

NORTON NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020 ISSUE 498

The Norton Newsletter Committee wish all our readers Good Health and a Happy Easter

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

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

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

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

What a shocking week we have experienced and we are in a changed world now due to the Coronavirus. As you can imagine there are many cancellation notices in this newsletter, health advice and offers of help for those that are in need in this time of crisis. Please bear in mind that things are changing each day so some of the advice may no longer be accurate or helpful. A big thank you for all those in our wonderful community shop who are working tirelessly to keep it going, also the parish council and other groups in the village. Thank goodness for the Radio, TV and other internet resources! A plea to all our readers to take care, keep safe and look out for others who may be in need. As Joseph P. Kennedy said 'When the going gets tough the tough get going'. Keep smiling! Editor

The Newsletter committee will endeavour to produce a hard copy of the newsletter each month for everyone in the village, but in the event of this not being possible there are always copies of the newsletter posted on the parish council website (nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk) and if you know of anyone who does not have access to a computer please be kind enough to print out a copy for them. Thank you

UPDATE FROM THE HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE

The NHS website has the most up to date information for patients with the following advice at this point in time:

Tips for staying at home It's important to stay at home to stop corona virus spreading.

DO's Try to keep at least 2 metres (3 steps) from other people in your home, particularly older people or those with long-term health conditions. Ask friends and family and delivery services to deliver things like food shopping and medicines – but avoid contact with them. Sleep alone if possible. Regularly wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds Try to stay away from older people and those with long-term health conditions. To help with your symptoms drink plenty of water and take everyday painkillers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen which can be bought online or over the counter (check the latter medication, ibuprofen is ok for you), (please ask friends and family to help with this but avoid contact)

DON'T's Do not have visitors (ask people to leave deliveries outside) Do not leave the house, except perhaps to go for a walk but obviously keeping at least 2 metres away from anyone else. All appointments at the surgery are via telephone and the clinician may ask patients to attend once they have had a phone call. Please do not come to the surgery unless you have been asked to attend. Order prescriptions online or via email somccg.shsmmt@nhs.net
Luena Eeles Operations Manager, Hamdon Medical Centre Telephone: 01935 822236 Email:l.eeles@nhs.net
Website: www.hamdonmc.nhs.uk www.symphonyhealthcareservices.com Twitter: @SHSpractices

IMPORTANT INFORMATION*

CORONAVIRUS – SELF ISOLATING AND NEED HELP? The Parish Council of Norton Sub Hamdon, in conjunction with the church, are offering community support for anyone who is having to self-isolate or are vulnerable, as the Covid-19 now reaches a pandemic stage. If you require help with food or medication deliveries or anything else, then please let us know by contacting one of the phone numbers or email addresses below. **Parish Council contact: PRUE**

BIDDLE – TELEPHONE 01935 881350 / 07946 592585 nortonpcbiddle@outlook.com Church contact: Martyn Hamlin on 01935 881437 / 07966 364 831 or martynhamlin@hotmail.com OFFERING HELP TO THE COMMUNITY – DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS VULNERABLE? A form has been produced that you can fill out with your details, offering different levels of support. You can then post the form through the door of a vulnerable person or person you may know who is self-isolating. Forms can either be downloaded from the Parish Council website for you to print off at home <https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/useful-contacts-information/>, or I have printed some off that are available at the Post Office counter.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: If you feel you would be able to help with deliveries etc, please let one of the above contacts know.

NORTON SHOP is also offering to take shopping orders over the phone for anyone who cannot leave their house and needs help. You can either pay over the phone or leave the payment when your order is delivered to your doorstep.

NORTON SHOP TELEPHONE NUMBER IS: 881200

Written by: Louise Brooks – Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council

NORTON SHOP Norton Shop and Post office **WILL REMAIN OPEN. But PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU.**

Please, whenever possible use debit or credit cards (preferably contactless) to save our volunteers handling more cash than necessary and please do not visit us if you feel unwell. We have a delivery service – please speak to Claire or Cheryl to arrange it (shop telephone 881200) and can deliver in Chiselborough, the Chinnocks and surrounding areas as well as Norton. We are incredibly indebted to all our wonderful volunteers – but though many are sticking with us through this crisis, we have several who fall into ‘at risk’ categories and they are, with our blessing, temporarily stepping down. So IF YOU CAN SPARE A FEW HOURS and are not at risk, please consider joining our team – perhaps you are an undergraduate, home for a while, or anyone with extra time on their hands at the moment. And please watch out for your elderly or vulnerable neighbours – if you know anyone who needs help with using the Post Office or the Shop, please tell them we can deliver – or perhaps you could do their shopping for them. We are very well stocked with all essentials and, at the time of writing, we are still getting fresh supplies daily. Most importantly, we are HERE – you don’t need to risk travelling – we are friendly, helpful and here to support our community at all times.

READING ROOM CAFÉ I’m writing this just as the news has come through of cafes having to close throughout the UK. I have decided to offer the village a Take Away Service 5 days a week. The Reading Room Cafe door will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 11.45am and 2.45 pm . You can pre - order by calling the landline - 01935 881505 or message via my Facebook page or just turn up and order – come and see what goodies I have to offer. I will have a table in the doorway so no-one can enter the cafe but my door will always be open if you’re passing by. Please pop your head around and say hello. My ‘Take Away Menus’ will be on my boards outside on a daily basis. I will also be offering a Delivery Service, so if you need me to deliver to your door, I will be very happy to help you. Don’t forget I have now added Tuesdays to my usual opening days. Thank you so much to all of my truly wonderful customers and friends who have continued to support me. Whilst you still want my food I shall keep on cooking! Amanda

THE LORD NELSON will be offering a Take Away service – to order or find out more details email mark@thelordnelson.co.uk or phone 01935 881473 for collection or delivery. Helen and Mark thank everyone for their continued support – they are there to help if customers need anything.

CORONAVIRUS In common with other churches, Norton Church will not be holding any Services during the current pandemic but will be open during daytime as a place of solace and for private prayer. Should you wish to talk with a representative of the church, the Benefice Clergy, Licensed Readers and Churchwardens – contact details on the church porch, in magazine and on website – are all available. Additionally Norton has two Pastoral Assistants – Mary Brown (881474 marybrownhighwoods@icloud.com), Martyn Hamlin (881437 martynhamlin@hotmail.com) and a Retired Priest – The Reverend Richard Terrell (881330 revrichardterrell@gamil.com)

KEEPING IN CONTACT The Norton Festival website is being regularly updated to provide comfort and inspiration to all who are affected by the current coronavirus pandemic. Simply visit www.nortonfestival.org where there are two pages of specific interest. Under ‘Recent Posts’ click on ‘Coronavirus’ to find information, prayer and advice and click on ‘Sunday Reflection’ which will be updated weekly. Rev Richard Terrell

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP With the news that schools are closing and with two of our regular assistants in self-isolation we have had to close our Youth Clubs in both Stoke and Norton from 18th March for the foreseeable future. We are very sorry not to be able to support our young people at this time and hope to be back as soon as we are given the all clear. We will miss you all. All our good wishes go to our young people and their families. Stay well. Check our Facebook page for latest info: <https://www.facebook.com/hamdonsyouthgroup> For more information please contact Lou Chant on 07402987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.

CRAFTY CRITTERS: In light of the Coronavirus outbreak I’ve decided to cancel our Crafty Critters get together for the time being. I’m sure we will all miss our afternoon chats and coffee (and work of course!), but the main thing at the moment is to keep safe! As soon as it is thought to be safe to meet up I’ll let you know – in the meantime if you fancy a natter, just give me a call! On a personal note, I’d like to thank all the people who are helping out to make sure everyone in the Village is safe and getting everything they need. Special mention to, the Lord Nelson, Amanda’s Cafe and the Shop for organising takeaways and keeping the Village well stocked, but I know there are many unsung heroes doing their bit. Thanks to you all! Tricia Walton 882646

CHURCH FLAG The George Cross flag will fly from the church tower from Saturday 11th April to Thursday 20th April for Easter week and St George’s day.

COFFEE MORNINGS In view of concerns about the Coronavirus pandemic, the Coffee Mornings to raise money for the Parish Church have been suspended and will restart in September.

CONCERT CANCELLED The forthcoming Concert on 4th April in Norton Church by the Parnham Voices has been cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. We apologise for the disappointment and any inconvenience that may be

caused but hope everyone will understand our decision was made in the light of the advice given during the current pandemic. The 2020 Norton Festival plans to continue with **Gardens Open (on Sundays May 17th; June 21st and July 19th)** and Concerts by The Mendip Singers (**October 3rd**) and Cantamus (**November 28th**). Richard Terrell (Festival Coordinator

PLANT SALE. It is with great regret we announce the cancellation of this year's Plant Sale planned for 2nd May. However, you will still be able to purchase the wonderful plants our growers are already bringing on for you, via an order form system. The order form will detail what plants we have available and their prices. The forms will be distributed with the May newsletter and will also be available in the Norton Shop. We will produce an online form to download for our Facebook followers. Payment can be made direct to the Flower Show bank account, by cheque or PayPal. Full details will be on the order form. We will fulfill the orders on a 'first come, first served' basis as stock allows and deliver locally free of charge. More details in next month's newsletter. Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show Committee.

THE READING ROOM COMMITTEE have decided to postpone our Somerset Ploughman's' Supper due to take place on 15th May. We are obviously disappointed, but feel at the moment peoples' safety must come first. We hope to hold it instead in early October. Watch this space for updates! Hopefully this will be something for the whole Village to enjoy after what looks like being a difficult summer. In the meantime, keep safe and take care. Tricia Walton, Secretary.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH – SUMMER TALK AND PUB DRAWS As you will all be aware the advice being provided to combat COVID-19 has matured rapidly. Taking account of the latest guidance available, the Friends of Norton Church Committee has decided to postpone the illustrated talk on Concorde that was announced last month and planned to take place on 19th June. In addition the normal monthly Pub Draws run by the FNC have been suspended. These decisions have not been easy but I am sure all will understand the underlying reasons and need for such actions. The Committee will be monitoring the advice and guidance being provided nationally with an aim to reprogramming the talk later in the year and recommence the pub draws. In the meantime the Committee will be continuing to run the separate monthly subscription Wine Club Draw, announcing the winners in the Newsletter, contacting the lucky winners by phone to arrange delivery of wine prizes as usual (no physical contact required). If you would like to join the Wine Club and be entered for the next monthly draw then please do contact Jonathan Binns (01935 881063) who will e-mail or post the joining form and provide any further details required. All proceeds from the draw are used to preserve, protect and restore the fabric and fixtures of the Norton Church.

WINE CLUB DRAW WINNERS FOR MARCH Rowena Aley, John Forrest (2,) Jim Pond, Richard More, Penny Cudmore, Mary Batstone, Alec Seccombe and Mary Morgan

CAMELOT The minute you entered the Village Hall you were transported back to the Arthurian world of Camelot. The colourful banners so expertly designed immediately set the scene in this brilliant Lindsay Higgins production with the script cleverly adapted by Bill Caswell. Pam Rastall's Queen of the Night was acknowledged by the traditional boos regularly afforded to her - she was a fine sorceress. Anne Forrest played an attentive Mum to Trevor Harris's petulant and "vicious" Valerian. Laughalot Julian kept us all amused with a very skilful performance as did King Uther Lewis who was brilliantly regal. Steve Cousins playing his debut role was very funny -, doubtless he will be nominated as a Dame in the next Honours list!. Kayleigh Storey and Natasha Harris as the principal boy and girl gave the panto a real professional touch. Lindsay Elliott playing Guinevere's maid and confidante was perfect casting. Holly Millward was a clever but failing Wizard, Paul Woodcock played a fierce Marlon very well. Alice Reptile-Hutchings & Bishop Jennie Harris (who was also the ghostly cuckoo in the clock) gave the audience many laughs. The production was enhanced by the musical numbers expertly arranged by Cilla Caswell. The duets between Natasha and her grandfather Trevor were beautifully sung as were those between Pam Rastall and Tilly Orchard. The chorus numbers were so refreshing, good to see them all singing and staying in character and Lily Aldridge-Gold's choreography was a great contribution to the show. The children who played Courtiers and Knights were excellent - they will be playing bigger roles in future productions, well done Ava, Georgiana, Jacob, Grace & Lily, and Molly - your enthusiasm was really appreciated. Lindsay's production was memorable, her vision of Merlin's Laboratory and the Haunted Hotel were brilliant. David Barnard's stage and props were superb, the lighting and sound effects were realistic, the use of pyrotechnics really paid off. Congratulations go to all those behind the scenes, you helped make it a very slick production. Finally, special mention has to be made about the costumes - they were so realistic, worthy of the West End! Hours of thought, design and sewing must have gone into their making - compliments to Steph and Heather. A close eye to detail was paid in the make up department, it was excellent. Those who were fortunate to see Camelot, will remember it as a brilliant production, appreciative of the weeks of rehearsals the cast put in giving us an evening to remember - we look forward to 2022 Peter Callaghan

CAMELOT CASHES IN! This year's Norton pantomime raised funds for our Village Hall, to help keep this community asset in top condition. I'm delighted to let readers know that we made over £2000 this year and it has been paid into the hall account. We've ring-fenced a portion of the funds to use as a start-up funding for the next pantomime. Audience feedback has been very positive indeed. Thank you! In return we have our own 3-word review of each night's audience. Thursday: warm, sing-a-long and supportive (just what we needed on opening night). Friday: enthusiastic, sharp and fun. Saturday: packed, smart-tongued and noisy (very). You all played your part to the full. Please come back in 2022. There were just as many behind the scenes as in front and I'd like to give the last thanks to all those whose names weren't on the programme - the tickets sellers, the mums keeping an eye on the chorus, those who manned the

bar, the front desk, helped us paint the scenery and more... Everyone has had a hand in the success of Camelot. We couldn't do it without you. Be bold! Be brave! ... Lindsay Higgins (Director)

MERRY MOWERS On Saturday 7th March, the call for help went out to The Merry Mowers of Norton to assist in the waking up of St Mary's Churchyard. 16 were able to support us and within 2 hours, the huge wooden bins at the end of the Churchyard were emptied of 2 years dead foliage, the Gavins Gate path was rediscovered, hedges were trimmed and grave stones were strimmed around. It was fantastic to have so much support, thanks go to everyone who was able to spare a couple of hours, particular thanks go to Matt Orchard for overseeing us and to Bob Taylor who allowed us to use his field for our magnificent bonfire. Our regular weekly grass cutting commences in March, soon the village will have a Churchyard to be proud of once again. Finally, the Merry Mowers would appreciate if dogs are NOT allowed off a lead if you happen to use the Churchyard as a shortcut - it's FOUL for mowers to hit the unexpected!! Chris Westwood & Peter Callaghan

LADIES GROUP Our AGM was postponed -, in fact all meetings and outings have been put on hold until the current situation improves and we can try and get back to normal. We hope that our first get together will be the Garden Party in July. So watch this space for updates later in the year. Meanwhile keep safe, we shall probably see you in the village whilst out walking. I'm sure I speak on behalf of the committee, when I say if you need any help please don't hesitate to call and we shall help if at all possible. Sue 881805

NEW ARRIVALS We welcome Peter and Paula Keeble who have moved in to Broadmead Lane recently. We hope they will be very happy in our friendly community.

THANK YOU I have been deeply moved by the many messages, cards and visits from villagers, following my recent neck-spine surgery. It was an alarming time but their support helped my flagging courage and Amanda's wonderful soups have kept me alive whilst being unable to swallow anything more! Thank you so much. During this awful health crisis I pray you stay safe and well. Philippa Rayner

NEW LOCAL SCAM Be aware that if you get a call about free loft insulation as there is a surveyor in the area - it is a scam.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR MARCH 2020

A Message from the Chairman: In recent months the Parish Council has been subjected to behaviour from some residents that is not acceptable. The Parish Councillors are all unpaid volunteers that are elected to represent the village, and to make decisions that they feel are best for the majority of the residents. Verbal abuse, intimidation and harassment are not acceptable behaviour at any time. During Parish Council meetings, residents may raise issues in public time. However, raised voices and talking over the Chairman will not be tolerated. Many thanks.

Charles Campbell: We are very sorry to have received a letter of resignation from Charles Campbell. Charles has been an active member of the Parish Council for over 30 years. He has made a very valuable and insightful contribution to our work. The community has benefitted greatly from his input and he will be sorely missed. On behalf of everyone in Norton, current and past members of the Parish Council and all those you have worked with him over the years, we thank you for your time, humour and dedication to our village.

Planning: Planning application no: 20/00393/FUL

Location: Netherhays House and Netherhays Cottage, Higher Street, Norton sub Hamdon

Proposal: Various alterations to include demolition of Netherhays Cottage, erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extension to Netherhays house, erection of a detached garage and carport and alterations to existing access and boundary treatment.

The final verdict was a 4-3 majority - in favour.

However, the following points were raised. There is a lot of concern in the village to the demolition of a ham stone cottage. Norton sub Hamdon is predominantly a ham stone village. In an era where there is a lack of housing in this country and the government guidance is directing us to build more houses, it was questioned by some as to why a cottage would be allowed to be demolished and replaced with a large garage. 3 Parish Councillors felt it was part of Norton's history and heritage and should be kept and renovated. There were no objections to the proposed extension to Netherhays House itself.

Annual Village Litter Pick 2020: This event was unfortunately cancelled following Government advice due to Coronavirus.

Dog Bin on New Road: The dog bin on New Road was discussed once again. The Parish Council agreed to the bin staying in the same location but being rotated by 90°. District Councillor Hewitson will get this altered. The complainant agreed this would now be the end of the matter.

Trees for Recreation Field The planting of approximately 40-50 trees has now taken place at the bottom of the recreation field. This is an environmental measure that will also help with surface water, supported by the SSDC.

Following government advice Norton sub Hamdon parish council have suspended all parish council meetings until further notice. Please contact the parish clerk via email if you have any parish queries – many thanks. email address: nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

VILLAGE AGENT Cath Holloway - contact number 07968521746 or website www.somersetagents.org/find-an-agent/ cath@somersetccc.org.uk

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

Sunday 17 May Gardens Open 2.00pm
Sunday 21 June Gardens Open 2.00pm
Sunday 19 July Gardens Open 2.00pm
Saturday 15 August Flower Show Village Hall and Rec 2.00pm
Saturday 3 October - Mendip Singers Concert 7.30pm
Saturday 28 November - Cantamus Concert 7.30pm