

NORTON NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020 ISSUE 500

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

You may notice a slightly shorter newsletter this month as there are obviously no events to look forward to, but there are quite a few useful articles to help us get through this difficult time. Hopefully as the lockdown is gradually lifted we will return to a more normal way of life. In the meantime keep safe and well. Editor

HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE NEWS.

The Patients Participation Group of the Hamdon Medical Centre are pleased to report **ASK MY GP** has now been rolled out to our surgery. We have had several meetings over the past months with surgeries who have introduced the service and the results are more than encouraging. It's simple and effective - are the words often used. We invite patients who haven't visited the surgery web site recently to log on and register for the service. In simple terms - this is how it works:

AskmyGP is really easy to use and it means you can contact the surgery 24/7.

- You will need to register by clicking on the blue box on the website.
- Select 'consult your GP' and sign up as a new user if you have not registered previously.
- Hamdon Medical Centre use ASK MY GP to manage all patient requests.
- See <http://askmygp.uk>
- The GPs assess each request and then decide on the most appropriate way to resolve the issue.
- This could be by telephone, face to face or via online messaging.
- Although the surgery will encourage patients to submit their requests online, please feel assured you can still submit a request by phone or in person when you attend the surgery.
- The surgery is confident ASK MY GP will provide everyone with better access to the surgery and ensure quality care is provided to all.
- It's available 24/7 - the surgery responds during working hours.
- Due to the high level of demand we will endeavour to respond to requests as quickly as possible hopefully within 48 hours (2 working days). If the request is deemed as urgent it will be dealt with that day.
- All registered patients are welcome, and as a parent or carer you can use ASK MY GP on behalf of a patient
- Patients can request a particular named clinician if you wish (as long as they are working that day)
- Patients may prefer a telephone or email response.
- Patients can login by clicking on the link above now, without any paperwork

Jan Langley. Secretary. Hamdon Patients Participation Group

Two reviews from the surgery in Somerton:

From the Senior GP of Buttercross Surgery in Somerton There is no delay in offering appointments for those seeking and requiring them. All issues - including visit requests - are screened by an experienced clinician soon after they are received. The most appropriate way of addressing the issue is selected from the options of text/email message, telephone, video call or face to face. The ability to receive photographs and documents and to send documents back by e-mail has been a real asset and much appreciated by patients. It is evident that, increasingly, as clinicians have gained experience in using the system, best use is being made of available clinician time by sorting problems at the outset with the "right person first time". Good and effective use has been made of support from clinicians working remotely.

From the Practice Manager & Lead Receptionist of Buttercross. The reception team at Buttercross are amazed (and delighted/relieved) at how well this new system is working and how swiftly adjustments have been made (by both staff and patients). In these very difficult times it has become a really vital part of daily life for patients and clinicians alike. It is quick, efficient and above all the ease of the new system has made patients feel in control of their requests with all being completed within the target 48hr time scale. Registrations on 'AskMyGP' are now over 3,200 which is very gratifying. We have actively been involved with the training at other SHS sites and we trust that the system will work as well at those practices and prove to be as beneficial to their staff and patients as has been our experience. Reception staff have commented that they feel less stressed and are generally a lot happier. Significantly, the overriding view is that they would not wish to return to the old way of working.

NORTON CORONA VIRUS HELP is continuing to offer help those isolated needing collection of medications, food or just a friendly ear if you are feeling in need of a chat. Contact Martyn Hamlin on 881437 / 07966 364831 or Prue Biddle on 881350 / 07946 592585

CONTACT NUMBERS FOR TAKEAWAYS and COMMUNITY SHOP: 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. **Community Shop** phone number 01935 881200

CHURCH FLAG The George Cross Flag will fly from the Church Tower on **Sunday 7th June** for Trinity Sunday and the Union Flag will fly on **Saturday 13th June** for HM The Queen's Official Birthday.

SALE OF WORK BY MOISH SOKAL As Moish cannot hold his annual exhibition this year he is holding a major and unique online sale of his work, dating from over the 30 years he has been travelling and painting, at very much reduced prices. Visit www.moishsokal.co.uk to travel the world in safety and find beautiful original paintings, prints and cards for yourself or as gifts at prices way below those at his exhibitions. This opportunity has only come about because he has had the time to go through his whole body of work during lockdown so it will not be repeated. Don't miss it!

PLANT SALE REPORT The Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show Committee are delighted to announce that proceeds from the sale of plants this year raised a whopping £1,347. A huge thank you to everyone on the Committee, but a particular mention must go to Andy Jacobs who set up and managed the on-line order system which proved a great success. Special mentions also to Nick and Anne Fairweather for growing on many of the plants and for their help processing the on-line orders, to Chrissie Way and her family for managing all the paper-based orders, to David Batstone for organising the collection and delivery of all the plants, and last but not least to Manfred Roper and Brian Shrubsole for growing such an amazing number of plants for us to sell. Thank you too to everyone who bought plants, and to all of you who continue to support the Flower Show as patrons. Sadly, there will be no Flower Show this year, but we look forward to putting on an even bigger and better show for you in 2021. Mary Batstone & Sarah Murray

Thank you also to Mary and Sarah and the committee for organizing this – it was so wonderful to be able to buy plants in the strict lockdown period and all so efficiently run – well done. Editor

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH Wine Club Subscription Draw Results for May 2020: Mary Edmunds, Myles & Shelagh Wickstead, Liz Fish, Jeremy & Rachel Reid, Sara Vann, Rob Vaux, Roger Hardisty, Lindsay Elliot and Chris & Sue Westwood. We hope to be able to restart the Pub draw in July.

SCHOOLS UPDATE FOR NORTON SUB HAMDON AND WEST CHINNOCK CE SCHOOLS

Following the recent announcement that schools may reopen as early as 1st June, we are now preparing to welcome back children in Years R, 1 and 6. Since the closure of the schools on 23rd March, our dedicated staff have been working on a rota at Norton School to care for the children of key worker parents. The teachers and teaching assistants have also been setting work for children to complete online as well as delivering work packs and food parcels. I would like to give thanks to the commitment, team work and energy of the staff and for the support, kindness and patience of parents, children and the community at this time. Building works are due to start on the old school building at West Chinnock on the 1st June. This is likely to go on for at least a month while the floor, which has become structurally unsafe, is strengthened. We apologise in advance for the disruption this will cause local residents. From Olly Donaldson, Chair of Governors.

The response by the teachers, staff, parents and pupils to the coronavirus pandemic has been truly remarkable. I would like to particularly thank the staff at both schools and congratulate Mr Caswell and Ms Stiddard for their excellent leadership during these difficult times.

The role of the governing board is even more important as we plot our way to ensuring the continued success of both Norton and West Chinnock schools in this much changed landscape. We are always keen for more volunteers on the governing board and I would encourage you all to consider whether you can assist your school and local community by becoming a governor. If you are interested and want to know more, please get in contact the school, Norton on 881815 or West Chinnock on 881367.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR MAY 2020

The Parish Council managed to have a very successful monthly and annual virtual meeting via Zoom at the start of May. **Annual Meeting:** The Parish Council's Annual Meeting took place before the May monthly meeting. The election of officers and representatives took place. Councillor Middleton became the new representative for the Reading Room and also became the arboreal officer for the Parish Council. The past year's village achievements were discussed at length. A Financial report has been circulated to all Parish Councillors. The Financial Report was approved and adopted, and the Annual Governance Statement was approved.

Planning: There were no planning applications to make their observations on. However, the Parish Council has received notification on the following applications from SSDC:

Ref. No: 20/00393/FUL - Netherhays House & Netherhays Cottage Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon

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. APPROVED

Ref. No: 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- DISCUSSED AT AREA NORTH MEETING – **Application refused for the following reasons:**

1. The proposal would provide a new dwelling in an unsustainable location, isolated from key services, which has not been appropriately justified. By reason of the lack of a safe means of access, by foot or cycle, the application site is poorly related to local services and as such will increase the need for journeys to be made by private vehicles. The proposed development therefore constitutes unsustainable development that is contrary to policies SD1, SS1, SS2 and TA5 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) and to the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. It has not been demonstrated that the proposal will not result in the loss or harm of trees, resulting from the access off the highway into the site thereby adversely affecting local distinctiveness, contrary to policies EQ2 and EQ5 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) and to the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Play Area and MUGA: Just to clarify – **the play area and MUGA are still both closed to the public** following Government instructions and safety checks will not be carried out during this period. In line with Government advice on social distancing, the areas will stay closed to assist the authority's guidelines in reducing the transmission of the virus. However, I am sorry to report that I have received numerous reports of individuals breaking the tape and removing all the closed signs from both the play area and MUGA. Please stop doing this. The area is currently shut for your own safety. It's also worth remembering we do have CCTV in this area now so we can see who is doing this. As soon as we are given the green light, we will reopen this facility.

Parish Council Vacancy: We currently have a vacancy on the Parish Council for a Councillor. The position has been advertised on the notice board. If no one has come forward to request a by-election by the 21st May we will co-opt a resident who has shown interest in becoming the new member.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 11th June 2020** at 7.30pm. This will probably be a virtual meeting via Zoom. **Members of the general public are more than welcome to join us but will need to email me to request the joining code.**

Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) – nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

CCS AGENTS NEWS:

So far at CCS (Community Council Somerset), we agents have handled an incredible 42,000+ requests for support since lockdown began - have you seen the short film about our work? You can view it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybu8d8bf> It has been wonderful to be part of the brilliant community support that has been carried out by local parishes, churches and volunteers to keep our most vulnerable fed and in receipt of their prescriptions. We should remember them in our regular Thursday evening applause.

Exciting news from CCS Village Agents this month is that Talking Cafes are going to be live on Facebook - daily at 11am. Now that we have adapted to dealing with "the new normal", the time felt right to reopen the Talking Cafes – albeit in a virtual sense. We have really missed seeing our clients at our Talking Cafés so hopefully in the short term this will help & support you from the comfort of your own home! www.facebook.com/TalkingCafeSomerset/Live - you can ask questions during the Live video in the comments section and have your answer there and then – hope we see you there! Keep up to date with our news on Twitter and Facebook - @RuralSomerset

Scams: Sadly, there are some unscrupulous people out there who are using the crisis for criminal purposes and many new scams have appeared. There is some comfort in that Avon and Somerset force, so far, are not aware of any victims and have not received any complaints or reports of people being duped by fraudsters. They are keen to keep this trend going and want to help safeguard our local communities. Their main advice is here

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/news/2020/03/beware-fraud-and-scams-during-covid-19-pandemic-stay-at-home-stay-safe-on-line/> with the main headlines being:

- **Watch out for scam texts and emails** – don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious message and never respond to unsolicited messages or telephone calls that ask for your personal or financial details. As Village Agents we have been made aware of phone calls asking for your bank details for free school meal payments. These come as e-vouchers or printed if required so please do not share bank details for this.
- **Reporting Fraud** If you have been a victim contact Action Fraud on www.actionfraud.org.uk or the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133. Tell your friends, family and us so that we can share and allow everyone to be prepared for the next potential scam. If you are feeling upset by a call, contact us on 01823 331 222 for a bit of reassurance and advice.
- **Shopping online** – be wary of deals on websites or links to external sites from social media. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online

purchases. Look for the padlock mark on the web address bar to the left of the www. to show your credit card details are safe.

- **Doorstep selling:** Don't give money to people you don't know to do your shopping, and when receiving goods, people should knock on your door, step back & will not ask for a signature. We can check who your village volunteers are for you, so you know who to expect or who to contact.
- **Protect your devices** from the latest threats – always install the latest anti-malware software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats
- A full list of identified scams can be viewed on the National Trading Standards website - www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/
- Age UK Somerset have a really clear list potential scams here: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/our-services/scams-advice/>

CCS Village, Community & Carers Agents are in your communities 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 and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with. Please visit www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk and www.somersetcarers.org or call me to find out who can advise you.

Cath Holloway 07968521746

cath@somersetccc.org.uk

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Diana Wood has sent this in – how things have changed since the 1960's!! Sorting through a drawer I came across an old diary from 1962. This was the year I left Norton to take a job in London. Independent for the first time I found it important to budget for my expenditure. It makes interesting reading now. Converted into 'new money' this was my weekly budget. I think my salary amounted to about £10.00 a week. Rent £3.15 Fares £1.00 (tube to & from Finchley to Central London daily returns for the week) Lunches £1.25, food 75p, milk 12p, laundry 07p, clothes 75p, hairdresser 12p, misc 50p. The diary notes frequent trips to West End Theatres, Cinemas, Restaurants so can only assume a generous boyfriend financed these. As part of my job I was required to travel all over the UK. We were reimbursed for hotels at the rate of £1.25 a night for a 3 star or £1.50 for a 4 star. Diana Wood

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

Monday 11 June Zoom Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
Saturday 3 October - Mendip Singers Concert 7.30pm
Saturday 28 November - Cantamus Concert 7.30pm