

# NORTON NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE 540

## NORTON SHOP WEBSITE:

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

**FESTIVAL WEBSITE:** [https:// 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.** <http://nshvillagehall.co.uk>

**CLOCKS GO BACK.** Please note that the clocks go back one hour early on **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October** when British Summer Time ends

**PRUE BIDDLE** Please see the Parish Council Section for a tribute to Prue Biddle who very sadly passed away recently. She had done such a lot for the village over many years and will be greatly missed.

## NORTON SHOP AND POST OFFICE/CLT AGM IN OCTOBER

The annual general meeting of the CLT will be held in October at a date to be announced, and is only open to shareholders. After the official business is done, we're also inviting non-members to join us. The directors will be available for discussion and for answering questions at this time. There will be a cash bar, to help with the event, supplied by the shop. We need six new directors to fill the current vacancies and to replace the directors who are due to stand down as the longest serving third. Ian Murray CLT Secretary.

## NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW

– is this the end of the road or a chance of a new direction? Despite record numbers of visitors and the largest number of stalls the show still made a loss. It costs over £4000 to put the show on in its current format and this is now unsustainable. Four of the current committee members are resigning at the AGM on **Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup>** and without new members the committee will be inquorate. If you would like the Show to survive and have great ideas about its future, please come along to the meeting. **The AGM will start at 7pm in the Norton Village Hall.**

**READING ROOM NEWS.** Many thanks to Ben, Julian and the boys for all their hard work replacing the lean-to roof at the Reading Room. They have done a wonderful job. Hope you have had a chance to welcome Katy back. We've missed her delicious lunches and teas! There are plenty of books to browse whilst you are enjoying your coffee and the committee is always pleased to take any donations of books. If you would like to donate some books please either leave them at the Reading Room when it is open or contact us at [nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com). This is

also the email if you would like to book the room for your own meeting or event. Tricia Walton, Secretary.

## TINKERS BUBBLE OPEN DAY – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October

We will be hosting our annual open day again this autumn, on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October**. Anyone is welcome along to see what we get up to, have a look around our land and some of our buildings, and have a chat with us. There will be tours and a Q&A to find out more about the community and land management, some craft demos including apple pressing, and some interactive activities including hopefully something for children. The day will run from 11am to 4pm, and you are welcome to drop in whenever suits. Entry is free, and there will be food and drink for sale. More details will be added to our website as we work out the specifics of what we will be up to and the timings of the day. See [www.tinkersbubble.org/Events](http://www.tinkersbubble.org/Events) for details. The site has some steep paths and can get muddy, so please wear appropriate footwear. Our car park is small so no parking on site – we suggest walking from the village, or if people are coming from further away, parking in the Ham Hill car parks. People with mobility issues can get dropped off at our car park. Our events page on the website also has info about our forthcoming events. Questions to [tinkersbubble@riseup.net](mailto:tinkersbubble@riseup.net).

**FESTIVAL FOLK** Rumpel Muslin will be performing in **Norton Church** at the Norton Festival of Folk at **7.30pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October**. It is hoped that supporters will buy Tickets (£10) in advance from the Community Shop to assist with catering. Richard Terrell (Festival Coordinator)

**HAMDON HA! HA! COMEDY NIGHT** Another great line-up of stand-up talent hosted by our regular MC SANDI SMITH, and featuring DAN THOMAS as headliner. **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at the Lord Nelson, 8pm.** Tickets £10 from the pub.

**CRAFTY CRITTERS** will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October** between **1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us for a friendly chat whilst working on individual projects or looking for new ideas. £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tricia 882646

**NORTON MOVIE NITES AT THE LORD NELSON on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. A Man Called Otto** (cert 15, 120 mins), stars Tom Hanks. Otto is a grumpy old man who has given up on life. When a young family moves in nearby he meets his match with quick-witted Marisol who makes him re-think his ideas. Tom Hanks is perfect in this funny and moving film. Tickets at £5 on sale in Norton Shop from Friday 1st October. Doors open 7.45, film starts 8 pm. A very belated report from the Chair (not his fault it's late, ahem) for Norton Movie Nites AGM 2022–23: We ran six Movie Nites again this

year, with film suppliers Moviola and Filmbank. Many thanks to the Box Office (Norton Shop), Norton Newsletter, Parish Magazine, and The Hambook who all continue to provide excellent support in selling and promoting our events. Many thanks also to Helen and Mark, our wonderful hosts at the Lord Nelson. We have purchased new equipment when needed and regard our equipment as a community resource that can be hired throughout the year. None of this would be possible without the support of a fantastic committee and, of course, you our audience. New members for the committee will be welcome, so come and join us. Looking forward to getting together again in the skittle alley this autumn – see you again soon.  
John Bailey, Chair, Norton Movie Nites

**NORTON SUB HAMDON and WEST CHINNOCK PRIMARY SCHOOLS OPEN DAY** Norton and West Chinnock Schools are delighted to invite prospective parents, children and families to our Open Day on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. We would like to welcome you to visit us throughout the day with drop-in tours of Norton School in the morning and West Chinnock in the afternoon. Norton sub Hamdon School tours are between **9.30am and 11.30am** West Chinnock School tours are between **1.00pm to 3.00pm**. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our schools on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**. For further information please contact the school offices [norton.sh@nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk](mailto:norton.sh@nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk) 01935 881815  
[westchinnock.407@nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk](mailto:westchinnock.407@nortonandwestchinnockschoools.co.uk) 01935 881367

**NORTON BOULES** – Will be holding a **quiz night on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct in the Lord Nelson (7.45pm start)**. All welcome to come and test your general knowledge. Free to enter - all we ask for is a donation at the end of the night. There will also be an auction of some village made items plus a local 'celebrity' quizmaster! We look forward to seeing you there. The boules court is open all year and free to use at any time, you will have seen this summer that we installed a new picnic bench adjacent to the court, which was made for us by Steve Collier (resident of Higher St) and has seen plenty of use. Please contact [info.nortonboules@gmail.com](mailto:info.nortonboules@gmail.com) if you require any more information or speak to any of the committee – Rob Letham, Ian Murray, Nic Hale.

**MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB.** The Mobile Library will call in **Chiselborough** opposite the Hall on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 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 venue details and times etc or if you would like to join our friendly book club.

**LADIES GROUP** Thanks go to Norton Ladies group and other villagers and the Chiselborough Ladies who worked so hard serving teas at the Flower Show. We revisited ARK and tried our hand at whittling - many thanks to Simon Spurway for his patience - we were able to make our own interpretation of an owl. A small group were given a tour of the site by one of the

volunteers and we all enjoyed tea and cake and took home some lovely freshly picked flowers from the gardens. Our speaker for September David Beckley, gave a talk on The History of Magic. It was more of a demonstration as he showed us card tricks and made a small Union Jack disappear from the palm of his hand. The evening was fun and enjoyed by all. A trip to Wells for the market, lunch and Carols in the Cathedral is planned for **13<sup>th</sup> December**. Add your name to the list if you wish to come along. We have rescheduled our Christmas Party to **6<sup>th</sup> December** to enable the Wells Trip. At our next meeting on **17<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm in the Reading Room**, local author James Crowden will give a talk on Poets and Authors of Somerset with some interesting revelations. Enquiries Sue Lowder 881805

**THE EXMOUTH SHANTY MEN** are coming to Norton Village Hall! The Exmouth Shanty Men (who recently featured on BBC1!) will perform a variety of sea shanties, from traditional songs to modern ones. They have released numerous albums and have toured extensively throughout the United Kingdom and Europe. They are known for their energetic performances and ability to get the audience involved. The Exmouth Shanty Men are a passionate group of musicians dedicated to keeping the tradition of sea shanties alive. They are a joy to watch and listen to, and always put on a good show. Proceeds will be split between Norton Village Shop and Norton Village Hall Bar / Raffle / Black cow vodka stand - Come and try the Worlds smoothest Vodka! **Saturday 21st October - Doors Open at 6.30pm - Performance Starts at 7.30pm** Ticket Price: £15.00 Tickets Available From: Norton Sub Hamdon Village Shop For more information email: [brooksinsomerset@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brooksinsomerset@hotmail.co.uk)

**NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS:** A note on the September coffee morning held at Nic and Kevin Boyd's home in Little Norton will be included in the next Newsletter. In the meantime, here's a new date for the diary - the October coffee morning will be held at **10.45am on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October at Rendells** in Little Street, Pam and Mike Rastell's Norton home. The theme for the table top/bring & buy sale is "Sweet Things" and there will be a raffle too. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

**HAMDON YOUTH GROUP** committee will hold its AGM at **7.30 pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October** in the **Hamdon Youth and Family Centre**, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6QG. Come along to hear how our excellent youth workers and volunteers have been helping the young people in our community and what plans are afoot for the year ahead. If you would like to attend, please contact John Bailey on 01935 881227 or 07887 483665.

**NORTON "BOUNDS" BREAKFAST WALK SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023** Starting at **8.30 am. at The Lord Nelson** Enjoy an early morning autumn walk followed by a "Full Monty" breakfast at the Lord Nelson. The walk will start and finish at the Pub and circumnavigate the village

following the rights of way nearest to the village boundary, covering about 6 miles and taking about 2-2 1/2 hours to complete. However there are plenty of shortcuts for those who don't want to do the full distance. At the end of the walk (available at 11-11.30 a.m.) The Lord Nelson will have full English Breakfast including coffee, orange juice and toast at £10.00/head. Please book direct with the Pub beforehand to avoid disappointment. If you have any queries contact John Bailey ( 01935 881227)

**NEWSLETTER AGM.** The Newsletter AGM will be held on **Wednesday 8th November** in the **Reading Room** and will start at **7.30pm**. All welcome.

**THE GODS ARE ALL HERE** Sparked by the discovery of a series of letters from his father in Nigeria to his mother in Wales, this is a moving, funny and warm hearted, one-man performance from first-class storyteller, Phil Okwedy. **Friday 10th November, 7:30pm Norton Village Hall.** Tickets £10 from Norton Shop. A HamstoneLive event.

**JOHN PEEL'S SHED** In 2002, John Osborne won a box of records in a competition on John Peel's Radio 1 show. This highly acclaimed storytelling show is an ode to radio, those records that were once owned by John Peel, and anyone who's ever sought solace in wireless. **Saturday 18th November, 8pm at the Lord Nelson.** Tickets £11 from the shop and the pub. A Hamdon Ha! Ha! event

**NEW ARRIVALS.** We welcome Adam, Easley and Cassian Dunbar, and Amy, Alora and David Kempster who are moving into Beech Corner, Higher Street. We hope they will be very happy in our lovely village.

**FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB.** The draw results for September 2023 were as follows: Peter Prager(2), Tim & Pam Williams, Jeremy Reid, Sue More, Jenny Byham, Malcolm Reid, Chris Westwood, Emily Waters and James Pond. To join the wine club contact Mary Batstone on 07967604681 or email [marybatstone@gmail.com](mailto:marybatstone@gmail.com)

**NORTON CHURCH Services Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 9.30am** Morning Prayer **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30am** Harvest Service , **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm** Evensong **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 9.00am** Said Communion 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

**JUBILEE GARDEN.** Firstly I would once again like to thank all of you that have given up their precious time to come and help in the Jubilee Garden in so many ways - very much appreciated! It has been great to see the table tennis table used so much this summer and the table will be moved to the top area before being folded away with a cover for the winter months. You still have a few more weeks before this happens, as I have to find two strong men to help move it. The badminton net has now been dismantled and put in store for the winter. I'm sorry to say that after this year I will not be able to continue to put in so much work. As

most of you know I have suffered with a spinal problem for many years. It has now become much more debilitating which is affecting me quite badly. It would be such a shame to see this lovely space return to a wilderness as it was two years ago. Please feel free to turn up and help whenever you wish, but just remember it is a garden for nature not a show garden. Lynn Orchard.

**MARCUS JUBB**, who lives in Norton, is exhibiting paintings and his unique solar-charged chandeliers for Somerset Arts Week. Location 115 in the Somerset Arts brochure, Denman Cottage, Church Street, Lopen TA13 5JX, Open until 1st October closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

**SUPPORTING THE LORD'S LARDER** After last month's mention of donations through the Community Shop I had an email, which I will treat as being anonymous, saying that every term two grandchildren are given £20 each to buy products from the shop to take to the church. This is an excellent way to support both the Village Shop and The Lord's Larder. As well as helping young people to be aware of The Larder and the people it supports, it also gives them the freedom to act responsibly and wisely. Thank you to everyone for the many different ways of helping. Nearly 650 people were helped recently. The Collection Bag in the church is regularly updated with Larder information and needs. At the Harvest Service, at **9.30am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**, the congregation are invited to bring gifts that will be given to The Lord's Larder.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Parish Council managed to have a successful monthly meeting at the beginning of September following our August break.

**Cllr. Prue Biddle:** The Chairman expressed the Parish Council's deep shock and immense sadness at the passing of fellow Parish Councillor and dear friend Cllr. Prue Biddle. The following statement was read out by the Chair. 'No-one could have imagined that as we left the last PC meeting, we would be mourning the loss of our dear friend and valued parish councillor Prue Biddle. Prue was our longest serving parish councillor and had at one time been the chair of the PC - a role she had occupied for 8 years. Prue was a huge friend to Norton and had involved herself in many projects throughout the village. She was instrumental in fund raising for the school and the village hall and was a great supporter of the village shop both as a volunteer and a customer. Prue was a champion for those in society who needed some support. It was Prue who last winter invited members of the community into her home so those less fortunate than herself had somewhere warm to spend a few hours. Prue donated her time and expertise to being the PC representative for Hamdon Youth Group and was delighted when we saw an improvement in anti-social behaviour in the village. There was a steely core to Prue - she would stand up to those who she thought were in the wrong and often delighted in having the last word whether that was at the PC meetings or by challenging other members of society including our local politicians. No-one is irreplaceable but it's a

close-run thing with Prue. Her wicked sense of humour, her knowledge of the village and her worldly wisdom will be sorely missed. Our deepest condolences go to Moish and Rachel and to her grandson whom she doted on. RIP Prue. We will miss you.'

**Planning:** There was one planning application to discuss this month. Location: Foxhollow Farm Little Norton. Proposal: Single Storey Extension Number: 23/02087/HOU. The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

**Somerset Council** is warning that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to fund the rising cost of both Adult and Children's social care. The Council's financial position has been described as "stark and challenging". The warning comes as other councils in the UK are raising concerns that their budgets are unsustainable. The papers reveal that the Council drew £18 million from reserves last year to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets in Adult and Children's care services. The Council has a legal obligation to fund these services, which have seen an unprecedented rise in both overall demand and complexity of need since the Covid-19 pandemic. These two social care services are currently projected to overspend by £21 million again in the current financial year. This is despite significant increases in budgets in the two previous years. Other challenges faced by the new unitary Council include the rising cost of processing an increasing amount of household waste and the cost of refinancing loans taken out by five predecessor councils. The current and next two years will be particularly challenging until the benefits of transformation of services at the new Council can be realised.

**Parish Council Vacancy:** We now have to recruit for a Parish Councillor following the very sad passing of Prue Biddle. The Parish Council is currently working with our Monitoring Officer to follow the correct procedure with regards to advertising the vacancy. If there is anyone who fancies becoming a Parish Councillor, and would like to put themselves forward for consideration, then please do get in touch with the Clerk to find out more about the role and the procedure to apply. [nortonpcclerk@outlook.com](mailto:nortonpcclerk@outlook.com). Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council meets on the second Monday of every month (except August). **PLEASE NOTE...The October meeting is a week earlier than normal. The next meeting will be held on MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2022 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](mailto:nortonpcclerk@outlook.com)

**HANDBELL CONCERT.** Chiselborough 4-in-hand team, with Cilla & Bill Caswell (flute&piano). **Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm at South Petherton Parish Church.** Tea and cake. Raffle. Free entry - donations invited, to be shared between the Church and St.Margaret's Hospice.

**STOKE-SUB-HAMDON GARDENING CLUB** On **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** Allan Cavill from the National Allotment Society will give a talk on "No Dig Gardening on Allotments". Even if you don't have an

allotment (yet) there are sure to be some helpful tips for hopeful growers! Free refreshments; plant sales; Visitors very welcome – first visit free! **Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon. 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.**

**THE VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP** is a very friendly group of amateurs who meet at the Stoke Memorial Hall on **Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30pm** and **Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon** during school term time. We share an enjoyment of traditional art at all levels and seek to develop our artistic skills through discussion and an encouraging environment. There are regular workshops generally led by a local artist along with an annual show. Should you wish to learn more about our group, please contact Andrew on (01935) 823691. Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group - We look forward to hearing from you. Stop press: Our annual show is at the memorial hall on the **14<sup>th</sup> October!**

**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.

**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

**ADVERTISEMENTS: ACCOMMODATION.** Annex to charming cottage in centre of Norton sub Hamdon available informally for visiting friends & family of local residents. Double bedroom, private shower room, sitting room & fully equipped kitchen for self catering. £65 a night. Minimum 2 nights. (Small single room also could be available for extra £20 a night) 01935 881233 or email: [woodiana39@aol.com](mailto:woodiana39@aol.com)

**ALISON'S HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY CARE AT HOME** My name is Alison and I have lived in Norton for nearly 4 years now. I am starting up a Care at Home service, and will be offering services in the home for anyone who is in need of help in the surrounding villages. I am quite prepared to be adaptable and undertake a range of duties to include help around the house, shopping, companionship, dog walking, personal care if necessary and can also help with any administrative tasks. I have a clean driving licence, DBS Certificate, Safeguarding Certificates. If you think you might be interested, please contact me on 07544 683 873 or email [Alisonshomecare@outlook.com](mailto:Alisonshomecare@outlook.com) and I can arrange a visit to discuss your specific requirements.

### **VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS**

Monday 2 October Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm  
Thursday 5 October Flower Show AGM Village Hall 7.00pm  
Saturday 7 October Tinkers Bubble Open Day 11.00am  
Saturday 7 October Festival Folk Night Norton Church 7.30pm  
Saturday 7 October Hamdon Ha Ha Comedy at the Lord Nelson 8pm  
Monday 9 October Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Tuesday 10 October Movie Nites Lord Nelson 7.45pm  
Wednesday 11 October School Open Day 9.30am  
Sunday 15 October Boules Quiz Night at the Lord Nelson 7.45pm  
Tuesday 17 October Mobile Library Higher Street 2.00pm  
Tuesday 17 October Ladies Group Reading Room 7.30pm  
Saturday 21 October Exmouth Shanty Men Village Hall 7.30pm  
Monday 23 October Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm  
Wednesday 25 October Village Coffee Morning Rendells 10.45am  
Saturday 28 October Bounds Walk Start at Lord Nelson 8.30am  
Wednesday 8 November Newsletter AGM Reading Room 7.30pm  
Friday 10 November 'The Gods Are All Here' one-man-show in the Village Hall 7:30pm  
Saturday 18 November 'John Peel's Shed' Comedy at the Lord Nelson 8pm  
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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