

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.**

Copies of all Newsletters can be found at nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/village-newsletter.

Due to increased printing costs as a guide, please try to limit entries to between 150 and 180 words.

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the Reading Room on **Monday 10th and 24th June between 1.30 and 3.30pm** 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 – no special skills required! You are welcome to just pop in and say hello and see what we are all making. £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tricia 882646.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT MAY 2024 Planning:

The clerk reported that one previous planning application had now been approved:
Ref. No 23/03144/HOU - Construction of a new Garden Room/Home Office in the Southeast corner of the existing main property (Norton House) curtilage. Norton House Great Street Norton Sub Hamdon

There was one application for the Parish Council to make their observations on Application Number: 24/00883/S73 - Hunters End, New Road, Norton Sub Hamdon Proposal: S73 Application to vary Condition 02 (Approved Drawings) to amend dimensions relating to planning consent number 21/03252/HOUDemolition of single storey side extensions and rear conservatory and the erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension, provision of enclosed porch. The Parish Council have no objection.

New Parish Councillor: The Parish Council were delighted to welcome Mrs Rachel Reid to the Parish Council at the May meeting. Rachel is a well-known and popular resident of Norton who we're sure, will add plenty to the Parish Council. We look forward to working with her.

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, she spoke about how 2023-24 had been very different, mainly due to the budgetary problems that have been experienced by Somerset Council. As a result, the Parish Council has had to budget to take on services generally covered by SC. Unfortunately, the PC has had little or no help with this budgeting process as we have received scant information as to which services we will have to cover. She spoke about how our precept had risen by substantially more than we would have liked ensuring that we have the funds to pay for essential services. Our policy has been to keep the residents of Norton aware of the reasons behind the rise in the precept and this has been appreciated by many villagers. She also touched on the introduction of the Somerset Council LCNs (Local Community Networks) which have proved very controversial, and we wait to see whether this form of local networking provides any benefits for the local communities. The Chair also spoke about how devastated we all were to receive the news that our much valued and much-loved colleague Prue Biddle passed away after a short illness. It is no exaggeration to say that most lives in Norton have been influenced by Prue in some way be it through the PC and the school, or through her support of HYG and for those in any sort of need. We have planted a beautiful apple tree in her memory and hope that in years to come her kindness and compassion are remembered. Finally, she gave a huge 'Thank You' to all the Parish Councillors who give up their time voluntarily. She welcomed Caroline Riley to the Parish Council, whose local knowledge is of huge importance and has already been useful to the Parish Council. We are all volunteers and give up our own time to ensure that Norton remains a great place to live. Cllr More also expressed her thanks to Austin Harding who along with Matt Orchard does an amazing job of looking after the village. Our Unitary Councillors Mike and Ollie have provided support for both the village and the PC, and we thank them for their time in what has been a difficult year for them.

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall** committee room.

Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB The Mobile Library will be in Chiselborough opposite the Village Hall on **Tuesday 11th June 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 882 620.

READING ROOM NEWS The windows are due to be replaced at the beginning of June, so they can now be open in time for summer! If you would like to hire the Reading Room for a meeting or private event, it is available most evenings and weekends. It has a fully equipped kitchen. The hire rate is £11.50 for 3 hours. Contact us at nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com. Tricia Walton

FUND RAISING EVENT FOR NORTON SHOP Fund-raising event for Norton Shop in the **Village Hall, Saturday 8th June.** Coffee Morning or Cream Tea? No decision yet, but everyone is invited to this event. We hope it will be as successful as the coffee morning last year. There will be stalls, a big raffle, and refreshments. So please look out for posters and more information closer to the date. We look forward to seeing lots of you there! If anyone would like to donate prizes for the Draw, or offer help in any way, please let me know. All proceeds to Norton Community Shop. Jennie Harris 881718

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. The Table Tennis is now reinstated for the Summer. Donations of table tennis bats and perhaps a new net, would be very much appreciated. Help is needed to erect Gazebos and fetch chairs from the Dovecote, please just turn up from 11am. Raffle prizes would be much appreciated, just drop them at Apple Lodge on the corner of Rectory Lane. Last but not least bring cash, not all stall holders have card machines, and there is no Wifi in the garden. Hopefully the sun will shine for us, as it did last year. Lynn Orchard. 01935 882 602.

LADIES GROUP At our meeting on 21st May we welcomed back to the village, Anne Thomas, who told us of the challenges she faced becoming an author. Since leaving our village Anne has had several books published and these are available in the shop. Our trip to Bridport has been postponed so if you wandering around towns and villages searching for clues to answer questions, then please contact Sue, the trip will take place

sometime in June. It will soon be party time again, and our July Pimm's Party will take place at the **Village Hall on Tuesday 16th July,** as usual we shall provide the Pimm's, and members and guests are invited to bring a plate of food to share. This will be open to members and non-members alike, if you would like further information and wish to join us for the event please contact Sue. Thanks to those of you who helped with the floral display in the church, I hope you all had a chance to visit, and liked our contribution. At our next meeting on **Tuesday 18th June 7.30 pm in Reading Room,** we shall participate in a writing workshop, led by Tamsin. Her last workshop was a great success; anyone who would like to join us for the evening will be very welcome. Non-members cost £3.00 including refreshments. Our full programme for 2024/25 can be viewed on the Reading Room Board. Enquiries Sue Lowder 88 805

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS The April coffee morning held at "Greenacres" was a huge success. Over 40 villagers attended and £400 was raised for the church; an incredible amount. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and a big, big thank you to Sue and Chris Westwood, who made us so welcome in their wonderful home and beautiful tulip garden. The May coffee morning will be reviewed in the next edition and the next coffee morning will be held in September, following a summer break. This will be arranged by a new team - more news anon. Sophie Hale 881521 and Sophie Snow 881099

CHURCH FLAGS The Union Flag will be flown from the Church Tower on Saturday 15th June for the Official Birthday of His Majesty King Charles III.

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES for June:
Sunday 2nd, 9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 9th, 9.30am Communion
Sunday 16th, 6pm Evensong
Wednesday 26th, 9am 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

FANTASTIC FIESTA Norton buzzed when Norton Festival held a Fiesta over the early May Bank Holiday Weekend which was planned as an Outreach Event to bring the community together and to promote both Community and Church. Visitors wandered around the village on an Owl Hunt, witnessed a spectacular Teddy Bear Jump from the church tower, enjoyed live music by Chris Denman, Jenny Hillman, Cilla and Bill Caswell, David Robins, Ken Sherring and the Norton School Choir. The Church was filled with an Exhibition of Hobbies and Floral Displays by groups and individuals, with Refreshments on hand throughout the weekend. Around one hundred people were reckoned to be involved. Church Bells were rung by local ringers and by the Guildford Cathedral

Ringers. A Community Praise on the Sunday, brought together the various groups and organisations, providing a platform for promoting village and church. Everything over the weekend was free with donations invited. Just under £1700 was donated.

ALL TEDDIES RECOVERED – ONWARDS TO FOUR ROYAL INVITATIONS Having rescued all Teddies after their brave leaps, including Teddy Tiger who did not want to leave his tree, the Friends of Norton Church look forward to our next event, Four Royal Invitations. The last time we were invaded was 1066. True? What about the times we felt obliged to invite a foreigner to act as our sovereign? Were these 'invasions'? Who was really in the driving seat? The FNC are delighted to welcome Dr Sheila Seymour to present her case that maybe, just maybe, we are kidding ourselves a bit... Want to find out more? Then come along to an enjoyable and amusing evening in **Norton Village Hall at 7:00pm for 7:30pm on Friday 5th July 2024**. Tickets at £7 available from Norton Shop and at the door. Cash, Wine and Soft Drinks bar available.

NORTON FIESTA. I love living in Norton and when we have a wonderful event like the Fiesta it seems like 'icing on the cake'. Huge thanks to Richard and Anna Terrell for masterminding the event and pulling together all the different aspects: the arts and crafts displays; the floral displays; (we have a lot of talented people in our village) and the sight of the brave Teddy Bears and other cuddly animals parachuting from the Church Tower in the very welcome sunshine. Just one participant, a cuddly tiger had to be rescued the next day from a tree but otherwise no casualties were taken to the First Aid Centre. Delicious homemade cakes and refreshments were served all day. An owl trail around the village, gave us a real learning lesson about the different types of owl. The Community Praise was when we heard about the many organisations in the village each one saying a few words and choosing an appropriate hymn. Finally, a great ambience was created by soothing music in the background punctuated by some brilliant live music and bell ringing by our local band and also by visiting ringers from Guildford Cathedral. So many people were involved in making this a success. Well done everyone! Janet Hutton

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB The draw results for this month were as follows: Robert Vaux (2), James Pond, Jill Berrington Karen Eastley, Lindsay Elliott, Heather Hawkins, Jeremy Reid, Tim & Pam Williams, Niall Clifford. To join the wine club, contact Mary Batstone on 07967 604681 or email marybatstone@gmail.com

NORTON TOWER DAY 27th July. Did you know that in July 1894 Church Tower was struck by lightning which caused a devastating fire and the

bells to crash to the floor of the Vestry. Amazingly the local residents raised enough money to rebuild the tower and replace the bells in just one year. Since then, there has been a regular celebration of this accomplishment in July, known as Norton Tower Day! This year we would like to open the tower to visitors to come and climb our 69 steps and see the bells as well as witness bellringing and even have a go. The order of the day is:

10am -11am The tower is open for visitors. Tea, coffee and cake as well! **11am -12pm** Open Ringing **12pm** Short service to celebrate our bells. Adjourn to The Nelson for traditional refreshment. Everyone welcome for coffee and cake. Climbing the tower not obligatory. Nic Boyd

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

HYG are sad to announce that as from June, it will be necessary to reduce the number of weekly sessions in Stoke from four a month to just one as a result of the reduction in its annual grant from Stoke Parish Council this year. Stoke PC and Norton PC have supported HYG since we started 13 years ago; we do not know the reason for the reduction. Norton PC continues to support us.

From 5th June 2024 there will be one session a week on the first, second and fourth Wednesday in Norton Village Hall. The third Wednesday will be in the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre in Stoke. We have also lost our Youth Worker, Lou Chant, after 12 years. Lou has been a great supporter of HYG and part of the lives of many young people. She will be hugely missed. Youth Workers are in short supply and until a replacement is found, we ask for your understanding if some sessions or venues need to be cancelled. HYG is a volunteer led charity and has to raise around £18,000 pa to cover fixed costs, mainly for a professional Youth Worker and some Support Workers. They run the weekly sessions, do outreach work at Stanchester School, and in the community for those with special needs, or who need a listening ear to improve mental health and wellbeing. If you as a parent or previous Youth Group member would like to help or volunteer, please contact John Bailey johnbailey19@googlemail.com

CHRISTMAS MARKET 23rd November 2024 in Norton Village Hall The West Chinnock Playgroup always ran a fabulous Christmas Fair in November. Sadly, the playgroup has now ceased but to fill the void we have started a new community venture (Norton Community Matters) and are running a Christmas Market on the above date. We realise that this is still a long way off but want to get the word out to all the crafters in our community that there is still going to be an amazing event. If anyone would like a stall, please contact Lindsay Elliott at Helloncm@outlook.com. We have set up Norton Community Matters as a means to fundraise for the village, to ensure that funds are available for a variety of groups and causes in our community. We are still in the early stages but will welcome all offers

of help and support! If you would like more information, please contact Anne Fairweather on e.fairweather1@btinternet.com.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB
Wednesday 26th June 2024 at the Memorial Hall,
Stoke, TA14 6PZ. 7.15 for 7.30 pm

This month's speaker is Deborah Harris, who will be talking about starting a small-scale flower farm from scratch, the planting year and what to grow, plus marketing and selling. She will demonstrate a hand-tied wrapped bouquet which will be donated to the raffle. Greetings cards and paintings of Deborah's garden and flowers will also be on sale. 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

Would you like to develop your artistic skills? Do you like drawing, colour, painting? How about joining a friendly group of local artists and developing your talent? The Village Artists Group is for you! We meet at **Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time.**

Don't miss our next workshop when local artist MIKE JACKSON will be showing us his superb watercolour technique at our next workshop at the Memorial Hall on the 9th June 10.00 until 3.00.

For more information on the group or workshop contact Andrew on (01935) 823691, SSTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com
Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

NEW ADVERTISEMENT

Adult dance classes. We have a super new adult dance/exercise class on **Monday evenings at Norton Village Hall**. A one-hour body tonic for toning, mobilising, posture, balance, energy and body confidence. Set to a wide variety of inspiring music and covering a range of dance styles, it's a guaranteed mood lifter! Classes run in six week blocks, with the next round starting on **10th June: 6–7pm** accessible to everyone. **7.10–8.10pm** suitable for those with some experience. Your first trial class is free; thereafter £8.50 pay-as-you-go, or £43 for 6 weeks. For more information, or to sign up, please contact me, Hannah Lefeuvre, on hlefeuvre@hotmail.co.uk or 07794 453329. Happy dancing!

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

- Saturday 8 June** fundraising event for Norton Shop, Norton Village Hall
- Monday 10 June** Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30 pm
- Monday 10 June** Parish Council meeting, Committee Room, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Tuesday 11 June** Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street 10.10 am
- Tuesday 16 June** Ladies Group, Reading Room 7.30 pm
- Monday 24 June** Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30 pm
- Saturday 29 June** Jubilee Garden Summer Party, 5–9 pm
- Friday 5 July** Royal Historical Society talk on 'Four Royal Invitations', Norton Village Hall
- Tuesday 16 July**, Ladies Group Party Norton Village Hall
- Saturday 27 July** Norton Tower Day in Church of St Mary, Norton Sub Hamdon
- Saturday 17 August** Norton and Chiselborough Flower Show
- Friday 20 September** Annual Pulman talk Norton sub Hamdon
- Saturday 23 November** Christmas Market in Norton Village Hall

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.

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 Aalsey 07778 117705.
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