

NORTON NEWSLETTER JULY 2023 ISSUE 537

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.

<http://nshvillagehall.co.uk>

NEW ADS: 2 One off ads for Baby Sitting and Garage Sale – see end of the newsletter plus an Advert for Gem Computer Services – see end of Adverts Page

CHURCH FLAG The Union flag will be flown from the Church Tower on **Monday 17th July** for the Official Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen

MANY THANKS to the Reading Room committee for their generous donation to the Norton Newsletter funds.

NORTON SHOP AND POST OFFICE

UPDATE The last few weeks of sales show that the sunshine is helping improve our sales; they have significantly outpaced those from the same period last year.

Our finance committee analysed the numbers over a 4-week period from May to June and report that sales were up 36%, from £17711 to £24163. Our whole annual turnover has increased as a result of these improved business results: sales are up 17%, the number of transactions is up 9%, and the average transaction value is up 8%. We hope the trend continues to improve our annual performance. Although the sales figures are very positive, we are not yet countering the full impact of rising costs. The board is seeking ways to change that imbalance.

The Post Office needs to increase its sales to offset rising costs and reduce the subsidies it receives from the shop. Check out the Travel Card. The Post Office travel cards are free to order, and there are no charges for paying retailers in the currencies held on your travel

money card. So, you can spend in shops, bars, and restaurants without any charge—as long as you're paying with an available balance in a currency supported by the card. With the Travel app, you can manage your card, top it up, transfer currencies, as well as freeze it. Our Post Office staff can advise you with any questions you may have.

The holiday season always puts pressure on our volunteers; if you could spare an hour or two, it would be a great help. Forms are available in the shop.

Join us at the Jubilee Gardens, with Bagnall Farm, BBQ on July 8th, which will raise funds for the shop. Thank you for using and supporting the shop/PO. Ian Murray secretary@nortonclt.co.uk 07973226425

NORTON SUB HAMDON COMMUNITY SHOP AND VILLAGE HALL FUND RAISER

We intend to run a Garden Themed Stall at the Norton and Chiselborough Flower Show on the 19th August 2023 We are appealing for donations of garden themed ware; Plants, Clay Pots, Large Plastic Pots, Decorative Pots, Planters, Trellis, Tools (in a useable condition), Statuary, Machinery (working but not electric), Garden Chairs, Deck Chairs, etc (must be safe), Trugs, Wheelbarrows, Plant Supports, Galvanised Ware, Salvage Yard Type Curios. Anything garden themed or that would fit in a garden. Donations can be dropped in the drive of The Homestead on Higher Street, or collection can be arranged by texting Nigel on 07792 862285

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Monday 3rd, 17th and 31st of July between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us to work on your own project or, maybe for future inspiration and a friendly natter! £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. For further information contact Tricia on 882646

JUBILEE GARDEN BBQ I hope you have all saved the day of **Saturday 8th July. 5-30pm until ???**

Thank you to ToadFlax who will be entertaining us. Lisa and Mark from Bagnall Farm will be cooking their superb burgers, and there will be a veggie option, also sausages and Marshfield and Doggie ice cream and soft drinks on sale. There will be a few craft stalls around such as handmade beautiful jewellery

and dog coats ready for the winter and some fantastic handmade gifts and cards etc. Also a raffle and a few games such as guessing the number of marbles in a jar, and a treasure hunt for the children. Table tennis is up and running and there will be a badminton net and small tennis net with soft balls for safety. Bring your own racquets and bats if you have them. (We do have a few sets under the table.) Please remember to bring your own plastic glasses for beer, cider or wine. You are welcome to bring your own drinks, but we are hoping to have a table to offer wine, beer and cider available for a small donation. All proceeds are for the upkeep of Norton Village Shop. Any donation of raffle prizes would be very welcome - please drop them into the Village shop or The Village salon. Any help for setting up from 2.00pm on the afternoon would be much appreciated. Please bring some cash as not all card connections may work at the garden. Lastly, but not least, as my Mother used to say, 'Please go before you leave home' as there are no toilets, electricity or water in the garden. (In an emergency we do have a back up plan). See you there. Lynn Orchard.

LADIES GROUP A group of us visited Hestercombe House and Gardens earlier this month. We explored the house and formal garden and after a delicious lunch we spent a few hours wandering around the woodlands and lakes. Our talk held on 20th June will be reviewed in the next issue. An outing to Blue Pool is planned for **4th July** - please advise Sue if you wish to join us. Our Annual Garden Party will be held at the **Village Hall on Wednesday 12th July, 12.30 – 4.00pm.** Ensure your name is listed if you wish to come along. Please bring a plate of food to share and, as usual, drinks will be provided. There will be a small raffle so don't forget to bring some change. We do not have a meeting in August but we shall be serving tea and cake at the Flower Show. A return visit to Ark is planned for **Tuesday 29th August** and a few of us may be able to try our hand at wood carving with Simon. Norton Ladies Group meets on **3rd Tuesday of each month** in the **Reading Room at 7.30pm** for talks and refreshments. Our programme for this season can be found on the Reading Room Notice Board and at the shop. New members and visitors are very welcome. Sue Lowder 881805

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB. The Mobile Library will call in **Chiselborough** opposite the Hall on **Tuesday 25th July 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 FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH - CHANGES TO 2023 EVENTS

Monty Halls has advised he sadly will not now be available, as planned, to provide a talk in July due to his changed commercial commitments that will now see him sailing around the UK in the summer investigating Climate Change issues. He does hope to be able to return later in the year however so watch this space. The Friends of Norton Church have therefore been busy rearranging the schedule with help from the Village Hall team and are pleased to advise the revised programme as follows:

On the new date of **Friday 28th July 2023** the talk "**G-LYNX World Helicopter Speed Record Flight**" will be presented by Malcolm Reid in **Norton Village Hall** with doors open at **7:00 for a 7:30pm start.** Tickets can be purchased at the door or from the Norton Village Shop beforehand at £7. The well-illustrated talk and video will cover the political and commercial background, the personalities and the new technologies developed and employed in a Westland Lynx aircraft to win the record in 1986 and that still stands to this day. For any Lynx pilots particularly, there will also be some steely video clips to display the aircraft's full manoeuvrability. This evening is to honour the memories of two distinguished Nortonians who had held senior management positions at Westland and both were pivotal in the decision to undertake the record flights: Geoff Byham and Don Berrington.

Then **in September** David Harrison, a local historian, has kindly agreed to provide our **Pulman Talk in the church.** Covering our local background and geography as it was in Anglo Saxon times, this promises to be an interesting and (by accounts from those who have heard David talk) an amusing and entertaining insight into times past. So look out for the date in future editions and brush up on your Wassails and, who knows, we might even find some suitable Mead for the bar on that night.

As normal a cash wine and soft drinks bar will be available during both events and all proceeds raised will be used to maintain the fabric of our church of St Mary the Virgin in Norton-sub-Hamdon.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB. The draw results for June 2023 were

as follows: Malcolm Reid (2), Alec Seccombe, Jenny Byham, Lindsay Elliott, Simon Bradley, Roger Hardisty, Nicki Brodie, Peter Prager and Roger Webb . To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 07967604681 or email marybatstone@gmail.com

READING ROOM NEWS. The Reading Room is now storing copies of the Norton Newsletter letter dating back to the 1980s. These offer a fascinating insight into life and activities in the Village over the years. If you are interested in viewing these, please contact Janet Hutton at nortonnews@hotmail.com who will organise access via the Reading Room Committee. Janet is also keen to build up an archive of material from the Village, so if anyone has items they would like added to the collection, please let Janet know. The Reading room is also looking for more donations of books for our bookshelves. Fiction, history, and biographies seem to fly off the shelves! If you have any books you would like to pass on, please contact us at nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com. The second hand books are an important part of raising funds for the upkeep of the room. If you would like to book the Reading Room for a private event or have any other queries, please contact us on the email above. Tricia Walton, Secretary.

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE

MORNINGS: The May coffee morning, held outside for the first time in the Jubilee Garden, was a huge success and raised £240 for the church. It was a beautiful day and the garden was a great location for coffee and a chat. This was the last coffee morning until 27th **September**, when we have been invited to Nic and Kevin's new home, Pentle House, in Little Norton. More details will follow nearer the time. Have a happy summer break and thank you to everyone who supports the coffee mornings. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

NORTON CHURCH Services Sunday 2nd
Morning Prayer **9.30am**, **Sunday 9th**
Benefice service to welcome the new
curate, Rev Colette Parkes 10.30am,
Sunday 18th Evensong 6.00pm, Wednesday
26th 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

HUNDREDS HELPED In May nearly seven hundred people were helped by The Lord's Larder. The Parish Church has a Collection Point just inside the main door with a note of the Larder's current needs. Thank you to all who donate and help the church support needy local people.

PHOTO HUNT How well do you know your Parish Church? Eight photographic details of the church form a 'for fun' Photo Hunt that can be collected on entry and will test your powers of observation. Give it a go then check with the answers on the reverse side of the sheet. You may be surprised what you didn't know or recognise.

NEW ARRIVALS A very warm welcome to Jason Price and Lisa Tilley who have recently moved into Courtfield Lodge, Great Street. We hope they will be very happy in our beautiful village.

ROGER HILL Thank you for the many cards, letters and expressions of condolence received by me relating to my sad loss of Roger - a friend to many. The memories and thoughts are very much appreciated. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement. Gillian H

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

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

Planning: There were no planning applications to discuss this month.

Graffiti: We have now received four reports of graffiti appearing on trees and fencing around Norton. This is not acceptable behaviour and is an act of vandalism. There are many private properties in Norton with CCTV now, as well as CCTV at the Hall and Rec. If anyone has any footage showing any suspicious behaviour then please let me know. The Police have been notified. We are currently getting advice on how this can be removed but it's not straightforward, as you can cause damage to the bark.

Motorbikes on the Rec and on footpaths: We have received reports of teens riding motorbikes on the recreation field as well as on footpaths – with no helmets. This has been captured on CCTV. **Riding motorbikes on the rec is not permitted. It is illegal to ride any motorbike in public open spaces.** The

Rec is a public safe place where children are able to enjoy the freedom of an open space. Please respect the rules.

Riding a motorcycle on a footpath: It is a criminal offence to ride a motorcycle on footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways.

Parents, please educate your children on the dangers of riding these bikes recklessly without helmets and illegally. Thank you.

Again, Police have been notified.

New Signage for the Rec: The Parish Council will be updating the signage at the Rec regarding what activities are permitted and what's not.

Blocked Drains: The blocked drains on New Road have been reported to Highways and a request for jetting has been submitted.

Speeding Cars on New Road at night: There seems to be an increase in activity of people driving in and around the village hall car park at night and then speeding up and down New Road. Police have been notified and will be increasing patrols in this area.

Fingerpost refurbishment: We have been in talks with Somerset Council Highways regarding some of Norton's fingerpost signs needing desperate refurbishment. We first mentioned this to them over a year ago. Fingerposts are the responsibility of Highways. However, we were informed by Highways that due to a lack of funds for this sort of work they were not in a position to do anything about it. Norton Parish Council felt very strongly about these signs requiring restoration as they are part of our heritage and agreed to fund this work themselves. We had a volunteer in the village that was happy to do the work. Highways then informed us that the work could only be carried out by volunteers who had successfully completed a training course that Somerset County provided and only then would volunteers be allowed to carry out survey and refurbishment works on finger post signs. Due to SC not running any training courses at the moment (lack of funds), we are unable to allow any volunteers to carry out the work. We are now in the process of getting quotes from companies that Somerset Council approves to carry out the restoration!

October meeting – Change of date: The date for the October meeting will now be **Monday 2nd October 2023**. The next meeting will be held on **Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.30pm** in the committee room in the **village hall**. 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 - What's on in July: Wednesday 26th July – 7.30 pm

“Gardening Without Plastic” – Sally Nex. Come and hear Sally, a professional gardener based in Somerset and a regular contributor for BBC Gardeners' World magazine, give some down-to-earth and practical suggestions on this hot topic! Meeting at The Memorial Hall in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, **7.15 for 7.30 pm**. Free 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 joining this group please contact me on 01 935 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.

ONE OFF ADS

My name is Georgiana Riley. I am a 16 year old living in Norton who is looking for babysitting jobs this summer. I have experience with babysitting young children but I can babysit any age. I charge £9 an hour during weekdays and £11 on weekends. I am available weekdays, evenings and weekends. I have my DBS clearance and have completed an Optima health screening. I am also available to keep elderly people company for the same rate as I have experience of volunteering with patients in hospitals. If you are interested please contact me via email or text. My email address is rileygeorgiana@gmail.com and my phone number is 07493 822748.

GARAGE SALE Beavers' Lodge, 5 Bramley Fields Norton sub Hamdon. **Saturday 29th July 11.00 - 4.00pm** Various items including: Furniture: 1 Mahogany Display Dresser, 2 Pine Bedside Tables, 1 Ornamental Wall Cabinet, Fly Mower (very little used), Westie Dog Ornaments, 1 Puppy Dog Carrier, 1 Cat Carrier, Books 1 Barometer etc

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday 3 July Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Saturday 8 July Jubilee Garden BBQ 5.30pm
Monday 10 July Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Wednesday 12 July Ladies Group Summer Party 12.30pm
Monday 17 July Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Tuesday 25 July Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm
Friday 28 July FNC talk Village Hall 7.30pm
Monday 31 July Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Saturday 19 August Norton and Chiselborough Flower Show
Saturday 7 October Festival Folk Night 7.30pm
Sunday 10 December Festival Christmas Concert 3.00pm

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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