

# NORTON NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE 518

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 **Monday 13th December**

**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/>

**SEASONS GREETINGS Keith & Wendy Dare** wish all of our customers, friends and neighbours a very happy and healthy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Instead of sending cards we are going to make a donation to Somerset Air Ambulance. **Also Lynn Orchard and Family** wish all their friends and neighbours a very happy Christmas and a healthy and Peaceful New Year. Good wishes for 2022 to you all.

**THE CHURCH FLAG The George Cross Flag will be flown from the Church Tower from 24th December to 6th January for Christmas until Epiphany**

**NORTON CORONAVIRUS HELP** is still here – contact Prue on 881350 or Martyn on 881437.

**KATY'S BAKES @ THE READING ROOM** Just to let you know I will be **closed from the 24th of December to the 11th of January. Back open on Wednesday the 12th of January.** Make sure you pop by before then for some Christmas treats. Please contact me if you would like any mince pies or Christmas cakes. I'm also doing take away meals every Thursday and Friday. Keep an eye on the board outside the Reading Room to see what meal it is each week. Contact me by phone 01935 881505 or email [ktparsons12@hotmail.com](mailto:ktparsons12@hotmail.com).

**HAMDON YOUTH GROUP** is getting ready for Christmas fun in December. Come along to have fun with your friends! HYG will be taking a break over the school holidays.. Have a top Christmas! We look forward to seeing you back in January '22 **Norton Village Hall** Wednesdays 7 – 9pm **1<sup>st</sup> December** Music/ Team games **8<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas arts & crafts **15<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas party **Reopen 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## **STOKE**

@Hamdon Youth and Family Centre, Mondays 7 – 9pm **6<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas arts & crafts **13<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas party planning **20<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas party **Reopen 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022** for more information contact lou chant on 07402987921 or EMAIL [lou.chant@cyp.me.uk](mailto:lou.chant@cyp.me.uk) or find us on Facebook @HamdonYouthGroup

**WATERSTONES BOOKS AT THE READING ROOM, NORTON** A large selection of books for sale – just in time for Christmas! **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December:** Ticket only event - Portuguese wine tasting 6-7.30pm. Wine with nibbles. Tickets £7.50pp in advance from Norton Shop. **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:** Browsing 5.30 - 7.30pm. From 6 -7pm Norton author Tim Williams will be available to discuss and sign his book "Shepherds, Sheep, Hirelings & Wolves: an anthology of Christian Currents in English Life since 550AD". Refreshments available. **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December:** Browsing 5.30 - 7.30pm and from 6pm Kit Hammond Stapely asks you to consider "Here's another angle..!" Her talk will outline 5 books that have helped her through her most challenging times and her own book "It Could Be Verse – Laughter Quotations For Those Struggling With Stressful Situations" which is designed to remind you of all the good reasons there are to laugh as much and as often as you can. Refreshments available. **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** Browsing 5.30 -7.30pm. Refreshments available. **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December:** Open for browsing 10am- 3pm. From 12 - 1pm enjoy some mulled cider and mince pies. For more information contact [nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com) or look at the Reading Room notice board.

**LADIES GROUP** We welcomed back Ian Williamson, who gave a talk on his journey to Tasmania via Sydney and on return via Melbourne and Hong Kong. He told of his trek on Cradle Mountain and how he and the rest of his group raised thousands of pounds for St Margaret's. Our Christmas Afternoon Tea will be held on **Tuesday 7th December from 3 pm - 5 pm ish.** Please bring a wrapped gift value £5-6 if you wish to participate in Secret Santa. Wear something Christmassy eg, hat, jumper, tinsel tiara, etc. On Wednesday 8th December we join Montacute WI for the Carol Concert at Wells Cathedral, with time for lunch and a browse around the Christmas Market. Our New Year Dinner will be held on **Tuesday 18th January 6.30pm at the Lord Nelson.** Your menu choice must be completed by **15th December.** The menu will be available at our Tea on 7th December. May I

take this opportunity to wish all our members and readers, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy 2022. Sue Lowder

**THE MOBILE LIBRARY** will be coming on **Tuesday 14th December** at **2.40pm** to Norton in Higher Street. Come and see the great selection of books and audio books in the Mobile Van. Books can be ordered for collection.

**CAROL SINGING ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22ND AT 6.30PM.** Start at the church gate with torches, loose change and voices ! We will finish at the Lord Nelson with mulled wine and more singing. Collection for Hope and Homes for Children. Enquiries Caswell 881782

**TRAVEL TALK – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022** The Friends of Norton Church (FNC) are arranging a Travel Talk on the evening of the date shown above in **the Village Hall of Norton-sub-Hamdon**. Our planned guest speaker; **Monty Halls**, is a broadcaster, speaker, naturalist, former Royal Marine, marine biologist, travel writer and leadership specialist. His experience covers over two decades of leading teams in some of the most remote environments on earth, presenting wildlife and adventure documentaries, and working with blue chip companies both in the UK and overseas. While keen to support the aims of the FNC, Monty is unable to confirm his availability for this planned talk until mid-December, due to uncertainties on his other commitments. As you can imagine, if confirmed, this promises to be a very popular and memorable evening. So please note the date in your diaries and look out for further announcements in the next edition, out in early January, and on Notice Boards around the village

**NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS** Thank you to everyone who attended the coffee morning at Manor Cottage at the end of October. £260 was raised and we thank Elizabeth and John Forrest again for inviting us to their beautiful home and garden and for hosting such a successful event on a rather blustery Autumnal day. A note on the November coffee morning held at short notice at Sophie and Andy Holm's will be in the next Newsletter. Please note no coffee morning is held in December, so we meet again at **10.45am** on **26<sup>th</sup> January** in the New Year at **The Old Rectory** in Rectory Lane. The theme for the raffle and table top/bring and buy sale is "Marmalade". Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. May we take this opportunity to thank all our hosts in 2021 for holding coffee mornings, our wonderful helpers and everyone who comes along and supports the mornings so generously. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

**HAMSTONELIVE 2022 AT THE NORTON VILLAGE HALL** In collaboration with Norton Village Hall we have 2 more great national acts coming to our village in 2022. The first is; - **Friday 18 February 2022** – A Night with Tango Calor– For all ages Tango Calor will take you on a journey from the back streets of Buenos Aires to the salons of Paris. The trio has performed for tango milongas (dances) around the country and at festivals such as Womad and Glastonbury, and abroad. Indira Roman is one of the great singing stars of latin music. She is accompanied by Mirek Salmon one of only a few Bandoneon( Argentine concertina) in the UK. The instrument is the true sound of the tango and this show moves from high energy latin rythms to the heartbreaking songs of Carlos Gardel. Make a note in your diaries for our next event which is on **Sunday 27 March 2022** – Details to follow. Tickets available at the Village Shop from 23rd January 2022. Adults - £10; Children ( under 15 - £5) Contact John Bailey on 881227 with any queries.

**NORTON VILLAGE HALL.** The Village Hall is gradually starting to get busier again, with the usual COVID advice. Most of our regular hirers have returned, which is good. We have had a sign made to replace the old one above the entrance, to match the others. This looks very smart. We have a few plans for the future, which are being discussed and put into place. We are having new outside lighting installed, which will be done very soon. We are investigating having fans installed in the function room, to help with air flow, and condensation. For 2022, we will be having the exterior repaired, and repainted. Other things are in the pipeline. We are still deciding what to do with the small patch of land on the side of the Hall aka ' the Garden'....the hedge between that and the school will be cut back sometime, which will help. If anyone has any constructive ideas for this patch, we would be pleased to hear from you. Thank you. We are pleased to have installed the CCTV on the hall, in partnership with Norton Parish Council. It is proving to be a very useful addition. The Committee have said goodbye to Lindsay Clayton, Sam Lewis and Nicole Purchase who have stood down from the committee. We would like to thank them all very much for all their work, and help over the years, and a special thank you to Nicole, who kindly suggested her husband Larry join us. We have a new Treasurer / Booking Secretary...Sarah Hallett. Welcome Sarah. If you wish to enquire/ book Norton Hall... please contact Sarah email. [enquire.nshvillage\\_hall@outlook.com](mailto:enquire.nshvillage_hall@outlook.com) Jennie Harris. Secretary Norton Sub Hamdon Village hall.

**THE NORTON NEWSLETTER AGM** took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Thanks were expressed to all the deliverers and our proof reader. Chris Brook and Adele Wassell have stepped down from the committee – their wonderful contribution over the years was much appreciated. Also Mauvyn Greenham has retired from the committee - she made an exceptional contribution being on the committee from close to the start of the newsletter in 1983!! Thank you Mauvyn for all your dedication.

Tony Brook has handed over the Treasurer's role to newly elected committee member Pam Rastall and he was thanked for his work over the last twenty or so years. He is staying on the committee for the time being. Chrissie O'Brien was elected on to the committee and will assist Janet Hutton the editor. We are still short of another committee member to take on the role of Secretary – please contact the editor on 881566 if you could help.

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?** 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).

**SALE OF LOCALLY MADE ART AND JEWELLERY.** Moish Sokal and Prue Biddle, fresh from Moish's recent exhibition and Prue's prestigious craft shows, are holding a pre Christmas sale of Moish's watercolour paintings, cards and prints, and Prue's designer jewellery on December 4th, 10 am - 4pm in Norton Village Hall. Come along for lovely presents for all, made in the village.

**CHRISTMAS FROM LISA @ THE VILLAGE SALON** The Christmas season is the perfect time for me to say Thank You to all of my customers. I am so grateful to have such loyal clients who have been fantastic in supporting me during my first six months at the Village Salon. "THANK YOU SO MUCH" I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2022 Love LISA @ THE VILLAGE SALON

**PINT-SIZED PLAYS** raised an impressive, and 'not so pint-sized' **£1,338.35** for local causes this year. Thank you to our enthusiastic audiences for supporting us and entering into the fun. The cast and crew put a great deal into the show and enjoyed themselves too. The proceeds have been distributed: £380.00 to Chiselborough Village Hall £958.25 to Friends of Norton School Well done everyone and a big thank you from me... Lindsay Higgins

**LIMITED EDITION PRINTS OF ST. MARY'S NAVE, NORTON - £20 EACH.** About A3 in size, these unframed quality prints are of a 1991 original painting by South Petherton artist, Mike Parr. The edition is limited to 100 prints and each is signed by the artist. The picture reflects the charm and beauty of St. Mary's nave and would make a wonderful gift to anyone who has ever been married or christened in the church. The prints will be for sale at next year's Norton's monthly village coffee mornings or please contact Sophie Snow on 881099 to arrange a viewing time. All funds raised are for the church

**THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB:** The lucky winners of The FNC draw for November 2021 are: Charles & Sophie Campbell (2) , Chris & Sue Westwood, Rob & Joan Vaux, Jeremy & Rachel Reid, Jennie Byham, Penny Cudmore and Alec Seccombe As always, many thanks to our members for supporting a good cause. All good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**NORTON CHURCH Services for December : Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Communion 10.30am Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Candlelit Carol Service 7.00pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Crib Service 4.00pm Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Sung Common Worship 9.30am** Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website [www.hamhillchurches.org](http://www.hamhillchurches.org) and Church notice boards. Rev Nick Clarke 07842192402

**NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS** There has been so much to celebrate this term with great learning taking place in and outside the classroom. Throughout the year, we focus on different Christian values which are explored through collective worship and in class. The concepts of Respect and Community have been explored and in a recent assembly, I was encouraged by our children's suggestions that members of a community look out for one another as it is like being part of a team working together towards the same goal. It has also been a joy to see our new Reception pupils settle into school so quickly and we can see that this is, in part, because of the excellent example set by our older pupils. We are really proud of the extra opportunities our schools are able to offer. Clubs have been well attended (chess, art, newspaper club, netball, cooking, nature club to name but a few) and we have seen many pupils participate in fixtures representing our schools at football, hockey and cross country. Thank you to the staff, coaches and volunteers who give their time to make these wonderful co-curricular activities take place. Pupils have been going swimming weekly, using the Aqua Centre in Crewkerne for the first time. You may have noticed when you walk by that music and singing is filling our schools – we hope you enjoy listening out for the sound of trombones, trumpets, recorders, clarinets and many other instruments. We celebrated our Harvest services in October and were joined by our Rev. Nick Clark who spoke with us about saying "thank you". On 11<sup>th</sup> November our schools observed a silence for Remembrance. A big thank you goes out to our fantastic Parents and Friends Associations. ( See below). As we approach Christmas, I know that the whole school community is looking forward to the traditional nativities and services to celebrate this special time of year with the children. For more information on our schools, please do visit our new website [www.nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk](http://www.nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk) On behalf of everyone at our schools, I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and merry Christmas. Mr Jamie Caswell Executive Co-Headteacher Norton Sub Hamdon and West Chinnock C of E Primary Schools

**THE FRIENDS OF NORTON SCHOOL** would like to express thanks to everyone that attended and assisted at the recent Autumn Fayre. It was a lovely, sunny afternoon and great to see faces from the village and school community. We would also like to express our enormous gratitude to organisers of the Hamdon Pint-sized Plays for putting on these performances and in turn, making a wonderful donation to our school charity. We use funds to provide extra equipment in our outdoor space and for essential IT upgrades, for fun activities and to help pay for trips and outings. We thank you all for your continued support and wish you the very best Seasonal Greetings and a very happy New Year! Esther, Zoe, Nicola and the FONS.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL PARISH REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2021**

The Parish Council had to make a late change to their scheduled November face to face meeting back to a Zoom meeting due to Covid restrictions.

**Planning:** The Parish Council have not had any planning to report on for this month.

**Attenuation Pond:** At the end of October, we were very concerned to receive further reports regarding two young boys who were seen playing and 'fishing' in the attenuation pond at Bramley Fields. Please could all parents remind their children of the dangers of allowing their children near this area, especially after heavy rainfall. When water has congregated in the attenuation pond, children are easily drawn to such a vast contained amount of water and can very quickly get into trouble and drown. Following a site meeting back in the summer, the Parish Council successfully got the developer to agree to install life saving devices, a warning sign and a depth marker. If we need to revisit the need for a fence around the attenuation pond then we will do so.

**Local Government Reorganisation:** Following the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the transition programme, lead teams and governance structure have been agreed by the five current Councils. On 17<sup>th</sup> September the Councils responded to the Government's request to look at possible ward boundary changes with a maximum of 85 Unitary Councillors being elected. Whilst a number of options were presented it was almost universally felt that these gave sub-optimal outcomes at such an important stage. A cross-party and cross-authority request was therefore also submitted requesting more time, more flexibility in the warding parameters and involvement of the Local Govt. Boundary Commission ahead of a Unitary election. It is still expected that statutory orders will be laid before Parliament in the late Autumn and a vesting date of the new authority as April 2023.

**Budget:** The Chairman reported on the 2022/23 budget, that the Clerk had prepared and circulated to all the Parish Councillors. She spoke about how the anticipated surplus of £2,922.83 is not enough to take forward to the next financial year, especially with the rise in costs and the fact that we will be under a Unitary Council in less than 18 months' time. It is very likely the Parish Council will be financially responsible for an awful lot more of the maintenance of the village and we need to build up some reserves in the account in preparation for this transition. It's likely we will soon be charged for services like: dog bin emptying, cutting of verges, road sweeping, drain clearance ... just to name a few, plus the Clerk's workload is likely to expand with all the extra admin that will be required due to the abolishment of District Councils. The Chairman explained how we need to start to budget for these extra costs now. The Chairman explained how the Parish Council had only increased the precept once in the last 10 years, but now it was necessary to do so. The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors for a raise of hands to vote whether to increase it by 10% or 15%. The Parish Council voted by 3/1 in favour of the 15% rise. The agreed Precept for 2022/23 would be £24,955.00.

**The Rodbard and Bailey Allotment Trust:** Due to a successful year at the Rodbard and Bailey allotments at Greenham's Cross, the Trust is now in a position to donate £300.00 to a local foodbank. After researching local foodbanks, the Trustees decided to support the foodbank at Martock, called Transforming Lives.

**The Play Area at the Recreation Field:** For the past few years, following advice from our District Councillor, the Parish Council has been ring-fencing money to put towards new play equipment for the recreation ground. Play equipment and specialised rubber floor matting is not cheap to purchase. The Parish Council are now looking into updating certain pieces of equipment and matting and are looking to obtain quotes and applying for grants to help with the costs. Once the Parish Council has more of an idea of costs to purchase and install the equipment, plus what equipment would complement what is already in place, the plan is to take their ideas to the school so the children will get the final say on what new piece of equipment they would like to see purchased.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.30pm in the committee room in the village hall.** *Members of the general public are more than welcome to attend. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) nortonpccclerk@outlook.com*

**VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP WORKSHOP NEW YEAR** The Village Artist Group welcomes Artist Mike Jackson on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 10.am-4.00pm** at the **Memorial Hall, Stoke Sub Hamdon**. He will be giving us an insight and demonstration into his unique, varied, and successful painting techniques. If you are interested in attending the fee will be £25.00 for the day for members and £30.00 for non-members. Phone Malcolm on 01935 829513 for a chat or email [malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com)

**STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB** It was a shame that the year did not pan out as we had planned and hoped for during the year. However we did manage several Zoom talks plus the "Back Together Again" event in August, which was a great success. We are looking forward to the good mix in the programme for 2022 and new members are always welcome. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday January 26th 2022. With our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. The contact number for the Gardening Club is 01935 829408

**HAMDON COMMUNITY CHURCH (HCC)** would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Look out for us during 2022 on posters, newsletters, Facebook and Instagram @hamdoncommunitychurch. You are very welcome to join us for any of our activities. For any further information Contact [info@hamdonchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@hamdonchurch.co.uk) Paul & Naomi, M , Matt & Hannah and Rachel

**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 get their details and ring or email the editor 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 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 Events**

Wednesday 1 December to Sunday 5 Reading Room events  
Wednesday 1 December Hamdon Youth Group Village Hall 7.00pm  
Tuesday 7 December Ladies Group Tea Party Reading Room 3.00pm  
Wednesday 8 December Hamdon Youth Group Village Hall 7.00pm  
Monday 13 December Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm  
Tuesday 14 December Mobile Library Higher Street Norton 2.40pm  
Wednesday 15 December Hamdon Youth Group Village Hall 7.00pm  
Wednesday 22 December Village Carol Singing Meet at Church 6.30pm  
**2022** Friday 14 January FNC Travel Talk Norton Village Hall 7.30pm  
Wednesday 26 January Coffee Morning Old Rectory 10.45am  
Friday 28 January FNC AGM Reading Room 7.30pm  
Friday 18 February HamstoneLive Village Hall  
Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 March inc Pantomime  
Sunday 27 March HamstoneLive Village Hall  
Provisional Festival Dates Sundays 15 May, 19 June and 17 July