

NORTON NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE 505

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

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

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

2 AD HOC ADVERTS – ANGIE’S CAKES 2 CRUMBS AND MOISH SOKAL’S PAINTINGS – See end of Newsletter.

CHURCH FLAG The George Cross Flag will be flown for All Saints Day on **Sunday 1st November** until **8th November** and the Union Flag will be flown for Remembrance Day on **Wednesday 11th November** .

NORTON CORONA VIRUS HELP is continuing to offer help to those who are isolated and 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 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 – **see updated advert on ads page.**

AMANDA’S CAFÉ AT THE READING ROOM: We are open for takeaways from Wednesday to Friday 9 – 3.30pm and Saturdays 9 – 2.30pm. We offer takeaway meals, filled baguettes, homemade soup and cakes which can be viewed at the counter. The specials are available from 12.00 each day. The Menu changes daily and can be seen on our facebook page@ Amanda’s café at the Norton Reading Room or call 01935 881505.

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP is currently able to run the weekly Youth Club in Norton Village Hall for limited numbers of young people each Wednesday from 7pm with careful COVID-safe precautions. The Youth Club is sadly unable to take place in Stoke but Youth Worker Lou is around in Stoke on Monday evenings. Check with Lou if you want more information on 402987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk

NOVEMBER NORTON MOVIE NITES. For the last film of the season, come along to the Manor Farmhouse Wild Cinema Carport (next to Norton shop and opposite New Road). **Tuesday 10th November** will show *Emma* (cert U, 124 mins), Jane Austen's classic story of rural Regency match-making. Stunning visuals and witty dialogue make this a light-hearted film for darker days. Following Covid guidelines with socially distanced seating, bring your own drinks, nibbles and warm clothing. Arrive 7.45 pm, film starts at 8.00. The DVD will be raffled, so bring £1 if you'd like a chance to win it. Tickets £5 on sale in Norton Shop from 1st November.

NORTON NEWSLETTER AGM – this has had to be postponed due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. The Committee is still working to keep the Hall up and running, despite only being used by 4 of our regular groups at present. We have applied for our QR code, which is in situ, to help with Track and Trace. We are also looking into having Solar panels installed. There are grants available from SSDC, We will be having a meeting this week to find out about it. Watch this space. Jennie Harris for Norton Hall Committee.

MOBILE LIBRARY The Mobile Library **will not be coming** to Norton this month so the next date will be Tuesday 1st December at 3.10pm in Higher Street.

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS Sadly Covid-19 restrictions continue to hamper our efforts to reinstate the regular monthly village coffee mornings. Hasn't it been a long time since last we met in February at The Pippins in Higher Street? For newcomers to Norton, the monthly coffee mornings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except June, July, August and December) in different houses around the village and it is a wonderful way to meet other villagers and learn about its varied groups and activities. We would dearly love to restart them and, as soon as restrictions allow us to meet indoors with a group of 20 or more, we'll be ready. Watch this space! Sophie Snow and Sophie Hale

NEW ARRIVALS We welcome Peter and Sue Prager who have moved into Bramley Fields and we hope they will be very happy in our friendly community.

THANK YOU A heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful villagers who offered and gave us help and support during our recent long distance move to Greenacres. We couldn't have done it without you. Our thanks also for the many cards, wishes, flowers and meals. It means so much to us both. Chris and Sue.

SCHOOL NEWS This month would have seen the traditional school harvest service in the church. Due to current restrictions this has not been possible. However, we did not let this stop us celebrating this important festival. At Norton, we enjoyed a sunny walk to the churchyard to drop off food donations which were later taken to the Lord's Larder foodbank in Yeovil. The children then had harvest services in their class bubbles including watching a pre-recorded virtual assembly with Dan England Vine Youth Ministry (who in normal times is a regular visitor to our schools). At West Chinnock, the children dropped off donations for the Lord's Larder in the shelter which had been decorated by the PFA with harvest produce. The children took part in an outdoor service during the school day and watched David Mangles giving a harvest talk from his apple orchard on a pre-recorded video. Pupils have also been thinking about how to help others in need, such as raising money for the charity Shelterbox.
Jamie Caswell Co-Headteacher

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB Subscription Draws for October are as follows: Brian Frosdick, David Parkinson, Janet Hutton (2), Jeremy Reid, Jennie Byham, Nicki Brodie, John Forrest, Richard More. To join the wine club contact Jonathan Binns on 881063.

NORTON HARVEST FESTIVAL started early on Sunday morning in bright sunshine, but blowing a 'hooley'. Much effort was required to erect a gazebo and a long security strap was necessary to stop it blowing away! Electrical points were prepared and an old internal door was laid for Chris Denman's electric organ to be rested on. By 2.00pm, the wind had dropped somewhat, but the sun was still shining in a beautiful blue sky and the bells started to ring - what a joy to hear after being silent for so long. The service was in the form of an Evensong with added Harvest interest but, unfortunately, no singing. Music was supplied by Bill Caswell via his sound system and Chris Denman played melodies of harvest hymns to give the service a 'Proper flavour'. Thirty adults and three children attended duly masked and sanitized, after having their names and details taken for the NHS tracing service. Donations towards a cow to be sent from the Diocese to Africa raised a grand total of £156.50. Following the service a picnic took place when it was good to see old friends (socially distanced). Many thanks to Rev Richard Terrell (retired) and all concerned in making the first Church Service in Norton since lock-down such a success. Brian Frosdick – Church Warden

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER Communion Service at 9.30am in church followed by Service of Remembrance in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin at 10.45am. Covid restrictions apply.

REV. NICK CLARKE has been appointed as the new Rector for the Ham Hill Villages benefice and will take up his duties this month. See hamhillchurches.org for details of all services and information about the Benefice.

UP TO DATE The Norton Festival website is updated weekly and is always worth a visit. On it can be found reports and pictures of Events and items of interest plus a Diary. There are weekly Sunday Reflections and each month there is Martin's Message. Make sure you don't miss out. Keep up to date by regularly looking at www.nortonfestival.org

STOKE GARDENING CLUB Contact the Gardening Club on 01935 829408 for information.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2020

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

Planning:

Notifications:

20/01971/HOU 1, Barn Orchard, New Road. Conversion of Integral garage into home office.

The Parish Council had no Objection to this application. APPROVED

Planning Applications received:

APPEAL REFERENCE: APP/R3325/W/20/3258176 Location: Land east of Keepers Lodge, Little Norton, Somerset.

Proposal: outline application for the erection of 1 no. Dwelling with all matters reserved except access. The Clerk has emailed the Appeals Board to reiterate that the Parish Council DO NOT support this application, for the reasons previously stated.

20/02549/LBC Nundle, Higher Street. Alterations and repairs to a rear lean-to, removal of a first floor partition. The Parish Council had no objection to this.

Retirement of Charles Campbell: The Parish Council welcomed Charles (virtually) to the October meeting, to say an enormous 'Thank You' for all the hard work and commitment he has contributed to the Parish Council and village, over the number of years as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman met with Charles before the meeting to present him with a card and monetary retirement gift given by each Parish Councillor. We will miss Charles' wit, charm and generosity – he certainly provided many memorable moments for us all. Thank You Charles!

An update from our District Councillor on the Future of Local Government in Somerset:

- The letter of invitation was received by all of the Somerset Authorities on Friday 9th October.
- In addition to the 4 District Councils and County Council which have put forward proposals for Local Government Reform, the letter was also sent to BANES and North Somerset Councils.
- It is difficult to see how either of the North Somerset Authorities could be combined with either the County's proposal or the Stronger Somerset proposal.
- Government has frozen other Unitary bids elsewhere and is perceived to be softening on its push for abolition of District Councils. October 2020

- The outgoing Minister was very keen on this idea, but there are signs that the Secretary of State and the incoming Minister are less keen on this upheaval at this time.
- Somerset, North Yorkshire and Cumbria are seen as test cases which may potentially proceed.
- The timetable and likelihood of moving forward with either a single or two Unitary Authorities for Somerset is now more unclear than ever.

Planning – Proposed changes to the National Planning System: Councillor Hewitson reported that he had now submitted a motion to Full Council on 16th October to object to the Government Planning Consultation: Planning for the Future.

- These proposals are a major concern which have the potential to: Reduce democratic input in planning. Increase the density of existing settlements. Reduce the construction of Affordable Homes by up to 20%. Water down environmental impact assessments. Remove the power to raise local developer contributions e.g. CIL/s106, which has benefited Stoke and Norton to the tune of £150k in the last 3 years. They propose replacing this with a nationally set levy.

Taken together these proposals are the biggest centralisation of the Planning Process ever undertaken.

Ham Hill: The development stage of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project is continuing to progress. Traffic consultants have been on site to measure volumes and speeds of traffic, as this is something that the project will look to address. Ecological surveys have also been underway in areas that may be impacted by future works. Good numbers of slow worms have been found across the site and dormouse surveys continue through the start of autumn. They hope to be able to carry out some more consultation activities next year, as government guidelines allow.

The volunteers have made a welcome return to Ham Hill after an absence of nearly 5 months! They are currently working in groups of 5 over several days to help the rangers to catch up on works missed during their absence.

MUGA: The MUGA will be relined in the next few weeks. It will first be cleaned of moss and given a thorough clean.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 9th November at 7.30pm VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM.

Members of the general public are more than welcome to attend. (Please email the Clerk for details to login to the meeting) Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY SSDC

CHANGE IS COMING TO SOMERSET that affects everyone, both the services they receive and their quality of life.

It will affect the vibrancy of our towns and villages, the strength of our economy, opportunities for our young people, the quality of care for our children and older people, how successful we are in tackling Climate Change, and much more besides. If the right decisions are made, Somerset's future could be really bright. However, if the wrong decision is made it could mean that the county's prospects are damaged for decades.

The Secretary of State for Local Government has confirmed that Westminster is moving ahead with a consultation on major change for local government in Somerset and it is important that your views are heard.

There is now a clear choice: A single council for Somerset, distant from its people and operating in a very traditional way, focussed on cutting costs. Stronger Somerset - two councils for Somerset, close to the people they serve, operating in a modern and efficient way, focussed on investing in better services as well as driving forward the economy, tackling the climate emergency and improving quality of life. The four district councils in Somerset are committed to working together to deliver Stronger Somerset and ensure the best future for residents and businesses in Somerset. Stronger Somerset will ensure: **Every child starts well** - currently 25% of children in Somerset live in poverty and more communities are experiencing deprivation. **Every young person believes they can live well** – many young adults leave the county to find opportunities elsewhere. **Our older population ages well** – there is a growing older population and we will ensure they are supported to live happy, healthy, independent lives. **Our economy levels up and contributes nationally** – we need to close the productivity gap and improve skills, wages and opportunities for green growth that everyone can benefit from as well as ensuring that our residents have a decent and affordable home. **Our transition to net zero carbon** – reducing the effects of Somerset on climate change and protecting our communities from the effects of climate change such as flooding.

We will achieve this by: **Strengthening relationships with local communities** – ensuring councils that are close to the people they serve. **Stronger communities with greater power** – give more control to local people over the things that matter to them. **A fresh start in Care** - Transformation of Children's and Adults' Social Care adopting the best of what works elsewhere. **Two new councils for Somerset**, to replace the four districts and the county council – ensuring people and communities are well represented in our large county. **A Somerset West Council and a Somerset East Council** will ensure a focus on the differing challenges, community identities and economic areas that exist in what is a large county; but which work together for the benefit of all of Somerset. **Modern economy** with new skills, higher wages to "level-up" society and ensuring housing is genuinely affordable for local people. **Devolution of powers and resources from Westminster** – ensuring Somerset makes decisions for our economy and communities and can Level Up in Somerset, drive our economy forward and improve quality of life.

Somerset deserves the best form of local government, not the cheapest and only Stronger Somerset will deliver this.

The Stronger Somerset proposal is for a fresh start for local government in the county that will ensure better services, an improved economy and better quality of life. If we are to get that, we need your support – the residents and businesses of Somerset.

Over the next few weeks, residents, communities, businesses and stakeholders from across the county are being invited to join a number of major online events to help inform and shape the county's future. The result of these events will shape the final Stronger Somerset Proposals to be submitted to the government. Details on the sessions will be released soon. In the meantime, to have your say, show your support, and get involved please visit strongersomerset.co.uk or follow us on social media.

VILLAGE AGENT NEWS We have some exciting service news for you! We have joined our Carers' Agent and Village Agent teams so ALL 55 + agents can now support unpaid Carers in Somerset!

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown resulted in CCS Agents changing their approach to be 'whole population' focussed. There is now one point of contact within the CCS team and no need to repeat information to explain the situation.

The model has been working brilliantly, and as a result CCS Agents have supported over 7,000 Carers since the end of March 2020, clearly demonstrating that the One Family - One Agent approach was working to reach more unpaid Carers than ever. CCS is delighted to announce that from September, all Carers Agents will become Village Agents and all existing Village Agents are ready to support unpaid Carers in Somerset. Nothing has changed other than having a lot more people available to support the unpaid Carer in Somerset.

To have a chat about how we can support you if you are a carer call 0800 31 68 600, text 'Carer' to 78070 or visit the dedicated Carers website www.somersetcarers.org

Rehome a Phone! Do you have an unused smartphone lying around? By donating an unused phone to us, YOU can help reduce loneliness and isolation for a person in Somerset. We will be facing a very different Christmas this year with a reduction in the usual festive activities, and the possibility of family gathering restrictions, so we are focusing on re-homing as many of these phones into the community as possible to keep families and friends in touch with each other over the festive period. We had a brilliant response to our last 'Rehome-a-phone' campaign - so many people in need in Somerset have benefitted from a donated device. One person who received a handset said "You have made my day. This will help me feel less lonely and I will even be able to do my food shopping online now as I'm house bound and can't get out". We will: refurbish the phone, remove any personal data, provide the new owner with a SIM card and support them to use the phone with video tutorials and install apps that will help them to keep in touch with their loved ones. To donate, please contact our Village Agent Ellie Bishop on 07985 748910 or email: ellieb@somersetccc.org.uk You can find out more here about the impact of our last rehome a phone campaign here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT4wffIRZHU>

Talking Cafes Online We are still unable to bring Talking Cafes back to physical venues and we miss all our clients so much! However we are still live streaming every day at 11am on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/> and have recently celebrated our 100th broadcast!

If you are not on Facebook you can now watch previous Talking Cafes on YouTube

here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5goIPHD91Ie4VDI5NMJdrQ>

Recent Talking Cafes covered Art Therapy, Coping with Grief and changes to our Somerset Waste recycling schemes!

Cath Holloway Community Agent **07968521746** cath@somersetccc.org.uk Tel: 01823 331222

MARTOCK GUARDIANS CONCERTS/CHARITY RAFFLE. Unfortunately with the current pandemic restrictions we are unable to proceed with our annual charity raffle or our concerts. We will contact raffle ticket buyers and refund all costs and we hope to restart the concerts and raffle in 2021.

ADVERTS: ANGIE'S CAKES 2 CRUMBS. It's time to open up the diary again for your baked Christmas goodies. I will be selling boozy Christmas cakes, Stollen and Cup Cakes this year. For further details check out my facebook page Angie's Cakes 2 crumbs or call me 0792517400. Book early to avoid disappointment and secure your collection date.

MOISH SOKAL'S online sale of older work at very reasonable prices continues on his website www.moishsokal.co.uk. Original watercolours make fabulous gifts for your special people and the cards, which fit into commercially made 6x8in frames, can make a treasured but reasonably priced gift too. Contact Moish on 881350 for further information or to arrange framing of original paintings.

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 9 November Parish Council Zoom meeting 7.30pm

Tuesday 10 November Movie Nites Manor Farmhouse 7.45pm