

**** DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS 18th of the month ****

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>

START OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME. Please remember that the clocks go forward by one hour at 1.00am on Sunday, 30th March.

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Monday 3rd and 24th March between 1.30 and 3.30pm.** Why not come along and join us for a couple of hours of friendly chat while you work on your new project? We are hoping to provide an Easter display next month so if you would like to contribute, please come along. £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 4th March from 9.30–10am, and in Higher Street, Norton from 10.10–10.35am.** The book club meets the same day.
Anne Fairweather 882620

HAMSTONE LIVE presents Elvis in Blue Hawaii.

Touring company Spitz & Co (Susie Donkin – writer/performer/author, Bearded Ladies and Horrible Histories – and Joe Reeve – writer/performer/Elvis impersonator) perform this enthralling show which has captivated audiences all over the UK. Musical comedy about an Elvis impersonator, starring in his version of Blue Hawaii, and his tour manager who tries to keep the show on the road. A musical comedy which will leave you all shook up. So, dig out your best Hawaiian shirt and escape to Paradise!

Reviews: 'We didn't know what to expect, but WOW – we didn't expect such a treat! What a wonderful, uplifting, hilarious show, with terrific singing too! It was such a special evening. They are so talented, and the humour was so warm and zany! I absolutely loved it! Thankyou!' 'Completely bonkers! Superb!'

Norton Village Hall, Friday 7th March. Tickets £12 from Norton Shop or online at Takeart.org. Show starts **7.30pm**, bar from 7pm.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT February 2025

Planning: There were no updates from Somerset Council on previous planning applications.

The Parish Council had 1 application to consider:

Application Number: 25/00197/HOU - 12 Barn

Orchard New Road Norton Sub Hamdon

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. Proposed loft conversion. The Parish Council had no objections.

S137 Grant: This year, the S137 grant had been increased to £1000.00. The Parish Council received three local applications. After much consideration the grant was split: £500.00 to CLT Village shop (new shop counter), £300.00 to Hamdon Youth Group (gardening equipment) and Norton Newsletter £200.00 (contribution towards the monthly printing costs). The Parish Council were very happy to support all three deserving groups.

Footpath by the allotments through to Bagnell

Farm Lane: THIS FOOTPATH HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CLOSED BY THE RIGHTS OF WAY TEAM AT SOMERSET COUNCIL. IT IS UNSAFE TO USE. PLEASE STOP REMOVING THE BLOCKADE AND RIPPING DOWN THE SIGNS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE. This has been closed for your own safety as the footpath has been affected with SEVERE subsidence on the path. If you use it and have an accident Somerset Council will not be liable. The Parish Council and the Rights of Way Officer had a site meeting in February to discuss options to get the path opened as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the whole area along that part of the path has been left unsafe, and to stabilise the bank and carry out the required remedial work would cost thousands – money Somerset Council do not have. However, we think we may have come up with a solution which will enable the path to be re-opened. The Rights of Way Officer is working with the Parish Council and hopefully I will be able to update you further next month.

Potholes: Many potholes have appeared following the recent storms and cold weather. I have reported many! If you see a pothole, it is easy to report it yourself. The link is: www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/

Minchington Wall update: Somerset Council have finally agreed to repair the rest of the collapsed wall! (I won't celebrate until the last stone is in place!). Somerset Council and Hi-Line have already cleared the brambles and undergrowth from the base of the generator in the rec. Once the wall has been repaired, new chain-link fencing will be erected

around the area. Fingers crossed the wall repairs will soon be completed! **The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday 10th March at 7.30pm in the village hall committee room.** Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) nortonpcclerk@outlook.com

NORTON MOVIE NITES in the Lord Nelson skittle alley, Tuesday 11th March. Thelma, 12A, 98 minutes. Thelma Post, a 93-year-old grandmother, loses \$10,000 to a con artist. With help from a friend and his motorised scooter, she rallies forth across Los Angeles to reclaim her money. A highly entertaining and funny film. **Plus:** we hope to show a short film compiled from footage of the first Norton Show Safari held in 2021. Tickets £5 cash from Norton Shop. Doors open 7.45, film starts 8pm.

NORTON BOULES AGM will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 12th March in the Lord Nelson. All are welcome, although only members may vote. We will share our plans for more of the informal matches we had last year and re-starting the Thursday evening Club nights. Jonathon Naughton

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH St Mary's Church, Norton, Friday 14th March. Dr John Ashton will present his illustrated talk, 'A History of Smallpox Vaccination and Benjamin Jesty, the Yetminster Farmer'. What do you know of smallpox and the discovery of vaccination, its effect on fashion and notable local people? Were you told Jenner discovered the vaccine, or could it be a Dorset farmer who missed out on all the acclaim – possibly? If you'd like to know more, then you'll enjoy this talk. **Doors open 7:00 for 7:30pm.** Tickets £5 on sale in Norton Shop and on the door on the night.

PUB QUIZ Sunday 16th March: 7.30 in The Lord Nelson on behalf of ARK. Money raised will help ARK provide their therapeutic services to those in the community who need help; from children to ex services, to those who need a friendly face and a meal. Book or join a table of up to six. £5 on night plus Raffle! Quiz hosted by Jonathan Naughton.

LADIES GROUP We welcomed the New Year in January enjoying a delicious lunch at The Cat Head. Our February meeting included a photographic presentation with Simon Spurway which will be reviewed in the April Newsletter. Please note a change to the time and day for the Ladies Group meetings. From Monday March 17th our meetings will be held on the third Monday afternoon of the month from 2–4pm. Looking for something to do on a Monday afternoon? Talks, walks, theatre, boules, bowling, garden visits, socials and much more. Come along to our **AGM on Monday 17th March, 2pm in the Reading Room.** We shall review our meetings and outings of last season and reveal our new programme for 25/26. We hope to hold a raffle to help boost funds, so contributions will be much

appreciated. There will also be a team quiz, and tea/biscuits will be served as usual. Full annual membership of £12.50 will be collected at the AGM or at our meeting in April. Monthly subs are £2.00 per meeting including AGM, non members £3.00 incl tea/biscuits. Don't sit at home, come and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome. Enquiries Sue 881805

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING The January coffee morning at the home of John and Elizabeth Forrest was very popular and their lovely house was packed! A generous £281 was raised to support Norton church. Thank you to all who came along and purchased raffle tickets, bought items from the tabletop sale or made donations. The February coffee morning at Peter and Marilyn Willsher's will be reviewed in the April Newsletter. The next coffee morning on **Wednesday 26th March will be hosted by Mike and Pam Rastall at Rendells in Little Street.** The theme for the tabletop sale will be Spring and Easter, but we welcome any suitable items for sale to raise valuable funds! Newcomers are always welcome – if you contact me, I will look out for you. Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

READING ROOM NEWS We have plenty of donated books for sale, both fiction (adult and children) and non-fiction (gardening, cookery and hobbies, to name but a few). Feel free to drop in while Katy's Tea Rooms is open (Tuesday to Friday 10.00am–4.00pm), otherwise on alternate Thursdays from 4.30–6pm and have a cup of tea or coffee while you're looking. If you would like to browse our selection of books at other times or are interested in hiring the room for an event (it is available most evenings and weekends), please contact us at nortonrr.bookings@gmail.com or on 07436 518548. The room has a fully equipped kitchen, space for 20+ people, access to wi-fi and use of a portable projector. Basic help with mobile phones or iPads continues to be offered – in March only on Thursday 6th, but one-to-one help can be booked anytime using the email address or the telephone number above.

SPRINGTIME REFURBISHMENT IN NORTON SHOP After many years of service, the old till and scales have been replaced with a sparkling new system. This is a great improvement for customers who will see each item as it's rung up, with the final amount displayed on the customer-facing till screen. Future improvements will include refurbishing the front counter. This is all helped tremendously by your continued custom and kind donations, both greatly appreciated.

JUBILEE GARDEN I would like to thank the generous kind folk who donated bird food for the garden. The birds were so hungry in this cold wet weather. They find it hard to find their own food, even though we live in a country area. Another beautiful glass picture has been placed in the

garden, best seen when the sun rises. We have some very clever, talented people in our village. The days are getting longer and hopefully warmer, soon the time will come to help tidy the garden. Just half an hour or so can make a difference and is much appreciated. Thank you to those that help. **Our third Summer Garden Party will take place on Saturday 28th June** so save the date and tell your friends. Lynn Orchard.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY The Lord's Larder would like to thank the people of Norton for generously supporting both The Lord's Larder and Norton Shop. The shop has a regularly updated list of required items. Some people prefer to donate cash via the shop instead of buying items themselves. The shop then provides the Church with the items that are needed. The Parish Church provides a regular collection service for these donations, which volunteers deliver to Yeovil where hundreds of families are helped. In this way, both The Lord's Larder and Norton Shop are supported. Your involvement, interest and generosity are greatly appreciated.

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES for March
Sunday 2nd 9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 9th, 9.30am Communion
Sunday 16th, 6pm Evensong
Wednesday 26th 9am Communion
Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and church notice boards.

L.O.G.'s CLUB (lonely old gentlemen) is up and running on the last Thursday of the month at 11.30am in the Lord Nelson. All welcome. Brian Frosdick

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK CONCERT St Mary's Church, Norton Sub Hamdon, Saturday 12th April 7pm. The Friends of Norton Church invite you to enjoy an evening of music selected for Holy Week, including a performance of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. Local performers include solos from Jenny Hillman and Ros Weber, and group performances from Venite Voices and Mosaica under the direction of Jenny Broom and Jonathan Delbridge, who will also accompany the evening. Tickets at £10 are on sale from Norton Shop or on the door. All proceeds will be used to maintain Norton Church.

NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW
The Spring Plant Sale and craft market will take place on Saturday 26th April at Norton village hall from 11.00am to 3.00pm. All plant donations will be gratefully received and can be delivered to the hall between 5–6pm on Friday 25th April or from 8.30am on the Saturday morning. **Future date: Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show, Saturday 16th August.**

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB
The draw results for this month were: Rowena Alsey, Niall Clifford, Alec Seccombe, Jane Ashdown, Nick Hale, Heather Hawkins, Tim Williams, Jill Berrington, James Pond, Jackie Campbell, Simon Bradley. To join the wine club, contact Simon Bradley simonbradley@gmail.com

CHISELBOROUGH CREATIVES: Inspiring Workshops & Talks for All. We still have spaces on these upcoming workshops in Chiselborough Village Hall. **Saturday 10th May 10am–1pm Make a Willow Obelisk for your Garden.** Craft your own 5ft willow obelisk with Warren. All materials and tools provided. Cost: £25. **Thursday 5th June 1.30–4pm Happy Floral Watercolours.** Learn to use liquid watercolours with tutor Natasha Eveleigh and you'll take away two colourful pieces of art. Suitable for beginners and improvers. Cost £35. **Friday 11th July 6.30–9pm How to paint furniture with chalk paint:** A beginner's guide. Learn and try out painting skills for furniture upcycling projects. All materials provided. Cost £25. All workshops include refreshments. Interested in coming? Just book in advance by emailing debwring@btinternet.com. **Tuesday 4th March, 7pm for 7.30 start: No Dig Gardening,** a talk by Lara Honnor. Lara will share photos and stories of the interesting places where she has worked, including with acclaimed No Dig market gardener Charles Dowding, as well as her award winning local School Beanz garden as seen on BBC Gardeners World. Tickets in advance from Kate, Helen or Deb, or Norton Shop. Cost: £7 includes a glass of wine

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB
Wednesday 26th March 2025 David Usher's professional life was devoted to gardening; studying horticulture at Cannington College, he later spent some 21 years at Hestercombe. As Head Gardener he supervised the restoration of the historic and beautiful Lutyens/Jekyll Gardens and will share the ups and downs of this daunting task with us. We look forward to seeing you! Free refreshments; plant sales; raffle. Visitors very welcome £3. Doors open 7.15 for 7.30pm. **The Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon**

SUB HAMDON VILLAGE ARTISTS Spring is nearly here with lots of artistic inspiration – why not give us a try? We meet at **Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30–9:30pm and Friday mornings 10am–12 noon during school term time.** First visit FREE! Please contact Andrew on 01935 823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group. **The date of our much-anticipated drawing workshop with Jonathan Hodgson has been changed to Saturday 15th March.** Don't miss it!! <https://www.facebook.com/jonhodgsonart/>

**MARTOCK CHURCH CONCERTS Thursday 27th
March at 7.30pm. Somerset Opera perform
Gilbert & Sullivan's HMS Pinafore.** Martock
Church TA12 6JL. Tickets £12 or £10 at
Guardianstickets@gmail.com

07547 213992 / Martock Gallery / Martock
Newsagent / www.martockonline.co.uk/events;
www.somersetopera.org.uk/
David MacLean, Martock Church Guardians

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday 3 March Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30-3.30pm
Tuesday 4 March Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street 10.10am
Thursday 6 March Reading Room Internet Café 4.30-6pm
Friday 7 March Parnham Voices Concert Norton-sub-Hamdon Church 7pm
Monday 10 March Parish Council Meeting village hall committee room 7.30pm.
Tuesday 11 March Norton Movie Nites 'Thelma' Lord Nelson 7.45pm
Wednesday 12 March Norton Boules AGM Lord Nelson 6.30pm
Friday 14 March History of Smallpox Vaccination Norton Church 7pm for 7:30pm
Sunday 16 March Pub Quiz in aid of ARK, Merriot, Lord Nelson 7.30pm
Monday 17 March Ladies Group AGM, Reading Room 2pm
Monday 24 March Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30-3.30pm
Wednesday 26 March Coffee morning, Rendells, Little Street 10.45am
Saturday 12 April Holy Week Concert Norton Church 7pm
Saturday 26 April Spring plant sale and craft market Village Hall, 11am-3pm
Saturday 28 June Jubilee Gardens Summer Party
Saturday 16 August Norton and Chiselborough Flower Show

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.
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