

## NORTON NEWSLETTER MAY 2023 ISSUE 535

### NORTON SHOP WEBSITE:

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

### FESTIVAL WEBSITE: [https://](https://www.nortonfestival.org)

[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)

**CHURCH FLAGS.** The union flag will be flown from the church tower on **6<sup>th</sup> May** for the King's Coronation and the George Cross flag on **18th May** for Ascension Day and again on **28th May** for Whitsun.

**MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB.** The Mobile Library will call in **Chiselborough** opposite the Hall on **Tuesdays 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May 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.

**CRAFTY CRITTERS** will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May** between **1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come along for a friendly chat whilst we work on our individual projects followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. £2.00 per session. Tricia Walton 882646

**THE NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH** Flower Show Plant Sale will be held on the **20<sup>th</sup> May at Norton Village Hall**. The sale starts at **2pm and runs until 5pm**. As usual there will be a range of plants to purchase – vegetables, flowers and shrubs. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served in the hall and Bagnell Farm will be selling burgers and hot dogs. We have also booked an exciting range of stalls and live music, so it promises to be a fun afternoon for all the family. We are always on the look-out for plants to sell, so if you have any spare seedlings, or if you have been dividing perennials, please bring them along on the morning of the sale for us to sell.

### NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW plant sale 20th May 2-5pm.

Can you spare an hour between **11.30am-5pm**? We urgently need helpers to set up gazebos and plants in the morning, to help sell and then to clear up afterwards. It would be great if you could help as we are down on helper numbers this year. Please phone Anne on 01935 882620 if you would like to help.

**CAKES AND VOLUNTEERS** Calling all cake bakers - we shall need some cakes for the Flower Show Plant Sale on Saturday 20th May. I know many of you regularly bake for the occasion - if not, then now is the time! These occasions are an ideal way to meet villagers if you are new to the community. Cakes or any help you can give will be much appreciated. Perhaps you can spare an hour or so to help serve teas or wash up? We will be grateful for any help - we can't serve tea without cake and need as many as possible. Please bring along your cake to the **Village Hall by 1.00 pm on Saturday 20th May**. If you'd like to help with serving/washing up please call Sue 881805 your help is invaluable. Sue Lowder 881805

**LADIES GROUP** A few of us went to the Octagon and enjoyed the musical 'Anything Goes' performed by Y.A.O.S - an enjoyable uplifting evening which made a welcome change. At our first meeting of the new season on 18th April we welcomed Jackie Parsons, who gave an illustrated talk on the work of ARK and the opportunities they provide for people of all ages and abilities. Her colleague Simon spoke of what it was like to volunteer and help people to regain their confidence and obtain skills to take them forward into the world of work, how to help them socialise and focus on activities that help their well-being and mental health. An outing to **Hestercombe Gardens** is planned for **Tuesday 23rd May**. Anyone who wishes to join us please contact Sue asap. We shall be serving the teas for the plant fair on **20th May** so please, ladies, we shall need some cakes and any help you are able to give. Finally we have decided to add 2 new activities to our programme for this year We shall meet for Boules **on 4th Tuesday each month at 3pm**. Just turn up and have a go. Come along to 'Meet and Chat' on **1st Tuesday of each month from 2.30 pm. at the Jubilee Garden**. Everyone is welcome - just come along and join us for an hour or two. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 16th May** when we welcome back Miranda Pender plus her guitar. She will divulge in word and

song what she discovered about her ancestors, with some very surprising results. We are a small friendly group who meet in the Reading Room on 3rd Tuesday for illustrated talks. In addition we have outings to places of interest and take part in varied activities. Our programme can be seen on the shop notice board and on the board outside the Reading Room. We welcome new members and visitors at any time. Please pop along as we'd love to see you - come and make new friends! Sue Lowder 881805

### **NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE**

**MORNINGS:** The March coffee morning was very well attended and we thank Lindsay and Shaun for their warm hospitality, as well as Lindsay's helpers who kept the coffee coming. As Lindsay predicted, the sun did shine, so we were able to enjoy the lovely view across the Glebe. £240 was raised from the raffle, Spring themed table-top sale and donations. The April coffee morning held at Annie and Bob Taylor's home will be reviewed in the next edition. The last coffee morning before the summer break will be held on **24th May** in the Jubilee Nature Garden, by the church. Tea and coffee will be served from **10.45am** and the theme will be "**Garden & Plants**". A gazebo and chairs will be available, as well as the picnic benches already there, but if it rains we will move into the church. Finally, we are looking for hosts for this September and October and also for 2024. If you would like to hold a coffee morning (Nic and Kevin, thank you for your offer, we say yes please!) you can contact us on the numbers below. We are very grateful to all our hosts for their kind hospitality. Sophie Hale (881521) and Sophie Snow (881099)

**NORTON BOULES Friday nights from 6.30pm** will be 'roll up and play' social evenings. No need to book and free to play. Boules will be available to use if you do not have your own. For those who have not played before we can explain the very simple rules and show you how to play. It is a great way of meeting other village residents and having some fun! Norton Boules league - starting in the summer, limited team places available. Please speak to us at the social evenings or contact us via email or phone for an application form to register your team, or for more details on the format etc. The boules court is free to use at any time - boules sets are available from the Lord Nelson during opening hours (for a very nominal fee).

It's a great family game that all ages and abilities can enjoy!  
Info.nortonboules@gmail.com Rob Letham (chair) 07775745224, Ian Murray (treasurer) 07973226425, Nic Hale (secretary) 07847274257

**JUBILEE GARDEN.** I think by now you would have heard my very sad news that Daniel my darling Dachshund crossed the Rainbow Bridge on the 30th March. He has been my rock since losing Mike in July 21. He will be missed for his character and attitude by so many in the village. He loved the Jubilee garden as that became the last place he could walk to. Bless him! Hopefully most of you took time out when the sun did appear to visit and see the beautiful display of Daffs; so many different varieties. So sorry the table tennis didn't appear for the Easter weekend, but the weather was not on our side. Very soon though! I have obtained more bats and balls so do ring me if you wish to borrow, but please return them. The grass is soon to be mown and we need a few working parties to help with weeding. The area by the dead hedge is full of wild flowers and to be left for the time being. Don't forget to put these dates on your calendar: **Wednesday May 24th 10.45am** in the Jubilee garden, Coffee Morning in aid of the Church funds - pray for good weather! **Saturday July 8th 5.30 until 8.30pm** Family BBQ kindly cooked by Mark and Lisa Parsons and team. More info in June and July Newsletters. Thank you all for your kind words and blessing. Lynn Orchard. 882602

**READING ROOM NEWS:** The Committee would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who took part in our Pub Quiz at the Lord Nelson in March. A fantastic £400.00 was raised towards replacing the lean-to roof. Peter Callaghan our Quiz Master and Roger Webb selling raffle tickets did a fantastic job, and so many of you generously donated raffle prizes. Also, special thanks to Helen, Mark and the gang for their hard work on the evening and re-arranging the furniture to accommodate everyone. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and if you would like a fun evening the Pub Quizzes are great. Just remember - it's all about raising money for good causes and to book your table early! We hope to start the roof work in September and will let you know when we have more news. Thanks again. Tricia Walton Secretary

**NORTON CHURCH Services for May:**  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Service for the Coronation**  
**10.00am, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Communion**  
**9.30am, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Evensong 6.00pm,**  
**Wednesday 24<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

**CORONATION CELEBRATION** There will be a special Service to Mark the Coronation of King Charles III in **Norton Parish Church** at **10am on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**. All are welcome. It is hoped that all aspects of the community – groups, committees, organisations, activities and local businesses will be present to represent our village as we celebrate and acknowledge this important event. RT

**CANTAMUS CONCERT** The wonderful Cantamus Choir, with their Musical Director Peter Nardone, performed in Norton Church as part of the 2023 Norton Festival. They produced a varied programme to delight a large audience. The first half was very moving, with Henryk Gorecki's beautiful 'Totus Tuus' and Mykolayiv Lysenko's 'A Prayer for Ukraine'. The second half included a wonderful piano solo, Felix Mendelssohn's 'On Wings of Song', from which the whole concert took its title. The Choir's performance was superb and greatly enjoyed by all.

**LARDER HELPING** The Lord's Larder in March was able to help a total of 838 people with Food Parcels, which breaks down as 520 adults and 318 children, and a total of 191 families receiving help. People in Norton are using the Lord's Larder Bag inside the church door and Church volunteers are delivering its contents to The Larder almost weekly. Grateful thanks are expressed to all who are so generously placing gifts into the bag and enabling the Larder to help so many people. If you want to find out more about The Lord's Larder and its work click on <https://YCSTYeovil/The Lord's Larder Food Bank>. Its needs are always changing and a note attached to the Norton Church collection bag indicates their latest list.

**FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB.** The draw results for April 2023 were as follows: Sara Vann (2), Jenny Byham, Penny Cudmore, Liz Fish, Alec Seccombe, John Forrest, Tim & Pam Williams, Mike & Pam Rastall and Jill Berrington To join the club

contact Mary Batstone on 882644 or email [marybatstone@gmail.com](mailto:marybatstone@gmail.com)

**CALL FOR PHOTOS OF NORTON FRUIT FARM** We would be really grateful if anyone in the village that has old photos of the Norton Fruit Farm could get in touch. We live in Barnstone on Great Street (the former fruit farm site) and are interested in the history. Please contact Chris and Nicola Hill on 07501 721481 or email [chrisjhil365@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjhil365@gmail.com).

**MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS OF NORTON SCHOOL** Dear Community, just a quick message to express our thanks to the kind patrons of the Village Shop who donated funding to our Easter Egg event last month. We had a lovely time after school with the Easter Bunny, cakes, egg scene hunt, a bouncy castle and fabulous raffle. Thanks also to all those that donated raffle prizes, obtained raffle prizes and wrapped raffle prizes and to all parents, carers and FONs members that helped out on the day. It was a great success and the children were given another great memory through the support of their community. Best regards, The Friends of Norton School.

**NEWS FROM NORTON SCHOOL** We are pleased to share the news that the school has applied to become part of a wider family of schools called the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Over the last two years the Government has made it clear that it expects all Local Authority schools, such as ours, to join a multi academy trust. Our governing board has been exploring MATs in our area to make an informed decision on the right strategic choice to enable the school to retain its identity and for us to continue to improve. Our vision and values will remain central to all we do and our decision making will continue to be focused on the best provision for the children. The ethos of the Bath and Wells MAT matches ours with its focus on striving for an excellent education for every child and experiencing 'life in all its fullness'. We know that to continue to grow, become better and flourish we need to be outward-facing. Working collaboratively with the Bath and Wells MAT provides the right level of support and challenge we need to become the best version of ourselves. Should you have any queries about this change, please do not hesitate to contact the school to arrange to speak with me or a school governor on [Norton.SH@nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk](mailto:Norton.SH@nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk). In other news, we are also looking

forward to taking children on some exciting trips this term, including visiting Exeter Synagogue and Cathedral as well as our fun-filled residential stay in the Mendips, where children take part in a range of adventurous outdoor activities. Mr Caswell, Co-Executive Headteacher

**NORTON VILLAGE HALL.** Things are ticking over at Norton Hall but like all establishments we could do with some more bookings. We are working on a Promotion Flyer to be printed and distributed showing our facilities and other things our Hall offers. We have regular classes at the hall including: Pilates, Keep Fit, HYG (Youth Club), Harmony 303 Choir, Ballroom Dancing, Model Railway Club, and CADAS (Crewkerne and District Astronomical Society) - so something for all interests. If you would like more details, see the timetables on the notice boards at the hall, or in Norton Shop. We are hoping to organise more fund-raising events to raise funds for more work to be carried out at the hall. Next on the list is decorating the hall, inside and out. (We miss Dave Brodie, who has looked after our hall since it was built, but he is now enjoying a well earned retirement. Thanks for everything Dave.) We would also welcome anyone who would be interested in joining our friendly committee. It would be lovely to have more help, ideas and expertise. If anyone would like to join us, to know more about us, or would like to sit in at one of our meetings, with no obligations, please let the secretary know. Contact Jennie Harris 01935 881718, please help if you can. Thank you. JH for Norton Village Hall.

#### **SEPARATE VEGETABLE PLOTS**

**AVAILABLE** Four 3.3m x 2.7m individual plots, plus three slightly smaller ones, are available for vegetable growers. Basically, free of charge but some produce in return would be appreciated. Contact Malcolm Reid at Luccots, Higher Street, Norton, malcolm.reid38@btinternet or 881241.

#### **LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO GROW**

**YOUR OWN VEGETABLES?** Elderly lady has a plot available in Norton in return for a share of the produce. Contact Marcia 01935 823024, mob 07483332078 or email: mhicken1@aol.co.uk

#### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR APRIL 2023**

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

**Planning:** There was one planning applications to discuss this month: 22/02606/HOU & 22/02733/LBC - Rocklands House, Little Street, Norton Sub Hamdon, Somerset - (Brook Coach House) – Retrospective Revision to approved plans 18/00726/FUL to allow amendments to finish and design. The Parish Councillors had studied this application prior to the meeting and then it was discussed at the meeting. The Parish Council SUPPORT this application but request the following condition be included: There is no timber cladding used at all in this area and the Parish Council do not support the use of it here. The original part of this property is in hamstone and the other two elevations of the extension are already in hamstone. This is a conservation area and all other houses surrounding this property are also in hamstone.

**Parking in Higher Street:** It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that there is a rising problem with parking at the far end of Higher Street (end near Barrow's Lane). This part of Higher Street narrows considerably and the parking that has started to happen here is leaving it nearly impossible for farm vehicles with machinery, lorries and vans to navigate. If a fire engine was required in an emergency to properties beyond this point, these vehicles would certainly delay its arrival. Higher Street is also used regularly by Wessex Water who requires access both day and night to get to the pumping station and uses large lorries for this. When you purchase a roadside property, unfortunately there is no legal entitlement for a resident to be able to park outside their home. If need be, please park further along where there is a space and park with consideration for others. Highways have been notified and this area will be monitored over the next few weeks.

**\*\*Please Note\*\* - Due to the Coronation Bank Holiday, the next meeting will be held on TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30 pm in the committee room in the village hall.** The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held beforehand starting at **7.15pm**. Members of the general public are more than welcome to attend. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

#### **WORLD CHALLENGE COMMUNITY CAFÉ**

George Waters and 16 other pupils from Stanchester are fund-raising for their 14-day trip to Morocco in July 2024 with World Challenge. They will be taking part in community projects and experiencing village and rural life, trekking in the Atlas Mountains,

wild camping, visiting Souks, touring Marrakech - all whilst building valuable life experience and skills. Each place on the trip is costing c. £2,500, and as a group they are aiming to raise around £17,000 via various events over the year. They are also carrying out individual fund-raising to raise c. £1,500 of it themselves. There will be a mix of 15 and 16 year olds on the trip - it will be a fantastic achievement for their age and will provide them with everlasting memories. In support of their fundraising, we have run 3 very successful Community Cafés in the **Memorial Hall in Stoke sub Hamdon** and shall be continuing these on the second Saturday of every month, **10 - 12**. Hot drinks, cold drinks, cakes and company hosted by the World Challenge students (with a bit of help from the adults). Take-away drinks and cakes also available. Please come along and do spread the word - the cakes are pretty good! **Dates: 10 – 12 on Saturday 13 May, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November.** Many thanks Emily Waters

**STOKE-SUB-HAMDON GARDENING CLUB -** What's on in May: **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – 7.30 p.m.** "Friends and Foes" – Speaker from Castle Gardens Group (Gold Club) Meeting at **The Memorial Hall** in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, **7.15 for 7.30 pm.** Refreshments; Plant Sales; Raffle. Visitors very welcome!

**THE VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP** exists to promote and encourage the arts in Stoke sub Hamdon, meeting twice a week in term times. If you are interested in venturing out once or twice a week and are looking for a very rewarding and affordable pastime, please contact me on 01935 829513 or malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com for a free introductory session and/or a chat.

**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.

#### **VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS**

Tuesday 2 May Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm  
Tuesday 9 May Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.15pm  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Saturday 20 May Flower Show Plant Sale 2.00pm  
Tuesday 23 May Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm  
Wednesday 24 May Village Coffee Morning Jubilee Garden 10.45am  
Tuesday 20 May Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm  
Sunday 25 June Open Gardens in Norton 2.00pm  
Saturday 8 July Jubilee Garden BBQ 5.30pm  
Sunday 9 July Flower Show Duck Race  
Saturday 19 August Flower Show  
Saturday 7 October Folk Night  
Sunday 10 December Christmas Concert 2.30pm

**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

**DISCLAIMER.** This edition of the Newsletter contains information which has been supplied directly to the Editors of the Norton Newsletter. They reserve the right to edit or change copy if necessary. None of the information published within expresses the views of either the Editors or Members of the Norton Newsletter Committee and should not be relied upon. They cannot be held responsible for the consequences of errors or omissions. Any comments should be addressed to the Committee via the Newsletter Committee