

# NORTON NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020 ISSUE 502

**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>

**CHURCH FLAG** The Union Flag will be flown from the church tower on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August for Flower Show Weekend.

**NORTON MOVIE NITES AGM** will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, at Manor Farmhouse if weather and social distancing allow, otherwise via Zoom. Everyone welcome to attend for news of future films and ideas for the future of NMN in general. Interested parties to contact John Bailey, 01935 881227, johnbailey19@googlemail.com

**FLOWER SHOW NEWS** Get Creative for The Flower Show Trail August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> We are sorry we can't put on the Flower Show for you all this year, but you can still take part by creating a fabulous display outside your home Create a - Flower show inspired display in front of your house or on your door. Be as creative as you want, no rules this year! We'll create a map so walk around the villages and see how many you can spot! If you'd like to participate contact the committee and we'll add you to the map To contact the committee, message via The Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show facebook page, email at murray152@btinternet.com or call 882644

**HAMDON YOUTH GROUP** Our youth worker Lou, is back from furlough and although Youth Club cannot yet meet Lou will be out and about in Stoke on Monday evenings, 7 - 9pm and in Norton 7 - 9pm on Wednesday evenings and hopes to meet up with young people. Lou can be contacted on 07402987921.

**CONCERT CANCELLED** The planned Concert by The Mendip Singers for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October in Norton Parish Church has unfortunately had to be cancelled due to restrictions imposed by coronavirus. It is hoped that this and other events that had to be cancelled during 2020 can be re-scheduled for 2021. At present the proposed concert by Cantamus on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November will go ahead.

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

**FNC WINE CLUB** Winners of the Friends of Norton Church Wine Club Subscription Draw for July are as follows: Jeremy & Rachel Reid, Penny Cudmore (2), Rob Vaux (2), Alec Seccombe, Nickie Brodie, Sara Vann and Lindsay Elliott. The Pub draw will be resumed at a later date. To join the Wine Club contact Jonathan Binns on 01935 881063

**THE READING ROOM.** The Trustees and Committee recently met at a 'social distance' to discuss the future of The Reading Room and the Cafe. It was agreed until this wretched virus has disappeared (hopefully it will be soon) the Reading Room can no longer allow meetings of more than 9 persons and sadly no longer be a cafe. It is quite obvious the room cannot safely house more people whilst the 2 metre distance is in place. As the year continues the Trustees and Committee will carefully monitor the situation and make the necessary decisions over its future. We know everyone will understand why we have had to come to this decision.

Amanda will continue to serve her Take Away Menus Tuesdays to Saturdays. We are delighted she is able to serve our community so effectively. We hope everyone will continue in return to support her and enjoy her fantastic food.

Although it is likely some restaurants and cafes will be able to open in July, Amanda will ONLY be able to continue to serve her Take Away Menus for the foreseeable future.

Finally, after 7 years as Chair, I have decided the time has come for me to retire and take a back seat. I shall remain as a Trustee and Committee member. Whilst I have enjoyed the position enormously, it hasn't been without its problems. Getting the cafe in the village accepted wasn't an easy journey, sometimes it was a real uphill struggle causing an enormous amount of stress to many.

It was difficult to understand why so many obstacles were placed before us including the regular questioning of 'our opening hours', signage in the village and main road, health and safety questions, however with the encouragement from many in the village, our supportive Parish Council, the SSDC and Somerset Highways we preserved resulting in the cafe become a village 'asset', something I always envisaged.

My sincere thanks go to a fantastic committee who have supported me, I really have appreciated all the hours of work behind the scenes by so many. We should feel proud to have restored what was once a dark dingy and impersonal

meeting room in the centre of the village into a vibrant and busy building, providing us with a reliable and regular income.

I hope Jonathan Dart (who was elected to take over the chairmanship) will enjoy his term of office and trust the road before him is smooth and non confrontational. With new rules and regulations that are bound to confront The Reading Room, be assured Jonathan you will have the full support and encouragement from the Committee who will also enjoy a fresh face at the helm! Peter Callaghan Past Chairman The Reading Room.

**Apologies to Peter for missing this out last month! Editor**

**STOKE GARDENING CLUB** Contact the Gardening Club on 01935 829408 for more information. Regretfully we have to confirm that the Produce and Flower Show due to be held on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August** has been cancelled.

**AN APPEAL TO YOUR KINDNESS** Refugee Support Group has received an appeal for particular donations for refugees in France which is the only area to transport to at present. RAFT are requesting small tents, sleeping bags and blankets to replace those destroyed by the authorities leaving refugees without shelter of any kind. I am willing to collect from anyone if necessary. RAFT is not open for donations for camps in the Middle East etc as transport is unavailable. We would be very grateful if donors continue to store goods until such time as we can take and deliver them. I have some storage for children's clothing if necessary. A few RAFT volunteers, having given many previously stored donations to local homeless charities, are currently cleaning and reorganizing their premises for future opening, while accepting those requested items. Thank you. Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

### **MOBILE LIBRARY NEWS**

I hope you are all keeping well, given these challenging times with Covid 19. We are pleased to inform you that as of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of July we will be re-starting the Mobile Library Service. In order to ensure that we have plenty of time to support our customers at each stop we have made some changes to the routes. The day of the service remains the same, though times may vary. These have been published on the SCC Web site <http://somerset.gov.uk> and type in 'Mobile Library' or you can ring Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 and one of the team will be able to give you details of your local stops and times.

In order to protect our staff and customers our service will look very different as we re-launch. Unfortunately at the present time we are unable to offer the facility to browse books on the vehicle. However we will be offering a shopper order and collect service - enabling customers to request library books either by email, website, using a new borrower request form - available via the Somerset website or by [Librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk). If you are unable to access the Internet to make your request you may phone 0300 123 2224 Books can then be delivered to you at your normal Mobile Library stop. Your Mobile Library driver will also have a supply of order forms for you to complete in readiness for the next mobile Library delivery. Or, if easily accessible, the driver may be able to select the books for you from the vehicle. We will do our best to ensure you receive the books you choose. However this may not always be possible so the more general in choice, for example a crime novels or specific authors, then the more likely we can meet your needs.

We hope in time to be able to offer a browsing facility on the vehicle, limited to one customer on the vehicle at any time - this means we may have to create a safe distance queuing system. We will of course keep you updated on this.

If you are continuing to shield and not able to leave your home you may like to access the Home Library Service whose volunteers are currently offering a book drop to customers. To access this service please email Kirsty Jenssen [kirsty.jenssen@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.jenssen@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk) or ring 07920 250834

We are also continuing to develop our online offer, with further investment in e-resources including books, audio books, magazines, graphic novels & comics and newspapers, all available to download free of charge to library members. There are also over 150 videos for people to enjoy via the Somerset Libraries Facebook and web pages, including story-times, gardening and cooking tips and some engaging health and wellbeing videos.

If you have any further questions please contact us by email: [LibrariesMail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:LibrariesMail@somerset.gov.uk)

Please keep safe and well and we look forward to seeing you soon as we begin to open our Library services.

Sue Sheppard Library Manager Outreach Activities

**Next date and times for the Mobile Library will be 2.20pm until 3.00pm at Chiselborough and 3.10pm until 3.40pm in Norton on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August.**

### **Community and Care in Somerset (CCS) Agents News:**

**Talking Café Live on Facebook:** Have you caught any of our sessions we stream live daily on Facebook? If not you can catch up on any of the Talking Café Lives here: [www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/live](http://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/live).

A Village, Carers or Community Agent from CCS are LIVE weekdays at 11am to answer any questions or concerns you have – you can also ask privately via a message to the page. Each day Agents cover a different topic, and they have been so varied and interesting - below are just a few:

Cooking on a Budget, where Rev. Jess whipped up 5 dishes for less than £10!

Art Therapy  Family Activities and things to do on a budget  Library Service updates

Hydration and UTI Advice  Hospital Discharge Support  Domestic Abuse  Exercise to do from home and for people with reduced mobility  Mental Health

All the Talking Cafes we have hosted on Facebook so far have had a combined total of 65,000 views!

### **Focus on Domestic Abuse awareness**

Domestic Abuse happens in all types of relationships, regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, class, disability, sexuality, lifestyle or nationality.

Tensions can escalate due to restrictions on socialising and 'normal life', but they are never an excuse for violence, manipulation, coercion and controlling a partner or family member. Even if you are self-isolating, government guidance allows you to leave your home to flee an abuser or seek help. It's rarely a one-off occurrence, but usually a pattern of abusive and controlling behavior.

**Getting help if you are being abused** Online at <http://www.somerseturvivors.org.uk> Call the local helpline: **0800 69 49 999** In an emergency always **dial 999**, even if you cannot speak for fear of being overheard, you can get help by **pressing 55** when the operator answers Talk to any health professional or your local Village Agent – we can help! Somerset pharmacies allow their consulting rooms to be a safe place for people experiencing abuse to get help and advice

### **TOP TIPS TO AVOID SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS**

We have all been online and on social media more since lockdown began, and it's important to stay vigilant of new scams circulating. Get Safe Online safety experts have put together some simple tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of social media scams. [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

If you become a victim of a social media scam: Report it to the social media network via the reporting mechanism on the site or app. If you have lost money as a result of social media scams or via any other fraudulent activity, report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk). 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](http://www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk) and [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) or call me to find out more. Cath Holloway Tel: 01823 331222 Mobile: 07968 521746 Email: [cath@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:cath@somersetccc.org.uk) **07968521746** [cath@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:cath@somersetccc.org.uk)

**MOISH SOKAL'S** sale of older original watercolour paintings from his travels around the world, and his lovely signed cards continues on [www.moishsokal.co.uk](http://www.moishsokal.co.uk)

### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR JULY 2020**

The Parish Council managed to have a very successful monthly virtual meeting via Zoom at the beginning of July.

#### **Planning:**

The Parish Council had 1 planning application to make their observations on.

20/01646/LBC Rose Cottage Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon TA14 6SN

Rose Cottage Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon TA14 6SN - The erection of a single storey rear extension garden room to dwelling to replace existing lean to extension

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

**Somerset County Council's proposed 'One Council'** – The Parish Council discussed at great length SCC's proposal to have a Unitary Council.

The Parish Council is against the One Council for the following reasons:

- Now is not the time to even be discussing this – concentrate on focusing on Covid-19 crisis and supporting local businesses and communities – like SSDC are doing – shows a complete lack of care, empathy and judgement whilst communities are fighting to keep their heads above the surface
- Will take away the VITAL LINK with Parish Council/Local Communities. District Councils are fundamental tier to local government.
- Loss of elected representatives would lead to a Democratic Deficit.
- Must maintain separate Councils in the interest of democracy
- Does not provide biggest cash savings. - Millions of pounds of taxpayers' money would be spent on changing structures and paying for redundancies. Huge job losses when we are already suffering with mass redundancies due to Covid-19
- Going to cost millions to implement - total waste of money, particularly during these uncertain times. Already wasted hundreds of thousands with cost of research/study/reports. In 2007 people voted against a unitary council in Somerset - stop wasting money and listen to what the community is saying.
- SSDC are financially sound, SCC ARE NOT
- SSDC are doing a fabulous job of protecting local services to communities.
- This will be completely disruptive to services

- Likely that blanket decisions would be made - A "one size fits all" approach to services, with everything centralised in Taunton and decisions not taken by local communities with the knowledge of what is best for local communities
- The running down and closing of district services to fund the endless growth in costs of adult and childrens' services
- In a few years' time, there will still be financial problems and poor levels of service because the real community issues that cause demand on services have not been tackled.
- There is no evidence that the unitary councils that have been created have produced the financial savings they were forecast to save and many have left a "democratic deficit" being distant from the communities they are meant to serve.
- The experience of other Unitary councils shows that it takes years for savings to be achieved, (typically five to ten years) if they are achieved at all.

**A reminder that there is no Parish Council meeting in August.** The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 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](mailto:nortonpcclerk@outlook.com)

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**ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER** should be in the box on the **Post Office counter**, or sent by email to: [nortonnews@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:nortonnews@hotmail.com) NB. All emails are replied to as soon as possible - please check if no acknowledgement is received by the deadline date.

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#### **DIARY OF NORTON EVENTS**

Tuesday 11 August Mobile Library Higher Street 3.10pm  
 Tuesday 11 August Movie Nites AGM Manor Farm House 7.30pm  
 Saturday and Sunday 15 and 16 August Village Flower Displays  
 Saturday 28 November - Cantamus Concert 7.30pm