

NORTON NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022 ISSUE 522

The Norton Newsletter Committee wish all our readers a very
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/>

ADS Repeat Ad for medical equipment – see end of newsletter.

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.

CHURCH FLAG The George Cross flag will be flown from the church tower from 17th – 25th April for Easter and St George's Day.

NEWSLETTER REQUEST Please consider coming on to our friendly committee – we are still in need of a Secretary. This role does not involve much commitment – a couple of meetings each year just to take the minutes and compile the agenda for meetings. Also if you would like to help deliver a batch of newsletters each month please contact the editor on 881566 or email nortonnews@hotmail.com. Many thanks.

MANY THANKS to Movie Nites for their generous donation to newsletter funds.

TINKERS BUBBLE PROMISE AUCTION - Join us on the **2nd April from 3pm!** We will be auctioning off a fantastic array of donations in aid of repairs to our Steam Engine; Steamy is undergoing a once in a century refurbishment at 83 years old and has powered our Sawmill for 26 of these, enabling us to process and provide local, sustainable, fossil fuel free timber. So please come along for an afternoon/evening celebrating community, locality and sustainability with

delicious food, our hand-crafted cider and music from our favourite bubble musicians! For tickets, online bidding and the auction list go to www.tinkersbubble.org/promiseauction There will also be some tickets available on the door for an extra £2, however pre-purchasing is advised!

LADIES GROUP Our outing to Crewkerne Museum was enjoyed by all. A slide presentation of life in the town from late 1800s to early 1900s was of particular interest with many familiar buildings and Inns which still survive today. The roads were dust tracks and houses, now shops, faced onto the high street. The volunteers treated us to delicious cakes and tea which were very welcome after exploring the museum galleries. Two teams were formed for ten pin bowling with some rather amazing results - Ruth being the top scorer over all. We enjoyed it so much we will make a return visit sometime in the future. An outing to Lytes Cary is arranged for **Tuesday 5th April**, which includes a private garden tour. Any member wishing to join us who hasn't added their name to the list please advise asap. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 19th April** when we welcome Ranger, Paul McNeill, who will give a talk on the History of Ham Hill. Ladies Group meets every 3rd Tuesday of each Month in the **Reading Room at 7.30pm**. New members and visitors will be sure of a warm welcome. Enquiries Sue Lowder 881805

JUMBLE SALE. We will be holding our 1st Jumble Sale since before lockdown, at Norton Village Hall on **Saturday April 9th - doors open at 11am**. We will be around from **3.00pm to 7.00pm on Friday 8th** to receive your donations. We would be grateful for good condition clothes, shoes, handbags, books, toys, jewellery, bric a brac etc. etc. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Admission 50p. If anyone would like to help or donate items or has any enquiries, please contact Jennie Harris on 01935 881718. Thank you. Everyone welcome. Come and pick up some bargains, and support your village hall. (Remember your unwanted items can be someone else's Treasure). JH for Norton Village Hall.

TINKERS BUBBLE VOLUNTEER

AFTERNOONS We are running volunteer afternoons again this year, on the first and third Thursdays of each month. We'd be glad to welcome you to our land, and share tea, cake, and communal work. Tasks will vary by season, and can suit different levels of ability and experience – we will mostly be looking after the vegetable gardens and pastures. You are welcome to come along on the following Thursdays: **April 21st, May 5th and 19th, June 8th (bank holiday) and 16th, July 7th, August 4th and 18th, September 1st and October 6th** We will meet at **2.00pm** in our car park/sawmill (up the track from Little Norton). Tea and cake will be provided. No need to contact us in advance, but if you would like to get in touch then call us on 01935 881975 or email tinkersbubble@riseup.net

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Tuesday 12th and 26th April between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. It's been lovely to catch up with our regulars and also see some new faces over the past few months, so do come and join us for a friendly chat whilst we work on our individual projects. Cost is £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tricia Walton 882646.

BOOK CLUB will meet on **Tuesday 19th April** at the home of Pam Horrell in Chiselborough at **1.40pm** when the Mobile Library van will also call opposite the Hall. Contact Janet Hutton on 881566 or Anne Fairweather on 882620 for more information. The Library Van will be in Higher Street in Norton sub Hamdon at **2.30pm**.

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE

MORNINGS The February coffee morning held at Pam and Mike Rastell's new home in Little Street raised an impressive £300 for the church. The house literally buzzed with the number of villagers there and Pam and Mike were incredible hosts, generously showing us all around their beautiful, modern, meticulously designed 21st century home. We all admired it. Thank you to everyone who came along with items for the bring and buy table and the raffle, particularly Katy's Bakes at the Reading Room who donated a voucher. The March coffee morning held at Marilyn and Peter Willsher's home will be reviewed in the next edition. April's date for the diary - **10.45am on Wednesday 27th April at 2, Church View, Great Street**, Elizabeth and Stuart Maunders' home. The theme for the raffle and table top/bring and buy sale is "The Garden".

Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

FLOWER SHOW PLANT SALE, NORTON VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY 7TH MAY 2-5pm

We are busy growing lots of veg and flower plants for this year's sale, but always welcome donations of seedlings, divided plants or empty pots. If you have plants to donate please bring them to the Village Hall on the morning of **7th May**. If you have any empty pots (particularly small ones) please leave them in the driveway of Homestead on Higher Street. If anyone would like to help us on the day please contact Sarah Murray on murray152@btinternet.com

WANTED for the **Plant Fair 7th May** and the **Flower Show 20th August**. Calling all cake bakers and helpers. Could you bake a cake for the afternoon teas at the Plant Fair and Flower Show? We need cake and lots of it and helpers to serve teas and cake, wash up and set up. The more volunteers we have the less time will be spent behind the counter so allowing time to browse around the stalls. Please, if you can spare an hour per shift on one or both dates, and/or you can bake a cake for us, this would be very much appreciated. I am collating a list of volunteers so, if you are willing, please give me a call so that I can make a rota - the more names I have, the merrier. Shifts will be no more than 1 hour if enough people volunteer to help - this can be a good way to get to know people, so would welcome new comers to the village as well as those who will always help out. If you can help on one or both dates and/or are willing to bake a cake, please call Sue 881805 to put your name on the list.

FESTIVAL DATES In 2022 Norton Festival has four dates for your Diary – a series of Gardens Open and a Concert. There will be Gardens Open on **Sundays 15th May, 19th June and 17th July from 2pm until 5.30pm** with Cream Teas and musical entertainment provided at one venue each day. See their publicity leaflet, soon to be available, for details. The Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir will be performing in Norton Church on **Saturday 15th October**. Watch for details.

JUBILEE GARDEN. Many thanks to all those that have helped in any way with this huge project. It is surprising how much can be achieved in an hour or two. To all those that said to me it won't happen let's prove them wrong. Unfortunately it won't be ready for the

Jubilee weekend, but hopefully something will happen there for the school children. A nature hedge is being built to accommodate the insects and beetles etc; also a great home for any hedgehogs to hibernate next winter. By building this hedge we are able to use most of the brush wood, therefore no need to burn it. Pop up and see for yourself, bring a spade or a shovel and stiff brush - you will see what needs doing. Also a good idea to wear gloves and stout footwear. All your work and contribution has to be at your own risk as we have no overall insurance cover, so please be careful of uneven surfaces where there are concrete and small roots sticking out. For more information just call me, Lynn on 882 602.

NORTON HEALTHWALKS BOOKLET UPDATE – STOCKISTS Thank you to all those who attended the launch. The booklets will now be available at £5 each from the local outlets below; Norton Community Shop, The Lord Nelson and The Cat Head. Any queries please contact John Bailey 01935881227

NORTON CHURCH Services for April:
Sunday 3rd Morning Prayer 9.30am, Palm Sunday 10th Common Worship and Communion 9.30am, Maundy Thursday 14th Communion 7.00pm, 17th Easter Sunday Communion 9.30am, Wednesday 27th Communion 9.00am, (now on fourth Wednesday of the month) Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and Church notice boards. Rev Nick Clarke 07842192402

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB. The draw results for March 2022 were as follows: Penny Cudmore (2), Roger Hardisty (2), Richard Raven, Niall Clifford, Tim and Pam Williams, Emily Waters, Peter Willsher and James Pond. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. Our ventilation system has been installed, and it proved its worth on Panto nights. Norton Sewing Services have made some blinds to go in the Meeting Room, and the Function Room door windows. It is a great help when 2 functions are on at the same time if privacy is required. The outside cladding will be done soon, now that the weather is improving.

READING ROOM CORRECTION: In March's Newsletter I mentioned that the hatch in the Reading Room was used to pay the workers from the Ham Hill Quarry. It seems more likely,

in fact, that this was used to receive payments for work done at the Forge as Workers were paid via the Ham Hill Stone office in Courtfield Cottage. It was administered by Mr. Henry Smith the husband of the late Stella Smith. My thanks to Gillian Hill for pointing this out to me – apparently her father was one of the apprentices tasked with collecting the wages from Courtfield Cottage in a Gladstone bag and then carrying the bag of coins back up the hill to the workers in the 1920's.. He must have been very fit, first walking down the hill and then all the way back up every Friday with, what I imagine, was quite a weight! Tricia Walton, Reading room Committee Secretary

OH YES WE DID! The finances from the recent Norton Pantomime, Treasure Island, are not quite finalised but I'm happy to report we have exceeded our fund-raising target and hope to add £2,300 to the Village Hall funds (Details in the next newsletter). Our hall is a delightful community facility and we're pleased to contribute to its on-going success. This result wouldn't have been possible without the support of SO many folks including cast, crew and audience. A special thank you goes to our local business sponsors: Holm Heating & Plumbing * The Village Salon * Hamdon View Windows * Craftbuild * Albert Goodman Accts. * Little Norton Mill * Ella Grace Silver * Denholm Industrial * The Lord Nelson * Hopes Bed & Breakfast * The Marquee Hire Co. * Northseam Finance Planning * Yeovil Roofing * Norton Community Shop* and Hamdon Construction. These generous people help us with the costs associated with putting on a good show. I hope you all enjoyed it. Thank you all. Lindsay Higgins (Director).

PANTOMIME REVIEW 'Shiver me timbers' - there were strange goings on in the Norton Village Hall in March. The biennial Panto theatre group ventured into a new Lindsay Higgins production, away from the traditional themes, and into the tale of Treasure Island, as originally conceived by the Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson. Stevenson's book however could not capture Nortonian spirit and resolve, nor the resource of the local WI (read Ladies Group) and young folk, the dastardliness of the Somerset pirates, sailings from Langport Docks, the use of NHS crutches, and a persistent parrot unable to sit on Long John Silver's shoulder. To this add the cleverly selected accompanying music from the Caswell Combo plus songs to keep us all in the spirit (rum not being available). The use of a computerised song sheet added to the production.

Altogether a good book was much improved upon by our local Panto Group. I shall not run into individual performances but simply mention that the Panto Group pulled together brilliantly to create a memorable performance and provided the audience with great fun: they were all good. To see our local villagers dressed up (great costumes) cracking jokes and delivering lines that had local meaning, laced with a sprinkling of mistiming and some amnesia provided, as always, the ingredients for a brilliant pantomime. Congratulations to everyone. Oh NO, Stevenson would not be impressed with this adaptation oh YES he would!

VILLAGE QUIZ My name is Amelia Higman and I live in Norton. I am fundraising for an expedition to Borneo in 2023, with a company called Outlook Expeditions. I will be spending three weeks in Borneo, taking part in a community project, doing some environmental work on the coast and also trekking to the summit of Mount Kinabalu. I have to raise £4,000 to fund this trip. I have produced a village quiz to help with my fundraising and I am asking for your support. The quiz will be available for completion during the month of April. I plan to deliver copies to the houses in Higher Street, Little Street, Broadmead Lane and Great Street and I will leave a supply in the village shop for others to collect. I can also deliver a copy to your house on request if you send me an email: higmans@btinternet.com Please put completed entries in an envelope and **return with a suggested minimum donation of £2 to Netherleigh, Higher Street, or hand in to the village shop.** The closing date will be **Saturday 30th April.** Correct entries will be put into a draw with prizes for 2 winners. I will put the correct answers on the noticeboard in the shop in May for you to see.

UPDATE FROM NORTON SCHOOL We were delighted by news that Endurance, the lost vessel of Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, was found at the bottom of the Weddell Sea and children have enjoyed seeing the images of the ship still in good condition. What a way to bring the History Curriculum to life! Coincidentally, our half-termly core value is ENDURANCE with children thinking about how to keep persevering even when the going gets tough, and to support and encourage others to keep going. Pupils were keen to raise money for the Disasters Emergency Committee in support of the people of Ukraine. We held a non-uniform day with children coming into

school in yellow and blue for the day. Between West Chinnock and Norton schools over £200 was raised. The schools have continued to participate in competitive sports this month with children competing in football match and hockey tournaments at Millfield Prep School. The Year 6 team got a brilliant 3-1 win earlier in the month at Millfield. It was a confident team display with all players showing great determination. There was some super skill upfront and in midfield and the team looked self-assured throughout. The ball hardly got through the rock solid defence. When it did, our goalie leapt to save it! It was a super team effort and great to see children from across our two schools working together. Jamie Caswell, Executive Co-Headteacher

Update from the Friends of Norton School (FONS) We kept children busy last month with a Half-Term 'Readathon'. Money was raised to buy books for children spending large amounts of time in hospital. In return, our school libraries will benefit from vouchers with which to buy books for our own children. West Chinnock Primary School raised £282.00 and Norton Primary School around £550. Our grateful thanks to the children for reading and adults for supporting.

We have also made a start on our own Queen's Platinum Jubilee tea towel, which contains drawings of all children and staff and also celebrates 25 Years of the school on site at Norton Road. We are hoping to sell the tea towels at our Easter celebration and by request.

We hope to host the aforementioned Easter celebration for both schools at Norton on **Thursday 7th April.** This will include an Easter bonnet parade around the village, at around **2.00pm**, with an added theme of Earth Day which follows later in the month. Please come out and see the children and bonnets if you are able. An Easter Egg hunt will follow for the children and cream teas will be available from **3.15pm** in the playground - weather permitting.

We finish with our thanks to the Cast and organisers of 'Treasure Island'. Last week, some of our older children enjoyed a hot-dog snack before being wonderfully entertained with their own special afternoon performance of the pantomime. I am sure they really enjoyed their treat and our congratulations to everyone involved for a marvellous show. Esther and The FONS.

PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2022

Planning: The Parish Council were notified of the following decision made by SSDC:

22/00004/HOU - Netherleigh, Higher Street, Norton Sub Hamdon - To enlarge the front porch. Approved

The Parish Council have received the following planning applications to make their observations on:

22/00260/HOU - Orchard Lea, New Road Norton Sub Hamdon. Erection of Extensions to Side and Rear of Dwelling, New Roof Construction with First Floor Rooms and Internal Alterations.

They had no objections to this application.

22/00467/HOU & 22/00468/LBC Little Norton Mill, Little Norton. - Retention of existing decking area. 22/00466/LBC Little Norton Mill Little Norton Norton Sub Hamdon - Internal alteration comprising the creation of an opening within an internal wall. They had no objections to this application.

School Traffic Calming Signs: The Clerk reported that the traffic calming signage along New Road for the school had started to be installed. Highways have informed the Clerk that the initial delay was because the original proposal was for two mains energised installations which proved impractical due to the power supply being inaccessible at one of the sites. Therefore a revised plan was issued to include a single solar powered unit to accompany the planned mains unit.

The mains energised unit is currently being installed by SCC's subcontractor Enerveo (SSE). This is a four stage planned process which starts with the post and sign installation, then trenching and cable laying, followed by mains jointing, and finally, electrical connections are established. Each of these processes are undertaken by specialist teams of engineers in a timely manner. The second unit which is solar powered is planned to be installed in the early part of the new financial year (April).

Following the installation of both units, the active flashing sequence timings will be programmed to reflect the drop-off and pick-up times as confirmed by the Primary School.

Upgrading of the Play Area: The Clerk reported that she had submitted the grant application to SSDC in February and they would know if it had been successful at the end of March.

Update on scrubland by the school: A member of the public gave a brief update on the proposed jubilee garden. Although they are still waiting for a response from the Diocese who owns the land, work has started

to clear and tidy the site. The plan is for natural habitat and hedges to be planted that will encourage all forms of wildlife - from insects to hedgehogs. Nesting boxes are also planned. A tree will be planted and in place by the Jubilee in memory of Lord Ashdown and other trees and planting of flowers and shrubs will follow. This will be an area that will also be for the school children to enjoy and learn from. As this site has always been set aside for the school to use, this area will eventually be shared with the pre-school, but there is plenty of room for both. The member of public will keep the Parish Council updated in progress.

SSDC report from District Councillor Mike Hewitson: SSDC passed its last budget as a sovereign entity. They have put forward a balanced budget which will see significant capital investment of £118m in our area: - £29m to redevelop the Octagon Theatre. This will increase capacity by 50%, as well as add a fly-tower to allow bigger touring productions, create two boutique cinema spaces and two dance studios. This will be a flagship project which will help to bring in outside investment to our area, support our night-time economy as well as supporting community use.

Ham Hill Investment: SSDC are also investing £1.6m to support facilities and infrastructure at Ham Hill; Cllr Hewitson discussed the exciting National Lottery Heritage Fund project that SSDC are proposing for Ham Hill. He discussed the proposal to build a visitor information centre at the back of Lime Kiln car park. The building will be of low environmental impact, utilising green technologies wherever feasible and contributing to Biodiversity Net Gain. The building is subject to planning permission and scheduled monument consent. It would include a welcome and information point, exhibition space, multi-purpose learning space, a café, changing places facility and new public toilets. The Parish Council wanted to highlight their concern that no building from Ham Hill should be seen from Norton sub Hamdon and so wanted to make sure that the proposed visitor centre would not be seen. Cllr Matraives pointed out that the Rangers Office could already be seen from the village and that was meant to have been hidden from view when built. The other concern was that the increase in visitors would create an increase in traffic on narrow lanes that were already dangerous. The Parish Council felt that there were already too many people parking on the road. The next meeting will be held on **Monday 11th April 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

STOKE GARDENING CLUB The next meeting on **Wednesday 27th April 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 823691.

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 are meeting in the Memorial Hall, Stoke Sub Hamdon one morning and one evening a week during term time to paint and chat. We do need some new blood in the group, not only to join us but also to help run the show. You will receive a warm welcome and we are really looking forward to seeing you there. Contact Malcolm - 01 935 829513 or malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com for details.

THE TRIANGLE TRUST The committee will be holding a Buffet supper with Desserts on **Saturday May 7th. at Montacute Village Hall**, £15 per ticket. This includes a complimentary drink on entry. **7.00 for 7.30pm** Entertainment / Wine. Raffle. There will also be a very interesting talk from Mr. Clive Farahar from the Antiques Road Show, who will be available to answer questions too. We would love to see you. Proceeds go to The Triangle Trust supporting Patients at Hamdon Medical centre. Any more info or tickets - please phone 01935 881718. Jennie Harris for the Triangle Trust. Thank you.

EMPATHY AND SYMPATHY Refugee Charity update. As I write in early March, Ukraine is being bombarded by Russia and fighting for its existence. Already two million have fled the country, mainly women and children, into camps, or, if fortunate, to family and friends close by or further afield, and even into stranger's homes. Money and goods are

being donated from around the world to assist with their settlement.

Raft (refugeeaidfromtaunton.org.uk) had to close its premises, rent free from Taunton Council since 2015, as the site is being developed. The trustees hope to open new premises in Taunton in mid April which will cost £18,000pa in rent and will be smaller, making logistics more difficult. At first only spring and summer clothing for men, women and children and boots and shoes for all (not wellingtons) are requested as they learn to manage the new space. If you can, please hold on to other items, eg blankets until required. If unable please contact me. In addition, if anyone knows of a large spacious building in the Taunton area, which could be available to rent more cheaply (or for free), indefinitely or for a long period, please contact me or Raft directly.

Meanwhile, Refugee Support Group (RSG) is once again organising fundraising events for Raft and for refugee charities working on the ground in Europe and the Middle East. There will be a coffee morning in **Iminster Thursday 7th April from 10.30 to 12.30, at 20 Silver Street**, the house just before the Minster.

There will be books and home-made cakes to buy. Perhaps meet friends that spring morning in Iminster, supporting refugees while enjoying coffees. Our grateful thanks go to all who offer support for those surviving in camps for years. Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

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

MEDICAL ITEMS FOR SALE: Beurer Betterlife Nebuliser, still in its box and never used - suitable for Asthma sufferers and anyone with respiratory problems £15
Homemedics Shiatsu 2 in1 back and shoulder massager, with heat and adjustable rolling action - helps relieve stress and pain £55
Contact Lynn on 882602

DIARY OF EVENTS

Saturday 2 April Tinkers Bubble Auction 3.00pm
Saturday 9 April Jumble Sale Village Hall 11.00am
Monday 11 April Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 12 April Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Tuesday 19 April Mobile Library Van Higher Street 2.30pm

Tuesday 19 April Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm
Thursday 21 April Tinkers Bubble Volunteer afternoon 2.00pm
Tuesday 26 April Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Wednesday 27 April Village Coffee Morning 2 Church View 10.45am
Saturday 7 May Flower Show Plant Sale 2.00pm
Festival Gardens Sundays 15 May, 19 June and 17 July 2.00pm
Friday 1 July FNC Talk Village Hall 7.00pm
Saturday 20 August Flower Show Recreation Ground 2.00pm
Saturday 15 October Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir Church

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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