

# NORTON NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE 530

## The Newsletter Chairman and Committee wish our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year

### 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)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** So that the January issue of the Newsletter can be produced before Christmas and the New Year holiday, the deadline for news items will be a week earlier than usual on **Monday 12th December**

**SEASONS GREETINGS** Mike and Pam Rastall would like to wish all of our Norton friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a great new 2023. We are making a donation to the Ukrainian Appeal instead of cards this year. Best wishes.

**ADVERTS** Two new adverts for Bagnell Farm - see the end of the Adverts Page. Please note the cost of adverts will be increasing from £1.50 per month (£18.00 per annum) to £2.20 per month (£26.40 per annum) to help with the increased costs of printing. This is the first rise since the newsletter started in 1983!!

**CHURCH FLAG** The George Cross flag will fly from the Church Tower from **24th December until 6th January** for Christmas through to Epiphany.

**NORTON COMMUNITY SHOP:** It has been decided via the Shop Committee to introduce **Winter Opening Hours** with effect from **Thursday 1st December**. The new hours will be as follows: **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8am - 5pm, Thursday and Friday, 8am - 6pm Saturday 8.30am - 1pm**

**NORTON SUB HAMDON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST MEMBERS.** If you think you may have changed or updated your email address since you became a member of the Community Land Trust please can you advise the Secretary on [secretary.norton@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.norton@gmail.com). There have been a number of bounce back messages received from recent communications. Thank you

**CRAFTY CRITTERS** will be meeting in the **Reading Room** on **Monday 5th December between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. Looking forward to seeing you all before we

break for Christmas and New Year. We will be back on **9th January 2023**, so if Santa brings you a craft project come and join us for a friendly natter and cuppa whilst we work!

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year Tricia 882646

**DO YOU FANCY A MORNING SHARING THE WARMTH OF SOMEONE ELSE'S HOME?** I'm offering it to anyone finding life a bit chilly on **Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> 9 – 1pm**. If anyone else would like to make a similar offer please ring me and we can arrange a calendar of Warm Room offers. Please ring too if you would like to come on the 5th – my house isn't big! Prue 881350

**LADIES GROUP** Richard Kay delivered a colourful, informative and sometimes amusing presentation. The subject was Art on our Mantelpiece, a study of art on our Christmas cards. We looked in depth at paintings by artists from all over the world and from centuries ago which brought to life images and drew attention to details that we may have normally overlooked. Our annual Christmas Party will take place on **Wednesday 14th December 12.30 - 4pm** in the Village hall. We shall serve a light lunch, and enjoy Secret Santa, a quiz and our own rendition of 12 Days of Christmas - now a regular feature! Come in Christmassy attire (optional). Any member who wishes to come along please ensure your name is added to the list asap. New Years Dinner **17th January 7pm in The Lord Nelson**. The names list will be available at the Christmas party so please ensure your name is added if you wish to attend. We are a sociable friendly group and welcome new members and visitors at any time. Sue Lowder 881805

**CAROL SINGING.** Meet at the **Church gate** in Norton at **6.30pm on Thursday December 22nd** for a good sing around the village ending at the **Lord Nelson at 8.30pm**. All welcome. Bring a torch and loose change (Cilla and Bill will also play carols outside the shop weather permitting in the week before.)

**JUBILEE NATURE GARDEN.** I would like very much to thank everyone who has supported in any way either financially, physically or from knowledge, the Jubilee Nature Garden, Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Hopefully it will be a fine evening for the Carol Singing around the Village on **Thursday 22nd December meeting 6.30pm at the church gate**, We will walk up through the garden and sing a couple of carols around a Christmas tree before going on our way. There will be a collection tin floating around for the charity Hope and Homes for Children which is a charity dear to my heart. Just one more thing - if anyone wants to take a bag of leaves all packed up from the garden for leaf mould, please help yourselves, but return the bag at some point. Lynn Orchard. 01935 882 602

**FRIENDS OF NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL** would like to begin by extending our grateful thanks to Lisa and Mark Parsons, of Bagnell Farm, for organising such a fantastic Party at the Cross in August. There were a lot of people involved to make the day a success and I am sure that the families and children in our community are very thankful for the boost to our charity. We continue to raise funds so that we might aid our teachers in providing extra activities and trips for the children. There is a growing need for donations from our charity to subsidise many areas of school life and take some of the pressure off stringent budgeting all around. All help and support is gratefully received. We will be holding a Christmas Disco (**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 5.30-7.00 pm**) and a small Christmas Fayre (**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 3.15-5.45 pm**). The Fayre will include the chance to meet Santa, have a cup of Mulled Wine, eat some tasty treats and peruse some local stall holders for Christmas gifts. There will be a hamper raffle and children's lucky dip – all donations gratefully received in the usual box in Norton shop or school lobby area. The Fayre will close at 5.45 pm to allow parents and carers to watch the evening performance of the Christmas Nativity. Just a reminder that the FONS consider all parents/carers/staff/members of the community to be members but you may request to have minutes of meetings e-mailed directly if you so wish. Our best regards for the upcoming Festive Season, Esther and The FONS.

**NORTON MOVIE NITES.** Advance notice! The next Movie Nite will be held on **Monday 9th January in Norton Village Hall**. 'Operation Mincemeat' (cert 12A, 128 mins) stars Colin Firth, Matthew Macfadyen and Kelly Macdonald in a cracking true-story adventure about Second World War British Intelligence deceiving the Germans with a spoof planned invasion. Tickets at £5 on sale in Norton Shop from 5th December. Hall doors open 7.45 for start at 8 pm. For a celebratory New Year mood, feel free to BYO drink and snacks.

**BOOK CLUB.** The Mobile Library will not be visiting in December and also there is no Book Club in December. The next one will be on **Tuesday 10th January from 1.10 – 1.50pm** when the mobile library will call opposite the Hall in Chiselborough. **Please note the changed times.** The Library Van will be in Higher Street in Norton sub Hamdon from **2.00 – 2.25pm on Tuesday 10th January (Please note the earlier time)**. Contact Janet Hutton on 881566 or Anne Fairweather on 882620 for further details of venue etc.

**THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH TRAVEL TALK FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY:** Due to unforeseen circumstances the planned talk on India cannot be presented on 20<sup>th</sup> January and has therefore been postponed. The FNC are delighted to announce however that John Forrest has kindly agreed to present his **illustrated talk on "Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro" on the 20th January 2023 in the Village Hall**. Doors will be open from **7:00pm for a 7:30pm start** with a cash wine and soft drinks bar available. Tickets at £7 each will be on sale in the Norton Community Shop in time to buy for

Christmas and on the door on the night with all proceeds from the event used to support and maintain the fabric of Norton church.

**NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS** Thank you to everyone who attended last month's coffee morning at Rocklands House. Lots and lots of delicious chocolate was brought along and a fabulous £250 was raised for the church. A note on the November coffee morning held at Francesca and Ian Chignell's will be included in next month's Newsletter. Please remember there is no coffee morning in December, so we meet again at **10.45am on 25th January, 2023** at Heather and Dennis Hawkin's home, **Arks Edge**, in Higher Street, Norton. The theme for the raffle and table top/bring and buy sale will be "Marmalade" and as always refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. May we take this opportunity to thank all our 2022 hosts for holding coffee mornings and everyone who supports them so generously. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

**THE NORTON NEWSLETTER AGM** took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Thanks were expressed to all the deliverers and proof readers and all who contribute in any way. Jennie Harris has been welcomed on to the committee and has agreed to take on the role of Secretary. Thank you Jennie for volunteering for this role.

**MANY THANKS** to everyone who donated to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance in memory of Jim. The total amount donated was £333. Thank you everyone. Rosemary Gray

**VILLAGE SALON** As another year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your custom and support towards the village salon. Loyal customers like you make my business possible. Best wishes at Christmas and always. Lisa @the village salon.

**WATERSTONES** I hope you were able to visit our Waterstones at the Reading Room week and buy some gifts without the hassle of going into Yeovil! The Reading Room Committee would like to thank everyone for their support this year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2023. Tricia Walton

**THE SYRIAN BAKER UPDATE** An uplifting evening was enjoyed by an audience of over 100 people on the 18th of November at Norton Village Hall. The reason? The Syrian Baker - a play of food, stories and hope. This story of love, family and friendship took us from war-torn Syria to London returning back to Syria. The evening drew to a close with the smells of freshly baked bread, the sounds of laughter and a sense of being part of a community. These evenings cannot run without volunteer support so we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their time, energy and enthusiasm Lindsay Clayton & Jennie Harris who ran the bar, front of house Rowena Alsey, hall set up, Shaun Clayton, Chris Westwood and Julian Cole.

Catering was provided by Katy from Katy's tearoom . Watch out for details of our next Hamstonelive event in January. Lindsay Higgins, Sarah Hallett-Plom, John Bailey, the Hamstonelive Committee

**FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB.** The draw results for November 2022 were as follows: A Seccombe J Hutton, B Frosdick, E Waters, P Prager(2), A Wiggins, D&J Berrington, D Parkinson and J Harris. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644 or email [marybatstone@gmail.com](mailto:marybatstone@gmail.com)

**VISITOR ATTRACTION** Children visiting Norton Church Family Area can make their own Christmas cards and help to decorate the Christmas tree in the Area. A variety of other activities are provided in the Area which is open every day and during Services.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE LARDER** The recent Norton Church Harvest Service supported The Lord's Larder and now the church will be providing ongoing support by being a Collection Point throughout the year. The Lord's Larder provides local family support for those who are going through difficult times. In the church donations are invited to be put in a designated bag alongside which, for guidance, is a note of essential non-perishable items currently sought. The contents of the Collecting Bag go to the local Larder on a regular basis and thanks are expressed to all who use it and support The Lord's Larder

**NORTON CHURCH Services for December:**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Baptism 2.00pm Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Communion 9.30am Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Candle Lit Carol**  
**Service 6.00pm Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**  
**Midnight Mass 11.30pm** 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

#### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2022**

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

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

**New Parish Councillor: Welcome to Jennie Harris:** Following the resignation of Stuart Maunder the Parish Council co-opted Jennie Harris to the Parish Council at the beginning of the meeting. Many of you will already know that Jennie used to be a Parish Councillor for Norton and we are delighted to welcome her back. Jennie has an amazing knowledge of Norton past and present, so makes a perfect Parish Councillor for the village. If you have anything you would like her to report back to the Parish Council on your behalf, then you will often find her volunteering her time in the shop or village hall.

**Resignation of Rachel Cumberbatch:** The Parish Council received the resignation of Rachel Cumberbatch in October due to family commitments. Although Rachel hasn't been a Parish Councillor for very long, she certainly has made a huge impact with her enthusiasm and humour in that time and we shall

definitely miss her presence at Parish Council meetings. We wish her well.

The Parish Council have been working with our Monitoring Officer to follow the correct procedure with regards to advertising the vacancy and it looks like we will be able to Co-opt at the December meeting. If you would like to be considered for the role then please email the Clerk who will tell you more about what's involved with being a Parish Councillor ([nortonpcclerk@outlook.com](mailto:nortonpcclerk@outlook.com)) and the procedure with regards to Co-opting.

Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council meets on the second Monday of every month except August. You can become a councillor as long as you are: British or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union, at least 18 years old, registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election. You can't be a councillor if you: Work for the council you want to be a councillor for, or for another local authority in a political restricted post, are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order, have been sentenced to prison for three months or more (including suspended sentences) during the five years before election day, have been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court. If you are in any doubt about whether you are eligible to stand as a councillor, you should contact the electoral services department at your local council for advice.

**Crime:** There has been a rise in criminal activity in Norton within the last month. Both incidents have been reported to the Police and incident numbers have been issued. The first incident was during half-term week when eggs were thrown at a number of front doors. The second was a report of 3 vehicles having their tyres slashed. The Clerk has spoken to the Police and more patrols will be happening in the evenings and later at night. If you do see anything that you feel is suspicious behaviour please do not hesitate to ring the Police on either 101 or 999 (depending on how important the information you have to report is).

**Somerset's Warm Welcome Initiative:** Somerset County Council is asking neighbours to look out for each other this winter and share a warm room together. Many people are struggling to heat a room let alone their house this winter and if you know of a neighbour in this position and you are able to offer them a warm place and drink for a couple of hours, then SCC are urging you to do so. They are also launching The Warm Welcome initiative which is a network of venues that will offer an inviting place for people to keep warm. These venues will offer optional activities, or a place to get some work/homework done, or even just see a friendly face for a chat. Some funding will be available for these community buildings offering support. Spark Somerset is being funded to develop the programme and build a framework, identify appropriate spaces and co-ordinate the project moving forward. Somerset Libraries will be open as usual to offer a warm and welcoming space to all. Once all of the warm spaces have been confirmed, a public map will be made available. More information will be available on the following website once all the warm spaces have been

confirmed.<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/cost-of-living-support-in-somerset/>  
**Pick Up Your Dog Poo!** There seems to be an increase in people who are bagging their dog poo and then throwing it in the hedge or ditch! There is one place in particular (footpath off New Road) where this is getting worse - the bags are very distinctive (blue bag). **Why? If you have gone to the trouble of picking it up in the first place, then take it to the nearest dog or litter bin (you can use either – we have plenty in the village), or take it home and put it in your large black waste bin. The dog warden has been notified and will be patrolling the area. PLEASE STOP! The next Parish Council meeting will take place on MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 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)**

**SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM STOKE-SUB-HAMDON GARDENING CLUB** There's no meeting in December, but we hope to welcome you on: **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall**, for a talk on 'The Healthy Garden'.

**MEMBERS OF THE STOKE VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP** wish all the newsletter readers a warm and hospitable Christmas and a creative new year.

**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

Monday 5 December Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Monday 12 December Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm  
Wednesday 14 December Ladies Group Christmas Party Village Hall 12.30pm  
Thursday 22 December Carol Singing meet at Church Gate 6.30pm

### 2023

Monday 9 January Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Monday 9 January Movie Nites Village Hall 7.45pm  
Tuesday 10 January Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm  
Friday 20 January Friends of Norton Church Talk Village Hall 7.30pm  
Saturday 21 January – Hamdon Ha! Ha! Comedy Night Lord Nelson  
Wednesday 25 January Village Coffee Morning Arks Edge 10.45am  
Friday 27 January An evening with Graham Harvey (Archers fame) Village Hall  
Thursday 23 February – Flying Solo with David Eagle and song at the Lord Nelson

**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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