

NORTON NEWSLETTER MARCH 2022 ISSUE 521

NORTON SHOP WEBSITE:

<https://www.nortonshop.co.uk>

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

www.nortonfestival.org

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

<https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/>

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WEBSITE:

<https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/friends-of-norton-church/>

START OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME. Please remember that the clocks go forward by one hour at 1.00am on **Sunday, 27th March.**

ONE OFF ADS Please see end of Newsletter for **Medical Items for sale**

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.

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Tuesdays 8th and 22nd March** between **1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us for a friendly chat whilst we work on our individual projects. £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tricia Walton 882646

NORTON MOVIE NITES AT THE LORD NELSON, Tuesday 8th March. *King Richard* (12A, 138 minutes) is based on the inspiring true story of Richard Williams's determination to ensure his daughters Venus and Serena become legendary world-class tennis players. A heart-warming and engaging film which shows the power of family and an unwavering belief in achieving success. **Doors open 7.45pm, film starts 8 pm.** Tickets £5 from Norton Shop from 1st March.

NORTON PANTOMIME SOCIETY present their interpretation of 'Treasure Island' at **the Village Hall on Thursday 10th, Friday 11th and Saturday 12th of March.** **Doors open 6.30pm** for performance start at 7pm. There will be a bar and soft drinks. Tickets are available from Norton Community Shop. Adults £8, Children under 14 £4. They are selling fast, don't forget to buy yours! We would appreciate help on performance nights on refreshments, door, etc. If you can help please contact me Jennie Harris on 01935 881718, and also for any other enquiries - we would be so grateful. We would like to give a really big thank you to everyone who helped on our scenery painting day - it was an amazing turnout, and we got so much done. Great work everyone. Also thanks for the cakes and biscuits kindly donated - they really kept our helpers going. Look forward to hearing from you, and of course seeing lots of you

at one of the performances. Jennie Harris for Norton Pantomime Society.

LADIES GROUP What an entertaining evening we all enjoyed when cartoonist Sarah Bailey gave a talk about her lifelong journey to become a cartoonist. She ended the session showing all her cartoons of retro TV shows which live long in our memories. We loved it - thank you again Sarah. We have arranged a guided tour of Crewkerne Museum and a report will appear in the next newsletter. We have arranged tenpin bowling for Monday 14th March - any member who has not added their name to the list and who would like to join us please advise me asap. Our AGM takes place on **March 15th at 7.30pm in the Reading Room** This would be an ideal opportunity for any potential new member to come along and find out what we have in store for this season. As usual at the AGM we will not have a speaker, but subscriptions will be taken for next season. We shall have a raffle and there will be a team quiz or similar, for you all to participate in. We will look back on 2021 and reveal the programme for 2022/23. New members or visitors are welcome at any of our meetings - just come along. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and we are a friendly bunch - you will be sure of a warm welcome. Sue Lowder 881805

NORTON HEALTH WALKS BOOKLET UPDATE - LAUNCH - The Lord Nelson Skittle Alley - 1200-1300 - Saturday 19 March 2022 You will remember, and I am sure will have copies of, the Norton Health Walks Booklet produced in 1996. We produced a number of walks increasing to 8 which were designed to encourage walking as healthy exercise and to explore the area. All the walks start and finish at Norton Village Hall and are of varying lengths. They have been out of print for some time but now they have been updated and will be launched as above. This would not have been possible without the help of a number of volunteers - Janet Hutton, Lindsay Higgins, Liz Fish and David Parkinson and also our 8 generous sponsors - Bagnell Farm, Hopes B+B, Katy's Bakes, Little Norton Mill, Norton Community Shop, The Cat Head, The Prince of Wales, The Lord Nelson and the voluntary design work from Moira Hulett of Stable Design. The booklets are great value with 8 walks around Norton and will sell at £5 (no change from 1996) from the usual outlets. I will have stocks available on the day. Come along to our launch and grab a copy. Any queries please contact John Bailey on 01935881227

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS The January coffee morning held at Sophie and Charles Campbell's home raised a fabulous £280, including the sale of two limited prints of the Church and lots of generous donations. Looking out on to the newly cut grass and early flowering daffodils, the Old Rectory's impressive drawing room was full of lively chatter and we thank Sophie and Charles again for their warm welcome. Thank you to everyone who

came along with marmalade and other items to sell on the bring and buy table, as well as goodies for the raffle, particularly Helen and Mark at the Lord Nelson who gave a very generous voucher. February's coffee morning at Pam and Mike Rastall's will be reviewed in next month's edition, but in the meantime, here's a new date for the diary **10.45am on Wednesday 23rd March at Flaxfield in Higher Street**, Marilyn and Peter Willsher's home. The theme for the raffle and table top/bring and buy sale is "Spring and Easter". Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

HAMSTONELIVE 2022 at the Norton Village Hall

In collaboration with Norton Village Hall we have another great national act coming to our village in 2022; - **Sunday 27 March 2022 – Josephine – Suitable for audiences aged 8+** The Egg theatre, Bath has teamed up with the Holm Theatre to create a new play with original music, choreography, and design about the iconic entertainer, spy, civil rights activist, Josephine Baker. She was recently elected to the prestigious French Pantheon. Tickets available from 21 February 2022. Adults - £12; Children - £6
Tickets; Available from the Village Shop, www.takeart.org, John Bailey (01935881227) Venue; Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall, Recreation Ground, New Road, TA146SF. Contact John Bailey on 881227 with any queries.

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. We held our AGM on February 15th, and were pleased some village residents joined us. The meeting went well and the committee was voted in 'en bloc' with the same officers. A start has been made on the ventilation work, and will be completed soon. The outside work on the cladding will be finished as soon as the weather gets better, and other jobs will be arranged too. The Village Hall are very grateful to the Pantomime Society for donating the proceeds to Hall Funds, and we help them all we can with their rehearsals etc.

Jumble Sales. We have been unable to hold any over the COVID period, and I have had numerous enquiries about organising them again. They are a very popular event, and as not many Jumbles are held locally anymore, we are always well supported by locals and regulars from the area. We have provisionally booked a date for **Saturday April 9th**. We would be grateful for your donations of your unwanted items, and helping and supporting it - any enquiries, info etc, Sorry me again!!!! 01935 881718 Many thanks to you all. Jennie Harris for Norton Village Hall.

TINKERS BUBBLE PROMISE AUCTION: In aid of our steam engine repairs we are holding a Promise Auction on **2nd April**. Our steam engine is fundamental to our community, powering our saw mill so that we can produce and sell local, sustainable, fossil-fuel-free timber. We have been gathering promise donations over the months, which we will be selling off at the live auction on Saturday 2nd April. To view all of the glorious

donations which will be on offer and to book tickets please contact us at tinkersbubblepromiseauction@gmail.com. This is an event about celebrating community, skill sharing, connecting to and supporting each other! We look forward to seeing you then for an evening of food, music and fun. More information is available via our website.

<http://www.tinkersbubble.org/promiseauction>

LIFEBOAT OPERATIONS AT LYME – 1ST JULY 2022

Well, Monty will be quite an act to follow but the Friends of Norton Church (FNC) are delighted to announce that another similarly dynamic talk has been arranged for the evening of **Friday 1st July in the Norton Village Hall at 7:00pm for 7:30pm**. Captain Nicholas Marks is the Lifeboat Operations Manager at Lyme and has kindly agreed to provide a presentation covering the work of the RNLI including the exciting and often dangerous operation of the lifeboat at Lyme Regis. Further details will be announced in forthcoming newsletters but please put the date in your diaries now and know that all proceeds for this event will be shared to equally benefit the 2 worthy causes of the RNLI and the Friends of Norton Church.

READING ROOM: The Reading Room's AGM was held on 3rd February. Jonathan Dart stays on as Chairman, Chrissie Way takes on the Treasurer role and Tricia Walton has resigned as Secretary, but will cover the post until the end of March - she will remain on the Committee. Minutes of the meeting are available on request. If you would like to be involved in the Reading Room, helping us keep this lovely building open for people in the village to hire, please contact us at nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com.
Why 'The Reading Room'? Reading Rooms came into being during the middle of the 19th century. They were started as a way of educating the working classes, who at that time had received little (if any) formal education, and were also seen as a way of keeping them out of the pub! Most rooms were available only to men, but a few opened up to women for separate classes. The Reading Room in Norton was originally a smithy, but became a Reading Room in the later part of the 19th century. It was also where the workers from the quarry were paid (you can see the remains of the hatch in the wall). Since then it has been used as a meeting place, library and cafe. Today various village groups use it during the day and evening, and Katy's Tearoom operates four days a week from there. There are also plenty of donated books on the shelves available for sale.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB.

The draw results for February 2022 were as follows: Janet Hutton (2) Richard Raven (2), Robert Vaux, Malcolm Reid, Liz Fish, Roger Webb, Don and Jill Berrington and Tim and Pam Williams. A huge thank you to all our new wine club members this month! Given the number of new shareholders we have increased the draw from 8 to 10 bottles each month. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644.

NORTON CHURCH Services for March: Sunday 6th Morning Prayer 9.30am, Sunday 13th Common Worship and Communion 9.30am, Wednesday 16th Prayer Book Communion 9.00am, Sunday 20th Evensong 6.00pm Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and Church notice boards. Rev Nick Clarke 07842192402

UPDATE ON THE JUBILEE NATURE GARDEN. Hopefully work will start soon to clear the area. We are waiting for quotes to remove the rubbish, after the Diocese stopped it from being burnt. The Diocese have taken responsibility for the area as at present they are the land owners and responsible for public liability insurance. Unfortunately we have missed out on several chances of grants as deadlines have passed. Once things start moving and people can see it will happen we can start to fund raise. Thank you to all who have stopped me in the street or phoned me offering help - even people who don't live in our village but are keen to see this project happening. Lynn Orchard. 01935 882 602

UPDATE FROM MR CASWELL, EXECUTIVE CO-HEADTEACHER, Norton Sub Hamdon and West Chinnock Schools What a busy start to 2022 it has been! Everyone is certainly ready for a restful break before returning afresh for the Spring and Summer ahead of us. To understand our half-termly core value (Aspiration), pupils made New Year's Resolutions and have been thinking about what they would need to do to bring their dreams and ambitions to life. We were joined by Rev Nick Clarke and Lay Reader David Mangles for an assembly to explore this theme further. Children were interested in the many hats that Rev Nick has worn throughout his working life including police and pilot helmets! This term, we are delighted that pupils have been able to represent the schools in competitive sports including cross country, netball, football and hockey with great results and a positive attitude from all. We are thrilled to be joined by Tilly Bond, Somerset Cricketer and Foundation Cricket Coach. Tilly will be delivering cricket sessions for children at Norton and West Chinnock. See our website which includes a news section www.nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk/news. There you will find links to the Hamdon Hoot and the Chirpy Chinnock, our pupil newspapers. With Panto season in full swing, children have been enjoying local performances. West Chinnock pupils travelled to the Octagon to see Mother Goose in December, funded generously by the PFA. Recently, Year 5 and 6 went to Stanchester to see Aladdin, with star performances from some of our former pupils. In March, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 from Norton will make the short trip to the Village Hall to see the Pantomime, Treasure Island. The FONS are very kindly providing food and refreshments for the children before the show. We are extremely fortunate to be blessed with such proactive and supportive parent and friends associations (PFA and FONS). Thank you to both

Chairs for their dedication and for working together to fundraise for the schools.

Update from the Chair of the Parent and Friends Association (West Chinnock)

Despite challenging circumstances with high cases of covid in the community and some families affected within the school, the PFA have continued to be cautious with fundraising activities. Our winter walk enabled some safe socialising outdoors, while raising money for the children, engaging with the villages, and having fun! We are hoping to put on a children's disco later this month. Also, please stay tuned for plans of a joint event with our federation partner school, Norton! Rose

Update from the Chair of the Friends of Norton School FONS would like to begin by extending our grateful thanks to members of the Pint-sized Plays committee. We were chosen to receive the benefits of the recent performances and are happy to be redirecting some of that funding back into the upcoming Village Panto. Things have been a little quiet lately, for obvious reasons, but we were pleased to be able to hold our Autumn Fayre in October. Many thanks to all that helped and attended. We hope to join with West Chinnock School to hold an Easter bonnet parade, Church display and afternoon tea towards the end of term. Details to be confirmed. This month we will be running a Readathon to raise money for books for children in hospital and to increase our stock in school. The children will be asking friends and family to sponsor them over two weeks, inclusive of half term, and we hope they will boost their reading skills before the better weather arrives.

We are also hopefully about to install a clothing and shoes bank, accessible from the car park, so that we can recycle and raise money for our children year-round. Everyone will be welcome to drop clothes here and this will replace the Bags to School programme that we have used in the past. Our very best wishes for 2022. Esther

PARISH COUNCIL PARISH REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Planning: The Parish Council had 1 planning application to make their observations on this month:

22/00004/HOU- Netherleigh, Higher Street, Norton Sub Hamdon - To enlarge the front porch
The Parish Council had no objection to this planning application

Upgrading of the Play Area: Having now had site meetings with 3 playground equipment companies, the plan to upgrade the 20-plus-year-old playground equipment is starting to move forward. Due to the size of the play area and the surrounding space each new piece of equipment needs between them, we are not only having to work to the set budget we have, but we are also having to find the best options for the limited space available! Two really popular pieces of equipment will be staying – The Mobilus and The Rocker. The current slide is showing signs of age and therefore will be replaced 'like for like', going down the bank. Swings are being upgraded! One new fun piece of equipment that we are planning to purchase will allow inclusive play for all abilities. The Parish Council are

delighted to be upgrading this much loved and well used play area and investing in the future of Norton. It will be our Platinum Jubilee project to commemorate the Queen's magnificent reign and a plaque will be unveiled to mark the occasion on its completion. We look forward to revealing our plans in more detail as soon as we can!

Parish Council Elections: We have now been informed that Parish Council elections will be taking place this year. Ordinarily, the next round of Town and Parish and Council elections would be due to take place in May 2023. However, because of the recent decision made by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Town and Parish Council elections will be brought forward to 5 May 2022 so that they align with the Somerset Unitary Council elections.

Useful Contact Details: The reporting of Highways issues (like potholes or obstructions in the road) can easily be done by anyone. If you use the following link this takes you directly to the page where all Highways related issues can be reported. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/> Similarly, if you have an issue with a street light that's not working, want to report an abandoned car or need to report fly tipping or maybe graffiti, then this website is very good and very easy to use. <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.30pm in the committee room in the village hall (depending on the latest Covid restrictions). Members of the general public are more than welcome to attend. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

MARTOCK CHURCH CONCERT The HMS Heron Volunteer Band will be performing on **17th March 2022** in **Martock Church**; Church Street; Martock TA12 6JL **at 7.30pm** Admission: £12.00 or £10.00. Contact number 07790 25357 or tickets at Martock Gallery or Martock Newsagent. Websites: <http://www.martockonline.co.uk/events> <https://www.hmsheronband.co.uk/>

BOOK CLUB will starting again and will meet on **Tuesday 22nd March** at the home of Pam Horrell

ONE OFF ADS:

MEDICAL ITEMS FOR SALE: Beurer Betterlife Nebuliser, still in its box and never used - suitable for Asthma sufferers and anyone with respiratory problems £15 Arealer Heated Electric Foot Massager - ideal for people who suffer with poor circulation and cold feet. £33 Homemedics Shiatsu 2 in1 back and shoulder massager, with heat and adjustable rolling action - helps relieve stress and pain £55 Contact Lynn on 881602

in Chiselborough **at 1.40pm** when the Mobile Library van will also call. Copies of 'Persuasion' have been ordered for us to read but any other books can be ordered for 'group' read so do contact Janet Hutton on 881566 or Anne Fairweather on 882620 for more information. The Library Van will be in Higher Street **at 2.30pm**.

REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP. A Message from RAFT to say that they cannot take any donations at present due to problems with storage.

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP (VAG) 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. We meet twice weekly at the Memorial Hall. Meanwhile with a fair wind we will be running regular Saturday workshops, tutored by experienced local artists, where you will be more than welcome. Contact Malcolm - 01 935 829513 or malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com for details.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB Our next meeting is a visit to Avon Bulb Nursery, **South Petherton** on **Wednesday 23rd March at 2pm**. If you are a non-member and would like to join us please contact Ruth at ruthstjohn1@btinternet.com The cost is £3 per person & numbers will be limited. **NB** Please note there will not be a club meeting that evening at The Memorial Hall. The April meeting on **Wednesday 27th at 7.30pm** at The Memorial Hall, is a talk by Hayley Francis on Nutrition & Naturopathy. New Members always welcome and your first meeting is free! The contact number for the Gardening Club is 01935 829408

HAMDON COMMUNITY CHURCH (HCC) 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 Paul & Naomi, Matt & Hannah and Rachel

DIARY OF EVENTS

Tuesday 8 March Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm

Tuesday 8 March Movie Nites Lord Nelson 7.45pm

Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 March (inc) Pantomime Village Hall 6.30pm

Monday 14 March Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm

Tuesday 15 March Ladies Group AGM Reading Room 7.30pm

Saturday 19 March Walks Booklet Launch Lord Nelson 12 – 1.00pm

Tuesday 22 March Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm

Tuesday 22 March Mobile Library Higher Street 2.30pm

Wednesday 23 March Coffee Morning Flaxfield 10.45am

Sunday 27 March Hamstone Live Village Hall 8.00pm

Saturday 9 April Jumble Sale (Provisional date)

Saturday 7 May Flower Show Plant Sale 2.00pm

Friday 1 July FNC Talk Village Hall 7.00pm

Festival Dates Sundays 15 May, 19 June and 17 July

Saturday 20 August Flower Show Recreation Ground 2.00pm

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.

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) and Assistant Editor Mrs Chrissie O'Brien, 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.

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