

NORTON NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE 532

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 HALL WEBSITE.
enquire.nshvillagehall@outlook.com

**ONE OFF ADVERT – COTTAGE TO RENT –
SEE END OF NEWSLETTER**

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be in the **Reading Room on Mondays 6th and 20th February** between **1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us to work on your craft project, chat with like-minded people and enjoy coffee and biscuits. £2.00 per session including tea and biscuits. Tricia 882646

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB. The Mobile Library will call in **Chiselborough** opposite the Hall on **Tuesday 7th February from 1.10–1.50pm** and in Higher Street **Norton from 2.00–2.25pm**. The book club will meet on that same day but contact Janet Hutton on 881566 or Anne Fairweather on 882620 for details of venue and times etc or if you would like to join our friendly book club.

THE READING ROOM has a fun competition ending on **14th February!** Guess the number of dog treats in the jar located in the hall. We have been generously donated a bottle of sparkling wine and box of chocolates as the prize for the nearest guess. Only £1.00 per guess. Proceeds will go towards replacing the roof over the kitchen and hallway which is in very poor condition. Tricia Walton, Secretary.

NORTON MOVIE NITES at the Lord Nelson, Tuesday 14 February. A light-hearted film to enjoy on Valentine's Day, *The Phantom of the Open* (cert 12A, 146 mins) stars Mark Rylance, Sally Hawkins, and Rhys Ifans. An amiably daft account of how a real-life golfing eccentric managed to gain entry to

the 1976 British Open Golf Championship qualification round. Tickets at £5 on sale in Norton Shop from 30 January. **Doors open 7.45 for start at 8 pm**

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE

MORNINGS: Thank you to everyone who attended January's marmalade coffee morning. A full report will be in next month's edition. We meet again at **10.45am on 22nd February** at Sarah and Ian Murray's home, **Homestead, in Higher Street**, Norton. The theme for the raffle and table-top/bring and buy sale will be "Homemade" and as always refreshments will be served. The coffee mornings are a great way of meeting friends and neighbours and hearing village news. They last for about an hour and all are welcome. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

SEED SWAP AT TINKERS BUBBLE -

Sunday 26th February The growing season is almost nigh! Whether you've saved your own seed from last season or not, you are welcome to come along to a free seed swap on **Sunday 26th February between 2pm and 4pm**. We'll exchange seeds, have a chat about plans for the year, and if you'd like to, you are welcome to have a look around our gardens. Join us in our barn (next to our car park, up the lane from Little Norton, at any time between 2 and 4. No need to book, but if you do want to contact us we are at tinkersbubble@riseup.net.

FESTIVAL NEWS Norton Festival has a Concert coming up with the return of the highly praised Cantamus on **Saturday 25th March**. Tickets, £10, will be available from The Community Shop. Gardens in Bramley Fields will be open on **Sunday 25th June**. Any resident of Bramley Fields wishing to participate should get in touch with Peter Prager (No.17) or Richard Terrell (the Festival Coordinator) to express their interest and obtain further information. In the autumn a Folk Night is planned for **Saturday 7th October**. Please keep these Dates in your Diary - support and enjoy.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE

CLUB. The draw results for January 2023 were as follows: Tim & Pam Williams (2), Mike & Pam Rastell, Roger Hardisty, John & Elizabeth Forrest, Sara Vann, David Batstone,

Chris & Sue Westwood, James Pond and Robert Vaux. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644 or email marybatstone@gmail.com

CAROL SINGING RESULT Thank you to the merry band of carol singers who sang and collected so brilliantly. Also, a big thank you to Lynn Orchard who decorated the Jubilee Garden which made a special place for our first few carols. Also thanks to Mark and Helen for the mulled wine and mince pies and their enthusiastic welcome at the Lord Nelson. We have given £100 to the Friends of Norton Church and sent £400 to Hope and Homes for Children. Information on the charity can viewed at hopeandhomes.org Cilla Caswell.

LADIES GROUP Our annual Christmas Party is one of the highlights of our calendar and this year was no exception. We all enjoyed a simple lunch, punctuated by a glass or two of wine. A quiz and a seasonal sing-along followed, sung beautifully I must say! We held a Secret Santa then, amid much laughter, our own rendition of 12 days of Christmas which always seems to cause mayhem. A small group went to Westlands to see an Andre Rieu concert - a feel-good, uplifting way to start the New Year. Our New Year dinner was held at The Lord Nelson - the food was delicious, and we must thank Helen and Mark and team for once again making this a very enjoyable evening. On **7th February** we shall be Ten Pin Bowling. Gwen - we shall be after you as top scorer the last time. At our next meeting on **Tuesday 21st February** our speaker will be Francis Burroughes. His talk entitled "Can you sing Jerusalem" gives an amusing insight into the experiences of a speaker on the W.I./ Ladies Group circuit. Two Theatre visits are in the pipeline - **23rd February** - "The Mouse Trap" and **Wednesday 1st March** - "Cruising through the Menopause" - a ladies night like no other, I am assured. Both held at The Octagon. Any member who would like to add their name (subject to availability) for either of the above, **please call Sue asap**. The Ladies Group meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Reading Room at 7.30pm - visitors and new members will be very welcome. Sue Lowder 881805

FLYING SOLO. An evening of music and comedy with multi award-winning **DAVID EAGLE**. A big name on the comedy/folk circuits, he'll share stories with you about how his blindness has led him into numerous surprising, hilarious encounters and misadventures. Armed with just an accordion,

he'll illustrate with some comedy songs too. Look him up! At the Lord Nelson, 8pm **Thursday 23rd February**. Tickets £12 from the pub or online at www.takeart.org.

HAMDON SURGERY. At this month's meeting of the Patients Participation Group we were told by the practice manager that the number of no shows amounted to **54!** Over the past 6 months the total number of patients not turning up to their appointments amounted to **359!!** at a cost of approximately £45.00 per appointment - **this has cost the surgery over £16,000!!** Peter Callaghan on behalf of the PPG

THE JUBILEE NATURE GARDEN. I hope most of you managed to see the Christmas tree planted and lit up with lights and decorations that the school children had painted. Some of the children came and helped place them on the tree, the gate and fence. They sang Christmas songs and danced around the tree. Some children, I know, took their Mums and Dads down to show them the decorations they had personally worked on themselves! They were proud of what they had achieved. Hopefully this will be an ongoing treat before Christmas each year for the school. The village carol singers also visited the garden and sang some carols before making their way around the village to the pub. We are still waiting for three more trees to arrive. The bulbs are now pushing up through and there have been over 200 daffodil bulbs planted, plus many more other bulbs. Unfortunately the weeds are also pushing up fast and furious. Please help once the weather improves. Anyone is welcome to help themselves to any of the herbs planted by the benches near the path. We are hoping to have a sign placed under the footpath sign on the road near the dog bin, pointing to the garden, as there are many walkers visiting our village who would not know the garden was there. A coffee and take away can be purchased from Katy's at the Reading Room Café and taken to sit in the garden in the summer and enjoyed. Hopefully we will arrange a Village BBQ, or Hog Roast for everyone when we can be sure of the weather. Watch this space! Many thanks to all who have helped with this huge project, which could not have been achieved without you all. It is not even a year yet since we started clearing the ground.

I think is quite an achievement for you all.
Lynn Orchard.

FOOD AID People in Norton sub Hamdon have generously been supporting The Lord's Larder food bag in the Parish Church. Each week it is emptied and taken to The Lord's Larder in Yeovil. During December the Larder was able to support 1,658 people (912 adults and 746 children). Only with support such as ours can this be achieved so please continue to fill the bag. Please be aware that The Lord's Larder do not accept any donations of fresh fruit or vegetables, frozen products or any out-of-life food items.

NORTON CHURCH Services for February:
Sunday 5th Morning Prayer, 9.30am Sunday 12th Communion 9.30am, Sunday 19th Evensong 6.00pm, Wednesday 22nd Said Communion 9.00am Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and Church notice boards. Rev Nick Clarke 07485789968

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY 2023
The Parish Council managed to have a very successful monthly meeting at the beginning of January.

Planning: There were no planning applications to discuss in January.

New Dates for PC Meetings for April and May: Due to both the April and May meetings falling on bank holidays, it was agreed that the dates for both meetings will change: April's meeting was due to fall on Easter Monday (10th April). The Parish Council agreed unanimously that the April meeting should be brought forward a week to accommodate for the Bank Holiday. **To confirm, the April meeting will be held on MONDAY 3rd**

APRIL 2023. The Clerk also pointed out that the May Parish Council meeting was also due to fall on the May Bank Holiday (8th May – date for the Coronation Bank Holiday). However, the Monday before also fell on a bank holiday (1st May – Spring Bank Holiday). **Therefore, the Parish Council unanimously agreed that the May PC meeting would held on the TUESDAY 9th MAY.**

Signs for gate and Jubilee Garden: The Parish Council agreed to pay for a 'push' and 'pull' sign to go on the new wrought-iron gate on the footpath by the church as it was pointed out that it was not clear this was a gate. A sign has also been commissioned to go on the footpath signpost on New Road that will point people to the Jubilee Garden. The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2023 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

REFUGEE AID FROM TAUNTON 2023 RAFT continues to request donations to send to those living in refugee camps and, if necessary, for those resettled in the Taunton area. They also help homeless people in need. Some refugees now volunteer with the charity, sorting and packing donated goods. Raft requests blankets, sleeping bags, tents, but no other bedding is wanted at present. Suitable, clean, washable clothing for men (not large sizes please), women, children and babies, plus hygiene items for all are always needed. Refugee Support Group receives your donations and, if necessary, will collect, and transports them to Raft. In addition, trustees at Raft have set up an ebay page where they are now selling individual clothing and footwear not suitable for life in camps. They need to be in good condition and would include those designated 'vintage'. Many, I expect, would be unwanted purchases or presents, and are sometimes even from businesses closing down. Raft uses the money to buy baby and hygiene products. They are also now having to find £18,000 a year for smaller premises where previously they were fortunate to have, from the council for free, a large premises awaiting redevelopment. Many thanks to all our supporters, past, present and future, Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

STOKE-SUB-HAMDON GARDENING CLUB holds its AGM on **Wednesday 22nd February 2023**, followed by a talk from Gardening Club Member Malcolm Uhlhorn on: 'The Fundamentals of Domestic Garden Design' . He will be offering hints, advice and guidance to those who would like to embark on redesigning their own gardens. Venue: **Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall – doors open 7.15 p.m.**, meeting starts at **7.30 p.m.** Visitors very welcome!

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 01 935 829513 or malcolmhorn99@gmail.com for a free introductory session and or a chat.

MARTOCK CHURCH CONCERT The Dart Valley Stompers will be performing on **Thursday 23rd February 2023** at Martock Church TA12 6JL at **7:30pm** Admission fee: Tickets: £12 or £10 at Guardianstickets@gmail.com /07547 213992/Martock Gallery/ Martock Newsagent Website:www.martockonline.co.uk/events <http://www.dartvalleystompers.co.uk> This 4-piece band has a repertoire firmly rooted in Traditional & New Orleans music. Members of the band have performed their style of jazz many times for us and are a major crowd pleaser playing a lively and exciting musical selection.

HAMDON COMMUNITY CHURCH (HCC)

Look out for us during 2023 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

ONE OFF ADVERT - RENTAL –

Chiselborough Detached Hamstone 3-bedroomed house, bathroom, kitchen, dining room, living room, hallway, downstairs toilet, utility and porch area. Lovely gardens, pergola with a secluded pond garden with large basement room. Located on Fairplace Common with a track for parking. Very useful Stone Outhouse for storage. Rental £1000 per month on the understanding I can use basement area for my storage. Contact: 07746404476 Email: suehasell@hotmail.co.uk

KEEP VIGILANT. Always be aware of any unsolicited requests for personal or financial information from cold calls or emails.

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday 6 February Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Tuesday 7 February Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm
Monday 13 February Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 14 February Movie Nites Lord Nelson 7.45pm
Monday 20 February Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Tuesday 21 February Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm
Wednesday 22 February Village Coffee Morning 'Homestead' 10.45am
Thursday 23 February Flying Solo with David Eagle and Song at the Lord Nelson
Saturday 25 March Norton Festival Cantamus Church 7.30pm
Sunday 25 June Open Gardens in Norton
Saturday 7 October Folk Night

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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