

## NORTON NEWSLETTER JULY 2022 ISSUE 525

**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/>

**VILLAGE SALON UPDATE** I would just like to notify my clients in advance that I will be out of the salon for 2 weeks from **Saturday 23rd July** and will be back in the salon on **Monday 8th August**. If you would like to book an appointment can I ask that you book early, as appointments are going fast and I don't want to disappoint anyone. Thank you for your constant custom. Lisa

**FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH SUMMER TALK - FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY – RNLI Lifeboat Operations from Lyme Regis** The BBC have just finished filming at the Lyme Regis Lifeboat Station in preparation for their next series of "Saving Lives at Sea". Nick Marks has advised the FNC that he will be including some of the raw footage provided to the BBC from the lifeboat crew helmet cameras in his talk on the operations of the lifeboat at Lyme Regis on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start in the Village Hall of Norton-sub-Hamdon**. The talk will also cover the equipment and people who make up this vital service to seafarers and holidaymakers alike. All are welcome to attend this talk **with tickets on sale in the Norton shop or on the door on the night at £8 each**. A draw and cash wine and soft drinks bar will also be available with all proceeds being shared between the RNLI and the FNC's support for the fabric of the Norton church.

**CRAFTY CRITTERS** will be meeting in the Reading Room on **Mondays 11th and 25th July between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us to work on your own project whilst having a chat. £2.50 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Phone Tricia on 882646 for more information.

**GARDENS** Norton Church Council would like to thank everyone who supported the recent Norton Festival Gardens Open Event on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June which raised £745.40 for Norton Church. Nearly 30 people were involved behind the scenes and their efforts and the support of all our visitors, is greatly appreciated. The final Gardens Open in the 2022 Season will be on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July from 2 – 5.30 pm**, when visitors can enjoy four gardens in Higher Street:- Luccots, Homestead, Rose Cottage and Manor House Grounds. The latter will be serving Cream Teas and, at **4.30pm**, hosting Musical Entertainment by Chris Denman

**LADIES GROUP** Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances our meeting on 21st June was postponed until Tuesday 28th June. Our outing to Blue Pool will be rescheduled for later this year.

Our Annual Garden Party will be held on **Tuesday 19th July, from 12.30pm - 4pm**. This year our hostess will be Adele. As it is the Queen's 75th Jubilee we shall celebrate together and have a theme of Red, White and Blue. We hope to hold a raffle so any donations will be greatly appreciated. Please also bring a plate of food to share for the buffet. Any non-members are welcome but we will charge £5.00 and this amount will be deducted from our annual subscription for the current year should you decide to join. To make this event more memorable, we shall join Crafty Critters for the afternoon of **Monday 11th July from 1.30pm - 3.30pm**. We will make some fascinators/crowns/tiaras etc and you are encouraged to bring along any quirky items to decorate your head piece. For further details please ring Sue Lowder 881805.

### **NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE**

**MORNINGS** Thank you to everyone who attended the coffee morning at Shepherd's Cottage at the end of May. £190 was raised and we thank Caroline and Barry Brook again for inviting us to their beautiful home and flourishing garden and for hosting such a successful event on a rather cool late Spring day. There is now a break in the coffee morning schedule, so we meet again on **Wednesday 28th September** at Luccotts in Higher Street, Jennie and Malcolm Reid's home. The theme for the raffle and

table top/bring and buy sale will be Harvest produce. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. May we take this opportunity to thank all our hosts so far in 2022 for holding the village coffee mornings, and our merry helpers and everyone who supports the mornings so generously. Since June last year, we have raised a fabulous £2,192 for the church. We wish you all a very happy Summer. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow.

**NORTON CHURCH BELLS RINGING ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022.** This will be a quarter peal which will take about three quarters of an hour at Midday. The ringing on this day will be the annual commemoration of 29th July 1894 when the tower was struck by lightning, causing the fire of all the upper tower woodwork and the catastrophic destruction of the bells when they fell to ground level in the vestry. The date of 29th July 1895 is the celebration held precisely a year later of the tower restoration with the installation of recast bells. The funding for, and work to achieve this, were extraordinary! On the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1994, to commemorate the centenary of the tower fire, a church service was led by the Venerable Frank Bentley. He is brother of the late John Bentley, a Norton bell ringer for over 50 years and bell captain for over 35 years. Subsequently for many years there was a special Tower Day Service at the top of the tower when anyone fit enough could climb the 99 steps for the service and admire the views of the surrounding countryside.

For people who have recently moved into the village they might like to know a bit more about the above Tower fire, and I found this account in some of my father's papers. 'The Rector of the time a Mr Edwards wrote of a most terrible crash of thunder just after 4.00am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 1894. Dr Hobbs, landlord of a Cider House, the Masons Arms half way up Ham Hill, (he was called doctor because sold pills in little boxes to his customers for their more common ailments) was answering the call of nature in the privy up in the far corner of his back garden when he saw what he described as the "Electric Fluid" descending on Norton Church. In the village Edward Osborne saw that the tower was on fire and he alerted Job Virgin who dashed off on his horse to South Petherton for their Fire Brigade and thence to Martock. Charles Trask sent a messenger to the Fire Brigade at Crewkerne and William Grimes tore in to Yeovil on Colonel Shuldham's horse. The Petherton Brigade arrived at 5.50am and their mercifully long hose reached from the Mill Pond to a point half

way up the tower and the flames were subdued by 8.00am. The Yeovil Brigade, the last to be alerted and the furthest to come, were late for the show and were duly drenched with water by the other firemen from the roof of the Nave as they entered the church! Charles Trask provided Eggs and Bacon as were never seen in Norton before or since.' Janet Hutton

**NEW ARRIVALS.** We welcome Simon and Debbie Bradley who have moved in to Norton House and Digby Cole who is now in Barn Orchard. We hope they will enjoy living in our lovely village.

**NORTON CHURCH Services for July:**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.30am Morning Prayer,**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30am, Communion, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Evensong, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Said Communion** 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 07485789968

**BOOK CLUB** will meet on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 1.40pm** at the home of Pam Horrell in Chiselborough when the mobile library will also call opposite the Hall. Come and join our friendly book club – we are not 'high brow' at all and enjoy a cup of tea and homemade cake while we try to put the world to rights after discussing our latest 'read'! Contact Janet Hutton on 881566 or Anne Fairweather on 882620. The Library Van will be in Higher Street in Norton sub Hamdon **at 2.30pm on Tuesday 12th July.**

**HIGHER AND LITTLE STREETS' JUBILEE STREET PARTY** – 11am on the 5<sup>th</sup> June and Higher Street burst into life. By 2pm, over 40m of trestle tables were decorated with jars of flowers, protected by gazebos and garden umbrellas, and daleks (yes daleks) and vintage cars were in place. Everyone arrived with picnics, trifles, puddings and, most importantly, umbrellas. Gill Morris wearing her vintage 1940's suit won best costume, and though Easah wasn't awake to open proceedings, we began with grace and then tucked in. And when the rain began to fall, it didn't dampen the camaraderie. And when it poured we were resolute and hummed along to Gene Kelly. And when the rain turned torrential, we retreated into Hayes' garage to enjoy warm drinks, Jubilee trifle and puddings. A few of us headed home early to dry out, but at 4pm Barbara Nichols, eldest resident of Higher Street, cut the union flag

cake, followed by a toast and a singalong led by the Caswells.

Thank you to everyone who came along, for your enthusiasm, humour and stoicism, and everyone who helped set and clear up. It was a memorable afternoon, which didn't quite go to plan, but, as the Queen said, let's hope this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come. Due to everyone's generosity we are able to donate £47 to the Friends of Norton Church, together with a donation to the Village Hall. Thank-yous also to the Flower Show and Norton Church for the tables, and also to Katy's Bakes based at the Reading Room.

### **FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE**

**CLUB.** The draw results for June 2022 were as follows: Penny Cudmore (2), Charles & Sophie Campbell (2), Tim & Pam Williams, (2) Peter Prager, Alec Seccombe, David Parkinson and Emily Waters. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644 or email [marybatstone@gmail.com](mailto:marybatstone@gmail.com)

**JUBILEE NATURE GARDEN.** Firstly a few more thank-yous to everyone. A big thank-you to Andy Holms for letting us have the use of his digger, without which this job could not have happened. Thank you also to the two digger drivers, Roger Waters and John Radford - much appreciated all their time and energy spent there. Thanks also to Kelvin Morris for installing the small gate which was donated from the school. We are now waiting to hear from the diocese who have offered to put in a disabled pathway so wheelchairs and pushchairs can get to the concrete area, where there will be two large benches, and two round picnic tables able to seat eight people at each. You will be able to enjoy a tea or coffee and a snack from Katy's and sit in the sun watching the birds. As you see there is still a lot of work in progress and the weeds are popping up fast and furious. We will do our best to keep them under control until the autumn when we can grass the area. I shall be asking for donations of bulbs, and volunteers for planting when the right time comes. Hopefully I will get some English Bluebells to plant near the kissing gate under the shade of the big Magnolia tree. Please use this space. It is for everyone young and not so young.

### **Jubilee Dance - Keep the date of 20th**

**August free** for Norton and Chiselborough Flower Show. Also the evening, when there will be a Jubilee Dance in the Village Hall, with music through the decades starting from the 50s to present day. This is being organised by the brilliant Roy. If you wish you can come

dressed in a decade outfit of your choice - a prize for the best dressed costume. Hopefully we will have some entertainment also. There will be a bar, and a raffle - proceeds shared between the Village Hall and Jubilee Nature Garden. Tickets £5 available from the Village Shop, or at the door on the night. Lynn Orchard.

**SECOND HAND BOOKS** I am planning to have a second hand bookstall at the flower show in August as another fundraiser for my Borneo expedition in 2023. If anyone has any books they would like to donate, I would be very grateful to receive them. Please can I ask that they are no more than 3-4 years old. Please drop them off to the side porch at Netherleigh, Higher Street. Many thanks. Amelia.

### **SCHOOL NEWS Update from Mr Jamie Caswell, Co-Executive Headteacher at Norton and West Chinnock**

**Schools.** Groups took the Octagon by storm with fabulous performances at the Primary Festival of Dance. We were so impressed with how well children represented the schools. We kicked off the term with Earth Week, organised by our Eco-Committee. Children won prizes for re-purposing an object and developed their awareness of the environment. It was a pleasure to welcome the Wassail Theatre Company and enjoy a performance of a moving non-verbal play 'The Whispering Willows'.

We marked the Platinum Jubilee with learning through the week in History lessons, street parties, cake sales and services. The school is delighted to be recognised with a School Games Mark Gold Award, an awards scheme which rewards schools for their commitment to competitive sports.

This term we travel with pupils to the Mendips for a residential where the children will be doing outdoor activities from caving to water sports. The 'Read for Good' readathon raised around £800 to buy books for children in hospital and support the school libraries. We are very excited, and indeed most fortunate, that Lisa and Mark of Bagnell Farm are holding 'Party at the Cross' on Saturday 6th August with proceeds being donated to the school.

### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR JUNE**

**2022** The Parish Council managed to have a very successful monthly meeting at the beginning of June.

**Planning:** There were two planning applications for the Parish Council to consider:

22/01108/HOU at Tudor Cottage, Great Street, Norton Sub Hamdon. The erection of a shed at the rear of the garden. The Parish Council had no objections.

22/01391/HOU 20 New Road, Norton Sub Hamdon, Stoke Sub Hamdon, Somerset. Removal of existing rear conservatory and erection of single storey extension. The Parish Council had no objections.

**Refurbishment of the railings and kissing gate on the Church Footpath:** The Parish Council would like to thank Steve Collier from Higher Street for doing an incredible job on the refurbishment of the wrought iron kissing gate and railings situated by the Church, which the Parish Council paid for. It looks superb and will be there for many years to come.

**Play Area in the recreation field:** The start date for the installation and upgrade to the play area in the recreation field is looking likely to be the **4<sup>th</sup> July**. The play area will be shut to the public for up to 3 weeks depending on the weather for that period.

**Ham Hill Public Consultation:** SSDC are holding a public consultation at Norton Village Hall on the **14<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm until 7pm** where people can come along and view their exciting plans for Ham Hill and their Heritage Fund project. One of the SSDC team will be available to discuss the plans with you.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 starting at 7.30pm. Members of the general public are more than welcome to attend. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council)**  
[nortonpcclerk@outlook.com](mailto:nortonpcclerk@outlook.com)

**GUARDIANS OF MARTOCK CHURCH CONCERT 13th July 2022** The Yeovilton Military Wives Choir are coming to **Martock Church TA12 6JL. Performance time: 7:30pm** Tickets: £12 or £10 at Martock Gallery/ Martock Newsagent. Contact number: 07790 225357  
Website: [www.martockonline.co.uk/events](http://www.martockonline.co.uk/events)  
<https://www.yeoviltonmilitarywiveschoir.com>

**MARTOCK COVID VACCINATION MARSHALLING** If you have visited one of the local vaccination hubs it is likely you will have met the yellow jacketed Volunteer Marshals. Their role is to manage the traffic flow and the patient flow through the vaccination process and to support anyone that requires assistance. The Volunteer Marshalls support the NHS staff providing the registration and vaccinations at the single hub used by our local surgeries. Most recently this has been Martock Surgery providing vaccinations on

Wednesdays for those given appointments. The next stage of vaccinations is now being planned. Appointments are expected to start in the autumn at Martock Surgery and likely to be on one or two days each week over a 15 week period but may change.

The Volunteers Marshals are coordinated by Paul Harding, the Chair of the Martock and South Petherton Patient Participation Group, and Paul is now seeking additional volunteers to undertake the marshalling roles in the autumn. Volunteers normally fill one 2-hour slot between the vaccination times of 0900-1300 or 1400-1800 on days and times they have declared themselves available. A full briefing is provided for new Volunteers and yellow jackets provided. If you feel you can provide some time to act as a volunteer undertaking these roles (even for part of the period) then please contact Paul Harding on his e-mail ([chair.mspppg@gmail.com](mailto:chair.mspppg@gmail.com)) who would be pleased to answer any questions you might have and, if agreed by yourself, add you to the list of volunteers.

**STOKE-SUB-HAMDON GARDENING CLUB**  
July Activities: **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July in the Memorial Hall:** Catherine Bond of CB Plants, Lower Severalls Nursery, presents: "Herbs and Perennials and How They Benefit Pollinators" **Doors open 7.15 p.m.; meeting commences 7.30 p.m.** Raffle and refreshments! New members always welcome, and your first visit is free. Enquiries: Club Secretary – [secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com)

**STOKE SUB HAMDON 'VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP'** The Village Artist Group is a small, friendly, supportive group of people, of all ages and abilities, who meet weekly - **Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm** and **Fridays 10.00-12.00 midday** during term time at the Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon to practise all forms of the visual arts in a relaxed atmosphere. We have a pool of incredibly talented and sociable people here who would always welcome new members to join in the fun. If you are interested in venturing out once or twice a week and are looking forward to a very rewarding and affordable pastime, please contact me on 01935 829513 or [malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com) for a free introductory session and or a chat.

**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](mailto:info@hamdonchurch.co.uk) Paul & Naomi, Matt & Hannah and Rachel

## VILLAGE EVENTS

Friday 1 July FNC Talk Village Hall 7.00pm  
Monday 11 July Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Monday 11 July Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm  
Tuesday 12 July Mobile Library Higher Street 2.30pm  
Thursday 14 July Ham Hill Consultation Village Hall 2.00pm  
Sunday 17 July Village Festival Gardens Open 2.00pm  
Tuesday 19 July Ladies Group Garden Party 12.30pm  
Monday 25 July Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Saturday 20 August Flower Show Recreation Ground  
Saturday 20 August Evening Jubilee Dance  
Wednesday 28 September Village Coffee Morning Luccots 10.45am  
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](mailto:nortonnews@hotmail.com) by 4.00pm on the 19th of each month. In December the deadline is a week before.

**NEWCOMERS TO OUR VILLAGE.** If you know of anyone who has moved in to Norton, please 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) and Assistant Editor Mrs Chrissie O'Brien, email: [nortonnews@hotmail.com](mailto:nortonnews@hotmail.com) NB. All emails are replied to as soon as possible - please check if no acknowledgement is received by the deadline date.

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