

NORTON NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE 506

The Newsletter Chairman and Committee wish our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year

IMPORTANT NOTICE: So that the January issue of the Newsletter can be produced before Christmas and the New Year holiday, the deadline for news items will be a week earlier than usual on Friday 11th December

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

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

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

THE GEORGE CROSS FLAG will be flown from the Church Tower from Wednesday 23rd December to Wednesday 6th January for Christmas through to Epiphany.

FOUR ONE OFF ADS: Angie's Cakes 2 Crumbs, A book by Anne Thomas, Request for land for rescue goats and Jewellery and Watercolour sale – see end of newsletter.

SEASONS GREETINGS

LYNN & MIKE ORCHARD wish a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all of our friends, neighbours and clients. We will be making a donation to charity in lieu of sending local cards.

PAM AND MIKE RASTALL would like to wish all our Norton friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas. We are going to donate to charity this year instead of sending Christmas Cards. Next year we hope to be back in our new home in Little Street - we are so looking forward to returning to Norton - our home.

CHILDRENS HOSPICE SOUTH WEST Due to Covid I haven't been able to raise any money for the hospice this year. I will not be sending any Christmas Cards, but I will make a donation to the hospice - at least it will be a little help. Please don't think I have forgotten to send you one. Best wishes from Carol Rogers

MESSAGE FROM MARIE KENNY I would like to wish all my friends, and neighbours a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would also like to thank everyone for all their help and support over the past few months. Rosie and I really appreciate it. So sorry I won't be sending Christmas Cards this year. Love from Marie and Rosie. X

MESSAGE FROM JENNIE AND TREVOR HARRIS We won't be sending Christmas Cards this year. Instead we will be making a donation to the Village Hall. I am sure we will see you all around but if not we would like to wish you all a great Christmas, and hope 2021 is a lot better than 2020.

NORTON SHOP – Run by the Community for the Community We are open from **8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday and 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed Sundays.** We are a Convenience Store, aiming to provide all that you would expect including : fresh bread and milk, meat (regular stock and orders taken), cakes & pastries, greetings cards, extensive wine selection, dry cleaning and other community services. Come and see for yourself. We also offer an ordering service – we either deliver or you can come to fetch your order. Tel.881200.

NORTON POST OFFICE The Post Office is open from **9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (closed for lunch Wednesday & Thursday 1.00 – 1.30) except Wednesday – closed at 4.00 p.m.; Saturday 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.** We not only offer all the postal services you would expect but also cash deposit and withdrawal for almost all banks, foreign currency; utilities payments and much more.

INSTEAD OF CAROL SINGING Instead of doorstep carol-singing this year I will be playing traditional carols outside the shop at various times during **the week of December 14th.** Please give generously to Friends of Norton Church (FNC) and Shelterbox. Please request your favourites as you queue for stamps and provisions. Cilla Caswell.

NORTON CORONAVIRUS HELP is still here to collect prescriptions or other items for you if you are unable to get out or, at this time of year when it can be even harder to be isolated, for a friendly chat. Phone Prue on 881350 or Martyn on 881437. We wish all our isolating neighbours the best Christmas possible and hope all those around you will help make you happy to live in our lovely village at this festive season. A happy Christmas too to our volunteers who have made this year easier for many, and to Norton Shop who have risen to the challenges of this difficult year magnificently.

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.

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP is hoping to resume Norton evenings on Wednesdays and to be around Stoke when lockdown ends. Please check out @hamdonyouthgroup on Facebook or contact Lou when lockdown ends (she is on furlough until then) on 07402987921 or lou.chant@cyp.me.uk

NORTON FESTIVE WINDOWS. A community event for December. With Lockdown 2 we hope you will join us in dressing up one of your windows for Christmas and displaying every night from **14th December**. If you are interested there will be a sign-up sheet in the Shop. If there is enough interest we will produce a map for villagers to walk round and enjoy. Lindsay Higgins and John Bailey

LOCAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT Looking for that perfect Christmas present about Norton Sub Hamdon in the Past? Look no further - Norton Oral History Group have stocks of both DVD 1 (1890-1946) and DVD 2 (1946-1970) each at £7 plus postage. Please contact John Bailey (01935 881227).

HAMDON SURGERY - Participation is the Key Word. Even before Covid-19 became daily headline news, the message coming from the NHS at all levels has been for us all to take more responsibility for our own health. For many this was just highlighting what was already commonplace but, with the increasing demand for NHS services, the need to look after ourselves – physically and emotionally – took on a higher priority. When the pandemic hit us and 'protecting the NHS' soon became a mantra and the unprecedented scale of the impact required us all to rethink how we participate in managing our own wellbeing.

Now we are used to a modified way of receiving healthcare. Visiting our local GP practice as a first point of call has generally been replaced by online or telephone consultations, with a triage system determining the most appropriate next step. While it has taken a while to adapt to these new ways, given the current circumstances and the need to keep staff and patients safe, most people have recognised the overall level of care has not been unduly compromised, even if it has been delivered by alternative means.

Behind the scenes, GP practices are encouraged to liaise closely with their Patients' Participation Group (PPG) whose role during these challenging times has been vital. At their best PPGs are sounding boards for change, innovation and development as well as being a channel for patient feedback and for registering concerns. In the spirit of participation, PPGs do not 'manage' complaints but monitor, on behalf of patients, how concerns are processed.

PPG members are encouraged to be proactive by helping to shape how both clinical and administrative aspects of a practice can be improved and/or enhanced to better meet the needs of patients in an ever-changing healthcare environment. To this end, recruitment to PPGs of a broad representation of patients is a major objective. Providing voices that speak from differing perspectives is the 'added value' every PPG seeks.

The level of involvement by any one member is very much in her/his hands. The Hamdon Surgery has an active PPG, we have 15 members and hold meetings monthly (via Zoom) Our meetings provide the basis for engagement with colleagues and practice staff. Beyond that, there will be opportunities to contribute through consultation and practical assistance (e.g. stewarding at the annual vaccination clinics). The Hamdon website hopefully will be ready during the next few weeks and we invite patients to visit it and leave your comments.

Yes, it is right we each take more responsibility for our own health and wellbeing but we can also participate in supporting the delivery of local healthcare for today and looking to the future, through membership of a PPG. For further information, contact your local practice and ask to be put in touch with the PPG Chair – details will also be available via our new website. Jan Langley Secretary to The Hamdon Surgery Patients Participation Group

THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH (FNC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The FNC is an association that aims to assist the Parochial Church Council of Norton church to preserve, protect and restore the fabric of the church. This is achieved primarily by the raising of funds through annual subscriptions from "Friends", through the operation of monthly wine draws and through the organisation of fund raising talks and other social events. The Association activities are managed through a small committee of volunteers. A report of the activities undertaken is presented at the end of each year at an Annual General Meeting to which all are welcome to attend. **The next AGM covering 2020 is planned to be held at 7:30pm on Friday 29th January 2021.** The original venue for this meeting, agreed at the February 2020 AGM, was to be the Norton Reading Room but this is now unlikely to be available. The revised venue and other arrangements will be published in January when any prevailing COVID constraints are known. In the meantime anyone wishing to attend the meeting in person or virtually (eg on Zoom) is invited to inform the current FNC Secretary on (bas.eastley@btinternet.com)

LADIES GROUP To all our members, I wish I could wave a magic wand and tell you we can resume our meetings, alas I cannot. Our Christmas party is cancelled like so many, so I am taking this opportunity on behalf of the committee to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. I hope that in the Spring we can resume our talks and enjoy many trips out together. I'm looking forward to discovering some interesting places to visit and activities we can all enjoy. In the meantime, look after yourselves and your families until life gets back to normal and we can all meet up together. Sue Lowder

MOBILE LIBRARY The Mobile Library **will be coming to** Norton on **Tuesday 1st December at 3.10pm** in Higher Street.

READING ROOM REFURBISHMENT. The Reading Room Committee has very gratefully received a South Somerset District Council grant, designed to help village halls and public rooms during the Covid-19 pandemic. Money from the grant has been put to one side to ensure that the Reading Room retains a buffer for future years, while the remainder is being utilised to carry out some much-needed improvements. The Reading Room Committee would like to thank all those of you who have returned suggestions as to how this should be taken forward, and these have been collated into the proposed plan by Gwen Ames, who has chaired the Refurbishment Sub-Committee. It was gratifying to understand just how important the Reading Room is to so many in the village, and your input has been vital in deciding how to refurbish this quintessential village asset.

As you will have been aware, the Reading Room has been closed for use by groups due to the COVID-19 situation. However, we have been fortunate to have Amanda, who has been able to change her modus operandi from being a café to one of keeping the Village morale high and stomachs lined through her excellent takeaway service. In order to carry out the refurbishment it will be necessary to close the Reading Room and the Committee has worked with Amanda to find the most appropriate time to do this in order to reduce disruption to her business and to the Village. It has therefore been decided to close the Reading Room from 1st January 2021 for a minimum of one month but recognise that it is likely to take longer, as one can't foresee any hidden problems that might arise as the work is undertaken.

The refurbishment is designed to bring the Reading Room up to date and in line with health and safety regulations, while at the same time decorating and refreshing the rooms - something that has not been done for many years. We will keep you all informed with a monthly update, and very much look forward to welcoming you to a reopening once this ghastly pandemic has run its course. Tricia Walton, Norton-sub-Hamdon Reading Room Committee Secretary

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. We are closed during this 2nd lockdown, but hope for good news on December 2nd from the Government. We discussed the Solar Panels at our latest Committee Meeting and we will be doing a bit more research, and discuss again at the January Meeting.

We Need Your Help: We are going to be losing our amazing Treasurer Lindsay Elliott. She is stepping down at the AGM in February 2021, for personal reasons. We are looking for a replacement.. If you are interested please contact Lindsay, on 07774646401, who will be happy to explain things, and help you. Please think about it, or at least have a chat with Lindsay.....We would all be so grateful. Thank you. J.Harris for Norton Village Hall Management Committee.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB Winners in the November draw were as follows: Mary Edmunds, Chris Westwood (2,) Roger Hardisty, Penny Cudmore, Richard More, Sophie & Charles Campbell, Peter Willsher and Emily Waters. To join the wine club contact Jonathan Binns on 881063.

REV'D NICK CLARKE has been appointed as the new Rector for the Ham Hill Villages benefice and has been inducted on 19th November via a zoom service. The church is open from **9.00am until 4.00pm every Sunday and Wednesday** for private prayer. See hamhillchurches.org for details of all services and information about the Benefice.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDEN CLUB. Unfortunately all monthly meetings and the two events arranged for November had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. However the committee has been busy using Zoom meetings and there is now a great programme in place for 2021 which we hope will be able to go ahead. In the meantime we wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Contact for the Gardening Club is 01935 829408.

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.

VILLAGE AGENT: Cath Holloway Tel: 01823 331222 Mobile: 07968 521746 Email: cath@somersetccc.org.uk
Check out the CCS website: www.somersetccc.org.uk and see the variety of work we are doing.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2020

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

Planning:

There were no planning applications to discuss for this month.

We have received one notification on a previous applications from SSDC:

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. APPROVED

Drone Flying The Parish Council have received complaints from residents in Little Norton, regarding the flying of a drone over their houses and gardens. This is actually an intrusion of peoples' privacy. Please consider your surroundings. If you are recording images beyond your home, a drone may intrude on the privacy of others where they expect their privacy to be respected (such as in their back garden). It is unlikely that you would want a drone to be hovering outside your window so do be considerate to others and don't hover outside theirs. If we receive further

complaints, then we will have to report this matter to the Police.

Barbed Wire: We have now received reports within the last six weeks of four accidents with animals (deer and dogs) (that have either been fatal or have resulted in veterinary care), after they have got caught up in barbed wire. The barbed wire has been installed beside footpaths. We ask that all landowners please consider installing plain wire instead of barbed wire, especially where the fence is on a footpath. The guidance to landowners states: Barbed wire can be a particular hazard to Public Rights of Way users and is not acceptable on or near a public right of way if it is likely to be injurious to persons or animals using the highway. This is especially important on bridleways where horses need space to safely pass each other and to turn when going through gates. Barbed wire should not be fixed on the public right of way side of the fence. It should always be on the field side. In addition, barbed wire should never be wrapped around any post which forms part of a gate or stile. Barbed wire can also cause damage to clothing and other accessories if a public right of way is narrow and weather conditions are windy.

Annual presentation from Hamdon Youth Group: The Parish Council were pleased to see that they had had another successful year in 2019-2020. Financially it has been one of their more stable years, with success in attracting additional funders to help replace the lost County funding, allied with cost savings.

There have also been increased attendance numbers with a thriving group of young people. They have been engaged with projects on graffiti, media and arts alongside the social aspects and work with their specific issues. However, they continue to find it difficult to recruit new volunteers and have lost 2 highly valued volunteers. In order to stay open in Norton they have had to employ a Youth Support Worker (YSW) to support the Youth Worker.

With the effect of Covid-19, they had ceased indoor sessions on 18/3/20 but continued with detached work until the end of April when staff were furloughed. They were able to restart detached work on 20/7/20 with the introduction of partial furlough. Councillor More informed them that they will have the agreed 10% increase in grant (agreed in 2017), which would bring the annual grant to £1996.50 for 2021/22. This would be paid in April 2021.

No Christmas Tree Recycling: Unfortunately SSDC will be unable to offer this service this year as their workload won't allow for the loss of the staff or wood chippers following loss of production during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

SSDC: South Somerset Five-Year Housing Land Supply 2020-2025 Officers in the South Somerset District Council Strategic Planning Team have been working hard over the last few months to update the Council's Five-Year Housing Land Supply. They have now completed the assessment for the period 2020-2025 and are very pleased to inform you that calculations show that South Somerset District Council now has a supply equivalent to 6 years. You can see the full report and schedule here - <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/planning-policy/local-plan-review-2016-2036/> (please scroll down the page and click on the tab which states: Housing (including Five-Year Housing Land Supply)).

This is fantastic news for the Council and means that the tilted balance towards the presumption in favour of sustainable development will no longer apply in respect of the lack of a five year land supply.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 14th DECEMBER 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

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.

A CITADEL OF ICE Anne Thomas (wife of former rector of our benefice) has been using her time constructively and has written a book called A CITADEL OF ICE about an amazing journey made by an artist to St Petersburg just before the Crimean War. The book can be bought from Norton Shop at a special launch price of £7.50. She is offering to wrap and post it as a Christmas gift to addresses in the UK - contact Anne directly by email for details: aphomas@hotmail.co.uk or phone number 01823 350590

DOORSTEP SALE OF JEWELLERY AND WATERCOLOURS Prue Biddle and Moish Sokal invite you to book a COVID-safe time to visit our pre-Christmas doorstep sale on either Friday 4th or Saturday 12 December, 10 - 4 here in Norton. We are long established artists - 30 years of exhibitions for Moish and his sale of older work continues. Prue is a member of the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen and usually shows in high quality craft shows. Please ring 881350 to book a 15 minute slot, maximum 2 people per slot. Should lockdown prevent us from holding this sale you can find our work online at www.moishsokal.co.uk and www.pruebiddle.com.

URGENTLY NEEDED A small area of land within the local area either to rent or buy for our two rescue goats. Please contact Ian or Jeanette Rumbelow on 01935 881712 / 07749733686

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

Tuesday 1 December Mobile Library Higher Street 3.10pm

Monday 14 December Parish Council Meeting via Zoom 7.30pm