

NORTON NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021 ISSUE 507

The Newsletter committee wish all our readers a
Happy and Healthy New Year

NORTON SHOP WEBSITE: <https://www.nortonshop.co.uk>

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

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

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WEBSITE: <https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/friends-of-norton-church/>

CHURCH FLAG The George Cross flag will fly until **Wednesday 6th January for Epiphany.**

As there is not much copy this month I have included some items from the Newsletter archives which might be of interest – see end of the newsletter. Have a safe and healthy New Year. Editor

KEITH AND WENDY DARE would like to wish all our friends, neighbours and customers a great Christmas and New Year. We won't be sending Christmas and New Year cards this year but will make a donation to charity.

NORTON CORONAVIRUS HELP is still here to collect prescriptions or other items for you if you are unable to get out or even just for a friendly chat. Phone Prue on 881350 or Martyn on 881437.

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.

THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH (FNC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The FNC activities are managed through a small committee of volunteers who report on the activities undertaken at the end of each year at an Annual General Meeting. All who share the aims of the FNC are welcome to attend. **The next AGM covering 2020 will be held at 7:30pm on Friday 29th January 2021.**

The circumstances prevailing at the time of writing mean that our normal meeting format will not be possible. The FNC AGM will therefore be held on line using the Zoom video conferencing facility. This is a free to use service and can be accessed from most laptops and tablets (eg iPad) or smart phones. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting on Zoom is invited to inform Barry Eastley the current FNC Secretary (e-mail: bas.eastley@btinternet.com) who will be happy to provide advice on how to access and take part in the meeting.

WANTED - FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH – FUND RAISING SUPPORT The Friends of Norton Church (FNC), was formed in 2005 to assist the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary the Virgin Norton-sub-Hamdon to maintain the fabric of Norton Church. This is primarily achieved through the raising of funds that are then made available as grants to the PCC Fabric Fund. The main fund raising activities are the operation of a Wine Club draw with prizes presented monthly to club winners, and the organisation of events such as the recent talks (with refreshments) on the "Rhino Trust" and "Rafting through the Grand Canyon". Outside visits such as to Vaux Polo have also been popular fund raisers. The Committee is now in need of additional support to help organise and operate the Wine Draw and future events. If you have a few hours each month that you can spare to help in either area, do please contact Jonathan Binns (881063) or John Forrest (882881) who can provide more information.

THE READING ROOM. The Reading Room Committee would like to thank everyone in the Village for their continued support in helping to evolve the Reading Room, and for providing suggestions for its management and use following the refurbishment.

As mentioned last month, the Reading Room will be **closing on the 24th December** and re-opening (COVID restrictions permitting) to all users in February on completion of the refurbishment.

The Committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and looks forward to welcoming you to a reopening event in February of next year; the details of which are to follow. With best wishes, the Reading Room Committee.

READING ROOM CAFÉ. On behalf of the Reading Room café we would like to thank all of our wonderful customers for their continued support. It has been a hard and trying year and your support, encouragement and very kind words have really kept us going – THANK YOU! Thank you also to the Reading Room committee for their support.

As you all know the Reading Room is undergoing refurbishment after Christmas so our last day will be 24th December. We will be open on 23rd (Wednesday) 9.00am – 4.00pm and 24th (Thursday) 8.00am – 12.00pm for the collection of Christmas orders. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Amanda, David and Sophie

MOBILE LIBRARY The Mobile Library will be coming to **Higher Street in Norton on Tuesday 12th January from 2.50pm to 3.20pm. (Note earlier times)** Books can be ordered by emailing KSouthern@somerset.gov.uk

HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE. Following a recent meeting of the PPG it was thought it would be useful to publish the following statistics from the surgery's telephone management system. During November they received **3,650 telephone calls** which average out around **200 a day**. The busiest day is always a **Monday**. The quietest days are **Thursdays**. The average wait time for calls to be answered is **56 seconds**. The busiest time for telephone calls is between **9.00am and 11.00am** Quietest times for calls are between **1.00pm and 2.00pm and 5.00pm to 6.00pm** The Patients Participation Group hope these statistics will be of interest to patients and give an idea of how busy the surgery is. Jan Langley Secretary PPG.

ALL DOG OWNERS, BE AWARE Dog thieves were spotted in the school car park in Norton Sub Hamdon, in a van loaded with empty crates on the morning of December 7th, and previously the same van was seen in Martock. Please be alert to the possibility of theft and know where your dog is at all times, whether at home or on a walk. It only takes a second for your dog to be stolen, and forever for you to deal with the heartbreak. Jonathan Binns, Norton Sub Hamdon.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB Draw results for Christmas 2020 Winners are: Jenny Byham, Alec Seccombe (2), Mary Edmund (3), Penny Cudmore, Roger Hardisty and Emily Waters. A heartfelt thank-you to all participants in the Club throughout this difficult year. We wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a happier New Year. If you would like to join the FNC Wine Club, please contact Jonathan Binns on 881063

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 AND UPDATE FROM NORTON MOVIE NITES Many thanks to all our audience for your support in 2020 and particularly at our Wild Cinema evenings in September and October. Apologies that Lockdown 2 caused the cancellation of *Emma* in November. We are hoping to have an indoor venue to allow us to restart in February and March and we look forward to seeing you all then. Best wishes from us all at Norton Movie Nites.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB It seems at the moment as though life is a bit like a cuckoo clock, whereby a figure comes out, the cuckoo calls the hour, and then back in again! Unfortunately for us it is not hours but days and weeks. However there is a full programme in place for the club in 2021 which we hope to start with our February meeting. This is a short AGM followed by a talk by local resident Malcolm Uhlhorn on "The Essentials of Domestic Garden Design". This has the caveat that it is dependent on Covid rules in place at that time. Find us on Facebook. The 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 DECEMBER 2020

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

Planning:

There was one planning applications to discuss for this month.

20/02785/HOU - Portlake House, Great Street, Norton Sub Hamdon - Creation of a standard size tennis court as per LTA guidelines, including 9ft high chain link fencing (part retrospective) - The Parish Council have no objection to this planning application. However, they wish to see some natural screening planted as it is very close to the road (Great Street) and has already changed the street scene dramatically.

Headland between Norton and Chiselborough roadside

The in-lamb sheep are now occupying these fields and NO ACCESS signs have been erected.

THEREFORE, PLEASE KEEP OUT OF THESE FIELDS WHILST THE SIGNS ARE UP.

This is NOT a footpath or a permissive path. The last couple of years, Mr Holloway has kindly allowed walkers to walk along the headland as the road between Norton and Chiselborough is dangerously narrow. However, The Holloways have had many issues with dogs chasing sheep and sheep being attacked, resulting in them aborting their lambs. **NO ACCESS MEANS...NO ACCESS – TO EVERYONE** – last year certain individuals ignored the signs and just carried on walking through the fields. If this happens again this year, the Holloways are likely to close it off permanently, as people do not seem to have any respect for the landowner's animals or his request to keep out. **PLEASE HAVE THE COURTESY TO KEEP OFF THIS PRIVATE LAND WHEN THE SHEEP ARE IN THESE FIELDS.**

Thank you

Dog Walkers: The Clerk has received concerns regarding unruly and out of control dogs. These dogs are jumping up on people, and some are showing intimidating behaviour towards other dogs and even people. Not everyone likes dogs – some are allergic to them. If you cannot control your dog, he/she needs to be on a lead at all times. Many thanks

Unitary Authority progress: The proposal for a Stronger Somerset by the four Somerset district councils, for two Unitary Authorities, was overwhelmingly approved by SSDC's full Council and by each of the three other district councils on 3rd December for submission to the Secretary of State by 9th December. He is expected to run a consultative process early in 2021 whether to create one or two unitary authorities, followed by a decision in the summer.

It seems unlikely that B&NES and North Somerset will be included.

The County Council passed a motion to delay the elections due in May 2021. SCC have formally requested this of the government and it is almost certain to be delayed.

The Parish Council would like to wish all the residents of Norton Sub Hamdon and Little Norton a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 11th JANUARY 2021 at 7.30pm VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. Meetings are likely to continue via Zoom for at least the first few months of 2021. 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

FROM THE NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES. JANUARY 1988

CHURCH NEWS. *The floodlighting system for the Church tower is nearly ready for use. The lights will be switched on by Sir Godfrey Style at 7.15pm on Tuesday, 22nd December. The lighting has been paid for from the fund in memory of the late Lady Style. The Candle Lit Carol Service will be straight after the switching on ceremony at 7.30pm. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served after the service.*

NORTON W.I. *The Village Hall was full of good cheer for the December meeting of the W.I. presided over*

by the new President, Mrs. C. Minchinton who presented retiring President, Mrs. Warren, with a garden token with many appreciations from the committee. Guests joined members for a festive supper served by the committee members parading in Fancy Dress, to be judged by Mrs. Gould, Group Secretary. Miss Radford gained 10 points. Mrs. Sparks, Competition Organiser, presented competition prizes, Mrs. Edwards winning the cup for most points during 1987. The evening ended with a hilarious Beetle Drive.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 13th January at 7.30pm. The talk will be on the work of a vet. Visitors very welcome.

Whist Drive - 21st January in the Reading Room.

Coffee Evening and Bring and Buy sale - 26th January at Hayes, Higher Street at 7.30pm.

Forthcoming Event - Ploughmans Lunch at the Village Hall on the 16th February after the Pancake Race.

JANUARY 1989.

NORTON SCHOOL. Since last writing the school has had a 'lightning' visit by two of Her Majesty's Inspectors for schools. The two ladies spent the day with us talking to and observing the children at work. I am pleased to report that the H.M.I. were most complimentary about the children, finding them articulate, confident and capable. It is often reassuring for schools to receive unsolicited comments from professional educators like this as it serves to present the school with a benchmark against which our future conduct can be measured.

More recently the PTA has been working extremely hard and has yet again triumphed with the Christmas Bazaar. The event, coupled with a first time stall at the Stanchester Car Boot Sale has brought in £828 to the PTA funds. This money is extremely important to the school for without this extra injection of cash, resources in the school would be sadly lacking. Indeed, with the advent of the National Curriculum, the demands placed upon school to purchase new items of equipment for such areas as Science, Design and Technology and Mathematics will undoubtedly grow. Schools without this vital support will find it difficult to 'tool up' for the start of the National Curriculum in September 1989.

Within School work goes on apace. Lee Richards, in pursuing his research into the War Memorial window has actually provided the Regimental Museum of the Royal Greenjackets with material they were previously unaware of. This is something we are very pleased with and hopefully after Christmas the Junior class will settle down to writing the guide to the windows. Q.M.S. Johnson and the two Sayers boys are the only names we have been able to do any real research on. Family information on the other men named would still be most welcome and helpful in our work.

By the time you read this 1989 will be upon us - so soon! Can I take this opportunity of wishing everyone in our community a belated Happy Christmas and wish them well for the New Year.

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 January Parish Council Meeting by zoom 7.30pm

Friday 29 January Friends of Norton Church AGM by zoom 7.30pm

