

# NORTON NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021 ISSUE 510

## The Norton Newsletter Committee wish all our readers Good Health and a Happy Easter

**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 from the Church Tower from **3<sup>rd</sup> until 11<sup>th</sup> April** for Easter and then again on **23<sup>rd</sup> April** for St George's day.

**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.

**KATY'S BAKES @ THE READING ROOM** I have been in the Reading Room over a week now and feel so welcomed by the village. A big thank you to everyone who has visited, and I am looking forward to welcoming you all. I'm open Wednesdays to Saturdays 9.30 - 3.30pm for light lunches, cakes, afternoon teas and hot drinks. Also hot meals available to take away cold and warm up when you like. Contact phone number is 01935 881505 or email [ktparsons12@hotmail.com](mailto:ktparsons12@hotmail.com).

**CONTACT NUMBERS FOR THE COMMUNITY SHOP and TAKEAWAYS:** **Community Shop** phone number 01935 881200 **Lord Nelson** - email [mark@thelordnelson.co.uk](mailto:mark@thelordnelson.co.uk) or phone 01935 881473 for collection or delivery.

**NORTON CLT** The Community Land Trust is seeking new Board Members. We are allowed to have up to ten people on our Board and currently we have two vacancies. We are very fortunate that we have recently co-opted a new member from West Chinnock, so we now have three Board Members from the Chinnocks. We also have one from Chiselborough and the other four are from Norton. The only necessary qualification for being on the Board is an enthusiasm for wanting to support our area, the three villages in it and the surrounding countryside.

As you know, the Land Trust is a 'not for profit' organisation – any profit made must be invested back in to the community. It is a form of Community Benefit Society and, as such, we can carry out any activity which can be seen to have potential to do just that – to benefit our community.

We have already provided affordable homes which will stay affordable for local people for ever. We also run Norton Village Shop and our Post Office. We also hope to be able to progress our next project to make our community more environmentally friendly – by installing solar panels on land owned by the CLT and considering the potential for other ways to produce renewable energy for our community, by working with Chiselborough Parish Council to progress several projects there and by actively seeking any further environmental projects around our villages. We can consider other enterprise projects, such as pubs, or providing work spaces or hot desks, or further housing projects.

But we do not need to stop there. If there is any project which could benefit our community we can consider it – but we do need the support of more Board Members to help carry the load. So, if you have that enthusiasm, a bit of time and a love for your community, if you have a project we could consider or if you have particular skills to offer, including administrative or financial experience, we would love to hear from you. And just asking us for more information would not impose any obligation on you. You could join the Board as a co-opted member to 'try us out' without a long term commitment. If you would like any further information or would like to talk about the possibilities for housing, renewables, or enterprise projects, please get in touch with me at [stuartandlizmaunder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stuartandlizmaunder@yahoo.co.uk) or by phoning me on 01935 881152. Liz Maunder, for the CLT.

**HAMDON PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP.** For the first time, the end of the 1st Covid-19 vaccination doses is in sight. By the end of March, we will have completed 1st dose vaccinations for everyone within cohorts 1-9. This is around 20,000 people! On Wednesday 18th March YDH took delivery of the largest volume of vaccine we have thus far received. We have full clinics booked for AstraZeneca vaccinations through the second half of March. We will be vaccinating at a rate of 75 patients per hour, which is about as fast as we can safely go at the Henhayes Centre, whilst maintaining effective social distancing and ensuring thorough assessment of patients. The majority of patients who would like the vaccine, have now been invited. There are a relatively small number of patients who still need to be contacted by phone and letter.

We have a full schedule of vaccination sessions over the next 8 weeks. However, YDH have managed to avoid the Easter Bank Holiday weekend and following week, which will hopefully help remove some strain from practices at this busy time of year. After Easter, the majority of these vaccination sessions will be for 2nd doses, as we start working our way through the list of patients already vaccinated once. People should be invited back to the site they attended originally, to receive their 2nd dose of vaccine. However, some patients may have relocated or received their initial dose as a temporary resident in another area. Assuming the vaccine supply remains reliable, we should be online to complete 2nd dose vaccinations for all of cohorts 1-9 by the end of June. The national target is for all cohorts to have received both doses by the end of July. Jan Langley. Secretary. Hamdon Medical Centre.

**NORTON VILLAGE HALL.** The Hall is still closed as per Government guidance, but according to the Roadmap, we can reopen from April 12th for certain groups to return, This only refers to children's and Youth Groups if required following all the current guidelines. We are also open for Essential Groups i.e. The Blood Donation Service.

Our Hall will have its 15th Birthday in March. Can you believe that? The first event held there was a Joint 60th Birthday party which was enjoyed by all. Instead of presents, the hirers asked for donations towards the Hall, stage, and window curtains which they managed to fund. The curtains brilliantly made by Mrs. Marie Kenny, are still in use today. The committee are hoping to organise a fun event, when times allow, for a get together and to show those around who haven't seen it yet - maybe with displays, etc. Our AGM should have been held in February, but we have moved it to **April 13th**. Unfortunately this will be a Zoom meeting, but anyone can attend. There will be posters going up shortly in the Village Shop, Hall notice board, and various other places. The zoom details will be on there, or you can email or phone the secretary Jennie Harris, for more information. email: [trevorharris55@btinternet.com](mailto:trevorharris55@btinternet.com), or 01935881718.

We are still looking to find someone to take on the Treasurer's Role, maybe join the committee, and work with our Treasurer, for a while. Lindsay Elliott (our present Treasurer) will help and assist you all she can. So please think about it, or for further information contact Lindsay...email. [lindsayjelliott@hotmail.com](mailto:lindsayjelliott@hotmail.com). or see her in the Post Office. Or if you know anyone who could help please let them know. Our Hall committee wouldn't be able to continue without a Treasurer, so please help to keep our hall running, we don't want to lose it after all our hard work.....Many thanks. Jennie Harris. Secretary of Norton Village Hall.

**DIABETES PREVENTION** I am the Diabetes Prevention coordinator within the South Somerset area, I am writing this as we are trying to increase awareness and access to the NHS National Diabetes Prevention Programme (NDPP) for residents within the South Somerset area. The South Somerset Diabetes Prevention programme is a free service for people who are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes. The Diabetes Prevention Programme is a behaviour change programme where people learn about, diet, physical activity and strategies to improve their overall health, all aimed at reducing their risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes. Normally, people access the programme through their GP however, due to the pandemic and the subsequent pressure that our GP practices are facing, for a limited time we have enabled a self-referral option via the Diabetes UK 'Know Your Risk Score' – a check list of questions that can determine a person's risk factors - This has also enabled the programme to become more accessible to people within the area. The risk tool can be accessed via the link : <https://riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start> More information about the programme can be found at <https://preventing-diabetes.co.uk/somerset/> Jayne Davis

**NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW.** We are sorry to announce we are unable to hold our annual Plant Sale this year. We have also made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Flower Show. We will however, be putting on a Flower Show inspired event **14th & 15th August**, so watch this space for details. Rest assured the Flower Show will definitely be back - bigger and better than ever - in 2022! We will re-convene the Committee in September to start planning the 2022 show. If you would like to get involved please email the Show Secretary on [murray152@btinternet.com](mailto:murray152@btinternet.com)

**OUR NEW RECTOR** I am writing this on a lovely spring morning to introduce myself as your new Rector, Revd Nick Clarke. Spring has brought good news of falling covid rates and the successful NHS vaccination program. St Mary's church will therefore be open for services from **Maundy Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm, Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 11am (outside - see below) and Easter Sunday Communion at 11 am 4<sup>th</sup> April.** Sadly, social distancing rules mean numbers are limited so **please book a place by contacting Brian Frosdick on 01935 881910.** Complime services will be on zoom on **5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm.** Contact Martyn Hamlin for the link on 881437. Details are on our website [www.hamhillchurches.org](http://www.hamhillchurches.org) and Church notice boards. I look forward to meeting you to celebrate once restrictions are eased! Rev Nick

**ON A HILL FAR AWAY Good Friday Reflective Service** 11am: 2nd April in Norton Churchyard. Covid restrictions apply. Bring a chair See [hamhillchurches.org](http://hamhillchurches.org) for details of all services and information about the Benefice.

**THE MOBILE LIBRARY** will be coming to Norton – Higher Street on **Tuesday 6th April at 2.50pm.**

**LADIES GROUP** Hello Ladies, I hope you are all fit and well, and like me, can't wait for life to get back to normal. I thought it would be nice to give an update and make you all aware that, fingers crossed, we shall restart our meetings with a talk in September. Hopefully, and according to government guidelines, we shall all be able to meet up socially in late June. Once again, our garden party will be top of the list of activities, as it was last year. I hope we can arrange a few outdoor visits during the summer and will be in touch as soon as the covid situation becomes clearer  
I have visited the refurbished Reading Room - it looks amazing, spacious and light and I look forward to holding our meetings there once more. Norton Ladies Group meet once a month on 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Reading Room from 7.30pm until 9.00 pm. We invite a speaker to deliver a light hearted and often amusing presentation. We also arrange trips to places of interest at least 3 or 4 times a year. In addition we hold a Christmas Party, and a garden party during the summer. Watch this space for further information over the coming months. New members and visitors will be sure of a warm welcome at any time. Sue Lowder 881805

**FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB** Draw results for March 2021: Malcolm & Jennie Reid, Brian & Marion Frosdick, Emily Waters, Mary Edmund, Niall Clifford, Liz Fish, Richard More and Roger Webb. To join the club please phone Jonathan Binns on 01935 881063.

**NORTON'S MERRY MOWERS.** Due to quite serious mechanical problems with 3 of our mowers (machines not men!!) we regret St Mary's Churchyard cannot receive its first cut till after the 12th April, a month later than first hoped. At the time of writing we are still awaiting estimates from Crewkerne Horticulture but we fear 2 of our better machines will have to be replaced. Chris Westwood & Peter Callaghan.

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

#### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR MARCH 2021**

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

**Planning:** The Parish Council had one planning applications to discuss for this month.

Application No: SCC/3798/2021 – Norton sub Hamdon pumping station, Higher St. Change of use to operational land (sewage pumping station), fencing and hard-standing. – No objections from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council have received notification on the following applications from SSDC:

Ref. No: 20/01645/HOU - Ref. No: 20/01646/LBC

Rose Cottage Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon Somerset TA14 6SN

The erection of a single storey rear extension garden room to dwelling to replace existing lean to extension. APPROVED

**\*\*Future of Local Government in Somerset\*\***

**The Consultation on the future of local Government in Somerset has now opened. The consultation will run until 22nd April 2021.**

The consultation can be found here:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/somerset/>

The Closing date for the Consultation is 19th April at 11:45pm.

**THE CONSULTATION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE TO RESPOND TO. IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY.**

The Two separate proposals have been received for Somerset – One Somerset and Stronger Somerset - and both will be consulted upon.

**What are the proposals?** 1. The One Somerset proposal - backed by the County Council - will see the five existing councils abolished and replaced with a single unitary authority. 2. The Stronger Somerset proposal - is a plan for a better future in Somerset led by South Somerset District Council, Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council. Stronger Somerset will create two unitary councils: Eastern Somerset comprising the area covered by Mendip and South Somerset District Councils and Western Somerset comprising area covered by Sedgemoor and Somerset West & Taunton District Councils. This would 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. Both Unitary proposals are being consulted upon and it is really important that as many people as possible respond. The consultation is an online questionnaire which does not take very long to do. The Parish Council strongly supports The Stronger Somerset bid.

**Some key points – did you know...?**

If a single Unitary Council for Somerset is successful, this would be the second largest Unitary Council in the country. In 10 years, its population will be more than 600,000 people - as big as Luxembourg!

One single, monolithic Council run from Taunton cannot be the sensible solution taking into account:

– Somerset covers 1,331 square miles, which means our population is dispersed.

– 48% of residents live in a rural area, compared with 18% for England at the last census.

– The One Somerset proposal to reduce the total number of Councillors by 63% from 269 to 100 would leave an average representation of 5,630 per Councillor compared with 3,150 in the rest of England.

**This is a significant threat to local democracy.**

Somerset lags behind other parts of the UK in a number of areas and some local services, such as social care, are unsustainable. The unitary proposal fails to recognise that many of the services it currently runs need major improvement. The County Council is proposing bigger, not better Government.

More information on the SSDC bid can be found here: [www.strongersomerset.co.uk](http://www.strongersomerset.co.uk).

SSDC proposals aim to keep decision making close to our communities, as well as providing a fresh start for services such as adult and children's social care - services which have consistently failed under the Conservatives for many years. Councillor Hewitson reiterated that it is vital that communities and individuals have their say on the two competing proposals. **The Closing date for the Consultation is 19th April at 11:45pm.**

**£10 million grant in Budget paves the way for Octagon Theatre redevelopment:** The Government's Budget announcement this week featured a major boost for South Somerset with £10 million being pledged to support a regional cultural infrastructure project in Yeovil.

The investment will help to fund the refurbishment and development of The Octagon Theatre and transform it into a flagship venue for arts and entertainment, fit for the people in towns and villages across South Somerset.

Helping to boost the local economy as well as the physical, social and cultural regeneration of South Somerset, the Octagon Theatre project will cost up to £23.01 million and the £10 million grant confirmed goes a long way to help reach that target.

**HORSES ON THE RECREATION FIELD:** We have now received many reports of horses being ridden on both the recreation Field and Minchington Rec. SSDC have been informed regarding the Minchington Rec as they own this. **NO HORSES ARE ALLOWED ON EITHER RECREATION FIELD – EITHER FOR EXERCISE OR TO FEED.**

**We have also received reports of a quad bike being ridden on the main recreation field. Again, this is NOT ALLOWED. We now have CCTV at the village hall, which covers the recreation field as well. This will be reviewed.**

**Environmental issues** – Solar Power offer – Cllr. Biddle reported on the South Somerset Solar Streets Project, where PV Installer IDDEA is making discounted panels available to homeowners and businesses by offering bulk savings on installation and donating to a community fund for each scheme. Would you be interested in this? For a basic installation, without a battery it would cost £4,000 for a 12 panel installation compared to between £4,800 - £5,500 for an individual installation. Extras can also be added if required. If you are interested then please email Councillor Biddle at: [nortonpcbiddle@outlook.com](mailto:nortonpcbiddle@outlook.com)

**Phosphates:** The District Council has passed a motion calling for the Government to take action to unblock the phosphates problem. A full Council approved a Phosphate Calculator which will allow developers to set aside an appropriate amount of land to offset against the increased phosphate that their development will generate. Thousands of planning applications will remain in limbo until this issue has been resolved.

**DOG OWNERS:** Once again, we have received numerous complaints of dogs fouling on the streets and pavements of Norton and Little Norton and it not being picked up. While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets. If you allow your child to exercise your dog alone, please teach them the importance of picking up dog waste after them. We have had someone witness a teenager walking their dog and allowing the dog to foul on the pavement in Great Street, and then walk away from it. We have informed the dog warden regarding the increase in this issue. They are now patrolling Norton again.

Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

**DANGEROUS DOGS – ARE YOU AWARE?** - Did you know that, under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, it is a criminal offence to allow a dog of any breed or type to be dangerously out of control, even if the dog doesn't bite anyone? Causing fear or

apprehension to a person that it may injure them comes under this legislation.

Action can also be taken against irresponsible or dangerous dog ownership. The owner or person in charge of a dog can be prosecuted and, in extreme circumstances, the Magistrates can remove the dog or order it to be destroyed.

During lockdown, there are lots of people getting dogs. Most responsible dog owners are getting help with their training. The RSPCA provide help and information on training: <http://orlo.uk/gFHGv>

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 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](mailto:nortonpcclerk@outlook.com)

**NEWSLETTER** On behalf of the residents of New Road, ( my delivery round.) I would like to thank the Newsletter Committee for restarting the hard copies. A lot of people have been pleased to get them through their door again and have said thanks. (Jennie Harris)

**DONATIONS FOR NHS STAFF AT YEOVIL HOSPITAL** Many thanks to everyone who have donated Toiletries etc already - this is being organised by David Warry at Montacute Garage. If anyone else has any items that could be used by our amazing NHS staff, please have a look around and drop them in, either to me at 5 New Road, or David at the Garage in Montacute. Many thanks. Jennie Harris.

**PHONE SCAMS** Please be aware careful about answering phone calls from people who say they are from the Inland Revenue and saying that you have underpaid your tax. They offer to take payment over the phone and ask for your bank details. Inland Revenue usually send statements by post and do not ring up demanding payment there and then.

**APRIL VILLAGE AGENT NEWS** If you are an unpaid Carer you are eligible to be vaccinated with the person you care for as long as you meet the eligibility criteria. We've put together a handy guide here: <https://somerseccarers.org/news/unpaid-carers-vaccine-group-6/> Please do register with your Doctor's surgery to let them know you are an unpaid Carer if you haven't already done so. Full details on the Somerset roll out of the vaccine can be found here: <https://www.somerseccg.nhs.uk/health/local-services/health-services-during-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations-in-somerset/>

However, there will be many people still shielding and extremely isolated until restrictions are further eased in the summer. If this is you, have you thought about joining a Befriending Service? CCS has a NEW project called CHAT TO CONNECT for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) People.

We know it's good to talk and share experiences. We can connect you with another person who is on the CEV list to keep your spirits up – you are not alone. Complete the short online registration form, and we will match you with another person with similar interests and hobbies. We are also offering one-to-one virtual support with phones, tablets, and laptops, downloading apps, and using Zoom or Whatsapp. Go to: <https://ccslovesomerset.org/chat-to-connect/>

Other useful services in Somerset include:

**Age UK Somerset's Friendly Phone Calls** service Phone: 01823 345613 or email [befriending@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:befriending@ageuksomerset.org.uk), or visit <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/our-services/befriending-service/> · **British Red Cross** – Get help with loneliness:

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-with-loneliness>

**Mind in Somerset** are launching some 'Somerset Wellbeing Friends' groups which focus on tackling loneliness, improving life skills and promoting coping strategies. Phone: 01935 474875 <https://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/somerset-wellbeing-friends/>

**The Silver Line** Free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people Phone: 0800 470 8090 <https://www.thesilverline.org.uk/>

**Men's Sheds** <https://menssheds.org.uk/>

Somerset Activity & Sports Partnerships – ideas for all ages and abilities <https://www.sasp.co.uk/be-active-at-home> · Sport England <https://www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement>

**AGE UK Somerset** <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/activities-and-events/exercise-sessions/>

**Business Networking** – Social Enterprise network <https://ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-social-enterprise/>

**Courses** – Thinking of starting a new career or want to learn something new? Try Somerset Skills & Learning

<https://www.sslcourses.co.uk/> or Step Up Somerset [www.stepupsomerset.org.uk](http://www.stepupsomerset.org.uk)

Cath Holloway Community Agent Tel: 01823 331222 Mobile: 07968 521746 Email: [cath@somerseccg.org.uk](mailto:cath@somerseccg.org.uk) Check out the CCS website: [www.somerseccg.org.uk](http://www.somerseccg.org.uk)

**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 6 April Mobile Library Van Higher Street Norton 2.50pm

Monday 12 April Parish Council Meeting by Zoom 7.30pm

Tuesday 13 April Village Hall AGM by Zoom 7.30pm

