

**** DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS 18th of the month ** Please submit your items by this date.**

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>

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB

The Mobile Library will be in Chiselborough opposite the Village Hall on **Tuesday 3rd June from 9.30–10am, and in Higher Street, Norton from 10.10–10.35am**. The book club meets the same day. Anne Fairweather 882620

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING The Parish Council's Annual Meeting took place before the monthly May meeting. The election of officers and representatives took place. Councillor More was made Chairman for another year. In her Chair report, she spoke about how frustrating the past year had been, trying to get answers and clarity on the future of services from Somerset Council. She explained that Somerset Council had seen a massive redundancy programme implemented in an attempt to balance their budget and to save money. This has led to a huge amount of frustration for Parish Councils, as contacting the correct officer to deal with issues has been difficult due to numerous personnel changes and a lack of communication. A consequence of Somerset Council's budgetary constraints was an increase in our precept to enable us to cover services that we as a Parish Council will have to pay and be responsible for in the future, much of which we are still in the dark about. This coming year is going to be very much one of finding our feet regarding services and moving forwards.

The Chair explained how, after many hours of calls, site visits, legal wranglings, and with many people involved, we finally saw repairs carried out to the Somerset Council-owned wall in Minchington Recreation ground. The PC is still planning for Minchington Rec to be devolved to us. Currently

the lack of maintenance of both the grass, which Somerset Council said they would cut only once a month, and the play equipment has meant numerous complaints have been made to us regarding the condition of the Rec. The Chair reiterated that the PC are pushing hard to get the process of devolution started.

The Chair discussed the need to raise the precept again for this coming year. It is the PC's policy to be as open as possible with the residents of Norton as to how, when and why monies are spent within the Parish, and although most households received a significant rise in their bills, residents have been very understanding as to why this has happened. As a council we are very lucky to receive such support from our residents.

The increase in the precept has also meant that we can continue to support Hamdon Youth Group and to increase our Section 137 payments to local groups such as Norton Newsletter and Norton Shop, as well as covering other costs such as the maintenance of the Church clock.

Both the Chair and the Clerk attended LCN meetings last year (Local Community Networks, introduced and run by Somerset Council), but both thought it an unproductive forum which was a complete waste of their time attending. This year we have seen a group of local clerks set up their own forum to enable communications and workings between the parishes to become both easy and desirable. This has also led to more local parishes attempting to work together to share ideas, resources and information.

It has been a pleasure as always to work with all the Parish Councillors. It is one big team effort to make sure Norton remains the beautiful village it is. Cllr More also expressed her thanks to others, in particular Matt Orchard for his help on numerous occasions with emergency flooding, tree issues, and maintaining public areas to a very high standard. Austin Harding continues to give his time helping us with footpath issues; John, our unofficial litter picker, does a fantastic job keeping the village tidy, and Kath Crouch helps to manage the allotments. Thanks must also go to Bagnell Farm for keeping the roads clear and to Lindsay Elliott, our internal auditor, who makes sure all the financial transactions and reports are legal, accurate and ready for the external auditors.

In closing, the Chair thanked the Clerk who has probably had the most frustrating year of her entire PC career trying to get answers from Somerset Council! **The next monthly meeting is on MONDAY 9th JUNE at 7.30 pm in the village hall committee room.** Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council)

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be in the **Reading Room on Monday 9th and 23rd June between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us for a couple of hours of friendly chat while we work. No special skills needed. Maybe learn a new craft or pick up some ideas. £2.00 per session includes tea, coffee and biscuits. Tricia 882646

LADIES GROUP A Bluebell Walk followed by a pub lunch was enjoyed by many of our group, enhanced by lovely countryside views and glorious weather.

A small group attended 'Menopause the Musical', an amusing, naughty and light-hearted look at the woes of a group of friends as they grow older and get together on a cruise.

Our meeting on 19th May will be reported in the July Newsletter.

We are looking forward to Diana's presentation 'At Your Convenience' which promises to be an amusing look at toilets around the world.

On **Monday 16th June we have a talk** entitled Seven Sisters of Somerset – fascinating stories of seven women with Somerset connections whose notable achievements deserve to be better known. Our popular **Summer Party will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 17th July**; further details will be in next Newsletter.

Our meetings are held in the Reading Room on the 3rd Monday each month from 2.30–4.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Enquiries Sue Lowder 881805

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING The April coffee morning at the home of Caroline and Terry Riley was another great success and raised an amazing £216. Many thanks to them for hosting, and also to those who came along and purchased raffle tickets, bought items from the table top sale or made donations. There are no coffee mornings during the summer season, but they will resume in September. We are very lucky to have hosts for the autumn months but, thinking ahead, we are now looking for some venues for next year on Wednesdays 28th January, 25th February and 25th March. If you would be able to help please contact Debbie or me for more information. These events do not involve a lot of work for hosts – our team of helpers do all the serving of coffee and washing up! Thank you. Janet Hutton 881566 Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

JUBILEE GARDEN SUMMER PARTY Saturday 28th June, 5–9pm Our preparations for the summer party are coming along well with entertainment from the amazing Yeovil Ukulele Band and talented Dr Turberville Morris Dancers, great food from Bagnall Farm, delicious cakes by Angie, snacks & sweets by Katy and, of course, alcohol sold by Norton Shop. Please remember to bring a seat or picnic blanket. Everyone is welcome

– it's a great opportunity to socialise with friends both old and new! As well as the Norton Community Raffle and Name the Bear, Lynn Orchard, along with 'Auctioneer' Peter Callaghan, will be auctioning the two beautiful glass artworks displayed in the garden. Don't miss out on a chance to become the proud owner of Starry Starry Night or The Lovers, both stunning creations! Auction proceeds will go towards the Jubilee Garden. Lindsay Elliott

JUBILEE NATURE GARDEN OWLS Many thanks to all the generous people who kindly donated to the cost of the scaffolding which enabled Dave, a most talented chain saw artist, to create such a remarkable sculpture. Everyone is thrilled with the owls, and it was such a joy to watch Dave at work. Many people brought a picnic over the two days and enjoyed the sunshine. After the VE church service on the Sunday, Chris Stock came along with the congregation to the Garden to bless the owls. A tree which had grown for many years until it died has now been brought back to life. Let's hope it will stand proud for many more years. If you are interested in seeing other sculptures that Chris has done, take a look at his Instagram pages: www.instagram.com/treeworks.nl Lynn Orchard

NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW Saturday 16th August from 2.00 to 5.00 pm. The Plant Sale on 27th April was an enormous success. This was helped by Miles and Adrian Cudmore's generosity in donating so many gardening tools and accessories belonging to their late mother. We are very grateful to them, and we can feel blessed that we might now have a part of Penny in our gardens. Thank you to the Ladies Group, who once again worked very hard in the kitchen, and thank you to all those who donated cakes. Overall, we made a total profit of £1500.00. We are now looking forward to our annual Flower Show taking place on Saturday 16th August. It will start from the Nellie at 1.30pm with the procession led by Steve on his 'magic bike'. Don't forget there is a Quiz at the Nellie on **Sunday 22nd June at 8.00pm** in aid of the Air Ambulance who will have a stand at the Flower show. Please give generously to this very worthy cause. Please note: the Flower Show is organised by a very small committee. We would welcome volunteers who can help both on show day and with the preparations beforehand. Please contact Caroline Riley rileypeacehaven@icloud.com or Jane Shire janem11@hotmail.com

NORTON PANTO is looking for people to join its cast and crew. Our Bi-annual Pantomime has been a regular event since 2004 and provides the residents of Norton and beyond with great family entertainment – oh yes it does! We are an enthusiastic group of local people who would love

more locals to join us. We need both adults and children (11+ years) to tread the boards, as well as backstage crew. We rehearse every Sunday afternoon throughout January and February with three or four performances to the paying public in early March. No matter where your talents lie – acting, dancing, singing, or painting scenery, tech and lighting, making props and costumes or doing make up – we'd love to hear from you. If you are interested in joining us then please email Lindsayjelliott@hotmail.com by 30th June and please mention what area you would like to be involved in. Many thanks, Lindsay Elliott

CHURCH FLAGS The union flag will be flown from the church tower on **14th June** for the official birthday of His Majesty the King and the George Cross flag on **15th June** for Trinity Sunday.

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES for June
Sunday 1st, 9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th, Whit Sunday 9.30am Communion
Sunday 15th, 6pm evensong
Wednesday 25th, 9am Communion
Details of all services and information about the Benefice are on the website www.hamhillchurches.org and church notice boards.

JUNE CHURCH DIARY Bell ringing practice will take place on Tuesdays throughout June on 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th of the month.

NORTON SHOP Enjoy the summer with the freshest local strawberries picked less than two miles from the shop! Rodda's Cornish clotted cream is the perfect accompaniment. Crimson Gate Flowers are on sale, a beautiful treat for yourself or for others. Coming soon, more new local produce and some enticing wines.

TINKERS BUBBLE MIDSUMMER CIDER NIGHT
Join us on **Saturday 28th June from 3pm till late**, for an afternoon/evening celebrating the summer with music, craft and cake stalls, our delicious organic juice and cider, local beer, exciting seasonal hot food, a campfire and much more! All ages are welcome! Overnight camping in our orchards is available for a suggested donation of £3 per person. Please bring cash as our internet is poor and card payments may be unreliable. Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on leads to keep our livestock safe. Please be aware that the ground is uneven on site and that parking is a short walk away, either in Norton or Ham Hill country park. We encourage you to arrive by foot, bike or bus as much as possible! For more information contact Megan at mwilloughby29@hotmail.co.uk.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB

The June wine club winners are: Ronan Walsh, Emily Waters, Brian Frosdick, Chris Westwood, Mary Batston, Lindsay Elliot, Andrew Wiggins, Mike and Pam Rastall, Sue Lowder, Diane Waters.

STOKE SUB HAMDON VILLAGE ARTISTS

GROUP The wonders of nature in Spring and early Summer are giving our members considerable inspiration and creativity. In addition, our forthcoming workshop with fabulous watercolour artist Deborah Harris on Saturday 5th July is much anticipated – don't miss it! We meet at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 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.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MARTOCK CONCERT **Wessex Women Concert, Saturday 28th June.**

Martock Church; TA12 6JL, 7:30pm

Tickets: £12 or £10 at

Guardianstickets@gmail.com or 07547 213992, Gallery/ Martock Newsagent

Website: <http://www.martock.org.uk/events>; <https://wessex-women.uk/>

The concert includes Capella versions of folk songs, protest songs, blues, jazz, pop, gospel and a smattering of comic song. David MacLean, Martock Church Guardians

ARK AT EGWOOD Spring into Summer News!

We are absolutely delighted and incredibly proud to have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest recognition for volunteer groups in the UK! This award is a heartfelt tribute to our amazing team of volunteers whose dedication and kindness help make ARK the vibrant, welcoming place it is. We were also fortunate to be awarded the SBA – Somerset Small Business of the Year. Our Somerset Armed Forces Hub has been expanding, we've been busy growing and selling flowers (thank you Katy for selling them) and running a plethora of health and wellbeing courses. If you'd like to volunteer, or feel that you may benefit from our support, contact 01460 391974 or email office@arkategwood.com.

We host Tai Chi every Monday; fortnightly Tuesday Lunches in Merriott village hall; and Health Walks from ARK on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month for our local community.

During the summer we'll be hosting Supper Evenings; a dog show; and Glorious Gardens (joint fundraiser with St Margaret's Hospice). Please look out for posters, see our website or facebook page, www.arkategwood.com

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Tuesday 3 June Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street 10.10am
Monday 9 June Parish Council Meeting, Norton Village Hall committee room 7.30pm
Monday 9 June Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30pm–3.30pm
Monday 16 June Ladies Group, Reading Room 2.30pm–4.30pm
Sunday 22 June Quiz at Nellie in aid of Air Ambulance 7.45pm
Monday 23 June Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30pm–3.30pm
Saturday 28 June Jubilee Garden Summer Party, 5pm–9pm
Thursday 17 July Ladies Group Summer Party, Village Hall
Saturday 16 August Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show 2pm–5pm
Saturday 16 August After Flower Show Disco 7.45pm–11.45pm

**Please remember the DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS is the 18th of the month.
Items that arrive later than the deadline cause delays in getting the Newsletter printed
and therefore risk it being delivered to you late. Thank you.**

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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