

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>

NEWSLETTER AGM REPORT AGM 20th

NOVEMBER. The Norton Newsletter is pleased to report the following committee members were re-elected: Chairperson Daphne Bishop, Acting Secretary Janet Hutton, Treasurer Pamela Rastall and Editors Chrissie Way and Rowena Alsey. Jennie Harris and Anne Fairweather both stood down during the course of the year and the committee thanks them for their tireless contributions over many years. However, we are now greatly in need of some extra help to run our village newsletter effectively. We meet just 4 times a year, please consider joining us. The Treasurer reported that generous donations over the past year means we do not need to increase costs for adverts, but we do still depend on donations and hope they continue so that we can meet printing costs without dipping into reserves. We are pleased to report that the Newsletter in its current form can continue for another year.

A formal request was submitted to update the Newsletter's Constitution, and this was accepted. The editors reported that delivery and distribution of the Newsletter is taking longer, often not arriving on our doorsteps until 1st or 2nd of the following month. It was agreed therefore to change the deadline for receipt of items to 18th of the month and to be stricter with the deadline.

Due to limited space the committee agreed that items for sale should be placed on the shop noticeboard, rather than in the Newsletter and it is requested that contributors consider the length of items.

Chrissie Way and Rowena

Alsey nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT DECEMBER 2024

PLANNING: The Parish Council had one planning application to consult on this month. Application Number: 24/02638/HOU Location: Higher Barn Higher Street Norton Sub Hamdon TA14 6SN Proposal: Installation of new painted hardwood timber-framed window to allow natural light into existing kitchen. The Parish Council had no objections to this planning application.

DISPOSAL OF FOOD WASTE We've received reports of some people throwing food waste in hedges rather than using the brown food bins that are provided by Somerset Council and emptied weekly. By throwing food waste into hedges and on verges you are attracting rats and other vermin. **PLEASE STOP!** Food waste must go into the food bins please. If you need a new bin then use this link: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/order-replacement-bins-and-recycling-containers>

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A LOCKABLE STORE – COULD YOU HELP?

Does anyone have or know of a lockable store (barn or garage would be ideal) that the Parish Council could rent, to store some equipment for the village? It needs to be in Norton or Little Norton as we need regular access to it. It would only be for a short-term rent. Some of the items we need to store are 6-7ft in length. If you could help, please contact the clerk on 881882 or email: nortonpcclerk@outlook.com. Many thanks.

BUDGET TIME: We are still working through the budget for 2025–26. As you can imagine, with rising costs and more and more services being passed onto the Parish Council to fund, it is not an easy job to prepare a budget and set a precept, especially as we are still working from estimated costs for many services! It is important to build up some reserves. The money that we have not used for services from the current financial year will be ring-fenced and go into a high interest account. It will be drawn down as and when required to cover costs of services as we need them. As mentioned in the last parish council article, we are committed to the transfer of ownership of Minchington rec from Somerset Council and we feel strongly about securing the land for the future. The current state of Minchington rec is pretty awful. I have asked for the play equipment and matting to be jet cleaned as it is very slippery. The grass is long and the whole area is completely unkempt. Thankfully,

after months of Somerset Council contesting that they owned the boundary wall, they finally admitted it and it is now being repaired. We look forward to having it under our care and getting it up to the same standard as the main rec. Taking on a second rec (plus the legal costs to do so) comes at a price, and this must be incorporated into the budget and precept. We also need to budget for new play equipment and future wall repairs for Minchington – both funds for these items get ring-fenced each year until required. The precept is going to have to rise to cover all these extra costs. The budget doesn't need to be signed off and precept agreed until January, so both will be set at the January meeting. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 13th January at 7.30pm in the village hall committee room**. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council)
nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be back in the Reading Room on **Mondays 6th and 20th January between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. Maybe you have received a craft gift for Xmas? Why not come along and join us for a couple of hours of friendly chat whilst you work on your new project? £2.00 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 7th January** from 9.30–10am, and in **Higher Street, Norton** from **10.10–10.35am**. The book club will meet on the same day. Anne Fairweather 882 620

NORTON COMMUNITY MATTERS Christmas spirit was flowing freely at the Christmas Fair on 23rd November last year, despite the rain and wind. There were lots of amazing stalls with a wide variety of goods to tempt visitors. The aroma of mulled wine and mince pies added to the festive ambience while outside, Bagnell Farm were serving up tasty turkey and roast beef rolls. Special thanks must go to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle which raised a whopping £504. Thanks to your generosity we made a profit of £853.81 in total. We have already purchased and installed a defibrillator. Please let us know if you have any ideas for things that you feel our community needs. In the meantime, Merry

Christmas and see you next year! Anne Fairweather

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

The fabulous Christmas starter event at The Hollies raised a very generous £338! A superb group of kitchen, raffle and sales elves helped to run a grand event in a beautifully Christmas-decorated home. We also said thank you and goodbye to Rev Nick as it was his last coffee morning as our vicar. There is no event in December but the next coffee morning is at John and Elizabeth Forrest's home, **Manor Cottage, Great Street on Wednesday 22nd January**. In the meantime, Happy Christmas! Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

JUBILEE GARDENS Sunday 26th January 2025 Quiz Night, 7.45pm at the Lord Nelson to raise money for the upkeep of the Garden. Help in the garden in the Spring would be much appreciated. Any donations for the raffle very welcome. Many thanks Lynn Orchard

PINT-SIZED PLAYS – the results! The shows in the Lord Nelson and Chiselborough Village Hall in October raised £1,208 for Norton Community Matters and £611 for Chiselborough Hall. A brilliant result! Thank you for being such supportive and generous audiences. The team (aka The Stage Frighteners) had a great time too. If you'd like to join us, please contact me on 07866 561 573. Lindsay Higgins

THE FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH (FNC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of Norton Church, established in 2005, is approaching its 20th anniversary. FNC continues to support St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council by raising funds for the preservation and repair of the fabric of the Grade 1 listed St Mary's church in Norton. FNC activities are managed by a small committee of volunteers who report on activities undertaken at the end of each year at the AGM. All those who share the aims of the FNC, and wish to support the church's ongoing maintenance, are welcome to attend. If you can spare some time to support the aims of the FNC, and perhaps join the Committee, then please do come along. **The next AGM covering 2024 will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 23rd January in the Reading Room**. Barry Eastley

NORTON MOVIE NITES Wishing our regular and occasional cineastes a very happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you again in the Lord Nelson skittle alley, starting on **Tuesday 11th February** (not January as the Nellie is closed early January), 11th March and 8th April. More details in the February Newsletter about future films for your entertainment.

THE READING ROOM COMMITTEE would like to wish everyone all the best for 2025. We shall be doing some minor maintenance at the beginning of the year which will be completed before Katy's Bakes is back open on **Tuesday 14th January**. If you would like to browse our selection of donated books, or are interested in hiring the room for an event, please contact us at nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com. Tricia Walton, Secretary.

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES for January:

Sunday 5th, 9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 12th, 9.30am Communion

Sunday 19th, 6pm Evensong

Wednesday 29th 9am Communion

Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and church notice boards.

NORMAL SERVICE: The Ham Hill Villages Churches begin an Interregnum (Vacancy) with the retirement of The Rector, The Reverend Nick Clarke, but plan to maintain 'Normal Services' as far as possible. For Norton, the Monthly Pattern of Services are: 1st Sunday 9.30am: Common Worship Morning Prayer with hymns; 2nd Sunday 9.30am: Common Worship sung Communion; 3rd Sunday 6pm: Evensong; 4th Wednesday 9am: Prayer Book Communion. The Parish Church looks forward to welcoming you.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE

CLUB The draw results for this month were: Tim & Pam Williams (2), Chris & Sue Westwood, Rowena Alsey, Ronan Walsh, Sophie Snow, Alexia Hill, Roger Moore, Kevin Boyd, Jeremy Reid. To join the wine club, contact Mary Batstone on 07967 604681 or email marybatstone@gmail.com

NORTON VILLAGE HALL – so much more than a venue for your events and weddings. Have a look at what we host weekly: an all-inclusive choir day, evening Pilates, a new morning yoga class, keep fit, and if you are interested in astronomy, why not come along

as a visitor to the CADAS monthly lecture. Not forgetting our younger residents, we have the Hamdon Youth Group on Wednesday evenings from 6.30–8–30. For more details, visit our website: nshvillagehall.co.uk or contact Sarah at enquire@nshvillage.co.uk.

CHISELBOROUGH CREATIVES Inspiring Workshops & Talks for All. Thanks to all from our villages for coming to the recent Christmas wreath workshops in Chiselborough Village Hall. We really appreciate your support. All proceeds go towards upgrading the hall.

UPCOMING DATES: Wednesday 15th

January. Talk: Pollinators, Predators and Parasites, 7 for 7.30pm. Photographs of wildlife in a Chiselborough garden. Tickets £7 including a glass of wine, from Norton Shop.

****Extra workshop** Friday 31st January 1.30–4.30pm Fermented Foods.** Places are being filled quickly. Cost £25 including refreshments.

Wednesday 26th February 2–5pm

Workshop: Make a Willow Spring Basket.

Talented Carol Cook will show us how to make a beautiful spring willow basket and fill it with seasonal bulbs and plants. All materials provided. Bring your own secateurs. Cost £30 including refreshments. **No Dig Gardening**

Tuesday 4th March, 7pm for a 7.30pm Talk by Lara Honnor, founder of @skoolbeanz and former colleague of No Dig guru Charles Dowding. Tickets £7 including a glass of wine, from Norton Shop.

Interested in coming to a workshop? Just book in advance by emailing: debwring@btinternet.com

VIVALDI CONCERT Come and join us in **Norton Village Hall on Friday 24th January** to enjoy a wonderful evening of classical music. Principals from Bristol Ensemble, Bristol's own professional ensemble, will perform music themed by the seasons, culminating in a full performance of the magnificent Four Seasons by Vivaldi, all by candlelight! Adult tickets are £25, with student tickets at £10. Children aged 12 and under can attend for free and are extremely welcome. View Bristol Ensemble's website at www.bristolensemble.com. A bar and refreshments will be available during the interval. Please let us know through 'Contact Us' if you have special access requirements, a guide dog or if you will be accompanied by a carer. Presented by Breathe Music. www.breathe-music.co.uk

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB**Wednesday 22nd January, 7.15 for 7.30pm.**

Micky Little, former nurseryman at Kelways, Hestercombe and Avon Bulbs, presents an illustrated talk on The Fair Maids of February. Do come and hear all about everybody's favourite herald of spring – the snowdrop. Free refreshments, plant sales, raffle. Visitors very welcome – £3. The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon.

STOKE SUB HAMDON VILLAGE ARTISTS

Why not make your New Year's resolution joining the Village Art Group? Our Spring term starts on Tuesday 7 January. We are a very friendly group of local artists at all levels of talent with a keen interest in many forms of art including painting and drawing. 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. First visit FREE! Please contact Andrew 01935 823691
SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com
Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday 6 January Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30pm

Tuesday 7 January Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street 10.10am

Monday 13 January Parish Council Meeting Room, Village Hall 7.30pm

Monday 20 January Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30pm

Wednesday 22 January Village Coffee Morning, Manor Cottage, Great Street 10.45am

Thursday 23 January Friends of Norton Church AGM Reading Room 7.30pm

Sunday 26 January Quiz Night for Jubilee Gardens Lord Nelson 7.45pm

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 Alsey 07778 117705.
nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com

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