

NORTON NEWSLETTER MAY 2021 ISSUE 511

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 be flown on 13th May for Ascension Day and again on 23rd May for Whit Sunday and also on 30th for Trinity Sunday.

HAMDON PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP At the last meeting of the above it was brought to our notice the amount of abusive telephone calls Reception Staff are experiencing throughout the Symphony Healthcare Group. Our Hamdon PPG were disturbed to learn from the Practice Manager that her reception staff get on average 5 or 6 a day, often reducing receptionists to tears. Luckily all calls are recorded and where the patient has been really abusive they are written to and 'warned' if they continue, and they would be asked to leave the practice and find another surgery. The PPG have promised they will do all they can to bring this to people's notice, hence this poem:

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK Think of the person on the end of the phone, when you dial their number and have a good moan. Think of the person on the end of the phone, when you express your anger and it shows in your tone. Think of the person on the end of the phone, who listens to you whilst you moan, who tries their best to help you out, do you really need to shout? How many more patients will there be who get upset and shout at me. Think of the person on the end of the phone who hears your abuse before going home. Please try and be respectful when phoning The Hamdon Practice - they really are there to try and help you. The latest statistics from the surgery for February were: Ask my GP requests numbered **1,316** for the month. They received **2,049** telephone calls of which between **100 & 120** were deemed to be abusive. Jan Langley. PPG Secretary.

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. Katy at the Reading Room 01935 881505.

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP is delighted to be running sessions again for the young people of Norton and Stoke after such a long period of being unable to support our young people. Our Monday sessions in Stoke and Wednesdays in Norton from 7.30pm are largely being held on the recreation grounds as inside participants are required to wear face masks which, understandably, they are fed up with wearing after full days wearing them in school. Further information can be found on the Hamdon Youth Group page on Facebook or email our Youth Worker, Lou, on lou.chant@cyp.me.uk or phone on 07402987931.

NORTON SHOW SAFARI - FROM 1:45PM, SATURDAY 19TH JUNE 2021 - 4 SHOWS AND A STROLL

Since our successful event in September it has continued to be a difficult time with no community events whilst we endure the confines of lockdown. Live performances have been on hold again putting many performers out of work. Whilst we are not out of the woods yet, from 17th May we are back to the Covid Regulations of last September and HamstoneLIVE and TakeArt have put together a safe way for you to enjoy 4 high quality performances from professional Somerset performers while taking a stroll around Norton Sub Hamdon. We have shows from:

* Little Big Horns - Music from the 30's and Disney tunes * Wassail Theatre Company and Tall Tails- The Charming Rat - An outdoor pantomime with a Somerset twist----- * Shoebox Theatre Company – A Walk on the Wild Side – A clown show about connection with nature, with a difference * Kerchief Theatre – Boxes – dynamic theatre about the need for, and the value, of, hope Numbers are limited, all shows are outdoors and social distancing guidelines will be practiced throughout. Join us with hope to blow away the COVID blues and support our Somerset talent. Tickets available at the Village Shop from 24th May 2021 – £7 each. This is a slight increase as we have increased costs for the performers. Suitable for all ages. Call John Bailey on 01935 881227 if any queries, or check out HamstoneLIVE on Facebook.

Note To avoid confusion, referring to the Parish Council's comments below, the above Safari will not be held at Parish Council Venues.

VILLAGE SALON. It's finally happening! After a delay due to Covid, Lynn is hanging up her scissors on 18th May. That will be 60 years and 6 weeks after she started work in a Weymouth salon.

The VILLAGE SALON will continue in the capable and expert hands of Lisa Doble, who was initially trained by Lynn when she left school and joined her salon in Martock. Now, 26 years later, she has her own salon here in Norton and will occasionally have help from the old woman who has stood behind the same chairs for so long. (Well actually, we've got some new chairs!) GOOD LUCK Lisa!

READING ROOM: As part of the recent refurbishment, the Reading Room has doubled the number of bookshelves in the main room. This means we have plenty of donated books for sale. If anyone would like to buy a book or 2 please contact Sophie Snow on 881099 for access whilst the Reading Room is still closed due to Covid restrictions. Paperback books are for sale for a suggested donation of between £1.50 and £2.00, hardback books between £2.00 and £3.00. We also have a new Bookings Secretary. Gwen Ames has taken over this role – if you would like to book the Reading Room for any reason please contact her at nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com. All bookings will be subject to any Covid restrictions in place at the time. Tricia Walton, Secretary

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. We held our re-arranged AGM on Zoom on April 13th and we were pleased to have some members of the public attend, and with some apologies. The Committee stays as it is, except we are still looking for someone to take over from Lindsay Elliott as Treasurer. She will stay on for a short time to help and assist whoever will offer to do it. Lindsay really needs to have her life back - she has given us several years of service, and it would be nice for her to have some time with Shaun and her family. So please, if you can, or know anyone that can, please email Lindsay for more info. lindsayjelliott@hotmail.com. Thank you.

As I mentioned in last month's issue, we are hoping to arrange a 'Meet the Village' evening at the hall, with Cheese and Wine.etc. It will give everyone a chance to meet up with other residents, and maybe some of the tradesmen/women in our village. They will no doubt be available for a chat or help and advice - especially for newcomers, who are still settling in. Watch this space for more information.....

Depending on Government Guidance, some events will be allowed in the Hall, from May 17th unless anything changes. For instance Exercise classes can resume, coffee mornings, etc.

Up to 30 people will be able to attend Weddings, Receptions, Funerals, Wakes and Christenings etc. No Parties of any type yet. Obviously all events are subject to compliance with Covid 19 secure guidance, and social distancing. The rule of 6, or 2 households will apply to indoor events. So we look forward to reopening our Hall as per the Government Roadmap, Safely, and COVID 19 friendly. Jennie Harris. Secretary Norton Village Hall.

NORTON CHURCH Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and Church notice boards. Rev Nick Clarke 07842192402

NORTON CHURCH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING The annual church meetings (APCM) will be held on Thursday 20th May 2021 at 6:00pm in the Church. If anyone would like to join the Church Electoral Roll and therefore vote at the APCM please contact Martyn Hamlin. This is not a full revision year so anyone already on the roll will remain on the roll. Martyn Hamlin Church Electoral Roll Officer. martynhamlin@hotmail.com.

CULTURE RECOVERY FUND GRANT TO ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, NORTON-SUB-HAMDON

In January 2021 the Parochial Church Council and Friends of Norton Church were advised that a Culture Recovery Fund had been established to help organisations recover from the pandemic and to reopen. Members of the PCC and FNC bid for an award from this Fund and were advised in April that the PCC Norton-sub-Hamdon is to receive a grant of over £13,000. It is one of more than 2,700 recipients to benefit from the fund of nearly £400 million.

In common with many organisations, Norton Church has had to manage with a reduced income during the pandemic. While costs have been reduced where possible, the loss of donations raised through church services and weddings, at monthly coffee mornings, from the FNC talks and presentations and the inability to run the annual Norton Festival has impacted severely. This award will however help enormously to offset that loss and provide funds to cover the routine running costs of the church through to July. It will also support the work of the many volunteers who maintain the church and its grounds. The annual service and repair and running costs of mowing machines used by the Norton Mowers will be covered by this award. The servicing of the church heating and electrical systems and lightning conductors and the cleaning of the roof gutters and gullies will all be funded from the grant, as will the internal deep cleaning of the church and the stained glass windows. The funds cannot be used for capital cost items (so we cannot buy new mowing machines or boilers) and must be used (or lost) by 30th June. Thus a busy few months lies ahead during which the PCC will, where possible, aim to engage local companies to complete the work agreed by the award to preserve and recover our Grade 1 listed church and its surrounds for the continued benefit of the local community.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB The lucky winners of The Friends of Norton Church Wine Club draw for April 2021 are: Chris & Sue Westwood, Jeremy & Rachel Reid (2), Myles & Sheilagh Wickstead, Nicky Brodie, Lindsay Elliott, Roger Webb and Rob & Di Waters. If you would like to support the work of the The Friends of Norton Church and be in with a chance of winning some good quality wine, please contact Jonathan on 881063, or by email at binnsmeister@gmail.com.

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP The Stoke Sub Hamdon village artists group exists to encourage, promote, and practise the visual arts in all forms - Abstract, Still Life, Landscapes and Portraiture by whatever means, iPad, pencil, pastels, watercolour, oils and acrylic and in or on any medium you like. From May 18th, 2021 the group are meeting again in the

Memorial Hall one morning and one evening a week during term time. (all being well of course). We are really looking forward to seeing you there. Contact Malcolm Uhlhorn on 01935 829513 for further details.

THE MOBILE LIBRARY will be coming to Higher Street in Norton on **Tuesday 4th May at 2.50pm.**

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

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR APRIL 2021 The Parish Council managed to have a very successful monthly virtual meeting via Zoom at the beginning of April.

Planning: The Parish Council had one planning application to consider:

APPLICATION NO. 21/01166/HOU Mr & Mrs G Mclelland PROPOSAL: Erection of a log cabin at the rear of the property LOCATION: Nundle, Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon. No Objections.

WALKERS – BLACKSPIR HILL: I have been asked by the landowner to PLEASE request that you keep to the footpaths ONLY when walking on Blackspir Hill. THERE IS NO FOOTPATH THAT GOES AROUND THE ENTIRE FIELD. In the last couple of weeks the landowner has been watching people walk around the entire field with no regard for the crop they are walking over. Please respect the countryside and the landowner. We have some beautiful walks in Norton. We are lucky that there are many footpaths around the village without having to walk on land where there is no footpath. Thank you.

May Parish Council Meeting: A resolution was made to bring the May meeting forward a week due to there being confusion about virtual meetings held after May 10th being unlawful. This will ensure that the May meetings (both Annual and monthly) are legal. Due to Monday 3rd May being a bank holiday, we will be holding the May meetings on **TUESDAY 4TH MAY.**

Complaints received regarding E-scooters (electric scooters), Segways and hoverboards being ridden on roads and pavements:

The Clerk reported that many complaints have now been received regarding young children riding E-scooters, Segways and Hoverboards on public roads and pavements, in New Road and Great Street (junction with the shop). There have been reports of near misses with cars on New Road and there is concern that an accident will happen – sooner rather than later. Complaints have also been received about E-scooters travelling at great speeds on the pavements in New Road and some elderly residents have felt very unsafe and had to move into the road to avoid them. While E-scooters are legally available to purchase, **it's currently against the law to ride a privately-owned e-scooter in any public place in the UK. This includes roads, pavements, parks, town centres or promenades.** The only place a privately-owned e-scooter can be used is on private land. The road laws apply to self-balancing mini Scooters, Hoverboards, and Segways. They are illegal to use in such cases and completely banned from deployment on a public footpath in the United Kingdom. If your electric scooter goes over 30mph it is classed as a full road vehicle, and follows the same rules as a 50cc petrol scooter. This means you need a valid CBT at the very minimum, but that you can also hold a full motorbike licence. The Police have been contacted about this. They have apparently already talked to a couple of children they have caught riding on New Road on their E-scooters and on the pavement, and the children assured the Police that they would not do it again. However, this is still continuing. The Police will be patrolling the village on a regular basis.

Norton Show Safari 2021: The Parish Council were asked to reconsider allowing The Norton Show Safari to be held on the recreation ground before the 21st June. The Chairman explained that they were in full support for the show to take place but not until AFTER the 21st June. She explained that it was only a further 9 days to wait from the date they were asking for. She also explained that the reason for this was because Norton had an elderly population and they needed to make sure with everything starting to open up again that there would not be a rise in numbers of Covid again and put residents of Norton at risk unnecessarily.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021. THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL START AT 7.10PM. 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@.com

SOLAR STREETS This scheme, endorsed by our District Council, is a bulk-buying scheme for solar photovoltaic panels and related equipment which produce electricity for use in your home. With this scheme there is no tie on your house should you sell in the future as there is with the 'free' solar panels seen in adverts but by buying in bulk the costs can be significantly reduced. Eg. for 12 panels they would charge £4000 whereas commercially these would cost £4800 - £5500 for a household to buy alone. This scheme needs a minimum of ten households to sign up to go ahead and this is thought to need a pool of around 1000 houses to achieve this so we are in a group with two other neighbouring parishes and are promoting the scheme to others of our neighbours. The scheme is already running in Somerton, Bruton and Castle Cary amongst many others. More information can be found on <https://solarstreets.co.uk/> Please contact your Parish Council representative on this scheme, in Norton Prue Biddle on nortonpcbiddle@outlook.com or 881350, if you would like to be kept informed on the progression of this scheme.

LOCAL HISTORY REVISITED. Recently there was an obituary of a naval officer who served on HMS Hesperus which reminded me of Norton's involvement with this ship in WW2. HMS Hesperus was a Royal Navy H-class destroyer

which Norton helped to raise funds for as part of the Yeovil area, in National Savings 'Warship Week' in February 1942. £425,000 in total was raised to help with the cost. You can see the ensign and a plaque commemorating the ship in St John's Church in Yeovil and the ship's crest is on display in the Mayor's parlour in the Town House. This got me thinking about how sad it was that our Local History Society folded in 2012. I had a thought that maybe an informal group could be formed to chat over 'old times' and also perhaps record new things that have happened in the village for posterity. All the historical records from the society were given to the Somerset Records Office in Taunton and they are always very pleased to receive further items. If you might be interested please contact me Janet Hutton (former Secretary of the society) on 881566.

RAFT UNLOCKED Along with other shops and services Raft opened its premises the week beginning 12th April. Sadly it is still very affected by lack of transport to many places and by Turkey still allowing only new clothes to travel through their country to Syria. Many other groups have ceased altogether, eg those sending football boots to Africa and those asking for sewing machines for Greek projects. We are all frustrated that we cannot give more help to stranded refugees nor to the nations supporting them.

SYRIA – as before only new clothing, inner and outerwear, and suitable footwear for men (as usual no very large sizes), women, children and babies. You may have unsuitable new items which you are willing and able to donate. Also unopened necessities eg deodorant, shaving stuff, bars of soap, sanitary wear, nappies and new hand knitted goods like baby cardigans and blankets of all sizes made from knitted squares. Even squares not yet sewn together are very acceptable.

FRANCE – as before used items in reasonable condition - long skirts and trousers for women, and for men and teenagers small sizes of all clothing plus trainers.

MUSIC IN THE MEADOW Refugee Support Group (RSG) has provisionally arranged its much appreciated annual (except last year!) open air musical afternoon in the Secret Garden at the far end of West Street in Hinton St George on Sunday 25th July from 2pm .

As long as all is well we shall enjoy accomplished sitar music from Ricky Romain along with his accompanist followed by folk group Teasing The Cat applying their expertise to traditional instruments and songs, all performing freely for charity. There will be a raffle, interesting stalls, hand sanitiser and social distancing. Tickets cost £10 per adult; a donation for children. Please bring your own chairs and drinks. Please make a note now of the date and look out for our reminder posters. We look forward to a happy event in aid of refugees. Thank you for all your support. Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 27135

MAY VILLAGE AGENT NEWS The world is finally opening back up again! We are really looking forward to being able to get back out in the community to see our clients! Why not look up your local community centre, hobby or Carers group and see when they are active again? If you are not sure what is available in your local area give us a call on 01823 331 222 and we can connect you! The re-opening of services will bring great relief to the many thousands of unpaid Carers in Somerset who have not had access to respite facilities for a considerable length of time.

Organisations such as Heads Up Somerset who provide day care for those with brain injuries, learning difficulties and dementia in the Wells area have reopened from April 1st - you can call them on 01749 670667 or visit <http://www.headsupsomerset.org.uk/> There is also The Filo Project for Somerset residents. The Filo Project offers high quality day care for small groups of older people that have memory loss or moderate dementia. You can call them on 0333 939 8225 or visit <https://www.thefiloproject.co.uk/>

WE HEAR YOU provides free therapeutic support to children, families and individuals in Somerset affected by cancer and other life-threatening conditions. Their face-to-face services are reopening and you can contact them on 01373 455 255 or visit <https://www.wehearyou.org.uk/>

If you are an unpaid Carer, please do get in touch – you may not feel you need any help and support right now, but we can just check in with you, so you know what's available if and when you feel you would benefit from further advice. Right now, we can help you with anything from finding a sitting service if you have a hospital appointment, a package of care if you or a family member are returning from hospital, or provide you with a little rest from cooking with our 'Carer Packs' - delicious pre-made meals for you and the person you care for. We can help make your everyday life a little easier, check you are receiving the correct benefits and look at the whole family support need, especially as we work closely with your doctor's surgery and adult social care. We have a freephone Carers Advice line you can call 0800 31 68 600 or text 'CARER' to 78070 and the Carers Advice line will call you back.

Micro Providers Whether or not you care for someone you may need a little extra help at home. From personal care, Carers respite to household jobs a micro-provider could be just what you're looking for! Micro-providers are providers of very small, community based care and support services. A micro-provider has eight or fewer paid or unpaid workers and totally independent of a larger organisation. Examples of micro-services could include: * Support to keep a person well, social and remain independent * Support to people living in their own homes * Short breaks and holidays * Support to access employment, education and leisure * Day support and help around the home. As Village Agents, we can help connect you with the right micro-provider for your needs - and it may be that you have more than one undertaking different tasks for you, as many have different areas of expertise. It's also a great career opportunity to become a micro-provider. It's very rewarding and worth considering if you want to start a new career or fresh challenge! You would be well supported starting up with the Somerset Micro-enterprise Project - <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/somerset-micro-enterprise-project/> - you can become an accredited provider, decide your hours and what areas of work you want to do – call Rhys on 07788350806 for more information.

Hopefully next month we will have news of our Talking Cafes returning to venues across Somerset – but for now don't forget you can catch us live on weekdays at www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset and we look forward to meeting you or seeing you again soon out in the community!

Cath Holloway Community Agent Tel: 01823 331222 Mobile: 07968 521746 Email: cath@somersetccc.org.uk
Check out the CCS website: www.somersetccc.org.uk

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 4 May Mobile Library Van Higher Street 2.50pm

Tuesday 4 May Parish Council AGM by zoom at 7.10pm

Thursday 20 May Annual Church Meeting Church 6.00pm

Saturday 19 June Norton Safari