

NORTON NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021 ISSUE 509

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/>

NORTON NEWSLETTER As you will see the newsletter is being delivered again and we are very grateful to our deliverers for continuing to distribute the newsletter to every home in the village.

START OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME. Please remember that the clocks go forward by one hour at **1.00am on Sunday, 28th March.**

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.

INFORMATION FROM THE HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE.

Symphony Healthcare Service Medicines Management Team operate out of a central office in South Petherton. They handle prescriptions for Hamdon, Martock & South Petherton, Somerton and Crewkerne. The medicines management team includes prescription clerks, pharmacy technicians and pharmacists who work together to help you get the best from your medicines and ensure that you have a safe and timely supply.

Prescription clerks process your repeat prescription requests. They are trained to ensure that requests are not submitted too early, and to highlight any blood tests or reviews that are due. Pharmacy technicians are registered professionals who have undertaken a two year course learning all aspects of medicines from dispensing and clinical knowledge to preparation of intravenous medications. They can update your medical record after a visit to hospital, synchronise your medicines and answer medication queries.

Pharmacists are experts in medicines having undertaken a four year degree in pharmacy, and have many years' experience in practice. All of our pharmacists are registered independent prescribers, or training to become prescribers. Our pharmacists are well qualified to review all of your medications to ensure that you are gaining maximum benefit from them.

The prescription clerks in the medicines management hub at South Petherton would like to share with you the following information: They process prescriptions for over 36,000 patients across four SHS practices. They answer an average of between 1,200 and 1,400 phone calls a week (around 250 a day, again Mondays is always the busiest day). They process over 1,000 e-mail requests from patients each week. They check between 4,500 and 5,200 on line requests each week. They check for timeliness, assessing need for blood tests and reviews. They liaise directly with our community pharmacy colleagues to swiftly resolve prescription queries without needing to go via the surgeries. We hope this information will help you understand why sometimes you may have a problem with a late or lost prescription! Wasted medication is a huge problem nationwide. A sad and all too common sight in a pharmacy is a dustbin bag full of unused medication that has been returned by a patient, or a family member, after having a sort out. Stockpiling medication is a huge problem and presents safety issues should there be children in the house. Order your prescription electronically whenever possible – Patient access or NHS app is the favourite option, or by e-mail

Please only order by phone if you do not have internet access – this will free-up the phone lines for those that really need to use it. If you do need to phone – please avoid Monday mornings when we are very busy! Order your prescription 7-10 days before you need to collect it, to allow time for processing by our clerks, signing by the doctor and dispensing. Only order medicines that you require – do not stock-pile. Nominate a pharmacy for us to send your prescription electronically. If you are registered with a dispensing practice, and live further than one mile from your nearest pharmacy please consider using the dispensary within the surgery...the surgery will value your support and benefit financially. Check your medicines before you leave the pharmacy – once medicines have left the premises they cannot be returned for re-use. Jan Langley. Secretary. Hamdon Patients Participation Group.

MARTOCK & SOUTH PETHERTON PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HAMDON PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Volunteers required to assist with Marshalling

Since December our group of Practices, which include Martock and South Petherton, Hamdon, Buttercross and Ilchester and Crewkerne, have been operating the Covid vaccination hub at the Henhayes Community Centre, Crewkerne.

This vaccination programme at a local level will be continuing for some months maybe until the early Summer. To help spread the load, Patient Participation Groups within the group of Practices covered by our Primary Care Network will cover alternate weeks and I have been asked to co-ordinate this effort. At present, the coverage required is **7 days a week, 08:30 – 18:30. We need a lot of volunteers.** The more we can get to sign up the easier it will be to provide a consistent coverage without it becoming too arduous a task. If you are interested in volunteering in this critical effort,

please email me at the Chair of the Martock and South Petherton Patient Participation Group chair.mspppg@gmail.com . Also please contact friends and family in the area who you think suitable for the task. Volunteers will need access to provide their own transport to get to Crewkerne. Thanking everyone in advance - any help is appreciated. Paul Harding, Chairman Martock and South Petherton Patient Participation Group in association with The Hamdon Patient Participation Group.

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.

IMPORTANT SAFETY UPDATE I've had several residents get in touch to report children playing in the flood attenuation pond on New Road. This represents a potential danger to life and is not safe. Please could I ask all residents to be aware and to educate children about the potential risks. I am working with the Parish and District Councils to try and improve the safety of the site. In the meantime, if you have any concerns please feel free to get in touch: mike.hewitson@southsomerset.gov.uk. Cllr Mike Hewitson District Councillor, Hamdon Ward

THANK YOU I'm sure that we've all been frustrated and annoyed at times over the last few weeks, whilst road works in Norton have disrupted our progress through the village. However, the orange army of eastern European workers (mostly Romanian) have laboured tirelessly through the wettest January for years and worked 12hr days to complete the mammoth task of laying fibre conduit to every property. They were always willing to move equipment and barriers to allow access to our properties and usually with a smile and cheerful wave. This work force deserves a lot of praise for the manner in which the work has been carried out. Lynn Orchard.

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. Here we are again. Still in lockdown, (as I write this), but hopefully we will hear some better news for everyone in next week's Government Update. The Hall will remain closed, until which time we are permitted to re-open. We are hoping to welcome some prospective committee members to our next Hall Meeting, which would be great. We have re-arranged our AGM to April 13th. But this could still be changed. There will be posters in the shop, and on the Hall Notice board, with any changes. Hopefully, we will have more to report next week. Jennie Harris for Norton Village Hall.

READING ROOM NEWS The planned refurbishment is now complete and as soon as Covid restrictions allow, please come and have a look at the work which has taken place. As you may already know Amanda will not be returning to run her popular cafe/takeaway service. She has been offered the chance to run her local shop and café. I know many of you will be disappointed (although you will appreciate this is a fantastic opportunity for her), but I'm sure you will join the Committee in wishing her every success and thank her for her hard work, delicious food, dedication and cheerfulness in what have been very testing times for her. The Committee have received enquiries from a couple of people interested in opening a café/takeaway from the Reading Room, so hopefully we will have more news soon. The AGM is planned for Thursday 25th March at 7pm, unless Covid restrictions allow otherwise. Anyone wishing to attend please contact me via my email below and I will send you the link prior to the meeting. Reading Room Committee Secretary, Tricia Walton pj_walton@yahoo.co.uk

STOP PRESS re READING ROOM The Committee are delighted to announce they have chosen Katy Parsons to take over the Reading Room Cafe. Some may know Katy (who lives in Stoke) when she was the Manager of Dorothy's Tea Rooms in Hinton St George. At present she prepares cakes, quiches etc for the Community Shop in Hinton and The Priory in Stoke. She is totally delighted she will be now be operating her own cafe, a dream she has had for several years. Naturally until lockdown restrictions are lifted, she will be only able to serve (and deliver locally) her Take Away meals. We wish her great success and know the village will support her. She plans to open on Wednesday 10th March and will be open daily and including Saturdays. Katy will be writing more about herself, her plans for the cafe etc in the next issue. To read more about Katy we invite you to visit <https://somersetshines.com/2020/07/12/katy-talks-cakes/>

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB Draw results for February 2021: Chris & Sue Westwood, Janet Hutton, Mary & David Batstone, Liz Fish, John & Elisabeth Forrest, Richard & Rita Raven (2), Brian & Marion Frostdick. To join the wine club please contact Jonathan Binns on 881063.

THE CHAPEL CLOCK We are sorry to report a fault has occurred within the electrical mechanism of the outside clock we recently put up at The Old Chapel. During the recent very cold spell the movement struggled to keep time and it now loses about 30 minutes a day. The clock is now stopped until we can arrange for Matt Orchard to erect his tower scaffolding for us to take the clock down for close examination and to pack the movement with polystyrene to protect it from the cold weather. We can only apologise it is now only showing the correct time twice a day! P & P Callaghan

NEW ARRIVALS We welcome Nic and Lorraine who have moved in to Broadmead Lane – we hope they will be very happy in our lovely village.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB The contact for the Gardening Club is 01935 829408

JEHOVAH WITNESSES. One of our readers was a little concerned as she had a letter in the post that looked hand written inviting her to chat and find out more about 'pandemic fatigue' with a website gw.org. Having checked the website this has been sent from the Jehovah Witnesses.

CAN YOU HELP NHS STAFF? David Warry from Montacute Service Station has asked me to put this request in our Newsletter and Parish Magazine. They are having a collection for the Staff at Yeovil Hospital. They would like any unwanted toiletries, and presents, that you might like to regift. e.g. Soaps, Shampoo, Shower wash, Toothpaste, etc etc.....in fact anything they can use. If you can, please drop it in to Montacute Service Station. 01935 822271 or into me. at 5 New Road. Norton. 881718. Thank you. Jennie Harris.

VOLUNTEER MENTORS WANTED. **4FAMILY** delivers a family support programme offering help to struggling families so that they can regain control over their own lives and feel empowered and equipped to move forward. We offer the support of Family Link Workers who are the families' voice amongst the agencies, but also, each family is offered a **Volunteer Mentor who plays a crucial role.** Be part of a fantastic family mentoring programme which carefully matches mentors with a family living within South Somerset. For more information about becoming a Y4F mentor contact Andrew: Email: andrew.dunningham@yeovil4family.org.uk Tel: 07970 952653 Website: www.yeovilcommunitychurch.co.uk/yeovil-4-family/ This organisation works with all types of clients regardless of faith, gender, race, disability, marital status, social class, age or sexual preference. While Mentors do not need to have a faith, it is hoped that they will agree with Y4F's values of Community, Equality, Inclusivity, Hope and Transformation.

VILLAGE AGENT NEWS Hopefully by now the weather has started to get warmer! That was a very cold February!
Staying Warm and Well Being at home a lot more over the past couple of months has bound to have bumped up your fuel bills - and March could still surprise us with bitter weather, so please do get in touch if you are struggling with fuel costs. We help distribute the Surviving Winter grants which are available for older people living in Somerset, who are unable to adequately heat their homes <https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter> – we want everyone to be warm and well this winter! Alternatively you can contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy and their Home Energy team who are on hand to deal with fuel debt, help find cheaper fuel, aid in switching suppliers and much more – just watch this Talking Café they co-hosted with our Village Agent Wendy Rudd to see why it is so important to stay warm & how they help: <https://youtu.be/Xjmw10nk9C0>. You can also complete their online referral form on their website: <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice> **Don't forget you can also join our Community Oil Scheme** and save in bulk orders of oil! www.ccslovesomerset.org/oil. 50% of the small annual fee goes into our Crisis fund to help people in need in Somerset.

Crisis Fund The Crisis Fund is distributed by our Village and Community Agents to help people in crisis situations and for whom a small grant can make a huge difference in their life – At this time of crisis and hardship for many in our communities this need is greater than ever. **We help when others can't, won't, or don't.**

We have never actively fundraised before for the Crisis Fund, but this has been an unprecedented year, and our important 'pot' of funds has almost depleted due to unprecedented demand due to the Coronavirus.

We would love to raise **£20,021 in 2021** for the Crisis Fund, and are asking YOU to get involved anyway you can with sponsored runs, bake sales (after lockdown!) - setting yourself any kind of #CrisisFundChallenge – or by simply and very kindly donating! Follow us on social media @RuralSomerset for updates and how to get involved!

Some examples of what these grants have been used for recently:

To buy 2 mattress protectors for a carer who was supporting their loved one with night time incontinence

To support a family with funeral costs after their teenage son died in a road accident

To buy children's clothes for a family who had recently lost Dad to cancer

To buy half a tank of oil for a lady with a chronic health condition who was struggling to heat her home

Paying to PAT test and move a donated Fridge Freezer to a family in need

To buy a washing machine for a carer who is struggling to keep up with washing demands

To buy food and drink for a client who had been struggling to get shopping during the lockdown. The Agent went shopping for the client to ensure she could eat and drink until the food bank was open

Please visit www.ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-crisis-fund/ to find out more. You can donate to a county wide 'pot'

<https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/> or directly to the district you live in:

South Somerset: <https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/project/southsomersetcrisisfund/>

Somerset Food Resilience Taskforce

We are proud to be part of the county-wide initiative, and we organise, co-ordinate and deliver the delivery of food boxes and pre cooked meals to those in need via our Agents, community groups/kitchens – over 20,000 items of food a WEEK are delivered – 200,000 since lockdown began last March – a staggering number!

Would you benefit from a free food box?

No one should go hungry in Somerset, and our boxes are not means tested, simply for people in need whether you're struggling to cook or obtain food. If you are an unpaid Carer and would benefit from respite from cooking, we can

provide some meal packs for you and the person you care for. If you need help with any of this, please do contact your local Village Agent on 01823 331 222 or visit <https://somersetagents.org/help-with-food/>

Want to get involved? Our Smart Communities team can help get your community set up with equipment such as fridges & freezers, and food to stock them! Visit <https://ccslovesomerset.org/food-resilience/> for details.

Stay safe, stay well and stay active!

SOMERSET WALKS TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT FREE! Walking in England You are only a couple of clicks away from masses of free walks, all over the beautiful Somerset countryside. Simply click on one of the options for Somerset walks, maps, walking club details and walk books. www.walkinginengland.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021

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

Planning: There were no planning applications to discuss for this month.

However, the Parish Council have since the meeting received notification on the following applications from SSDC:

Appeal in respect of application decision reference: 19/03241/OUT Planning inspectorate appeal reference - APP/R3325/W/20/3258176

Appeal by - Mr & Mrs M.McKellar

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 1 no. Dwelling with all matters reserved except access.

Location: Land East Of Keepers Lodge Little Norton Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon Somerset

(gr:348086/115657) **The Parish Council have been informed by the Planning Inspectorate that the appeal is DISMISSED.**

S137 Payments: This year application letters were received from Yeovil Freewheelers Blood Bikes & Hamdon Youth Group. The Parish Council was in total agreement that, due to Covid, they would like to support Yeovil Freewheelers Blood Bikes with the full £200. The charity is run by 80 plus volunteers who provide their service entirely free of charge and it relies wholly on local donations. Their annual running costs are approx. £40-£50,000. They save the NHS over £200,000 a year by providing emergency courier services for blood platelets, blood and tissue samples, medication plus numerous other things.

Replacement trees for the Rec: The Clerk reported that she has managed to secure 3 sapling trees from SSDC to replace the ones that were lost last spring during the heatwave when we were in first Lockdown. However, due to recent vandalism of a tree between the play area and MUGA (that has been snapped off), one of the new trees will now have to be planted here to replace the damaged one.

Octagon Theatre: The District Executive of SSDC has agreed in principle to the investment of £23m to extend the Octagon theatre in Yeovil. The expanded premises will add a new circle, two flexible studio spaces, backstage and accessibility improvements. This will allow the Octagon to host larger touring productions which will help to bring visitors into the area, boosting our economic development.

Extending Cllr Middleton's agreed leave : The Parish Council have received an application from Councillor Richard Middleton to extend his agreed leave for another 6 months. His original leave started in September 2020 and initially runs for a 6 month period (running out at the end of March 2021). Requests for leave of absence will normally be granted in cases of: serious illness for periods up to 12 months in total, or pregnancy. The Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to extend Councillor Middleton's leave for a further 6 months (finishing at the end of September 2021). Councillor Middleton is a hard working Parish Councillor who is very well respected throughout the village.

Attenuation Pond: Following images of two young lads recently spotted playing in the attenuation pond at Bramley Fields, District Cllr. Mike Hewitson, has now written two letters to the developer to request that he helps in improving safety in this area. The Parish Council have always felt very strongly that a fence should be erected around the attenuation pond and would also wish to see at least one life saving device and a depth marker installed. The developer has yet to respond to either letter. The District Councillor has also updated the CEO of SSDC, over this matter to see if funding can be requested from Area North to make this area secure. Both the Parish Council and Councillor Hewitson are extremely concerned and are pushing for some immediate action before there is a tragedy.

Footpaths: Landowners with footpaths in the village have asked that people please keep to the actual footpath rather than walk around the field – in particular the footpath that runs through the field from Little St to Barrow Lane (Higher Street). This footpath only goes along the top hedge-line and not down by the river.

Rubbish Bins and Recycling Bins: We've had many reports of bins being left out after the rubbish has been collected. Please could you make sure that you bring your bins back in after they've been emptied. They are blowing around in the street and getting caught under parked cars. Many Thanks

Blocked Drains: There are currently many blocked drains again throughout Norton. All of these have been reported to Highways.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 8th MARCH 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

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 8 March Parish Council Meeting by Zoom 7.30pm