOU Hill Close House, Little Norton – Construction of a single storey link extension. The Parish Council had no objections to this.

18/03144/LBC Merle Cottage, Great Street – Installation of two slim metal reveal covers to wall opening at the gate entrance to the garden to accommodate demountable flood barriers when necessary. The Parish Council had no objections to this.

It's official: The new development on New Road will be called Bramley Fields.

School Road Markings: After a visit from Highways in December, they were concerned to find cars parked on the new yellow road markings near the school. The purpose of the yellow and white zig zag road markings are to show that the area must be kept clear to allow an unrestricted view for approaching drivers and riders or children wanting to cross the road. Highways have decided that they will now be taking steps to extend these lines slightly and also to have a legal enforcement order on them. Signs will be placed near the yellow zig zag lines to allow a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to be effective and will provide the local council with powers to issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) by use of Civil Enforcement Officers. Highways will also be intending to put yellow lines on the corners of both the following junctions - New Road to Great Street and Great Street to Higher Street. Again, on their visit in December, they saw cars and vans parked in a dangerous manner right on these corners/junctions, making lack of visibility very dangerous for drivers. This will be advertised and then installed sometime in Spring 2019.

Christmas Tree Recycling : Once again Norton will be joining forces with SSDC to do the Christmas Tree recycling. Please drop off your tree after Christmas (free from ornaments and stands!) to the drop off point which will be situated in Norton School Carpark on the left-hand side of the entrance. They need to be dropped off before the **8th January 2019**. The Parish Council would like to wish all the residents of Norton Sub Hamdon and Little Norton a Happy and Healthy New Year. The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 14th January 2019 at 7.30pm** in the **Committee Room in the Village Hall**. Members of the general public are more than welcome to attend. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) – nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS

STOKE GARDENING CLUB. The next event will be on **Wednesday 23rd January in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm** and will feature a talk by Joseph Lewis on 'Gardens in Yeovil'. Further details from Sue Winwood on 823671

THE TRIANGLE TRUST. The Committee would like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Our Christmas Bazaar held on November 24th at Stoke Memorial Hall raised over £640. Many thanks to all who helped, and supported this event. Jennie Harris for TheTriangle Trust..

BOOK CLUB will meet again on **Tuesday January 15th** in **Chiselborough Village Hall from 2.30pm**. The Library Van arrives at **2.35pm**. Tea and cake will be served with some bookish chat including a review of Rose Tremain's 'The Colour' - all welcome. Ring Janet Hutton on 881566 for more details.

SURVIVING WINTER GRANTS are available for older people living in Somerset, who are unable to adequately heat their homes. If you are struggling to afford to heat your home this winter contact me for more information. 07968521746 cath@somersetcc.org.uk

SPREAD SOME WARMTH THIS WINTER BY DONATING YOUR WINTER FUEL PAYMENT Somerset Community Foundation has launched this year's Surviving Winter campaign, which encourages people to join the growing number of contributors who donate some or all of their Winter Fuel Payment to help local people living in fuel poverty. Last year over 500 older people living in fuel poverty in Somerset were helped to keep warm and better connected through the winter months, thanks to pensioners and other local donors who gave to Surviving Winter. Help Somerset Community Foundation to help more isolated and vulnerable older people this year. To donate to Surviving Winter, visit www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter, call 01749 344949 or send a cheque to Somerset Community Foundation, Yeoman House, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 6QN. The costs of running the Surviving Winter appeal are met entirely by Gift Aid contributions, so donors can be confident that their donation will reach those who need it the most.

NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT Transport and the potential difficulties of getting out and about come to mind when I think of January. Whether it is coming across a flooded lane on the way to work or sliding across icy roads as a driver or a pedestrian, the winter months can present some challenges. Preparation is important when heavy snow and/or floods can cut off villages and small towns. Suggestions for coping include stocking UHT/Long-life milk and some frozen bread and vegetables. Put a torch in a place where you can find it quickly. Check your oil levels and have your boiler serviced, cover your outdoor tap and combi boiler condensate pipes (the bit outside that can freeze). Check on elderly and frail neighbours who may find it harder to get out in the snow and ice and can be trapped at home. Remind them to alert their utilities providers that they are a priority customer. Don't forget to prepare for storms by securing anything outside including taking care of your trees – willow branches are prone to snapping and need branches with cracks or rot removed. Contact Western Power Distribution or telecoms providers if a tree is hanging over or brushing on lines. Listen to local radio and check if buses are running and whether it is advisable to drive.

The roads have all been dressed this year, which improves skidding resistance and helps prevent those nasty potholes but in turn, the gritting routes have been reduced. Check with your village as some parishes have their own grit stores to distribute and may appreciate help with this. If you do need to drive in snow or ice make sure you are prepared – check your tyres and have a fluorescent, warm coat, boots, torch and a bottle of water with you. When driving on an icy road, the first thing to remember is to slow down. You are more likely to see an ice patch and will be able to correct for it. It is frightening when your car gets a mind of its own and the presence of flood filled, deep ditches at the side of our roads doesn't help. Advice copied from DVSA follows:

Don't accelerate suddenly or harshly. Don't brake harshly. Don't brake while cornering. Watch out for slippery road surfaces and keep your speed down if you think the road is slippery. Use engine braking as well as the brakes to slow the vehicle down. If you do encounter a skid, steer gently into it, for example if the rear of the car is sliding to the right, steer to the right. Do not take your hands off the steering wheel or brake hard. Further information can be found online at www.safedrivingforlife.info/drivers-and-riders/.../controlling-your-vehicle

Many people take the risk and drive through the floods. This is a real risk as the car can float or travel on strong currents. Water can find its way into the air intake on some vehicles, causing serious engine damage even in shallow floods. If you have checked that it is shallow enough to drive through, the water is probably deepest near the kerb and shallowest at the crown. Drive in first gear as slowly as possible but keep the engine speed high and steady by slipping the clutch. If the engine speed is too low, you might stall. If you go too fast, you could create a bow wave. Water will flood the engine and it could cut out. Test your brakes as soon as you can afterwards. More advice can be found at www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/winter-driving/

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 in December when the deadline is a week before.

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), 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

Sunday 6 January Vicar's Farewell Service/ Tea Church 3.00pm/4.00pm
Tuesday 8 January Movie Nites Lord Nelson 7.45pm
Monday 14 January Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 15 January Ladies Group Meal Lord Nelson
Friday 18 January FNC Talk Rhino Rescue Village Hall 7.30pm
Wednesday 23 January Coffee Morning Knapp Farmhouse 10.45am
Thursday 31 January FNC AGM Reading Room 7.30pm
Friday 1 February BoJangles Norton Village Hall
Tuesday 19 February Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm
Friday 29 March D'Click Norton Village Hall
Saturday 4 May Flower Show Plant Sale
Saturday 17 August Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show
Friday 11 – 13 October The 2019 Norton Festival Weekend