

NORTON NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019 ISSUE 425

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

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

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

NEW ADVERTS – One new 'one off' advert this month – 'Weddings Ahead' – see end of newsletter and one new monthly advert – 'Gem Computer services' - see end of ads page.

START OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME. Please remember that the clocks go forward by one hour at **1.00am** on **Sunday, 31st March.**

NORTON EVENTS AND NEWS

NORTON MOVIE NITES at the Lord Nelson ends the 2018–19 winter season on **Tuesday 12th March** with *King of Thieves* (cert 15, 108 mins), based on the notorious real-life Hatton Garden jewellery robbery of 2015, starring Michael Caine, Tom Courtenay, Jim Broadbent, Ray Winstone, and a host of 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 on 881227 Please don't phone the shop. Thank you.

LADIES GROUP Our speaker for February was Michael Kerr, who gave a talk on how he was given the Freedom of London. He kept us engaged with his casual and interesting approach from centuries ago, to the present day, and why the City is so important, financially, to the UK in 2019. Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm**. A new committee will be voted in for the coming year. We shall look back over the past year, have a team quiz and look forward to what's in store for this season. We hope to hold a raffle, so if you would like to make a contribution it will be much appreciated. We shall provide wine, and soft drinks on this occasion. If you are new to the village or think you might like to join, then this would be a good time to come along and see if this is for you. New members and visitors are always welcome at any time. Sue Lowder 881805

BAND COMING Another highly entertaining Concert is promised by the talented and highly acclaimed Stoke sub Hamdon Band when it returns to Norton to give a Concert **in the Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 23rd March**. Seating at the church is limited and unreserved so an Advance Ticket is almost essential – and cheaper. At £7 each they are obtainable now from the Norton Community Shop. Don't delay - avoid disappointment. Richard Terrell

COFFEE SUPPORT Do join us at a get-together for Coffee at **10.45am on Wednesday 27th March at 10.45am at Dowland, Higher Street**. The Morning is open to everyone and includes a Bring and Buy – this time reflecting the season with 'Spring Items' and 'Gifts for Mothers'. The Mornings provide a valuable opportunity to meeting one another and last just an hour. Look forward to seeing you. Anna and Tricia (Coordinators)

HAMSTONELIVE, Norton Village Hall and TakeArt proudly present another great show for all the family. **Friday 29th March 7.30pm:** Isla by Spanish circus company, D'Click - European circus theatre at its very best Isla (Spanish for Island) tells the story of three shipwrecked characters who find themselves alone and dependent upon each other. Using their amazing physical circus skills, they overcome unbelievable and death defying situations Based on a work of movement and body, D'Click bring to life an entrancing story, incorporate the most typical tools of the circus, such as acrobatics and the Chinese pole. Isla reminds us of the subtle barrier that exists between physical theatre and dance, circus and risk, magic and dreams. D'click, from North East Spain, have performed Isla at international festivals all over the world such as the Trayectos Danza Festival and Festival Ax Les Thermes in France. This particular show has received prestigious awards, including the 'Best Aragonese Circus Performance' of the Festival de Circo Ciudad de Zaragoza in 2017. **Doors open at 6.30pm** Tickets available from March 2019 in the village shop.

NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW Spring Plant Sale Saturday 4th May 2pm – 5pm Norton Village Hall New Road, Norton TA14 6SF The Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show Plant Sale is so much more than just a plant sale! Live music, vegetable, herb and flower plants for sale, stalls selling local crafts and produce. Afternoon tea with homemade cakes. Children's activities. Plants please! As you tidy up your garden this spring, dividing your plants and sowing new seeds, please consider donating any unwanted plants or seedlings to the sale. All donations gratefully received! If you would like to help us on the day, or are interested in bringing on some plants for us please contact Sarah Murray on 01935 881883 To book a stall please contact Sara Vann sara.chester26@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE AND TIME – SUNDAY 5TH MAY 7.00pm - Excalibow by comedy quartet, Bowjangles Many thanks to all those who bought tickets and further apologies for the cancellation - as you know Bowjangles were stuck in snow in Hampshire. You can exchange your tickets for the new date or have a refund from the Shop, either way please leave your email address so that we can contact you. **Venue; Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall**, New Road,

TA14 6SF TICKETS: £6 child Under 16 yrs / £10 adult Buy 4 tickets or more and get a 10% discount AVAILABLE FROM: Norton Sub Hamdon Village Shop or from John Bailey 01935 881227 or from www.takeart.org

SCHOOL NEWS We've had a busy term at school. The children have enjoyed two after school events, a Family Bingo evening, and a children's film night with hotdogs and ices as well as an early morning pancake breakfast that proved very popular. A great big thank you to all our volunteers who make these events possible. We also held our first evening PTA meetings in The Lord Nelson. The new time and location proved to be popular and made the meeting a great success. Looking forward we have a school disco coming up and another pancake morning is in the pipeline. Thank you for your continued support from all at the FONS.

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. On February 10th held a Pre-loved/ New/ Nearly new table top sale. This was the first one we have held. We were lucky to have lots of stall holders, and buyers. Special thanks to all those people. It went well, but a few lessons were learnt on the way. We came to an arrangement with the Hirers, about payment and I received a lot of good feedback. It is a thing we will do again. But slightly differently. We will keep you informed. We are hoping to hold our Spring Jumble Sale in April. More details next month. Jennie Harris Village Hall Committee Report of the recent AGM will follow in next month's newsletter.

MARCH NORTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3	11.00am	All Age Service
Sunday 10	9.30am	Communion
Sunday 17	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 24	10.00am	Communion
Sunday 31	8.00am	Communion

The Combined Benefice Service will be at Norton on 24th March at 10.00am and for details of other Benefice Services – Chiselborough, Middle Chinnock, Montacute, Odcombe, Stoke sub Hamdon, West Chinnock – visit www.hamhillchurches.org

ASH WEDNESDAY March 6th 10.30am Communion at Montacute and 6.30pm Communion at Chiselborough

PETER AND ANNE THOMAS' FAREWELL Peter and Anne were given an memorable Benefice send off on Sunday 6th January. To a packed Norton Church we enjoyed a moving Songs of Praise service where the whole family reflected on their lives and choices of hymns. We then retired to the Village Hall for tea and a presentation where it gave everyone the opportunity to individually thank them for their friendship and support over the past 13 years and wish them a long and happy retirement. Reflecting the generosity of the Benefice and in appreciation of everything they had been involved with, they were presented with a Hamstone birdbath, an amusing framed cartoon by Sarah Bailey reflecting their time here. Peter was given a one year membership to Somerset County Cricket Club while Anne was given a token for use at an artist shop in Taunton, and they were also given a substantial cheque. They will be sorely missed and we wish them a well-deserved and happy retirement in their own home in Taunton.

VACANCY FOR A NEW RECTOR – YOUR CHURCH, YOUR SAY

The Benefice Council, which co-ordinates the activities of the 7 Parochial Church Councils in the Benefice, continues to make good progress towards finding a new Rector for the Ham Hill Villages.

One of the first things to be done was to create a Profile Writing Team, which has been done, and they have truly 'got stuck in' already. Colleen Jerrold, David Mangles, Susan Laycock, Richard Raven, Robin Battersby, Sue Bow and Trevor Walton will be representing their PCCs under Robin's Chairmanship. This is a critically important step as it is this group that will be documenting who we are as a community, expressing the characteristics of all 7 parishes, and yet drawing up a specification for 1 person; the process very much relies on ascertaining where we are and where God is calling us.

Apart from beginning to do the preparatory work, this group is organizing a survey to better understand what the wider community are looking for in the new Rector, and what all residents want from their church. This questionnaire is being sent to everyone in the Ham Hill Villages; it is your opportunity to have your say about your church and will help us in preparing the profile, because the church does belong in and to the community, not just those who attend on Sundays. Paper copies of the survey are available, but if you would like to comment electronically, then do please log on to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2BL6MP6> where you can do so.

We are working to tight timescales, so would appreciate receiving responses no later than **Friday 15th March.**

As a follow up to that survey process, we warmly invite you to a gathering at **Norton Village Hall at 10am on Saturday 30th March** when you will be able hear what the responses have been and have a further opportunity to contribute to the developing vision for our churches in 2019 and beyond. Aside from this, there have been some interesting, but still unresolved, discussions as to where the new Rector should live. The Benefice has 2 houses in Chiselborough and Stoke, both of which are to be retained, with opinions being expressed for one or the other, or even leaving the choice to

the new post holder! Watch this space. Please continue to pray for all those involved in this process. Chris Stock (chris_stock@outlook.com) Ham Hill Villages Benefice (comprising Chiselborough, Middle Chinnock, Montacute, Norton sub Hamdon, Odcombe, Stoke sub Hamdon and West Chinnock)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

Planning:

The Parish Council had one planning application to make their observations on: 19/00023/HOU Homestead, Higher St. - Alterations and construction of new apex roof over existing two storey side extension, rebuild and enlarge existing single storey utility boot room. Remove existing detached garage building and construct replacement workshop/garage building. No Objections

Annual Village Litter Pick 2019:

The date for the village litter pick had been set for **Saturday 16th March** and will begin at **9.30am** (Finishes by 11.30am) 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.

Pumping Station Update: The clerk has been in regular contact with Wessex Water over the recent disruption in Higher Street regarding the lorries and late night work at the pumping station. Wessex Water reported that the rising main at the pumping station burst which had to be treated as an emergency. Tankers were used to take away waste from the site while the issue was being resolved. If left unresolved, it could cause pollution and drainage problems in the area. They have identified this rising main as high risk and have measures programmed to reduce the risk. In the short term they'll be installing Variable Speed Drives to better manage the flow and pressure in the rising main. They'll also be installing a burst detection system on the main. Both of these measures are programmed for the next two to three weeks. They also assured us that the problem is not related to capacity after the Clerk asked the question. They're also planning to replace the rising main with a new pipe and work is currently in design which is programmed for this year. They have written to all Higher Street residents outlining the problem and apologising for the disturbances.

Ham Hill - Litter Bin Free Zone

Following the litter problem on Ham Hill last year, SSDC have decided that from April 1st 2019 all the litter bins will now be removed making it a litter bin free zone. It has been proven successful to do this in other 'green areas' in the UK and it is therefore felt to be the only option to try and ensure that people take their rubbish with them, rather than allowing it to blow all over the historic Country Park site.

NO ACCESS MEANS NO ACCESS – TO EVERYONE – re HEADLAND BETWEEN NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH ROADSIDE This is not a footpath or a permissive path. For the last couple of years, Mr Holloway has kindly allowed walkers to walk along the headland as the road between Norton and Chiselborough is dangerously narrow. He recently put his in-lamb ewes in the field and put 'NO ACCESS' signs at every entrance. Last year his sheep were attacked on more than one occasion so therefore he decided to put these signs up to prevent it happening again. However, people are still walking there with dogs and are completely ignoring the signs. Twice the sheep have been chased by dogs and have got out of their field. The Holloways are currently unsure as to whether they will open this land up again or close it off permanently, as people do not seem to have any respect for the landowner's animals or his request to keep out. **PLEASE HAVE THE COURTESY TO KEEP OFF THIS PRIVATE LAND. THANK YOU.**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 11th March 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

BOOK CLUB will meet again on **Tuesday March 12th in Chiselborough Village Hall from 2.30pm**. The Library Van arrives at **2.35pm**. Tea and cake will be served with some bookish chat - all welcome. Ring Janet Hutton on 881566 for more details.

WESSEX BIG BAND CONCERT- 14th MARCH Martock Church This 24-piece brass band, accompanied by guitar, keyboard, drums and vocals, plays melodies made famous by the pre-war bands of Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, Count Basie and Glenn Miller as well as by post-war bands such as Ted Heath and James Last. They now have a catalogue of over 300 music scores including popular and contemporary music. Admission: £9 or £ 8 at 01935 829576 <http://www.martockonline.co.uk/events> <https://en-gb.facebook.com/wessexBB>

KINDNESS AND COMPASSION Residents of Norton and its environs have provided practical donations over the past two years of essential items for those living in refugee camps to Refugee Support Group, South Somerset (RSG). As their plight continues please will you continue to donate unwanted clean washable winter clothing for men (not large sizes), women and children; suitable footwear for all; clean washable bedding and sleeping bags; toiletries and off the shelf medication – which are taken to Raft (refugeeaidfromtaunton.org) to be sorted, boxed and dispatched overseas. During the autumn I, a member of RSG, received 14 portable sewing machines to be sent to camps in the Middle East and Africa to promote self sufficiency: they are still requested as are baby buggies and carry-cots in reasonable condition. A volunteer in Norton would be much appreciated with space to accept donations, eg a garage, to then transport to me or, if able and willing, perhaps directly to Raft.

I am writing this in February as the UN reports that babies and young children are dying from freezing temperatures and lack of medical care, experienced by all residents in camps in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Another 22,000

refugees in informal camps in Lebanon lost tents and belongings in flooding from storms and snowfalls. Some camps in Greece are suffering similar conditions. Please continue to donate clean winter items in March: from April summer clothing and footwear is requested. RSG's second function is fundraising for specialist charities working in the Middle East and Europe with people still fleeing brutality, war and destruction. We very much need your support for 2 dates in the next 2 months. Please put in your diary:- **A Coffee morning on March 22nd in Crewkerne Museum from 10.30 to 12 noon.** Do go shopping in Crewkerne that Friday morning and drop in for coffee and home baking, perhaps meet a friend in this interesting venue, and visit our produce stall, all for a very worthwhile cause.

A Concert on Friday April 5th at 7.30pm in the Minster, Ilminster. Enjoy the Serenade Choir conducted by David Sutcliffe, the bass Huw Morgan and organist John Mingay, all offering their considerable talents to support a refugee charity. Tickets are £10. Glass of wine available. Look out for posters. Geraldine Downey 01460 271358 Merriott

STOKE GARDENING CLUB. The next talk will be on **Wednesday 27th March** and will be entitled Food or Free - Foraging for Wild Food by James Feaver in the **Memorial Hall** at **7.30pm**. More details from Sue Winwood on 823671

SATURDAY MARCH 23rd SOUTH PETHERTON CHURCH 7.30pm - Organ Concert by Jonathan Delbridge . Live video screening will allow the audience to see, as well as hear, Jonathan play a varied programme including jazz and popular pieces. Tickets, £7.50 from N&D News South Petherton, or at the door. Licensed bar.

NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT This month sees a focus on finances. If you are struggling with finances, it is important to seek help and not try to ignore it. Advise your utilities and rent providers to let them know your circumstances and to find out if they can support you with this. It is vital that rent and council tax are paid but repayment plans for other debts may be available. Do look at web information such as Money advice service www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk and Martin Lewis Money Saving Expert www.moneysavingexpert.com for ways to trim your budget with savvy buys and money saving schemes. Also take a look at a benefits calculator such as www.turn2us.org.uk to see if you are eligible for more financial support. The CAB also hold drop in's and are able to support with benefit claims and debt advice. They are able to give food bank vouchers. There are many drop in centres across Somerset. There are also some special courses for those struggling with finances due to mental health issues. Check what discounts are available to you if you are on benefits such as the Warmer Homes Discount on electricity and gas bills, BT basic and reduced water bills. You may still be able to save money on bills such as car and home insurance and utilities or by changing from an expensive TV and broadband package to free view and finding alternative exercise plans such as a jogging group or local facilities over a gym membership. Call 0800336699 for the Government led Home Heat Helpline for access to social tariffs grants and free advice. Remember to check your contract in case there are exit fees.

If you have debt problems, do talk to Christian's Against Poverty who have coverage over lots of Somerset. They will support you in finding a repayment solution on 03003280006. You could also try local advice such as Wiser Money in South Somerset.

If you need support in regaining skills to get back into work, do ask us about the Positive People Program where you will work alongside a navigator who will help you overcome obstacles to finding work. There is also support for young adults at risk of losing their way on the employment / training / education path www.cswfocus5.co.uk 07876758108. Visit one of our talking café's where one of our agents will be available to direct you to support suitable for your circumstances. The one in Yeovil will run on Wednesdays from 10.00am to midday in the Hospital Chapel on Level 4. Cheap and safe loans are available through credit unions ww.findyourcreditunion.co.uk There are several across Somerset. 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 your Village Agent for more information. 07968521746 cath@somersetccc.org.uk

SOMERSET EDUCATION SERVICES NORTON SUB HAMDON and WEST CHINNOCK C of E VC PRIMARY SCHOOL FEDERATION Co-opted Governor Vacancies Are you enthusiastic about education? Do you have time to spare? If so, then you may be just the person we need! We are looking for committed people to join the Norton Sub Hamdon and West Chinnock Primary School Federation's Governing Board as Co-opted Governors. We have a number of vacancies in the Co-opted Governor category and would welcome applications from people with experience in: Legal (Paralegal, Solicitor etc.) Human Resources Health and Safety Finance. If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our schools or are interested in becoming a Co-opted Governor for the Federation then please email the Clerk to the Governors, Heidi Knight, to hknight1@educ.somerset.gov.uk providing information regarding your skills, experience and qualifications and describing why you want to become a Co-opted Governor.

ONE OFF ADS: WEDDINGS AHEAD. Why spend a fortune on a hat that will never be worn again after the event? You can hire from The Village Salon: A fascinator for £8 or a hat for £10. Also a few Pashminas & Handbags. Many colours. All money raised will be donated to charity. Tel: (01935)881344

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

Wednesday 6 March Crafty Critters Reading Room 2.30pm
Monday 11 March Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 12 March Norton Movie Nites Lord Nelson 7.45pm
Saturday 16 March Village Litter Pick Reading Room 9.30am
Tuesday 19 March Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm
Wednesday 20 March Crafty Critters Reading Room 2.30pm
Saturday 23 March Stoke Band Concert Norton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday 27 March Coffee Morning Dowland Higher Street 10.45am
Friday 29 March D'Click Norton Village Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 30 March Church Survey Meeting Village Hall 10.00am
Wednesday 3 April Crafty Critters Reading Room 2.30pm
Saturday 4 May Flower Show Plant Sale 2.00 – 5.00pm
Sunday 5 May Bowjangles Village Hall 7.00pm
Saturday 17 August Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show
Friday 11 – 13 October The 2019 Norton Festival Weekend