

# NORTON NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE 528

## NORTON SHOP WEBSITE:

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

**FESTIVAL WEBSITE:** [https:// www.nortonfestival.org](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 HALL WEBSITE.

[enquire.nshvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:enquire.nshvillagehall@outlook.com)

**The Newsletter committee wish to pay tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II and welcome our new King Charles III. God save the King.**

**Clocks go back 2.00am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October.**

**BOOK CLUB** will meet on **Tuesday 4th October 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 4<sup>th</sup> October.**

**LADIES GROUP** What an enjoyable evening we had at our September meeting, in the company of Paul McNeill, a Ranger on Ham Hill. Paul gave an interesting presentation on the history of Ham Hill and brought along some artefacts found in the vicinity. He also spoke of the flora and fauna to be found there and praised the army of volunteers who have helped to maintain the country park. We are planning a visit to Shepton Mallet Prison on **4th October**, for a tour and, if time allows, tea and cake. Some of us will take part in a Treasure Trail around Ilminster on **11th October**. This is usually a lot of fun with time for lunch. Our next meeting will be held in the **Reading Room on Tuesday 18th October** when Lynne Orchard will give a talk on the creation of the Jubilee Garden. We would also like to hold a raffle so any contributions would be greatly appreciated. We meet on 3rd Tuesday of each month in the **Reading Room at 7.30pm**. Visitors and new members are welcome at any time. Enquiries Sue Lowder 881805

**CRAFTY CRITTERS** will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Mondays 10th and 24th of October** between **1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us for a friendly couple of hours whilst we work on our own projects. If you're not working on anything at the moment why not knit some baby clothes for Yeovil baby unit? We will have some patterns and wool for you. £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tricia 882646

## NORTON MOVIE NITES AT THE LORD NELSON.

The film for **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October** is **Belfast** (cert 12A, 98 mins). Directed by Kenneth Branagh and starring Judi Dench and Ciaran Hinds, this semi-autobiographical film is a poignant story of love, laughter and loss during a young boy's childhood. Tickets at £5 on sale in Norton Shop from 30th September. Doors open **7.45 for start at 8 pm.**

**CHOIR VISIT** In October we welcome to Norton the very talented and renowned Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir who will be presenting us with an enjoyable evening to remember **in the Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October**. The Choir has sung in Bristol, Truro and Wells Cathedrals, at the International Male Choral Festival in Cornwall and at the Festival of Brass and Voices at the Royal Albert Hall. They have also sung in France in the cathedral of Taunton's twin town, Lisieux, at Rotterdam and other venues. Tickets are now available locally, including at The Community Shop, at the discounted price of £8. At the Door entry will be £10 subject to space. So do not delay. Book today. Richard Terrell

## NORTON "BOUNDS" BREAKFAST WALK Saturday 22 October 2022 starting at 8.30 am at The Lord Nelson

Enjoy an early morning autumn walk followed by "Full Monty" breakfast at the Lord Nelson. The walk will start and finish at the Pub and circumnavigate the village following the rights of way nearest to the village boundary, covering about 6 miles and taking about 2-2 1/2 hours to complete. However, there are plenty of shortcuts for those who don't want to do the full distance. At the end of the walk (available at 11-11.30 a.m.) The Lord Nelson will have full English Breakfast including coffee, orange juice and toast at £10.00/head. Please book direct with the Pub beforehand to avoid disappointment. If you have any queries contact John Bailey (01935 881227)

**NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS** The first coffee morning of the season held on 28th September at Luccotts, Jennie and Malcolm Reid's home, will be reviewed in the next edition. October's date for the diary is **10.45am on Wednesday 26th October at Rocklands House, Little Street**. The theme for the table top/bring and buy sale is "Chocolate" and a raffle will be held too. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

**PINT-SIZED PLAYS.** Back again! A terrific programme of short, funny plays designed for viewing with a drink! The Stage Frighteners, our home-grown amateur group, will be putting on 4 performances: three in the **Lord Nelson skittle alley on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> October**; plus one in **Chiselborough Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> November. 7:30pm** start. Tickets will be on sale in the Village Shop from 3<sup>rd</sup> October. £7.50 each. Lindsay Higgins

**ADVANCE NOTICE. The Norton Newsletter AGM will be held in the Reading Room on Wednesday 9th November at 7.30pm. All welcome.**

**COLOUR OF THE NEWSLETTER. Due to increased costs of printing the committee have decided to have the newsletter printed on white paper from now on.**

**JUBILEE NATURE PARK** Thanks to volunteers a lot of work has been done but we still need donations of native and naturalistic bulbs and plants such as snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, bluebells, cowslips and primroses and herbs such as chives, oregano, thyme and rosemary. Plans are to get the central wildflower and grass lawn seeded next. Contact Kath Crouch on 07594 574150 or Lynn Orchard on 01935 882602 for further details or turn up with your tools to help on **Saturdays mornings in October 10am till 12** if the weather is fair.

**FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB.** The draw results for September 2022 were as follows: Malcolm Reid, Robert Vaux, Jeremy Reid, Lindsay Elliott, Miles Wickstead, Nicky Brodie, Nick Hale, Tim and Pam Williams, Rowena Aley and Andrew Wiggins. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644 or email [marybatstone@gmail.com](mailto:marybatstone@gmail.com)

**NORTON CHURCH Services for October Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> All Age Harvest Service 9.30am, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Morning Communion 9.30am, Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Evensong 6.00pm, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Said Communion 9.00am.** 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

**NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW REPORT** It was wonderful to be able to put the Show on again this year, and to have so many attend on the day, many of whom had not been to the Flower Show before. The weather was perfect, and the new layout across two marquees seemed to work well, although we won't be putting the cakes in front of the windows again! We will also look at having some additional seating around the grounds for future events. Of the new attractions, the Promenade Band was a particular favourite, the Bubble Man and the Flower Princess with her Unicorn were well received by the younger visitors. Visitor numbers were our highest yet, with the gates taking an impressive £585. Refreshments and cakes did exceptionally well too, taking £754, with all the other stalls and attractions remaining busy to the end of the day. Whilst this all helped tremendously to offset costs with overall income up c.£500 from 2019, costs rose significantly this year (+£1,550) mainly due to general cost increases, changes to the marquee layout and children's entertainment. Whilst attendance numbers were up significantly, the number of individual exhibitors was markedly down from 2019 (30%). This could be due to growing conditions, but also a result of not having a show for the two previous years. The entry numbers had

started to increase from 2018 to 2019, so we are hopeful they will improve again next year. Children's entries, though, are showing a general decline from 110 entries in 2018 and 62 in 2019 to just 41 in 2022, a 37% drop. We hope to engage with the local schools to encourage more children to participate. We will be further analysing entry data to look at trends through all the classes and categories. The Committee would like to thank everyone involved in making this year's show such a success, and a special note of thanks to the Norton Ladies Group who did such an amazing job organising and running the afternoon teas in the Village Hall. **Our AGM will be on Monday, October 3rd at 5.30pm** in the Meeting Room, Norton Village Hall. All are welcome, but please note it will finish promptly at 6pm, as there is a Committee Meeting directly afterwards.

**JAMES (JIM) GRAY.** Rosemary would like to thank everyone who has sent cards and flowers and many kind messages to her on the sad death of Jim. It has been a source of great comfort to her and her family.

#### **A PERSONAL GOODBYE TO JAMES ( JIM ) GRAY.**

This is very hard for me to write - as was my tribute to my friendie Marie only a few weeks ago. Heartbreaking. I first met Jim when he and Rosemary bought the shop from Sam Cottle. Jim and I soon realised we were lifelong supporters of Plymouth Argyle F.Club so obviously we had a bond! We went to our first away game together at Bristol Rovers - this was before Jim's stroke. We got to the ground, all dressed in the good old Green and Black, and went to buy 2 tickets for the Away end. They would only sell us tickets for the Home end, in case we caused trouble - us! really? Not Jim - the noisy one was me! That was obviously a no no from us. So we turned round and came home. Jim enjoyed being a shop-keeper, and loved meeting people and chatting, and catching up on the gossip. Unfortunately he didn't have much time to enjoy it. He was struck down by a stroke. Quite a shock for us all. He was quite ill for a time, but with physio, determination, hard work, and support from Rose, he gradually started to get better. He was right-handed, and as it affected his left side, he could use his laptop and write etc. His mind was as sharp as ever, so he could do everything he needed. He was a member (Treasurer – ed) of Norton Historical Society until it folded, Treasurer of the Village Hall, and Treasurer of the CLT, and other things. His real love was his football team, and Rose drove us down some Saturdays. But when he had his car especially adapted, we were able to go down regularly to see them and had Season Tickets . His life wasn't just dominated by Argyle!!! but the first thing every morning he would log on to the Argyle Website, to catch up on any news. He loved animals, Family History, Reading, chatting, and he loved his food, especially puddings! There is so much more I could say about Jim, but most of you that knew him, knew what a great person he was. Clever, determined, helpful, friendly and much more. I will be supporting the boys and cheer them on for him. I am sure he will be with me when I watch some of the Home Games on Argyle TV, that we used to watch together in his Argyle

Room... I will miss him more than I can say, as will many others. It has been a pleasure knowing him. To sum Jim up, he was a lovely man.) RIP Jim. Jennie Harris.

**NORTON VILLAGE HALL.** The Committee is very sad to announce the passing of Jim Gray very recently. Jim joined our committee and served as our Treasurer for many years until he passed the reins over to Lindsay Clayton. She passed them over to our current Treasurer and Booking Clerk, Sarah Hallett. Jim was an amazing man, and it was a pleasure to have him on board. He was very efficient, and everything had to be exactly right. We will miss seeing him in the village. Our sincere condolences go to Rosemary and family on their loss. We have had a quiet time since July. No meeting in August. We have had compliments about our ceiling fans in the function room which are a recent addition. In October we will be having the Function Room floor refurbished so the Hall will be shut for 3 days - **October 5th, 6th and 7th**. This work should make a big improvement. The floor has had no major work done on it since the Hall was opened in 2006, so it has lasted quite well. The hall bookings have been steady, and all our regulars have restarted their classes, which include Harmony303 Choir, Pilates, Keep Fit, Ballroom, HYG (youth club.), and monthly bookings by CADAS, (the Crewkerne and District Astronomical Society.) We will be meeting again later this month so I will report in the next issue.

**READING ROOM NEWS:** We had planned to upgrade the lean-to roof in September, but when the first few tiles were removed it was obvious that the supporting rafters were in a bad way and would need completely replacing. The tiles have been replaced temporarily until we can get an estimate of cost and time needed to carry out the work. In the main room the old loft ladder has been replaced allowing easier access to the loft area for storage. The Reading Room continues to be used by Katy's Bakes and various local groups, but is available over weekends and in the evening for group meetings or private events. For more information please contact us at [nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com). The Room can accommodate up to 25 – 30 people and there is a good sized and well equipped kitchen. Second-hand book sales continue to be popular and we are always pleased to receive any donations of books you no longer require - again contact us as above or call Sophie Snow on 881099. We are also considering holding another Waterstones @ The Reading Room for everyone's Christmas books shopping – so watch this space for more details!

### **PARISH NORTON COUNCIL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

**Planning:** There were no planning applications to discuss in September.

**Dog Owners:** We have received reports from landowners in Norton that there has been an increase in dog mess being left again. It is particularly bad at the far end of Rectory Lane and Broadmead Lane

where both lanes turn into tracks. There has been repeated dog fouling left in front of farmers'/landowners' gateways in both these lanes. Some gateways have footpaths through the land but some do not. There is no excuse in either of these places with dog bins provided in several locations. Dog mess is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets. Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocarasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures. Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse. The dog warden has been called and is visiting.

**Dogs on leads when walking in fields with livestock present:** We are now approaching 'tupping time' and ewes grazing will soon be pregnant throughout the winter into April. Please keep dogs on leads if walking through a field with animals grazing and stay on the footpaths at all times.

**Footpath Gates:** There are an awful lot of gates being left open on footpaths around Norton. Even if there are no animals in the field please shut the gate behind you – there may be a dog loose and if the gate is shut, it could very well stop them from running onto a road and causing an accident.

**Jim Gray:** The Parish Council was very sad to hear about the passing of Jim. Jim has been a huge part of the village for so many years and in particular was the Parish Council internal auditor. We all send our sincere condolences to Rose.

**CLT Update:** Mrs Liz Maunder, secretary of the CLT read out a report which gave a brief history of their work as well as an update on recent events concerning the shop and post office. Chairman Cllr. More asked how much in pledges they had now received. Mrs Maunder replied that it was now in the region of £20,000, although she explained that there were no guarantees that all the pledges would be fulfilled as some people's position may well have changed due to the rise in living costs, since offering their pledge. The Chairman asked how many new volunteers had come forward since the public meeting. Mrs Maunder replied that only 3 people had come forward. When the shop was first taken over by the CLT they had in the region of 90 volunteers and now that number was down to 31. Mrs Maunder reported that there had been many new shareholders applying to join and as long as any further applications were in by the 15<sup>th</sup> September then they would become shareholders in time for the next meeting. Mrs Maunder asked if the Parish Council could possibly help to support the shop financially. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with SALC on how the Parish Council could legally support the shop. SALC had informed the Clerk that the PC are restricted to the spend cap of S137 as there is no other power for a spend of this nature. The S137 payment for Norton PC is currently budgeted at £200.00 per year. This amount could significantly rise if the Parish Council agreed to it in the next budget (amount is worked out to a specific formula/amount per elector), but this wouldn't come into effect until the next

financial year which doesn't start until April 2023. Applications to be considered for this year's S137 are received in January '23 for a decision at the February '23 PC meeting. The CLT would be more than welcome to put in their application letter in January if they would like to be considered for this. For a full report please read the minutes.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 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)**

#### **STOKE-SUB-HAMDON GARDENING CLUB**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October:** "Pruning: ~"Where; Why; and How?" by Gilly Hayward, who will be dispelling some of the mystery surrounding pruning, explaining when and how to tackle it, and why it benefits the plants concerned. New members are always welcome, and your first visit is free. Plant sales; Raffle; Refreshments. **Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall: - doors open 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.** Enquiries: Club Secretary – [secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com)

#### **STOKE SUB HAMDON VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP and Somerset Oil Painters Autumn Art Exhibition**

We are pleased to announce that Stoke sub Hamdon Village Artist Group and Somerset Oil Painters are working together to bring you an exhibition of their members' work. Come and be amazed at the artistic talent in your very midst on view on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022**, in the Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon. Some of the art will be for sale and refreshments will be available from **11.00am -16.00 hrs.** TEA-CAKE- ART Malcolm Uhlhorn 01935 829513

**REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP (RSG)** Recently we held two successful fund-raising events: first Music in the Meadow, our annual May open-air event on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon, enjoyed by a large audience; then in June one sunny morning the house of a group member in Ilminster filled with generous supporters enjoying coffee, cake and conversation. Between them £2,000 was raised for refugee charities.

We now invite you to enjoy two more events to raise further necessary funding for those facing winter in refugee camps. Our QUIZ, popular and wide-ranging, preferably for teams of four, is scheduled for **Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>**. This year it will be in **Ilminster in the Parish Hall**, North Street (TA19 0DG) starting at **7.30pm**. Tickets £10pp including supper, with wine available for a donation. We look forward to welcoming you so book the date now with your team members and look out for posters with further details. A CONCERT has been organised by Jo Martin for **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the David Hall**, Roundwell Street, South Petherton. It features Jo, a singer/songwriter with a jazzy bluesy sound, who has played on 6Music. She will be supported by Mitch Norman and both freely give their talent to support refugee charities. Tickets will be £12 from Jo or available on the door; there will be a bar; and there will be a raffle. Look out for her posters. RAFT (refugee aid from Taunton) is seeking donations for refugees, including for those in Ukraine. They need unwanted clean washable winter clothing and suitable winter footwear for men, women, children and babies; hygiene items for all; and blankets, sleeping bags and tents. Raft will also accept clothing and footwear of any kind in very good condition if donors are willing for them to be sold to raise money to buy, for example, necessary hygiene items, or to use towards the rent of their new building. Raft address – Unit 4, Enterprise Park, Priorswood Rd. TA2 8FR - if you wish to deliver the items. Otherwise I will receive donations and deliver to Raft. With grateful thanks to all who care and are able to support this work. 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](mailto:info@hamdonchurch.co.uk) Paul & Naomi, Matt & Hannah and Rachel

## VILLAGE EVENTS

Saturday 1 October Tinkers Bubble Open Day  
Tuesday 4 October Library Van Higher Street 2.30pm  
Monday 10 October Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Monday 10 October Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm  
Tuesday 11 October Movie Nites Lord Nelson 7.45pm  
Saturday 15 October Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir Church 7.30pm  
Tuesday 18 October Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm  
Saturday 22 October Bounds Walk Meet at Lord Nelson 8.30am  
Monday 24 October Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Wednesday 26 October Village Coffee Morning Rocklands House 10.45am  
Thursday to Saturday, 27 - 29 October Pint-sized Plays Lord Nelson 7.30pm  
Wednesday 9 November Newsletter AGM Reading Room 7.30pm  
Friday 18 November The Syrian Baker (Theatre from Farnham Maltings) Village Hall

**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) 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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