

NEWSLETTER EMAIL:
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>

EDITOR'S NOTE

Items for the Newsletter should be in the box on the Post Office counter, or sent by email to nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com **by 4.00 pm on the 19th of each month.** Due to increased printing costs we have asked for contributions and would like to extend our thanks to the generous donations we have received, many via the box by the Post Office. The Newsletter committee suggests if your item is for the benefit of the village, donations are not expected but always very welcome. If your item will generate money, we suggest £5. Volunteers edit and distribute the Newsletter to every house in the village; if you want to download any extra copies, go to nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/village-newsletter. There is a significant increase in printing costs if we exceed four pages, therefore we would like to suggest limiting entries to between 150 and 180 words, although we realise this won't always be possible. For a guide, this paragraph is 158 words.

To advertise in the newsletter the fee is £5 per month or £36 per year. To pay by bank transfer: Santander Bank sort code 09-01-52; a/c name NORTON NEWS; a/c number 22744308. Please insert your name as the reference. To pay by cash/cheque: put your item and payment along with your details in an envelope and place in the box on the post office counter. Editors Chrissie Way 07948 379439 and Rowena Alsey 07778 117705. nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com

NORTON BOULES The court on Minchington Rec has weathered well over the winter. It has been resurfaced and is ready for use. Anyone can play at any time, and it is free to use. Boules sets, including a children's set, are available from the

Lord Nelson during opening hours for a small deposit and donation. This is a great way to shake off the winter blues by joining in with games on sunnier days and warmer evenings. The popular weekly 'roll up and play social evenings' will be returning on **Thursday 9th May from 7pm and then every Thursday.** No booking is required, and we can explain the very simple rules if needed. We are introducing 'Street Challenge': get a team of up to eight people from your road and challenge another team. No leagues, just the bragging rights to claiming victory! Please contact us for more details on how to enter. We're a small committee of three that looks after the running of the court, and we're seeking more volunteers to join us. The court is a great asset for the village and is free to use. We receive no regular income but do have to maintain the court and surrounding area. Donations or committee support will be greatly appreciated. Nic Hale 07847 274257; Ian Murray 07973 226425; Rob Letham 07775 745224. info.nortonboules@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2024

Planning: The clerk reported that one previous planning application had now been approved: Application Number: 24/00386/HOU - Brook Coach House Little Street Norton Sub Hamdon Proposal: Erection of detached garden outbuilding. ****APPROVED****

Gift of Centenary Garden bench The Parish Council have been approached by the family of the late Mrs Nicholls regarding gifting a centenary garden bench to the recreation field. The late Mrs Nicholls won the centenary garden seat at the Flower Show. She was a stalwart supporter and exhibitor of the Flower Show for many years. The Parish Council felt it was very fitting to install it on the recreation field and a place has been found for it to be placed.

Minchington Rec – Wall update The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she had been informed from Somerset Council that approval had now been given to repair a longer length of the wall and she was now waiting for confirmation of the start date from the contractor. The clerk and Cllr Cole had also had an initial meeting with a localities manager at Minchington rec to discuss the maintenance work the Parish Council were going to take on. The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall committee room.** Please note **the Annual Meeting will take place beforehand starting at 7.10pm** Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Monday 13th May between 1.30 and 3.30 pm** to work on our own project or to seek inspiration for new ideas. Come and join us for a friendly couple of hours of crafting and chat. You are welcome to just pop in and say hello and see what we are all making. £2.50 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tricia 882646.

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB The Mobile Library will be in Chiselborough opposite the Village Hall on **Tuesday 14th May from 9.30 to 10 am, and in Higher Street, Norton from 10.10 to 10.35 am**. The book club will meet on the same day. Anne Fairweather 882620.

READING ROOM NEWS The Reading Room held its Quiz on the 24th March. We raised just under £400.00 on the night and this was topped up by some very generous donations after the event. The boost to our funds will go towards the much needed replacement of the windows. It is hoped to start work on these soon. Thanks go to Peter Callaghan and Sophie Snow for acting as quiz master, helping with questions, and tallying the scores, to everyone who generously donated raffle prizes, and a special thank you to Mark, Helen and 'Team Nellie' for all their hard work and help. It was certainly a busy evening and we hope everyone had a good time! If you would like a great evening, these monthly pub quizzes are always fun and you will be helping good causes. Just remember to book your table at the Nellie early! Tricia Walton, Secretary.
nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com

LADIES GROUP An amusing evening was spent with our guest speaker, Dr. Francis Burroughes, when he told us, in true Stanley Holloway style, Marriott Edgar's story of Albert and the Lion followed by Albert's Return and other monologues including The Battle of Hastings and The Jubilee Sovereign. At our **next meeting on 21st May** we shall welcome Anne Thomas who will give a talk entitled 'Taking up the Challenge' about how she became an author. Her books are also for sale in Norton Shop. We are planning a mystery trail around **Bridport on Wednesday 22nd May**, stopping for a light lunch before solving the mystery. Please contact me if you would like to join us. I would like to thank all our members and Chiselborough friends who helped with the teas at the Plant Sale in April, and thanks also to those who provided cakes for the occasion. **Norton Ladies Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm**. Pop in and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome. Sue Lowder 881805

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS Thank you to everyone who attended the March coffee morning held at Sophie and Andy Holm's home. Cartbridge was a wonderful venue and we thank Sophie and Eddie for their lovely welcome and generous hospitality. £245 was raised from the successful raffle, table top sale and generous donations. April's coffee morning held at Sue and Chris Westwood's home will be reviewed next month. We meet again at **10.45 am on 22nd May in the Jubilee Nature Garden, next to the church**, for an outdoor event and the theme for the raffle and table top/bring and buy sale will be 'Plants & Flowers'. If rain stops play, we will set up in the church. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. We are stepping down from organising the coffee mornings after May and we're delighted to say someone is very keen to take over, but another person is needed to work with them. Are you interested? It's more fun with two! Let us know. Thank you. Sophie Hale 881521 and Sophie Snow 881099

NORTON SUB HAMDON VILLAGE HALL Following our bi-annual Pantomime, the Hall is gradually getting back to everyday business again. We were very lucky to receive a donation of over £3000 from the Panto proceeds, and we are very grateful. It has been 18 years since the hall was built. Every year we find more things that need repairing and replacing, so the donation will be a great help. Thanks to all concerned. We have started recladding the outside of the Hall, beginning with the side facing the school as this gets most of the weather. All windows and doors as well as cladding were replaced. The three other sides will be completed when funds allow, and some of the interior works and repairs will be carried out as scheduled. Given the financial situation, we need to ensure more bookings and revenue. Our next fundraising event will be a joint one with Norton Shop: a Village Coffee Morning on June 8th. We had our first one last year, and hope it will be an annual event. More details next month. Jennie Harris, Secretary Norton Village Hall Committee 881718

NORTON SHOP AND POST OFFICE We are celebrating our local suppliers; look out for our 'Local Produce' campaign where we place stickers on goods from local suppliers and businesses to promote their high-quality produce. We are fortunate to live in Somerset, where we can enjoy wonderful cheeses, fresh vegetables, high-quality meats, nutritious breads, cakes, puddings, honey, apple juice, ciders and beers. There is also vodka made from Crewkerne milk. Our initial assessment of the end-of-year accounts indicates that the Shop and Post Office

trading was very close to break-even, with the Shop profits subsidising the Post Office losses. We are pleased with the outcome which has reversed the previous year's deficit. We are now moving forward with our business plan to improve the shop performance and deal with the challenges we face with rising costs. Ian Murray secretary@nortonclt.co.uk

CHURCH FLAGS The union flag will be flown from the church tower on **6th May** for the King's coronation anniversary; the George Cross flag on **18th May** for Ascension Day and again on **28th May** for Whitsun.

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES for May:

Sunday 5th, 4 pm Community Praise

Sunday 12th, 9.30 am Communion

Sunday 19th 6.00 pm Evensong

Wednesday 23rd, 9 am Prayer Book

Communion. Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and Church notice boards. Rev Nick Clarke 07485 789968

FIESTA FUN The early May Bank Holiday weekend, **Friday 3rd to Monday 6th May**, is a time to enjoy everything Nortonian when the Norton Festival presents, for the enjoyment of all, a Fiesta. The Church will be packed with Exhibits of Hobbies and Floral Displays; Teddy Bears will be jumping from the tower; bells will be rung; live music played and refreshments served throughout, as well as an Owl Trail around the village and Community Praise on the Sunday. This is a free event run by the Parish Church, but donations are invited. So come along, give it your generous support and make it a weekend to remember. Further information/details on posters and handouts around the village.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB

The draw results for this month were as follows: Karen Eastley (2), Peter Prager, Robert Vaux, Jenny Harris, Jeremy Reid, Jackie Campbell, Alec Seccombe, Tim & Pam Williams, John Forrest. To join the wine club, contact Mary Batstone on 07967 604681 or email marybatstone@gmail.com

NORTON JUBILEE GARDEN SUMMER PARTY

No ticket for Glastonbury? Then come to the **Jubilee Garden on Saturday 29th June, 5 to 9 pm**. No entry charge, but please give generously to the Yeovil Ukulele Band who are raising money for the charity Mind. Wine, beer and soft drinks at a donation bar, proceeds to Norton Shop. Paella on sale, traditional and veggie, cooked by our famous chef, Mark, all the way from our own Lord Nelson. Amazing raffle proceeds to the upkeep of our lovely garden, and

possibly a swing ball game for everyone. Stalls available: £10 per table, £5 for a charity. Enquiries to Lynn Orchard on 01935 882 602. Good news: the Table Tennis is now reinstated for the Summer. If you have some table tennis bats and perhaps a new net and would like to donate these to the garden, it would be very much appreciated.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at the Memorial Hall, Stoke, TA14 6PZ. 7.15 for 7.30 pm This month's speaker is Dennis Balsdon introducing the fearsome and intricate nature of carnivorous plants. Specimens will be on view! Free refreshments stall (bring or buy) for home grown plants/produce; monthly raffle. All welcome! £3 visitor fee, refundable if you join the Club.

STOKE SUB HAMDON VILLAGE ARTISTS

The very talented artist Mike Jackson (somerstartist.com) will be showing us his superb watercolour technique at our next workshop at the Memorial Hall on the **9th June, 10.00 am until 3.00 pm**. Do come along for a very enjoyable and informative day! Are you interested in art? Do you like drawing, colour, painting? How about joining a friendly group of local artists and developing your talent. We meet at **Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time**. Please contact Andrew 823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com Facebook: Stoke sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

GUARDIANS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Our next event will be The Dart Valley Stompers concert on **Thursday 16th May at All Saints Church, Martock, TA12 6JN. Starts 7:30 pm** The Dart Valley Stompers play lively and exciting Traditional & New Orleans jazz, and features award-winning reed player Jeremy Huggett on clarinet, saxophones and vocals. Admission fee/tickets £10.00 at Guardianstickets@gmail.com; phone 07547 213992; Martock Gallery; Martock Newsagent (cash only); £12.00 at the door. See martock.org.uk/events_dartvalleystompers.co.uk

MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH Sunday 26th May, 3.15 pm in All Saints Church, Merriott.

A concert in aid of refugees to which all will be welcome. Talented musicians, sitar player Ricky Romain, folk band The Muddlers, and folk duo Mitchell and Vincent will perform for our enjoyment. All funds raised will go to refugee charities. The cost, at the door only, will be £10 per person, cash only; children free. Tea and

cakes available for a donation. Please make a note of the date and look out for posters. May I remind everyone that Raft will be requesting more lightweight clothing and footwear from May, but waterproof outdoor clothing will be still be necessary. Many thanks for all your support. Geraldine Downey 01460 271358 Refugee Support Group.

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

- Friday 3 May – Monday 6 May** The Norton Festival Fiesta, Early May Bank Holiday
Thursday 9 May Norton Boules, Minchington Rec 7 pm
Monday 13 May Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30 pm
Monday 13 May Parish Council meeting, Committee Room, Village Hall, 7.10 pm
Tuesday 14 May Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street 10.10 am
Tuesday 21 May Ladies Group, Reading Room 7.30 pm
Wednesday 22 May Village Coffee Morning, Jubilee Nature Garden 10.45 am
Saturday 29 June Jubilee Garden Summer Party, 5–9 pm
Friday 5 July Royal Historical Society talk on 'Four Royal Invitations', Norton Village Hall
Friday 20 September Annual Pulman talk in Church of St Mary, Norton sub Hamdon

NEWCOMERS TO OUR VILLAGE If you know of anyone who has moved to Norton, please ask for their details and contact the editors so that we can welcome them to our village.

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