

NORTON NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE 496

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

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

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

ADVERTS – No new adverts this month

NORTON EVENTS AND NEWS

NORTON SHOP - Important Notice. From **Saturday 15th February** Norton Community Shop will **close at 4.00 pm. on Saturdays.** The Directors of the CLT apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause and we hope that our customers will understand.

ELECTRICITY AND GAS TOP UPS British Gas top ups for electricity and gas are no longer available at the Co-op opposite Stanchester School. This service IS AVAILABLE at Norton Post Office. However, if you use this payment method, please note that the Post Office closes on Saturday afternoons, from 12.00 noon and all day on Sundays. It opens at 9.00am each morning, is closed between 1.00pm and 2.00pm each week day and closes at 5.30pm in the afternoon (except Wednesdays at 4.30pm). Elizabeth Maunder, Norton sub Hamdon CLT.

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be in the Norton Reading Room on the **4th and 18th February between 2.30 and 4.00pm.** £1.00 per session plus why not try some of Amanda's lovely cakes with some tea or coffee? Looking forward to seeing friends, old and new, with their craft projects. Tricia Walton 882646.

HAMSTONELIVE 2020 AT THE NORTON VILLAGE HALL In collaboration with Norton Village Hall we have 2 more great international acts coming to our village in 2020. **Thursday 6th February – 7.30pm – WOR.** For all ages A 5 piece band from Flanders with rave reviews from their tour in 2019. Playing saxophone, fiddle, accordion, guitar and bagpipes, WOR have released two albums and toured throughout Europe and America including the famous Shetland Folk Festival. Tickets available at the Village Shop now(£10 adults; £5 children)

HAMSTONE LIVE SATURDAY 21st MARCH - John Osborne with 'John Peel's Shed' - For all ages. This is a homage to the late great John Peel and direct from Radio 4, Soho Theatre and Glastonbury. Writer and theatre maker John Osborne brings his Edinburgh sell out show. In 2020 John won a competition on John Peel's Radio Show; his prize was a box of records. This is an ode to radio and a unique opportunity for any Peel fans featuring a selection of records previously owned by the late and infamous John Peel. Tickets available at the Village Shop from 10 February(£10 adults; £5 children) Contact John Bailey on 881227 with any queries.

NORTON MOVIE NITES at The Lord Nelson, Tuesday 11 February. 'The Good Liar' (cert 15, 109 mins), stars Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen in a gripping tale of greed and deceit, based on Nicholas Searle's novel of the same name. A career con artist doesn't find it as easy as he had planned to rob a wealthy widow of her fortune. **Doors open 7.45 pm, film starts 8.00pm.** Tickets £5 in advance only from Norton Stores from 1st February.

DISCUSSION/TALK on how to reduce plastic waste in the home, clothes swap and cheese and wine evening. **Wednesday 12th February at Norton Primary School 7.30pm**

LADIES GROUP The New Year Dinner held at The Lord Nelson was once again very enjoyable. The evening flew by with much conversation and delicious food. Thanks again to Helen, Mark and the team for a lovely evening. On **18th February** we welcome local author Tamsin Cooke. She will be giving an interactive and fun writing workshop - please bring a pen or pencil with you when you come along. **March 17th** is the date for our AGM with wine and nibbles. This will be a casual meeting, looking back over the past year, and forward to our talks and outings for next year. New members or visitors are welcome to any of our meetings held in the Reading Room on the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm**, do come along and see if this is for you, you can be sure of a warm welcome. More info: Sue Lowder 881805

NORTON PANTOMIME Rehearsals are now well under way. A reminder that tickets will be on sale in Norton Shop from 1st February. Performances: **Thursday 5th, Friday 6th and Saturday 7th March.** On **Saturday 15th February from 10.00am** onwards we will be having a Scenery/Banner Making Day. If anyone would like to help please turn up at a time to suit you – and stay a while. Teas/Coffees/ Cakes and Biscuits will be there for you. If anyone can help in any other way, or you just want info – just contact me 01935 88178 or email on trevorharris55@btinternet.com. Thank you. Jennie Harris for Norton Panto Society.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB DRAW. Results for December Pub Draw: Jamie Brodie, Gordon McBain and Steve Cousins, **December Main Draw:** Richard Raven, Chris Westwood, John

Forrest, Alec Seccombe, Rob Vaux, Jenny Byham, Mary, Liz Fish and Mary Edmund.

January Main Draw: Richard More, David Parkinson, Barry Eastley, Roger Hardisty, Rob & Di Waters, John Forrest (2), Rowena Aley and Peter Wilsher. Become an FNC Wine Club Member. You can win some elegant wines. The more you put in, the more likely you are to win, and you're funding a good cause. Contact Jonathan on 881063 to join.

LIBRARY MOBILE VAN IN NORTON The van comes and parks by Pippins in Higher Street each month from **3.25pm until 3.45pm** – the next time will be **Tuesday 25th February**. Come and check out the library van packed with some great books!

READING ROOM AGM: The Reading Room AGM will be held at **7.30pm on Tuesday 25th February** in Norton **Reading Room**. All are welcome to attend. Tricia Walton, Secretary.

COFFEE INVITE The February Coffee Morning is being held at **Pippins, Higher Street on Wednesday 26th February, 10.45-11.45am**. All are invited to this social event supporting Norton Parish Church. There will be a general Bring & Buy and the usual Draw.

CONSTABULARY CHOIR There will be an opportunity to hear one of the foremost male voice choirs in the region with the visit of The Avon and Somerset Constabulary for a Concert in **Norton Church on Saturday 29th February**. Seating is limited so tickets, £7 each, will be in short supply. To avoid disappointment, buy your ticket **NOW** from the Norton Community Shop. The Choir will be singing medieval and classical choral music, ballads and operatic choruses, popular songs and songs from stage and film, and has been awarded numerous cups and certificates. Richard Terrell

THE READING ROOM CHRISTMAS DRAW. The Reading Room Committee was thrilled with the response to its first raffle which raised just over £545.00. Congratulations to the winners and thank you so much to everyone who bought tickets. Tabitha Checkley did a wonderful job of drawing the prize tickets. A special thank you must go to The Lord Nelson, The Norton Shop, Amanda at the Cafe and all the other Villagers who generously donated prizes. The money raised will enable us to continue with the Reading Room's constant repairs and improvements. Tricia Walton, Secretary.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT A 'VILLAGE CHARACTER' who has recently passed away. Norton has had many 'characters' over the years - and there are still a few around now! I would like to mention a man who was a 'character' in Norton for 40 years – and he didn't even live in Norton. He worked in Dennis Greenham's Electrical Shop for 40 years. This shop was a local business and many many customers used it. His name was Tom Kerswell - he was very well known to everyone locally. He sold and delivered items, repaired items and did lots of other jobs. In the early days he even emptied the coin meters on the back of the TV sets out on rental! He was a 'happy go lucky' man – always having a laugh and a joke – a truly wonderful man, who, with the rest of the staff kept Greenhams going for many years. Customers were always pleased to see him, especially when he would call in to repair a TV 'on his way home' (which wasn't always on the way to his home – which was in Yeovil!) Tom passed away recently and we went to his funeral on 18th January along with hundreds of others to pay our respects. I know a lot of newer residents won't have known him but I know a lot of people will. R.I.P Tom and thanks for being you. Jennie Harris

GOOD BYE TO ANOTHER LOCAL 'CHARACTER' Mike Zair who has died recently had led an incredible and fascinating life, culminating in being one of the founders, with Simon Fairlie, of Tinkers Bubble in 1994. He lived out his principles of low impact sustainability - a system that was less well known, or appreciated, then than it is now. He was also always a great supporter of the Community Land Trust and was until fairly recently one of the regular shop volunteers. For many, he will be remembered and treasured for his gentleness, kindness, fascinating insights and huge knowledge and principles. Editor

FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES IN NORTON

| | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Sunday 2 | 6.30pm | Praise Service |
| Sunday 9 | 9.30am | Communion |
| Sunday 16 | No Service | |
| Sunday 23 | 8.00am | Communion |

Visit www.hamhillchurches.org for services and other activities around the Benefice

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR JANUARY

Planning: The Parish Council had two planning applications to make their observations on this month. 19/03251/LBC Number 1, Rectory Lane. The conversion and extension of a stone barn for a one bed annexe. The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

19/03241/OUT Land East of Keepers Lodge, Little Norton. Outline application for the erection of no.1 dwelling with all matters reserved except access.

Firstly, many complaints were received regarding the fact that there was no public notice on display for this planning application. Another complaint received was that only 6 residents in Little Norton actually been included on the neighbours' list with many being left off who would be affected by the application – including next door neighbours and other properties in this narrow lane.

The Parish Council objected to this planning application. The reasons are as follows: 1. The lane is not suitable for more development. It is very narrow and is totally unsuitable for future development of any kind. 2. The lane is more of a farm track – it is used predominantly for farm machinery, walkers and horse riders and is not suitable for any more traffic. 3. It is not well maintained. It is a very wet area – surrounded by natural springs. There is a very large flow of water continually flowing from the valleys. Anymore development will effect flooding. 4. The drainage system at Little Norton is already at its limit and can take no further building. 5. This is a historic village in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Ham Hill sits above this site and further development would have a huge negative impact on this beautiful rural area. The proposal would seriously harm the character of the area and any building would fail to enhance or preserve the character or appearance. Any building here would be visible from Ham Hill. 6. Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council do not like outline planning applications and in the past have not accepted them. Again, this is due to the history of this ham stone village. 7. The roots of the ash tree near the entrance would be destroyed. The Parish Council would like to see a TPO placed on this tree. 8. Allowing this application would open up further planning opportunities in this area which the Parish Council would also not support. It is very important that this does not set a precedent for any other planning proposals in Little Norton. 9. There is no further requirement for more properties in Little Norton. It is a small hamlet and should be protected and remain as this – part of the local history. There is already a bed and breakfast in Little Norton plus self catering at Little Norton Mill. 10. The Parish Council would not support a planning application on this site. 11. This is greenbelt land. This land should remain agricultural land. 12. Very concerned about wildlife in this area. This is a well known area for badgers, foxes, deer, slow worms and toads.

Who is responsible for maintaining watercourses - Riparian Ownership /Responsibility Who is a Riparian Owner? Under common law the land / property owner(s) is / are the riparian owner(s) of any watercourse if it is within, under or adjacent to the boundaries of their land / property. Where a watercourse is between two or more property boundaries, it is assumed that each owner is responsible for the maintenance of the watercourse to the centre of that watercourse, unless it is known to be owned by someone else. For example, even if the Title Deeds for Owner A's property show the boundary to be the fence, they have riparian rights and responsibilities to the centre of the watercourse. As a riparian owner your responsibilities include a duty to maintain the bank and bed of your section of the watercourse or culverted section, to avoid it becoming blocked or overgrown.

CCTV at the recreation field/carpark/village hall entrance. Following on from further discussions with SES, The Parish Council and Village Hall Committee have made the decision to jointly invest in CCTV for the area surrounding the village hall. They will apply for a grant to partially fund it from SSDC.

Trees for Norton: SSDC are running a scheme offering free trees for planting in February. The Clerk has been in touch with the SSDC Environment Team and expressed our interest as a Parish Council. They have confirmed our interest and asked us to come up with a planned planting area. Planting a tree is a carbon sink drawing already emitted CO2 and storing it in growth, leaves and fruit. This concept is pretty well established in the general public's view, yet other benefits sometimes get ignored. The Urban Tree Book authored by Arthur Plotnik gives 7 other benefits you may not be as familiar with; 1. Trees make really effective sound barriers 2. They clean the air from pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. 3. They act like windbreaks which can be attributed to lowering heating bills by 30%. 4. They reduce soil erosion, through anchoring sediment and lowering the wind speed. 5. They slow down the impacts of heavy rainfall, protecting areas from flooding. 6. Trees increase property values. 7. They engage people in wildlife, with millions of people enjoying identifying species as a pastime. A date will be set late February-early March for planting. The plan is to plant some of the trees at the bottom of the recreation ground.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 10th February 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

THE SHERBORNE TOWN BAND Saturday 8th February in Martock Church, Church Street; MARTOCK TA12 6JL
Performance time: **7:30 pm** Admission fee: £10 or £9 from Martock News, Martock Gallery or 01935 829576 Contact number: 01935 829576 Website: <http://www.martockonline.co.uk/events>

BOOK CLUB will be on **Tuesday 25th February at the home of Pam Horrell, Cross House, Chiselborough TA14 6TR**. Books can be borrowed from the Library Van which arrives at **2.35pm**. Ring Janet Hutton on 881566 for further details.

STOKE GARDENING CLUB – The AGM will be held in **All Saints Hall** on **Wednesday 26th February** along with a talk entitled 'Trudy in Kenya' by Trudy Jupp. For further details about the club contact Sue Winwood 01935 823671

RAFT (refugeeaidfromtaunton.org.uk) half way through its fifth year of existence has sent c450 large van loads of donations to Cardiff to be shipped to refugee camps in the Middle East and Southern Europe. Thousands of African refugees receive clothing unsuitable for other places in need. One small charity it assists sends swimming costumes and football boots to African children. Most recently it has been extremely glad to add Yemen to its list, a country where citizens are suffering from a long war, labelled 'the worst humanitarian crisis' as it continues with little global publicity and very little aid for those seriously affected. In addition, people who have been homeless locally are offered material support by Raft to set up their new homes. Refugee families moving into the area, always arranged and aided by a voluntary group, are also offered this support by Raft. If anyone has other household goods they would like to donate to Raft the address and location can be found online. You will be welcomed.....Winter donations of clean washable clothing for men(no large sizes please), women, children and babies; suitable footwear; clean washable sheets, blankets and single duvets; pillowcases and duvet covers(useful for making children's clothes, for example); and sleeping bags and small tents, all sent to people struggling in refugee camps. Many thanks also to those generously knitting and sewing locally who provide hats, scarves and small toys to be packed with children's coats. Winter clothing is requested until March: from April please donate summer items.

A LEAP YEAR CONCERT Please come and enjoy a concert on **29th February at 7.30 pm** in **St Peter and Paul Church in South Petherton** featuring the accomplished local mixed choir, Sixteen Bells, and songs, humour and choreography from the versatile foursome Bella Acapella. Tickets £8/ under 16s free. Wine available for a donation. All in aid of Raft to buy medication, toiletries, baby products, new underwear and socks to send alongside the donations from South Somerset residents. Please look out for posters. Geraldine Downey RSG 271358

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE AGENT Small kindnesses make such a difference to peoples lives, whether it is lift sharing or somebody collecting your prescription when you are poorly. Sometimes we just need a quick fix to lighten the load and being a Good Neighbour to people in your community can help forge strong bonds and a feeling of community togetherness – we can help set up a Good Neighbours scheme if you haven't already got one in your area.

If you are house bound, perhaps you could contribute to a telephone befriending service such as Silver Line 0800 4708090 or Age UK 0800 678 1602. You could contact SPARK on volunteer@sparksomerset.org.uk 01460202970 to find more volunteering opportunities.

If you are the one needing a bit of extra support, you are always welcome to pop into one of our Talking Cafés. South Somerset's run at South Petherton Library, Fridays 10-12pm and Yeovil Hospital Canteen Wednesdays 2-4pm. This is an opportunity to connect with your community, chat to our Agents and meet other friendly faces for a cuppa (small contribution towards cuppa appreciated). Did you know our growing network of over 50 local experts support nearly 2,000 people in need each year? We support people to be: healthy & well able to manage their affairs, stay independent & safe be part of a strong & thriving community. Have a look at our new website <https://somersetagents.org> to explain more about what we do or phone me on the details below. We also have a team of Community Agents and Village Agents across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community. Please visit www.somersetccc.org.uk and www.somersetcarers.org or call me to find out who can advise you. Cath Holloway cath@somersetccc.org.uk 07968521746

NO NEW ONE OFF ADS

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 4 February Crafty Critters Reading Room 2.30pm
Thursday 6 February Hamstone Live Village Hall 7.30pm
Monday 10 February Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 11 February Movie Nites Lord Nelson 7.45pm
Wednesday 12 February School Plastics Discussion 7.30pm

Saturday 15 February Hall Scenery/Banner Day 10.00am
Tuesday 18 February Crafty Critters Reading Room 2.30pm
Tuesday 18 February Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm
Tuesday 25 February Mobile Van Higher Street 3.25pm
Wednesday 26 February Coffee Morning Pippins Higher Street 10.45am
Saturday 29 February Male Voice Choir Norton Church 7.30pm
Thursday, Friday, Saturday 5 – 7 March Pantomime Village Hall
Saturday 21 March Hamstone Live Village Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 4 April Parnham Voices Concert 7.30pm
Sunday 17 May Gardens Open 2.00pm
Sunday 21 June Gardens Open 2.00pm
Sunday 19 July Gardens Open 2.00pm
Saturday 3 October - Mendip Singers Concert 7.30pm
Saturday 28 November - Cantamus Concert 7.30pm