

NORTON NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024 ISSUE No 543

NEW NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESS: nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com

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.

<http://nshvillagehall.co.uk>

ADVERTS AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER

New Adverts from:

Walter Wall Carpets.

David Barnard Craftbuild.

Peter Charlton Carpenter/Joiner.

Francesca Charlton Yoga, Karate and fascia/Sports injury and chronic pain specialist

IT AND MOBILE PHONE SUPPORT AT THE READING ROOM in Norton Sub

Hamdon between 10.30 and 12.30 on Saturday 6th and 20th January for anyone who would like to gain confidence using IT and mobile phones. Just drop in or call the Reading Room on 01935 881505 and leave a message, or email nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com.

As a charity, we are able to offer a free six months mobile phone contract, giving unlimited free calls and internet access. This is courtesy of Vodafone's 'Bridging the Digital Divide' by ensuring connectivity for all. If you have an old mobile phone but no contract you would just need a SIM card to activate it, and we can provide these. The SIM cards will be allocated according to need on a first come first served basis.

CRAFTY CRITTERS

Crafty Critters will be meeting in the Reading Room on **Monday 8th and 22nd January between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. Maybe you received a new craft gift for Xmas or would like some ideas for 2024. Come and join us for a friendly couple of hours of crafting and chat. £2.50 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tricia 882646

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT Planning: There were no planning applications to discuss this month. However, The Parish Council were notified that Application Number: 23/02259/FULL Proposal: Siting of 1 no. shipping container on land at Land Adjacent 15 Broadmead Lane, Norton Sub Hamdon, TA14 6SS had been granted permission. The Parish Council were disappointed with the outcome after objecting to this. Steps at the bottom of the Rec leading into Rectory Lane: The Parish Council will be having some grip strips added to the sleeper steps at the bottom of the rec. Due to all the rain we've had, they have become more slippery. Parish Council's Budget and Precept: As we reported last month the financial emergency that Somerset Council declared will have an impact on the Parish Council funds as we will be responsible for supplying many of the services we currently receive. We are still no further forward regarding extra costs as we have received very little information from Somerset Council! We are currently having to work out a budget and required precept for 2024-25 using estimations of costs of services. It is really not ideal, but we have to submit our precept at the beginning of February and we have to be able to fund the services we currently receive in the Parish from April '24. Please be assured that the Parish Council are working hard to make the best decision for everyone. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity in wishing all our Parishioners a happy and safe festive period and healthy new year. **The next meeting will be held on MONDAY 8th JANUARY 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

NORTON MOVIE NIGHTS at the Lord

Nelson starts the new year on Tuesday 9th January with The Great Escaper (12A, 96 minutes). A veteran of the D-Day landings misses a group outing to France, but his wife encourages him to go independently. Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson (in her final film) are truly superb. Tickets at £5 on sale in Norton Shop from **27th December. Doors open 7.45pm for 8pm start**

LADIES GROUP Popular speaker Richard Kay did not disappoint at our meeting on 21st November. Richard explained in his amusing and informative

way, why a pile of bricks can be a work of art and not to dismiss it as nonsense. The subject brought much discussion and we were pleasantly surprised by his presentation. Our Christmas Party was a great success: the lunch, quiz, Christmas singalong, country dancing and Secret Santa were enjoyed by all, ending with our usual finale of the Twelve Days of Christmas sung as only we know how. We all went home with smiles on our faces after another memorable party. The trip to Wells on 13th December was an enjoyable day out. **On Tuesday 16th January we shall have a Savoury Afternoon Tea, to be held at Katy's Cafe in the Reading Room from 2.30–4.30 pm.** Any member wishing to attend, please call Sue. Non-members will be welcome subject to availability, so please check with Sue. Wishing all our members and readers a Happy and Healthy New Year. Enquiries Sue Lowder 881805

NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW, SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST 2024. After the AGM in October, there was a lot of uncertainty regarding the future of our annual flower show. We are now pleased to let you know that we have nominations for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We are holding a committee meeting to transact show business on **Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7 pm in the committee room at Norton Village Hall** when we can confirm the above nominations. There will then be an open discussion in which members of the public are welcome to take part. We can exchange ideas and opinions in order to build the show and ensure it survives for many more years to come. Our annual Plant Sale will take place on **Saturday 27th April 2024 from 11 am–3 pm** at the Village Hall.

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB
The Mobile Library will be in **Chiselborough opposite the Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd January from 9.30-10am and in Higher Street, Norton Sub Hamdon from 10.10-10.35am.** The book club will meet on the same day. Contact Anne Fairweather on 882620 for details of time and place.

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS: Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas-themed coffee morning at The Hollies, Francesca and Ian Chignell's home. It was a huge success, and we must thank Francesca for hosting the event again for the fifth year (and also for those delicious mince pies!). £336 was raised in total which brings the sum raised during 2023 to £2,090, a great result. We meet again at **10.45am on 24th January at Debbie and Simon Bradley's home, Norton House, Great Street.** The theme for the raffle and table top/bring & buy sale will be "Marmalade, Jams and Jars" and refreshments will be served as always. The coffee mornings are a great way of meeting friends and neighbours, they last for about an hour and all are welcome. Sophie Hale and Sophie Snow

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES for January
Sunday 7th 9.30am Morning Prayer. **Sunday 14th 9.30am** Communion. **Sunday 21st 6.00pm** Evensong. **Wednesday 24th 9.00am** Said Communion. Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and Church notice boards. Rev Nick Clarke 07485789968
FIESTA PLANS Plans for the Norton Festival Fiesta are forging ahead and an appeal goes out for support and involvement. It is hoped that every village organisation and group will be represented and the weekend **3rd to 6th May** will be a 'shop window event' for the whole community. Individuals are being invited to share and show their interests and hobbies, and organisations and groups to reveal what they do. The latter will hopefully encourage support and involvement. The Fiesta involves everybody so please start thinking now how you can be involved. Don't wait to be asked/invited, but reveal your support and offer your involvement by contacting the Event Coordinator, Reverend Richard Terrell, on revrichardterrell@gmail.com Your call is eagerly awaited.

LARDER THANKS The Lord's Larder would like to record its gratitude to the many people who support it. Recent generosity has enabled over 800 individuals in the area to benefit each month. Many gifts are placed into the Collection Bag in Norton Church and some individuals make purchases with donations through the Community Shop – some very generous indeed. The Church organises regular deliveries to the Larder and latest needs are listed on the Collection Bag and on the Yeovil Lord's Larder webpage.

SEASONAL SUPPORT Norton Church was filled with seasonal music by the festival 'Merrily on High' Concert in December. Chiselborough Handbell Team – Vivien Dewsbury, Sian Humpherson, Angela O'Neill and Anna Terrell – Norton Organist Chris Denman, Cilla and Bill Caswell (on flute and keyboard) presented a free afternoon with donations invited. There were no expenses claimed, and the magnificent sum of £606.40 was equally divided between The Children's Society and Norton Church. Thanks to all who contributed to a lovely afternoon, and thanks to all supporters – great and small.

THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH (FNC) AGM
The Friends of Norton Church was established in 2005. It supports St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council by raising funds for the preservation and repair of the fabric of Grade 1 listed St Mary's church in Norton.
FNC activities are managed by a small committee of volunteers whose work done throughout 2023 will be discussed at the AGM on **Thursday 25th January 2024, 7.30 pm in the Reading Room, Norton.** All those who share the FNC's aims or who would like to join the committee, are welcome to attend.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB.

The draw results for this year were as follows Janet Hutton, Peter Willsher, Roger Hardisty, Jenny Byham, Simon Bradley, Rowena Aisey, Alec Secombe, John Forrest, Heather Hawkins, Sara Vann. To join the wine club contact Mary Batstone on 07967604681 or email marybatstone@gmail.com

NORTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE would like to wish everyone a healthy and peaceful 2024. The committee consists of local volunteers who give up their time to manage the hall, keeping it financially viable and in good repair. We are very grateful to our regular hirers who have supported us over the years, and are happy to add more classes and bookings to keep the hall in use. We run fundraising events to finance the hall's upkeep and have recently shared takings 50/50 with Norton Community Shop – two vital assets in our lovely village that need support. We are also very grateful to Norton Pantomime Society for donating proceeds from their bi-annual pantomimes to Hall funds (oh yes they do) – look out for Puss in Boots in March! We set aside eight weekends each year for weddings, leaving 44 weekends available for other bookings. To consider our neighbours, we restrict licensing hours and events to finish at 11pm. Our AGM will be in February. Everyone is welcome to come along, your input will be much appreciated. Jennie Harris, Secretary for Norton Village Hall

MANY OF THE FRIENDS OF DAVID GRAY will be upset to hear that his grave in our lovely graveyard has remained, until now, unmarked. This was rectified on Thursday December 14th 2023. The Rev Nick Clarke held a simple service of dedication to the assembled group of David's friends and followers, while a simple wooden cross was placed on his grave. At last he lies, named among others of our loved ones. Jane Ashdown

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

Wednesday 24th January 2024 Jonny Hartnell will be talking about growing Orchids. Perhaps he may inspire you to try growing these exotic – and not so exotic – blooms to brighten the gloom of dull January days! Visitors are assured of a warm welcome with free refreshments after the talk; there's a stall for home grown plants/produce, plus our monthly raffle. **Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon.**
7.15 for 7.30pm

STOKE SUB HAMDON VILLAGE ARTISTS The Village Artists Group is now having a short break but we pick up our brushes/charcoal/ pencils/pastels etc again on **Friday, 5 January**. Why not make a New Year's resolution to join us and have a go with the artistic medium you've always wanted try? We share an enjoyment of traditional art at all levels and seek to develop our artistic skills through discussion and a very sociable environment. **Stoke Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time.** Contact Andrew on 01935 823691 or email SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com
Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group. We look forward to hearing from you

MERRIOT SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB 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 (Frank Smith) on 07956 598894

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

FOR SALE- Luccotts property in Higher Street. Spacious Lounge, four good sized bedrooms, three with twin beds. Well equipped kitchen. Large garden - beautifully stocked by Jennie's flowers plus big vegetable area. Excellent view of Gawlers Hill etc with off road parking for three cars. Phone Malcolm Reid on 881241 for an appointment This will be registered with the appointed agent Stags in Yeovil.

Village Diary of Events

Saturday 4 January IT Event, Reading Room 10.30am
Monday 8 January Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Monday 8 January Parish Council meeting, Committee Room Village Hall 7.30
Tuesday 9 January Movie Nites, Lord Nelson 7.45pm
Tuesday 16 January, Ladies Group, Afternoon Tea Katy's Café, Reading Room 2.30pm
Thursday 18 January Flower Show Meeting Committee Room Village Hall 7pm
Saturday 20 January IT Event Reading Room 10.30am
Monday 22 January Crafty Critters Reading Room 1.30pm
Tuesday 23 January Mobile Library and Book Club Higher Street 10.10am
Wednesday 24 January Village Coffee morning Norton House 10.45am
Thursday 25 January Friends of Norton Church AGM Reading Room 7.30pm

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER should be in the box on the Post Office counter, or sent by email to: nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com by 4.00pm on the 19th of each month.

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 Editors are Chrissie Way 07948 379439 and Rowena Alsey 0777 811705 with Assistant Editor Mrs Chrissie O'Brien, email:nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com 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 email address.