

NORTON NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023 ISSUE 536

NORTON SHOP WEBSITE:

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

FESTIVAL WEBSITE: [https://](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>

MANY THANKS to the Ladies Group, Norton Movies Nites, Hamdon Community Church and Higher Street Coronation Party for their generous donations to our Newsletter funds.

NORTON COMMUNITY SHOP AND POST OFFICE

The Shop and P/O report some positive news: trading for the year to date is up 15% compared to last year. Costs have gone up as well, of course, but we are detecting a slight improvement overall. Even if our trading is improving, we still need to boost sales and cut costs. Your generous donations to help with our energy costs have been very helpful in sustaining us for the future. We have the finest local produce from Bagnell Farm plus many others that can be pre-ordered to avoid how quickly it sells out. The Post Office has an excellent travel card that can be one of the safest ways to use it while on holiday. Euros are available, and other currencies can be ordered with a 24- to 48-hour turnaround. We thank you all for your contributions and help. To guarantee that we can continue to be a resource and benefit to the community, we ask for your further support through the use of the shop and PO. Ian Murray
CLT Secretary

CHURCH FLAG The George Cross will be flown from the Church Tower on **Sunday 4th June** for Trinity Sunday and the Union Flag on **Saturday 17th June** for the Official Birthday of His Majesty King Charles III.

READING ROOM NEWS: The Committee have received the quotations for work to replace the lean-to roof and hope the chosen contractor will be able to start the work at the beginning of September. Katy is off to

Glastonbury, so **Katy's Bakes will be closed from Tuesday 20th June till 27th. Back open at 10am on Wednesday 28th June.** Hope the weather is kind to her and she has time to bake plenty of cakes for us on her return!

Tricia Walton, Secretary

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the Reading Room on **Monday the 5th and 19th of June** between **1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us for a couple of hours to work on your own project and have a friendly chat. £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. For further information contact Tricia on 882646

LADIES GROUP Miranda Pender, singer and songwriter, entertained us with songs she wrote whilst researching her ancestors. Amongst law-abiding citizens she uncovered a murderer who had a family history of mental illness and so was sent to Broadmoor, and another relative an author, who wrote a book that was banned in the UK for unsavoury content. The speaker for our next meeting on **20th June** will be Ranger Paul McNeill. He will give a talk on the Wildlife of Ham Hill. The new monthly activities are Boules **3.00pm on the 4th Tuesday each month**, and 'Meet and Chat' from **2.30pm** at the Jubilee Garden on **the 1st Tuesday each month**. Both are open to everyone - just pop along and join in for an hour or so. Final details for our Garden Party to be held at the village hall on **Wednesday 12th July**, will be given at our next meeting, so please ensure you have your name on the list if you wish to attend. I would like to take this opportunity to thank members and friends, and also several ladies from Chiselborough who helped serve teas at the plant fair. I would also like to thank everyone who baked or bought cakes for us - your efforts were very much appreciated, thank you all. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the **Reading Room at 7.30pm**, new members and visitors are welcome at any time. Our programme can be found on the notice boards outside the Reading Room and in the shop. Enquiries Sue Lowder 881805

GARDENS OPEN Residents on the new development at Norton – Bramley Fields – are opening their gardens. On **Sunday 25th June** from **2.00 until 5.00pm** a variety of gardens will be on view with each garden inviting a donation to the Parish Church. See the publicity leaflet, available from the Community

Shop, Parish Church and other outlets for full information. Each garden will be clearly signed at the gate and one will provide Teas and Entertainment. Dogs will not be permitted in any of the gardens.

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB. The Mobile Library will call in **Chiselborough** opposite the Hall on **Tuesday 27th June 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

JUBILEE GARDEN. Save the date!
Saturday 8th July - Jubilee Garden Village BBQ starting at **5.30 pm**. Lisa and Mark Parsons have very kindly offered to cook their amazing meat. Veggie option also available. Soft drinks and crisps will be on sale. We will not have a licence to sell alcohol, but you are welcome to bring your own beer, cider or wine, and please bring your own plastic glasses too. Ice creams will be on sale There will be a few tables available for selling crafts, artefacts and jewellery etc - £8 a table unless the seller is supporting their own favourite charity. Hopefully the table tennis will be set up - it has had to have a few repairs since coming out of winter storage. We are also planning for a Giant Jenga Game which should be fun. There will be a raffle so any donations of prizes would be gratefully received. Anyone wishing to come and play some music would be most welcome and this would make for a super atmosphere. I promise you will get a free burger. Just remember there is no loo or running water, or electricity. Monies raised will go to the upkeep of the Village Shop. Use it or Lose it! Any enquiries ring me Lynn Orchard 01935 882 602

THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH - 2023 EVENTS. The Friends of Norton Church are arranging a programme of talks over the next few months with the aim of raising funds to maintain the fabric of St Mary the Virgin's Church in Norton sub Hamdon. Our first planned talk will welcome back **Monty Halls in July**. Many of you will know Monty Halls from his greatly enjoyed talk in January 2022. A Nortonian in his youth, Monty is a broadcaster, marine biologist, author (including his latest book *Commando* accompanying the BBC series) and has circumnavigated the world 3 times in his travels to some of the most remote

environments on earth. Do watch out for the date of his talk and further details of his presentation that will be promulgated in the next edition, out in early July and on Notice Boards around the village.

In **September David Harrison**, a local historian with particular interests in the age of the Anglo Saxons, 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. On **3rd November** we are also delighted to announce that **Malcolm Reid** has kindly agreed to provide a talk on the winning of the **World Helicopter Speed Record** by a Westlands Lynx aircraft. The well-illustrated talk will cover the political and commercial background, the personalities (including Nortonians) and the new technologies employed to win the record that stands to this day. For any Lynx pilots who may be reading this, there will also be some steely video clips displaying the aircraft's full capabilities. Mark your diaries now and watch out for further details and date confirmations.

NORTON BOULES Friday nights from 6.30pm onwards '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. **The boules court is free to use at any time.** Boules are available from the Lord Nelson during opening hours (for a very nominal donation). Just ask at the bar for a set. 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

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS: The April coffee morning held at Courtfield was a great success. We thank Annie and Bob for their warm hospitality, as well as the heavenly gluten-free chocolate squares - they were truly delicious. £300 was raised from the raffle, table top sale and donations, which was a fantastic result. The May coffee morning held in the Jubilee Nature Garden will be reviewed next month and will be the last one before the Summer break. We

meet again in September and are still looking for hosts for 2024. If you would like to host a coffee morning, please do let us know. The coffee mornings are a wonderful way to catch up with everyone, raise funds for the church and we try to organise them so there's minimal disruption! Thank you. Sophie Hale (881521) and Sophie Snow (881099)

NORTON CHURCH Services for: Sunday 4th Morning Prayer 9.30am, Sunday 11th Communion 9.30am, Sunday 18th Evensong 6.00pm, Wednesday 28th 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

NORTON CHURCH has a mailing list and every Saturday an email is sent round giving details of what is happening over the coming week and it also has lots of general Benefice and Church News. If you would like to be included in the mailing list, please contact Martyn on martynhamlin@hotmail.com and your name will be added. Martyn Hamlin Churchwarden.

LORD'S LARDER During April, the Lord's Larder was able to help a total of 948 people, which breaks down as 537 adults and 411 children. There was a total of 202 families who received a Lord's Larder Food Parcel. A big thank you to everyone who gives to the Lord's Larder. It is only with your support that we were able to help so many people. The Parish Church has a bag inside the door into which gifts to The Lord's Larder may be put. There also is a note of their current needs.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB. The draw results for May 2023 were as follows: Janet Hutton (2), Heather Hawkins, David Parkinson, Robert Vaux, Rowena Alsey, Alec Secombe, Roger Webb, Penny Cudmore and Charles Campbell. To join the club contact Mary Batstone on 882644 or email marybatstone@gmail.com

MANY THANKS We would like to thank everyone who came to the quiz night on Sunday 23rd April. An amazing £400 was raised for The Burnt Chef Project - a non-profit social enterprise set up and run to raise awareness, and to provide support and education around mental health and mental health issues within hospitality (based in Castle Cary). Thanks also

to Helen & Mark at The Lord Nelson for hosting the quiz. Amy and Joe

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR MAY 2023.

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

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

Annual Meeting: The Parish Council's Annual Meeting took place before the May monthly meeting. The election of officers and representatives took place. Councillor More was made Chairman for another year. In the Chairman's report, Cllr More talked about the formation of the Unitary Council for Somerset - now called The Somerset Council. She discussed how pleased we are to still have Mike Hewitson as one of our Unitary Councillors for the village as he continues to do such an excellent job in representing the village. She also reported on the budget restrictions being very tight for this financial year. The Parish Council are still waiting to be informed by Somerset Council what 'extras' the Parish Council will be expected to pay for in addition to their normal commitment. Due to this, like all Parish Councils in Somerset, we unfortunately had to raise the precept to mitigate any future demands on our budget. She spoke about the completion of the fabulous renovation of the play area on the recreation ground which appears to be very popular with not only the children in our village, but also children using the village hall for other events. Also in the last financial year, the Parish Council restored the wrought-iron kissing gate, railings and pedestrian gate by the Jubilee Garden on the church footpath. This project was completed by Steve Collier, who did an incredible job. Cllr More mentioned the unfortunate departure of two of our Councillors in 2022. Stuart Maunder felt his position was untenable due to events regarding the village shop and Rachel Cumberbatch resigned due to family reasons. We are very pleased to say that we had more applications to become Councillors than we had vacancies for and are delighted to welcome Peter Gartrell and Jennie Harris to the Council. The Parish Council continue to support Hamdon Youth Group with their youth worker and were able to financially support the village shop and the Reading Room via section 137 payments. The boules court received a grant from the PC as well. This new facility for the village is in regular use and is proving very popular.

Thanks must also go to Matt Orchard and Austin Harding for their continued hard work around the village. Finally, a huge 'Thank You' to all the Parish Councillors who give up their time voluntarily. Councillors are often stopped when going about their normal daily lives to discuss village matters and do so willingly and with good grace. The Parish Council has representatives on several village committees including the CLT and the Reading Room, all of which are time-consuming but form an important part of village life.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 12th June 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

ENGLAND AND AFRICA Norton artist Moish Sokal has just returned from his painting adventure safari trips to the wild life parks of Tanzania and Kenya. His newly inspired watercolours will go on show in the Malthouse Gallery of East Lambrook Manor Gardens on **Saturday 3rd June to 22nd July** in his exhibition '**England to Savanna**'. <http://www.moishsokal.co.uk>

MERRIOTT SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB is looking for new members for its club in the Village Hall. We meet on **Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm** and play matches from time to time with other clubs in the area – we play in a relaxed atmosphere, and play to enjoy the game. The club has three mats and can provide woods for those who wish to try their hand; it is a game for all ages, for both men and women, beginners and experienced alike, we play all year round – in the dry! Prospective players are invited to phone the secretary on 01308 862203 or 07956 598894. Rob.

STOKE-SUB-HAMDON GARDENING CLUB - What's on in June: **Wednesday 28th June at 7.30pm**. "Wildlife Gardening" – Penny Richards of Team Wilder, Somerset Wildlife Trust. Meeting at The Memorial Hall in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, 7.15 for 7.30 pm.

Refreshments; Plant Sales; Raffle. Visitors very welcome!

THE BIG SOUTH WEST CREAM

TEA: Friday 30th June 2023 is National Cream Tea Day! To celebrate, each of our hospices are holding cream teas for the families we support. Join us by hosting your own cream tea to help raise vital funds for children and young people living with life-limiting conditions. Alongside our care and support, your donations could help to fund experiences like gathering together for a delicious cream tea in our hospice gardens, and help to make memories for families now and into the future. It costs nothing to sign up and by hosting or taking part in a cream tea event, you raise money for families and help make the most of short and precious lives, one scone at a time! For more information visit www.chsw.org.uk/event/big-south-west-cream-tea

MARTOCK CHURCH will be hosting a concert on **Thursday 15th June at 7.30pm** and will feature the Wessex Big Band. Tickets £12 or £10 at Guardianstickets@gmail.com /07547 213992/Martock Gallery/ Martock Newsagent.

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.

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday 5 June Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Monday 12 June Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Monday 19 June Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Tuesday 20 June Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm
Sunday 25 June Open Gardens in Norton 2.00pm
Tuesday 27 June Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm
Saturday 8 July Jubilee Garden BBQ 5.30pm
Sunday 9 July Flower Show Duck Race
Wednesday 12 July Ladies Group Summer Party
Saturday 19 August Norton and Chiselborough Flower Show
Saturday 7 October Festival Folk Night 7.30pm
Sunday 10 December Festival Christmas Concert 3.00pm
Friday 3 November FNC talk

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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