

# NORTON NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023 ISSUE 534

The Norton Newsletter Committee wish all our readers a very Happy Easter

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

**NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE.** We have had to find a new printer due to our last lady printer retiring after many years of excellent and reliable service. Her prices were very reasonable but, as is to be expected, our printing costs have now gone up owing in part to the rise in cost of paper and, although newsletter funds are in a good place at present, we need to be mindful of the future. Until now the newsletter was just about funded by adverts and donations and by the shop allowing us to have the money from the Shop notice board, but with the increased costs this will not be enough in the future. Whilst we will be looking at how to address this, in the meantime if you are visiting the village shop please could you consider putting any spare change or a small donation in the green newsletter box on the post office counter – it would be much appreciated. Although all groups in the village will be focussing on rising costs we are asking if any village organisations might be able to consider a small donation - please email [nortonnews@hotmail.com](mailto:nortonnews@hotmail.com) if you would like details about this. Many thanks

**NORTON SHOP & POST OFFICE** Thank you very much to all of our customers. You have donated more than £600 to the counter collection box to assist with energy costs. We have made it a priority to reduce our overheads; we have drastically reduced our energy consumption and are continuing to examine every outgoing cost, such as waste disposal, insurance, and broadband. We are also inspecting every stock item and replacing those that are taking too long to move off the shelves. Keep an eye out for specials and clearance sales.

We can save a lot of money if we can get a Vax or similar spot-wet carpet cleaner. If you have one sitting around collecting dust, please upcycle it and bring it to the shop or we can collect it.

Increased foot traffic and popular Bagnell Farm produce are increasing our revenue. For the next three months, we will be testing new product lines. The addition of gifts and the expansion of our pet line to include accessories such as toys, collars, and leads are currently being considered. In addition, we are

gathering cost and viability data in order to investigate outside vending machines.

Find out what the Post Office has to offer for travel money cards, cash, insurance, bill payment, mobile top-up, package collection for Amazon Prime, and regular banking. Join our team of volunteers in the shop, keep up with all the village news and meet lots of customers. You can work any shift you want, from an hour to a half day. Get a form from the shop.

**The Long Run.** Although we are moving forward, mounting cost pressures continue to be a problem, and the pandemic has altered our shopping preferences. For the welfare of our villages, please support the shop and post office. Ian Murray 01935 881883 [ian.mint@gmail.com](mailto:ian.mint@gmail.com) 07973 226425

**BOULES COURT 2023** The boules court has survived its first winter and we are hoping for a busy 2023. **From 14th April we will host a regular Friday evening have-a-go boules evening.** Nothing too arduous, just an informal gathering and maybe even a pint or glass of wine afterwards. **Put it in your diary and turn up to play from about 6.30pm onwards.** For those that aren't aware, the court is on Minchington Recreation Ground, up the steps from The Lord Nelson. We will have spare boules for those who haven't got their own. The rules, simple as they are, can be explained. If you want to play your own rules - go ahead!

**In the summer we are hoping to start a village boules competition.** You will be able to form a team with anyone you like - family, friends, neighbours etc., - about 3 or 4 people is ideal. There will be some basic rules about the teams you need to play and by when but it will be largely self-regulating. Nic Hale will be setting out the guidelines, including how to report your scores and keeping track of who's played whom. **There will be prizes at the end!** If you would like to register your interest in entering a team or just have a question email Nic (see below). We will be in touch later in the spring with details of the rules etc. **None of this prevents any one using the court now. It's available and free.**

**We are needing a bit of help.** If anyone fancies giving us a hand - keeping the occasional eye on the court, doing a bit of team admin, circulating stuff, setting up social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter etc.,) or just having ideas about how we take things forward, please get in touch. We have room for more committee members and our addresses are at the end of this notice. We need to start a proper contacts group. WhatsApp looks to be a suitable vehicle. If you'd like to suggest others, let us know. We have some email addresses but **if you would like to be kept in touch and added to our contacts please let one of the committee members know.** An email address and a mobile number would be excellent. Any details will be safely kept, not divulged without your permission and only used for purposes of the boules enterprise. **The Norton Boules committee is: Rob**

Letham, Chair, 07775 745224. Ian Murray, Treasurer, 07973 226425, Nic Hale, Secretary 07847 274257 All available at [info.nortonboules@gmail.com](mailto:info.nortonboules@gmail.com)

**CHURCH FLAG** The George Cross will fly from the Church Tower from 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April for Easter and again on 23<sup>rd</sup> April for St George's Day.

**MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB.** The Mobile Library will call in **Chiselborough** opposite the Hall on **Tuesday 4th April 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.

**TINKERS BUBBLE** Hi all. We're running our volunteer afternoons again this year, from April to September. Anyone is welcome to join us for a social & work afternoon on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, for gardening and other land-based tasks (last year this included scything and hay-gathering). No prior skills or experience are needed. We'll provide tools, tea, and cake, plus skills sharing where required. Meet in our car park, up the lane from Little Norton, at **2pm**, on any of: **April 6th & 20<sup>th</sup>, May 4th & 18<sup>th</sup> June 1st & 15<sup>th</sup> July 6th only August 3rd & 17<sup>th</sup> September 7th & 21<sup>st</sup>** There's no cost and no need to book, but if you want to get in touch you can contact us at: [tinkersbubble@riseup.net](mailto:tinkersbubble@riseup.net) 01935881975

**HAMDON HA! HA! is back at The Lord Nelson on Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>**, celebrating our 10-year anniversary (yes, 10 years!) with another great comedy line-up. Two of them were here for the VERY FIRST Ha! Ha! in 2013! Regular host **Sandi Smith** is joined by **Diane Spencer** (not for the fainthearted!), **Jon Wagstaffe**, **Gareth 'Welsh Jesus' Hunt** and **Tim Biglowe**. Yes, some of the best talent on the stand-up comedy scene, here with us soon. **Warning, tickets sold out early for our last two shows!** So get them now at the Lord Nelson for £10 or [jokepit.com](http://jokepit.com)(+fee). Starts at 8pm. Lindsay Higgins.

**LADIES GROUP** Our trip to see *The Mouse Trap* was an event of mixed feelings - whilst we enjoyed the plot and the acting, nearly all of us agreed that we did not know what all the fuss was about. After all, the play had been performed for over 70 years, so we were expecting something extraordinary. The following week we ventured into the Octagon once more, this time to see *Cruising Through the Menopause* - it was very funny and in parts something we could all relate to, which made it even more entertaining. The familiar tunes kept coming but with words not as we know them - a hilarious 'feel good' evening was had by all. A small group visited The Somerset Museum and Castle in Taunton for some culture. Our AGM was held on 21st March when we reviewed the past year and revealed the programme and outings for the new season, accompanied by a glass of wine and nibbles. Hopefully we have something of interest for everyone, and look forward to another successful year with plenty

of diverse activities to participate in. A group of us will take part in a murder mystery trail around **Sherborne on 28th March**. We shall find time for lunch before finishing yet another enjoyable (we hope) sleuths trail, a sort of walking Cluedo. Our next meeting will take place in the **Reading Room on Tuesday 18th April** when Jackie Parsons will give an update of progress at ARK, how they are helping individuals in the surrounding villages and what is on offer there. **25th April** will be our first outing of the new season - we venture to Ham Hill for some foraging with Ranger Paul. Afterwards he will provide lunch in the Rangers HQ. If anyone wishes to join us who has not entered their name on the list please ring Sue asap for details. Our Full Programme will be displayed on the Reading Room Notice board - anyone who would like to join us will be very welcome. Visitors £2.00 per meeting, inc. refreshments. For full membership details please ring Sue. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of each Month in the **Reading Room at 7.30pm**, when we listen to a guest speaker, followed by refreshments. The subjects of our talks are wide and varied and often amusing. We arrange outings and a variety of activities throughout the year - new members and visitors can be sure of a warm welcome. Enquiries Sue 881805

**NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS:** Thank you to everyone who attended the February coffee morning. It was a cold day, but eventually the sun shone so we were able to enjoy both the inside and the garden of Sarah and Ian Murray's wonderful home, Homestead. £220 was raised from the raffle, table top sale and generous donations; a great total! The March coffee morning held at Lindsay and Shaun Clayton's home will be reviewed in the next edition. The April coffee morning will be held at **10.45am on Wednesday 26th** at Annie and Bob Taylor's home, **Courtfield** in Great Street, Norton. The theme for the raffle and table top/bring and buy sale will be "Red, white and blue", in anticipation of the Coronation. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

**JUBILEE NATURE GARDEN.** Hopefully most of you will have taken time to pop to the Jubilee Garden, and take a look at all the daffodils, crocuses and also the snowdrops, but they are going over now. Just wondered if any of you are digging up any bulbs especially snowdrops still with the greenery on them. I would very much appreciate them for the nature garden to encourage more growth for next year. Hopefully the English planted bluebells will soon show their colour too.

Save the date of **Saturday 8th July** for a Family BBQ with a few stall and games, plus table tennis. Maybe we could arrange table tennis teams with a few prizes for the winners. This will be very much a family occasion as the timing will be **5.30 – 8.30pm**. Soft drinks available, but you are welcome to bring your own beer, cider or wine, also your own glasses - preferably plastic. Hopefully if this event is a success we can do it again as a fundraiser for the Village Hall or the Church Fabric funds. This time it will be for the Village Shop to help to keep it going. If anyone would like to come and play an instrument or sing a few

songs, that would give a great atmosphere to the occasion. We do not have electricity or water in the garden. Any questions, call me on 01935 882 602. Lynn Orchard.

**JUMBLE SALE** We held our spring Jumble Sale on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March at Norton Village Hall. The proceeds were to be shared equally between Norton Hall and Norton Community Shop. We had an amazing day with lots of helpers representing the Hall and Shop committee and also local residents helped as well. We had loads of good quality donations, queues of buyers and happy people. After the final count up we found the proceeds were £1,182 which meant the hall and the shop will receive £591 each. I must give my personal thanks to everyone who helped with the event in any way at all, those that set up the tables and stage and dismantled everything, the stall holders and the helpers who cleared up afterwards. Thank you all very much. We hope our next one in October will be as successful. Thanks again Jennie.

**MORE THANKS** So many people have said what a wonderful result that was, so thank you Jennie for your incredible work in doing this fund raising for the village – much appreciated. Editor

**NORTON VILLAGE HALL** There has been work carried out at the hall recently. The side of the hall facing the school bears the brunt of the weather and needed all the cladding replaced. This involved removing all the old cladding replacing rotten battens and replacing all doors and windows. A brilliant job was carried out by 'Hamdon View Windows' This work has taken a chunk out of our funds but it had to be done. The rest of the hall needs re cladding soon too but a lot more fund raising and grants will be needed to do this. We also have decorating of the interior and other essential jobs to be done as the hall is now 16 years old – it is to be expected. We were very grateful for the donation of £519 from the Jumble Sale – many thanks. J H for Norton Village Hall Committee.

**FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB.** The draw results for March 2023 were as follows: Rowena Aley (2), Richard Raven, Peter Prager, Nick Hale, Penny Cudmore, Jeremy Reid, Alex Seccomb, Jackie Campbell, and Jennie Harris. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644 or email [marybatstone@gmail.com](mailto:marybatstone@gmail.com)

**NIC AND KEVIN BOYD** would like to thank everyone for their patience and tolerance during the build of Pentle House in Little Norton. We are very aware that there have been deliveries and increased traffic to the site recently and our thanks go to all the residents of Little Norton and to anyone else who has been disturbed by the lorries, van and parking issues in and around the build. We are delighted that it is almost finished and we hope to move in at the end of March. Please do say Hello if you see us there at all and hopefully Sophie and Sophie will accept us as a venue for a village coffee morning later in the year!

**DON BERRINGTON** Don, a resident of Norton for 62 years, passed away on 13th February 2023 at Yeovil District Hospital. Jill and the rest of the family would like to thank everyone in the village for their kind messages of condolence. These memories and thoughts are much appreciated and he will be sorely missed by all of his family and friends.

**THE LORD'S LARDER** With the support of Norton during February, The Lord's Larder was able to help a total of 846 people with Food Parcels, which breaks down as 488 adults and 358 children, and a total of 185 families receiving help. Thank you to everyone who put items into the Lord's Larder Bag just inside the church door. It is only with the help of churches such as Norton that so many people were able to be helped. The needs of the Larder are always changing. Their latest requirements can be seen by logging onto the Yeovil Lords Larder website or seeing the note attached to the Norton Church collection bag.

**NORTON CHURCH Services for April : Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Morning Prayer Palm Sunday, 9.30am Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Music and Meditation 11.00am, Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** and the meeting to elect Churchwardens will take place on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 2:00pm in the Church.** This meeting will elect our Churchwardens for the forthcoming year and also our Parochial Church Council. There will be reports circulated and the chance to ask any questions. The Church Electoral Roll will be revised during the period **22<sup>nd</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.** There will be forms in the Church or I can give anyone a form who would like one. Martyn Hamlin. (Secretary to the Parochial Church Council).

**NORTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT MARCH 2023** The Parish Council managed to have a very successful monthly meeting at the beginning of March. **Planning:** There were no planning applications to discuss this month. **The End of an Era:** This was the last meeting that Cllr Hewitson attended as our District Councillor. From the 1<sup>st</sup> April SSDC will be abolished and Somerset will be under a Unitary Council. Cllr Hewitson will now become our Unitary Councillor alongside Cllr. Patrick. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Hewitson for the support that the South Somerset District Council have given the Parish Council and the village over the years. There have been many large projects that have taken place within the village that have only been possible with their support and we are extremely grateful. **Household Support Fund:** The Somerset Household Support Fund is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions and administered by Somerset County Council. The fund is designed to provide short-term financial support to vulnerable households which are struggling

to afford household essentials this winter. These households will need help with the cost of food, energy, water bills and other essentials. To be eligible: You must live in the county of Somerset. You will be over the age of 16 and living independently of parents or carers. You are struggling to pay for essentials because you don't have enough money to pay for them. You can provide the required proof of your identity, Somerset residency and proof of your income (the most recent, last month's, bank statement) The website form is available 24 hours a day, and by using this to make your application you will help us manage the scheme effectively. More information can be found on the [Somerset County Council](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/somerset-household-support-fund/) website. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/somerset-household-support-fund/>

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\* The next Parish Council meeting will take place on MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2023 starting at 7.30pm. THIS IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL DUE TO EASTER. 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** - What's on in April: **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – 7.30 p.m.** "The Highs and Lows of Exhibiting a Show Garden" presented by Julie Haycock. Meeting at The **Memorial Hall in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.** Refreshments; Plant Sales; Raffle. Visitors very welcome! **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April – 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon** Plant Sale at All Saints' Hall ("The Lighthouse"), Stoke-sub-Hamdon, TA146PS Come and re-stock your garden or planters with our home-grown plants! Tea/coffee/cake available for a small charge. Limited parking.

**THE VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP** exists to promote and encourage the arts in Stoke sub Hamdon meeting twice a week in term times to achieve this. 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 [malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com) for a free introductory session and or a chat.

**SPRING... INTO SUMMER.** Now in March much of Britain is covered in snow and temperatures are very low everywhere. But small signs of spring are also everywhere and summer will eventually follow. As it is for us, so for Southern Europe and for the Middle East where night temperatures can be freezing. In preparation, Raft (Refugee Aid from Taunton) is

requesting, from those who are able to give, lightweight clean washable clothing for men (not extra large, please), women, children and babies and suitable footwear for all; unopened hygiene products for all are very necessary. Raft has also been specifically asked for crutches, folding wheelchairs and new off-the-shelf medication. When I recently visited Raft's warehouse a huge number of boxes of medical supplies, mainly funded by trustees selling new items online, but some by supporter fundraising, were waiting to be collected and transported.

### **MUSIC IN THE MEADOW – Sunday 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY - HINTON ST GEORGE - 2.00pm**

Refugee Support Group is holding its annual much-enjoyed musical afternoon in the village in the Secret Garden at the end of West Street ( marquee there if necessary). This year there is a different line-up - three groups. Ricky Romain playing sitar with accompanist, followed by folk band Toad Flax and folk duo Mltchell and Vincent. There will be stalls and a raffle. Please bring chairs and perhaps drinks and a picnic. Adults £10: Children free. Please put this event in your diary. All money raised will go to refugee charities. Many thanks for all support. Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

**MARTOCK CHURCH will host a concert on 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm which will involve the Yeovil Concert Band.** Tickets: £12 or £10 at [Guardianstickets@gmail.com](mailto:Guardianstickets@gmail.com) /07547 213992/Martock Gallery/ Martock Newsagent **website: [www.martockonline.co.uk/events](http://www.martockonline.co.uk/events); <https://www.yeovilconcertband.com/>** **The Yeovil Concert Band** is a wind band consisting of brass, woodwind and percussion playing a wide repertoire of music including marches, selections from the musicals, light classical, solo features, Broadway selections, film music and much more. A concert not to be missed.

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

## VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday 3 April Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm  
Tuesday 4 April Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm  
Thursday 6 April Tinkers Bubble Volunteer afternoon 2.00pm  
Friday 14 April Boules Evening 6.30pm  
Saturday 15 April Hamdon Ha Ha Lord Nelson 8.00pm  
Tuesday 18 April Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm  
Thursday 20 April Tinkers Bubble Volunteer afternoon 2.00pm  
Wednesday 26 April Village Coffee morning Courtfield, 10.45am  
Saturday 20 May Flower Show Plant Sale 2.00pm  
Sunday 25 June Open Gardens in Norton  
Sunday 9 July Flower Show Duck Race  
Saturday 19 August Flower Show  
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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