

NORTON NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023 ISSUE 531

NORTON SHOP WEBSITE:

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

FESTIVAL WEBSITE: <https://www.nortonfestival.org>

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

ADVERTS: 2 New adverts – Greensleeves Nursery and Mind and Body Massage Therapy – see bottom of ads page.

JENNIE AND TREVOR HARRIS, would like to wish all neighbours, and friends a very Happy 2023. We won't be sending cards this year, but will be making a contribution to Norton Jubilee Community Garden.

NORTON SHOP UPDATE FROM THE CLT

DIRECTORS. At the Shareholders meeting on 21st November the resolution vote was passed not to cease trading.

Niall Clifford - Solar Progress It has now been confirmed that panels may be placed on the roof of the shop, provided certain conditions are met, assessing the financial feasibility.

Concerning the Solar Array on the CLT land at Minchington Close, planning permission remains in place, the local network provider has indicated support for the project, and talks are ongoing with local partners, and an energy provider, to whom we would sell the power generated.

Lindsay Higgins – Finances We have received over £9000 in pledges to support the shop through the energy crisis. Many thanks to you all. The underlying shop profitability is still challenging (loss-making), however, and our focus is on containing costs and increasing sales.

Thank you for all your support. However, for the shop to stay open we have to increase sales. "USE IT OR LOSE IT". Don't forget we can deliver on Wednesdays for your meats, cheeses and groceries.

The directors are: Colin McDonald Chair, Ian Murray (Secretary/Marketing), Jane Naughton

(Shop Committee), Lindsay Higgins (Treasurer)/, Niall Clifford (Energy/Solar), Larry Levanthal, Simon Harris (Minutes Sec), Sue Moore (NsH PC Rep), Brian Wickins (Chiselborough PC Rep).
Contact: nortonshop@outlook.com

BOOK KEEPING SKILLS WANTED AT THE SHOP

Would you be able to offer a couple of hours a week of your time to help us keep the shop accounts in good order? Ideally, you will know your way around the Sage Accounting software. We seek someone who can do reconciliations and checks on the data captured in Sage and to advise us on best practices for the shop. Flexible timing. If this sounds like you, please contact Lindsay Higgins on 07866 561 573 or Lindsay.higgins@me.com. Come along and join the friendly community shop team!

NORTON VILLAGE HALL. The committee would like to wish all hirers, prospective hirers and residents the compliments of the Season, and a very happy 2023. We have been making a lot of improvements to the Hall this year, including ceiling fans, to help with air circulation. We have also had the Function Room, and Entrance hall floor, stripped and refurbished. This has made a lot of difference. We have gone back to basics with the patch of garden beside the hall and it looks much tidier with new plants and regular maintenance. We have dug out and re-installed the bent bollards behind a property in New Road to help protect their fence and there is more work to do in the near future. The exterior wooden cladding of the hall will need renovation and repair. We will be starting with the rear of the building that gets the worst of the weather. We have had quotes, and are hoping to get this work started next year. It could also mean replacing the windows too, so that could be a bigger job. Eventually all the cladding around the hall will need replacing but that won't be in the near future...hopefully. The committee are very grateful to Norton Pantomime Society for donating the proceeds from 'Treasure Island'. We will be looking to have some fund-raising events during next year to build up the funds. More details to follow. Finally the hall will be holding its AGM in February - more details next month. Thank you. Jennie Harris for Norton Village Hall committee.

CRAFTY CRITTERS: Crafty Critters will be meeting in the **Reading Room** on **Monday**

9th and 23rd January between 1.30 and 3.30pm. If you've had a gift for Christmas that you want to start, something you've been working on for ages or just want to talk to a friendly group whilst you sew, come and join us! £2.00 per session including tea /coffee and biscuits. Tricia 882646

NORTON MOVIE NITES AT NORTON VILLAGE HALL. Our usual venue will be closed so come along on **Monday 9 January to Norton village hall** where Operation Mincemeat (cert 12A, 128 mins) will be screened. Starring Colin Firth, Matthew Macfadyen and Kelly Macdonald. This is 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. **Hall doors open 7.45 for start at 8 pm.** For a celebratory New Year mood, feel free to BYO drink and snacks

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB. The Mobile Library will call in **Chiselborough** opposite the Hall on **Tuesday 10th January from 1.10–1.50pm** and in Higher Street **Norton from 2.00–2.25pm.** (Please note the earlier times) 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.

LADIES GROUP We have been very busy since our last meeting. A group of us went tenpin bowling, and although the scores were quite close, Gwen was the person with highest score - well done Gwen, you will be one to beat next time around! We spent a fun afternoon making party hats in the Reading Room for party day! A lovely day out was had at Wells - we toured the market, had a leisurely lunch, attended the WI carol concert in the cathedral, and found time for a warming mulled wine and coffee before returning home - a pleasant day was had by all. We are looking forward to our Christmas Party and will report in the next issue. Our New Year's Dinner will be on **Tuesday 17th January**, to be held at **The Lord Nelson at 7pm.** Anyone wishing to join us will be most welcome, so please advise Sue to add your name asap. I'd like to wish all our readers and members a Happy and Healthy 2023. New members and visitors are welcome at any time. Queries Sue Lowder 881805

CLIMBING MTS KILIMANJARO AND KENYA— an illustrated talk describing treks

from the plains of Kenya and Tanzania to the peaks of the two highest African Continent mountains. In his talk, John Forest describes the people met, fellow climbers, guides and porters, the terrain and wildlife and flora encountered as they travelled from savannah to the snowlines and beyond. Come along and join John in the warmth of the **Norton Village Hall at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start on Friday 20th January** with a cash wine and soft drinks bar on hand. **Tickets at £7 each are on sale in the Norton Community Shop** and on the door on the night with all proceeds from the event used to support and maintain the fabric of Norton church.

HAMDON HA! HA! IS BACK ON SATURDAY JANUARY 21ST ! - just when we need a laugh the most! Another great comedy line-up is hosted by Sandi Smith. Headliner Noel James (Wow!) will be joined by Dani Johns, Gareth Neale and Billy James. Yes, all here with us in the Wild West, so join us and have a laugh with some of the best talent on the stand-up comedy scene. All this at the Lord Nelson, from 8.00pm. Tickets £10 from the pub or jokepit.com

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE

MORNINGS: Thank you to everyone who attended November's Christmas themed coffee morning. "Hollies" literally sparkled with all Francesca's Christmas lights and Yuletide decorations and we thank Francesca and her merry helpers for their wonderful hospitality (and mince pies!). The sales table groaned under the weight of all the festive gifts kindly brought along by everyone and in total a fabulous £280 was raised. There was no coffee morning in December so we meet again at **10.45am on 25th January** at Heather and Dennis Hawkins' 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. 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

TAKE ART FOR CULTIVATE presents "Muck, Microbes and re-making Paradise", an evening with Graham Harvey **Friday 27th January, 8pm at Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall (doors open at 7.00pm)** For more than 30 years Graham Harvey wrote scripts & storylines for the Radio 4 series, **The Archers**, whilst campaigning passionately for nature-friendly farming Why not join us in listening to

Graham's fascinating talk which includes references to his new book "**Underneath The Archers.**" along with an audience Q&A. Sample and enjoy food tasters care of Sue Foreman at The Cookhouse and take the opportunity to learn about local producers , including those who supply Norton Sub Hamdon Community Shop. **Tickets available at the Norton Community Shop or purchase online at takeart.org/event/an-evening-with-graham-harvey Adults - £10 (subject to a booking fee)** A message from Graham Harvey: Right now, our nation faces some big challenges: the cost-of-living crisis, rising energy prices, biodiversity loss and, overshadowing them all, the climate emergency.

FESTIVAL DATE The next Norton Festival Concert is on **Saturday 25th March** when Cantamus will be performing in **Norton Church at 7.30pm**. This will be a return of a very popular Choir and further details will shortly be available. Book the date now and watch out for more Concerts in 2023.

NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW 2023. by Tony Perry. Christmas is over and now we're into a New Year and need to start thinking about this year's Flower Show. A big thank you to all the people involved in last year's show. It was a big success with over 500 people attending on the day. Sadly expenses have risen and we are running at a loss so what can we do to ensure it does not happen again? I say we, because I am not on the committee and it is up to all of us to do our bit. Firstly, become a Patron for just £24.00 per year. You'll automatically become a member of the 'Brimsmore Gold Card' scheme, which twice a year issues a 25% discount card which can be used as many times as you like, whilst stocks last, at any of the Brimsmore garden centres, Yeovil, Sherborne and Dorchester. The autumn card gives 25% off spring bulbs etc. The spring card gives you discount off compost (which can be delivered), seeds, gravel and much more. You will also receive the Gold Club newsletter (by email) which highlights the talks you can attend. So you can soon see your money back and at the same time ensure the Flower Show is here for years to come. Secondly, enter, enter, enter. Enter your vegetables, flowers, preserves, baking and arts and crafts into the show. There are two sections for vegetables and flowers, Section 1 for the newcomer or novice, Section 2 for the seasoned shower/growers. You'll get free entry to all the classes you enter; free entry to the show. If you are unsure what and when to sow or when to plant or

have any questions, ask a committee member and they will put you in touch with people who will be only be too pleased to help. If you want to become a Patron - and please do - then contact me, Tony Perry on 07808778642, or mail me on tonyandjune.perry@gmail.com . Thank You. So, let's make this year's show the biggest and best yet and with our help and commitment it will be.

THE READING ROOM COMMITTEE wishes everyone all the best for 2023. Don't forget the Reading Room is available for people and small groups to hire most evenings and weekends for only £10.00 per 3 hours. If you are thinking of holding a party, meeting or event contact us at nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com. There is a fully equipped kitchen for your use included in this price. Tricia Walton

LORD'S LARDER HELP Villagers have been supporting the Lord's Larder collection point in Norton Church and most weeks helpers have been able to deliver up to four bags of goods to the Yeovil Lord's Larder. In a recent month The Larder has been able to help 862 people (486 adults, 376 children and 197 families). Only with the support of villages such as ours was this possible and everyone who donated is thanked. Hopefully we can rely upon your continued support. The Lord's Larder bag (Collection Point) is just inside the church door and welcomes suitable donations of in-date non-perishable items. A list of current needs will be found attached to the bag. Thank you for your support.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB. The draw results for December 2022 were as follows: Barry Eastley, Steve Hill, Peter Prager, Sara Vann, Sue More, Alec Seccombe, Penny Cudmore (2), Jane Ashdown and Jenny Byham. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644 or email marybatstone@gmail.com

NORTON CHURCH Services for January:
Sunday 1st Morning Prayer, 9.30am Sunday 8th Communion 9.30am, Sunday 15th Evensong 6.00pm, Wednesday 25th 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 FOR DECEMBER 2023 The Parish Council

managed to have a very successful monthly meeting at the beginning of December.

Planning: 22/03247/FUL Tinkers Bubble, Little Norton, Norton Sub Hamdon.

Seeking Permanent Permission for Existing Development of and Residential Status for Low-Impact Off-Grid Community and Associated Agricultural Enterprises.

The Parish Council were in full support of this planning application with no objections.

New Parish Councillor: Welcome to Peter Gartrell: Following the recent resignation of Rachel Cumberbatch, the Parish Council co-opted Peter Gartrell to the Parish Council at the beginning of the December meeting. We really look forward to having Peter join us on the Parish Council as he brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience, having previously been a Parish Councillor with another local Parish.

Watch Out – Be Alert – Thieves About!! We seem to be having a spate of thefts in the village – from equipment being stolen from workers' vans right through to Amazon parcels that have been delivered to houses and left on doorsteps that have then been subsequently stolen. Incidents have been reported to the Police. Just a reminder regarding Amazon deliveries – The Post Office is now an Amazon hub so why not get your Amazon parcels delivered there where they will be in a safe place until you get home. Please please be vigilant and report anything that you feel is suspicious behaviour. Thank you.

Setting of the Budget and Precept for 2023-24: The Parish Council have spent many hours over the last couple of months deliberating over the setting of the budget and precept for 2023-24. This year it's been very difficult as we have been informed that there will be many cuts to services from County for Parishes and this will mean that Parish Councils will be responsible for funding different services instead. However, the difficulty has been that County have still not informed us on what services we will be accountable for – we've just been told to 'prepare for the worst'! We have been advised to raise our precept inline with the current rate of inflation (currently about 10%) which we have done.

Allotments: Kath Crouch will now be managing the day-to-day running of the allotments. There will be a couple of allotments available for rent from January next year. If you are keen to have an allotment then please email Councillor Holt on: nortonpcholt@outlook.com ... but hurry, as they don't stay vacant for long!

The Parish Council of Norton sub Hamdon would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 9th January 2023** in the Village Hall 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

STOKE-SUB-HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will be on: **Wednesday 25th January 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall**, for a talk on 'The Healthy Garden'. Enquiries: Club Secretary – secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com

VILLAGE ARTISTS Stoke sub Hamdon We are holding the 1st of our 'Art in the Future' Workshops on **Saturday January 28th**. Kate Lynch, a local artist best known as a rural documentary artist, will be with us. Her charcoal drawings, pastels and paintings celebrate traditional rural work in Somerset amongst other traditional crafts. The Memorial Hall is booked from 10.00am until 3.00pm with an hour for lunch. The subject will be - **AM:** Experimenting with charcoal **PM:** Dramatic landscapes- working on an expressive landscape. Kate will bring material to work from, but attendees can work from their own reference material. Everyone is welcome for a charge of £20.00. Further enquiries from Malcolm 01935 829513 or Ali 01935 823394

STANCHESTER CHALLENGE Seventeen students, from years 9 & 10, are taking part in a World Challenge project, with an expedition to Morocco in July 2024. As part of the expedition, they will undertake a community infrastructure project and a four-day trek in the Atlas mountains. The cost of the trip is £2395 per person. Students are raising £1000 each and collectively as a group we are aiming to raise the remainder. To raise these funds we are planning a series of events over 2023. The ones we have booked in are as follows - Coffee mornings at **All Saints Hall in Stoke sub Hamdon - Saturday 14th January, Saturday 11th February & Saturday 11th March - 9.30-11.30am**. Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate & freshly baked cakes & scones. Cash only. No need to book. Years 5 & 6 **Disco at Stanchester Academy Hall - Friday 10th February 6 - 7.30pm** £3 entry, includes a drink. Tuck shop available. Cash only. Details will be sent to local primary schools. Mother's Day Afternoon Tea - **Sunday 19th March - All Saints Hall in Stoke sub Hamdon**. Two

sittings **1-2pm or 2.15-3.15pm** £15 per person. Contact rebecca.hendry@stanchester.co.uk for booking details.

HAMDON COMMUNITY CHURCH (HCC) would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. 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

VILLAGE EVENTS

Monday 9 January Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Monday 9 January Parish Council Function Room Village Hall 7.30pm
Monday 9 January Movie Nites Village Hall 7.45pm
Tuesday 10 January Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm
Tuesday 17 January Ladies Group New Year Dinner Lord Nelson 7.00pm
Friday 20 January Friends of Norton Church Talk Village Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 21 January Hamdon Ha! Ha! Comedy Night Lord Nelson
Monday 23 January Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Wednesday 25 January Village Coffee Morning Arks Edge 10.45am
Friday 27 January An evening with Graham Harvey Village Hall 8.00pm
Thursday 23 February Flying Solo with David Eagle and Song at the Lord Nelson
Saturday 25 March Norton Festival Cantamus Church 7.30pm

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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