

NORTON NEWSLETTER MAY 2020 ISSUE 499

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>

Dear Readers,

Well, by the time you read this we will have been in lockdown for over five weeks so I hope all you are coping well with the situation that we find ourselves in, keeping busy and staying safe and sane! We are so lucky to live in this supportive community with the help organized by the Parish Council and Church, Take away meals from the Lord Nelson pub and Amanda's Reading Room café and of course the wonderful Community Shop keeping us well stocked with food - thank you Claire, and organizing those vital deliveries, thank you Liz. Thanks also to Cheryl and the trusty band of volunteers who replenish the stock and keep the customers happy, and to those who make the deliveries. And don't forget we are so fortunate still to have our Post Office and their excellent staff. The Flower Show committee have even sorted out how we can buy plants for the garden!

Apparently during the plague in 1603 Shakespeare had to self isolate and took the opportunity to write King Lear and Macbeth? Perhaps some masterpieces will come out of this crisis but I will be content for starters to finally sort out the family history and photographs properly, which I know will take a long time, before we get back to a more normal life!! Anyway we will continue to produce the newsletter which can be accessed from the parish council website but a PDF copy can be sent on email if you contact me on Nortonnews@hotmail.com so please spread the word. Take care everyone and stay safe. Editor

NORTON SHOP AND POST OFFICE We are very proud that Norton Shop and Post Office are remaining open throughout this crisis period. We are grateful to our customers for observing our safety rules – and thankful for the sunshine which has made the waiting outside easier!

Thanks to our wonderful manager, Claire, we are maintaining very good stock levels, although, inevitably, there are a few things it has been impossible or very difficult to find.

Our new delivery service is taking groceries to people who are isolating in Norton, Chiselborough, the Chinnocks and further afield and we have a great team of volunteer drivers to whom we are indebted. However, the extra work load that this imposes means that, in addition to the new Saturday afternoon closure, we will now be closing at 1.00 p.m. on Wednesdays – but only for the duration of this virus crisis situation – so that we can deal with deliveries. We apologise for the inconvenience this will cause. The Post Office will be open as usual until 4.30 each Wednesday. If you are self-isolating, you can phone the shop (881200) to arrange for delivery.

One of the upsides of this situation has been the wonderful support from people, especially young people, who have joined our volunteer team. It has been a joy to work with them. We are incredibly grateful to all our volunteers – they are all going the extra mile and working so hard to help us stay open.

Both the Shop and the Post Office have seen a considerable increase in footfall and we have welcomed many new customers. We hope that you will remain loyal to us once this is all behind us – just as we have been here to support and help you, we hope you, in turn, will continue to support your Community Shop and Post Office, and to remember that we 'do what it says on our tin' – we are a Community Benefit Society – we are here to benefit this community, not just in times of trouble but always.

CONTACTS FOR TAKEAWAYS: **Lord Nelson** - email mark@thelordnelson.co.uk or phone 01935 881473 for collection or delivery. **Reading Room Café** 01935 881505 or via Amanda's Facebook page.

HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE. I have been asked by the Practice Manager at the surgery if the following 2 important items could be included in the next issue of the newsletter. Firstly she writes "I am sure many villagers would like to know our Practice Nurse Trudy Jupp is retiring after 20 years of loyal service at Hamdon Medical Centre". Secondly, please note an important change regarding the email address for repeat prescriptions **has changed** - it is now somccg.hamdonprescriptions@nhs.net Peter Callaghan. Chairman of the Hamdon Patients Participation Group.

NORTON CORONA VIRUS HELP Our group of local volunteers offers help to anyone self-isolating or shielding to get necessary food, medications etc and can also be available to chat if the loneliness gets too much. We also offer support to Norton Shop whose efforts at providing delivered orders of groceries at this time of crisis is so essential. Our group was a joint initiative of Norton Parish Council and the Church and is registered with SPARK Somerset, the county organisation whose support and guidance is invaluable. Our contacts in Norton are Prue Biddle on 881350 / 07946 592585 and pruebiddle@aol.com and Martyn Hamlin on 881437 / 07966 364831 and martynhamlin@hotmail.com. Please note we do not phone or email or otherwise contact people who are or may be

self-isolating. Sadly there are scammers aiming to take advantage of people in this worrying and unfamiliar situation. Contact our group for local help from your community if you need it.

FLOWER SHOW PLANTS FOR SALE Sadly we are unable to hold our usual May Plant Sale, but we still have hundreds of beautiful vegetable and flower plants available for you to buy from early May. You will be able to purchase in the following ways:

Online ordering. We will be publishing a list of plants for sale together with their prices. You will be able to email through an order for collection from Norton Sub Hamdon. Once your order is processed you will be contacted with details of how and when to collect your plants. **Payment will be via PayPal or BACS.** Keep a lookout for updates and on the Norton & Chiselborough facebook page.

Paper order form: We will be circulating a pdf order form around as many email addresses in Norton and Chiselborough as we can, and will also leave some in Norton Shop. You can print this off and deliver it (with your payment: **cash or by cheque**) to Bridge House, Little Street, Norton. Once the order is received you will be contacted with details of when to collect your plants.

Unmanned tables in Norton: We will also set up a few tables around Norton so that you may purchase plants during your daily exercise. There will be an Honesty box for cash payments at each location which will be emptied regularly. Tables will be restocked at regular intervals until all the plants are sold. At the current time we have plans for one table on New Road, one in Higher Street and one by the Old School House by the Church. **Please adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times and ensure you keep a minimum distance of 2 metres from anyone purchasing. Only one person at the table at a time. Please wear gloves and bring your own carrier bag or box.**

PLANTS FOR SALE FROM TONY PERRY Netherleigh, Cat Street, Chiselborough. Plants available from 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th May. Plants will be on tables in Tony's drive. An Honesty box is on the wall adjacent to the garage door. Pay by cash, cheque or BACS – for details and to place an order ring Tony on 07808778642. Selection of Annuals and Perennials. Geraniums: standard and hanging £2 each or 6 for £10, Argyranthemums £1.50 each, Osteospermums, £1.50 each, Fuchsias £1.50 each, Ajuga, £1.50 each, Bedding Plants: Begonias Tray 15 for £5, Petunias Punnet of 6 for £2, Pansies Frills Punnet of 12 for £2, Large Begonias £1.50 each, Tomato Plants Shirley, £1 each and Cucumbers Saturn F1 £2 each

NORTON LADIES GROUP Week 4 of lock , as at time of writing, and hope you are all surviving being at home. I expect gardens and houses are in fine order. I'll take this opportunity to say I hope you are all fit and well. I am looking forward to getting together with you all as soon as we can. We'll have a garden party sometime in the future hopefully in July, but am not counting my chickens. In the meantime, stay safe and well. Sue Lowder

YOUR CHURCH CONTACT Visit www.nortonfestival.org . Under 'Recent Contacts' click 'Coronavirus' for information and prayer; click 'SUNDAY REFLECTION' for a weekly reflection on the Sunday gospel reading with other activity and information.

CHURCH FLAG The union flag will fly from the church tower on Friday 8th May for VE Day and the George Cross Flag will be flown on Thursday 21st May for Ascension Day and Sunday 31st May for Whitsunday. Many thanks to Peter Callaghan and the Flag Team for keeping the flag flying.

CANCELLATIONS AND KEEPS The Series of Open Gardens that were to have taken place in May, June and July, have been cancelled in view of the on-going coronavirus concerns. It is hoped that this Norton Festival Event will be re-arranged for 2021. There are two remaining Concerts in the 2020 Norton Festival – The Mendip Singers on 3rd October and Cantamus on 28th November.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM JENNIE

It is a hard time for everyone at the moment. I hope you are all keeping safe and well. I just felt that I wanted to say a few words. I am so grateful to be living in this amazing village, with such lovely people. Most days, I go out and take my walk, sometimes to deliver things to my friend, but mostly to stroll around this lovely village. I often end my walks by taking a few minutes to sit on the bench in the Churchyard, enjoying the peace and quiet, and thinking about, and remembering old friends. While sitting there, I look around and see how well the Churchyard is kept. There is a team of Volunteers, who call themselves the 'Merry Mowers,' who give up their time to come and make sure the Churchyard is always looking its best. I am sure some of the group must be unable to help at the moment, due to the current situation, so I imagine everyone else must be doing extra stints, to cover for them. I, on behalf of myself, and I am sure the village would like to give a big thank you to the Team. You are amazing. It is a pleasure to sit and admire your work. Also to see the Flag flying on the Church is inspiring too. While on the subject I would like to mention our wonderful Community Shop and Post Office - working so hard to stay open, and to be there for everyone, and even running a delivery service. Many thanks to everyone involved. Our Village Hall is closed at the moment, as you all know. We have so many cancellations, and re-arranged dates. We are so sorry when Weddings, Special parties, and Fund Raising events have to be called off. But we are looking forward to re-opening when we are allowed to and being of service to the Community again. Thanks to everyone organising the Norton Corona Virus Help Scheme, which is there for everyone. Thanks also to Mark and Helen at the Lord Nelson, and Amanda at the Reading Room Café for their meal delivery and take away services.

Also to Lynn Orchard, and the girls at the Village Salon who I am sure will be busy when they re-open, (and I for one will be glad to see you all again.) Keep well and keep safe everyone. Look after yourselves, and our lovely village.
Jennie Harris.

WENDY BENTLEY. We would like to thank everyone for their kind words and cards after our mum Wendy Bentley passed away on 31st March. She lived in our lovely village most of her life, moving here when she was a young girl. She was known by many of you and will be sadly missed. Gill, Sarah and all the family.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK. 10-16th May. For obvious reasons I am not organising any special events or collections this year. However if you want to support the work of Christian Aid can I encourage you to do so via their website if possible. I may have some envelopes (unsure at time of writing) so contact me if necessary. Bill Caswell 881782.

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP Sadly our youth worker is now on furlough and cannot work until further notice. However the HYG Facebook page will be watched by committee members and will be updated when our Youth worker, Lou, is working again.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB Subscription Draw Winners for April 2020. Jeremy Reid, Jenny Harris, Sara Vann, John Forrest, Mary Edmund, Jennie Byham (2), James Pond, and Richard More. Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus, we will not be running the normal pub draws until further notice.

UPDATE FROM NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL April 2020

Although there are currently no Parish Council meetings, I would like to reassure you that we are still all working together electronically and by phone. Councillors' details can be found on our website: <http://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk>. Items like the end of year audit, paying for services and planning are just a few things that still need attention. During these challenging times, the Norton Community spirit has once again shone through. The amount of people who have stepped forward to offer help, makes me really appreciate living in this beautiful village even more. The Parish Council, alongside the church, have formed a support group to help any individual who requires assistance with collecting goods or prescriptions, or maybe who just needs a phone call to hear a friendly voice at the other end. The telephone number to ring is 881350.

The Community and Post Office have been the lifeline to many, and the shop under the fabulous management of Claire and her incredibly resilient team of volunteers, are still able to offer support and care to so many residents, especially with the organisation of their delivery service. A special mention must also go to Liz Maunder, who has worked tirelessly throughout with organising the deliveries. Telephone number for the shop is: 881200 Both The Lord Nelson and Amanda's Café are doing an incredible job by offering a takeaway service to all.

If you have access to Facebook, I have set up a Facebook page for Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council. This is updated daily with all sorts of local information, plus updates from SSDC, Somerset County Council and the Government. Please take a look and like the page. You will then be notified of any new posts. The link to the Facebook page is: <http://www.facebook.com/nortonsubhamdonparishcouncil>

Planning Updates:

Report on applications previously considered

20/00270/HOU - Hopes Little Street Norton Sub Hamdon. Removal of existing 2 roof lights and installation of 2 dormer windows. **Approved by Planning Department at SSDC**

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 – **this has now been forwarded to Area North Committee – whenever their next meeting will be.**

Applications for consideration 20/00538/HOU & 20/00539/LBC – Vine Cottage, Higher St. Internal alterations to include installation of a new bathroom, replacement of fireplace, windows, kitchen door and flat roof and remodelling of ground floor WC and utility room. **Parish Council had no objection to this application.**

The Parish Council have also received notification from the Planning Department that they do not intend to send any hard copies of plans out to the Clerk on any further planning applications. All planning applications will now be responded to online. **However, I have requested that for any proposed large extension, outline planning application or development that is received at SSDC, hard copies will still be sent to the Clerk for public viewing. This is due to the difficulty in viewing plans online. I am still waiting for a response to this request!** Please stay safe everyone. We will get through this together. Best wishes Louise Brooks – Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council – Clerk

A NOTE FROM KEELEY RUDD, CEO OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET (VILLAGE AGENTS)

First and foremost I hope you are well, keeping safe and managing to access the support and essential supplies you need in these difficult times.

CCS Village, Community and Carers Agents have been providing support for individuals and communities in Somerset since 2012. Agents help by providing practical, community based solutions to meet people's basic needs and beyond.

This is a unique service across the county and CCS works extremely closely with both the health services and social care to broker a range of support in a person-centred way to enable someone to be nurtured in their own local community wherever possible. Village, Community and Carers Agents are **designated key-workers** during the COVID-19 pandemic and have individual letters of authority from the County Council to verify this.

If you need Agent support please use the Agent Call Back form on our website www.ccslovesomerset.org The current crisis has shown the compassion, kindness and community spirit of people in Somerset. CCS Agents can help you to get in touch with your local support group.

In addition, we have experienced and knowledgeable staff who can support you if you are part of a Parish or Town Council, a Village Hall Committee, social or community enterprise or community group or charity. Advice is available on our website or you can call the main CCS number on **01823 331222** for help.

If you are a carer and look after a family member or dependent in an unpaid capacity you may need additional support so please call our Freephone number on **0800 31 68 600** or visit the website <https://somersetcarers.org> where we offer a web chat facility. If you are concerned about a neighbour or someone you know in your local area who is a carer and they do not have access to the internet then please give them the advice line number.

I hope you will join me in thanking the dedicated and professional staff at CCS and in recognising and thanking CCS Agents as frontline key-workers who are helping to ensure that essential supplies and support get through to the people who need it most. Include them in your "Clap for Carers" each week to show your support.

WHO TO CONTACT THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN FOR SUPPORT:

- Contact CCS via the usual website and our COVID-19 response form www.ccslovesomerset.org. An Agent will contact you with relevant information about local volunteers, as well as shops and restaurants that are able to deliver to you in your area. Agents can also provide any other support regarding benefits and housing.
- Contact Somerset Direct if you have safeguarding concerns or care plan issues **0300 123 2224**
- Somerset County Council has created a dedicated COVID-19 helpline: **0300 790 6275**
- Contact your local Parish Council for doorstep support.
- Contact your GP, NHS 111, and pharmacy or wellbeing advisors if you have any medical concerns.

INFORMATION FROM THE VILLAGE AGENT ABOUT SCAMS Check that the message makes sense. This applies not only to the grammar and spelling, but also to the message as a whole - does what you are being asked to do sound right? Would that person typically ask you to do this action in this way? Always confirm that a message is genuine by calling the person or organisation involved. Avoid using any numbers featured in correspondence, look these up separately. Never click on links and attachments, unless you are 100% sure that they have been verified. There is almost always another way to check (e.g. by using your web browser).

Stop and think before engaging with any correspondence. This applies not only to emails but to calls/texts/social media messages. Criminals look to apply pressure in some way to force people into making mistakes, so take a step back, don't be rushed, and get a clear perspective. Only use official sources (e.g. Government website) for information around Coronavirus. Watch out for fake login pages/URL spoofing. When visiting a page/logging in, check the URL in the address bar to ensure that you're on the correct page, and everything operates as it should do. For added peace of mind, you can bookmark important sites and only visit those sites via that bookmark. More information The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) released a great article summarising the above situation, you can find it on their website at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/cyber-experts-step-criminals-exploit-coronavirus>. **Reporting** If you have been a victim of a cyber crime, please report it to Action Fraud, which is the UK's national cyber crime reporting portal. You can report through phone (0300 123 2040) or on their website at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> Reporting helps build intelligence for law enforcement, which can aid investigations as well as informational campaigns to prevent others from becoming victims. Action Fraud operate a 24/7 live cyber reporting line for organisations! Further details at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/campaign/24-7-live-cyber-reporting-for-businesses>.

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

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

