

NEWSLETTER EMAIL

nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com

NORTON SHOP WEBSITE

<https://www.nortonshop.co.uk>

FESTIVAL WEBSITE <https://www.nortonfestival.org>

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

<https://nortonsubhamdon-pc.gov.uk>

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WEBSITE

<https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/friends-of-norton-church>

VILLAGE HALL WEBSITE <http://nshvillagehall.co.uk>

The NORTON NEWSLETTER AGM will be held on Wednesday 12th November in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. All welcome.

CHURCH FLAGS The George Cross will be flown from the Church Tower on 1st and 2nd November for All Saints Day. The Union Flag will be flown on 9th November for Remembrance Sunday, 11th November for Armistice Day and on 14th November for the birthday of His Majesty the King.

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES for November

Sunday 2nd, 9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 9th 10.50 Remembrance Service

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.

LEST WE FORGET. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9th

November is an occasion for personal remembrance. There may be loved ones to remember and events associated with the two World Wars as well as numerous other conflicts. Norton will be remembering them with a special **Service of Remembrance at 10.50am**. It is terrible to recall the horrendous things that happened and important not to forget. It is equally important to think of the present, especially the Royal British Legion which helps those victims and the role it plays in preventing conflict. The Service will include an Act of Commitment to become reconciled with one another. Taken to its ultimate end, reconciliation leads us beyond political and international relationships towards individual attitudes and responses. It challenges us to consider how we think of and react towards the people, lifestyles and societies which are different from our own. Fostering differences, and failing to understand them, leads to the conflicts arising now. That is surely something of which we should be aware, and something Remembrance Sunday tells us – 'Lest we forget.'

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2025

PLANNING: There were two amended planning applications to respond to this month.

Consultation on Amendments to Planning Application: 23/02859/OUT at The Stables Land Behind, Highwoods North Street - (Outline Application with some matters reserved except access for the construction of up to 5 no. dwellings, parking, landscaping, ecology areas and associated works utilising a modified existing highway access). Amended plans to alter plot 4 and submission of Flood risk Assessment as part of the site is within flood zone 2 and 3.

The Parish Council of Norton sub Hamdon had previously stated that they would **ONLY** support the application if a minimum of two bungalows were included instead of five houses (maintaining a maximum of five properties overall). This was to prevent loss of privacy for residents in Highwoods Close and to improve visibility at the site entrance. The amended plans, however, still show five houses and the Parish Council felt their conditions had not been considered.

The Council also reiterated their previous condition regarding the installation of a pavement to provide safe pedestrian access to the village amenities. The absence of a footpath between the proposed development and the village presents an unacceptable risk to pedestrians along North Street, where the national speed limit (60 mph) applies and a blind bend is located less than 100 feet from the proposed entrance. The Parish Council again felt that their conditions had not been properly considered. As the amended plans do not appear to address either of these key conditions, the Parish Council **OBJECT** to this planning application. The original comments from the Parish Council can be viewed on the Somerset Council planning website (search under the planning application no: 23/02859/OUT).

Consultation on Amendments to Planning

Application: 20/01915/FUL Erection of two dwelling houses at land to the west of Barn Orchard, New Road, Norton. This application has been amended and/or additional information has been submitted - Site Plan/Tree Survey/Ecological Survey & Drainage Strategy. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to respond to the Planning Department to confirm that their original comments still stand and that they **OBJECT** to this planning application. The Parish Council's original comments can be viewed on the Somerset Council planning website by searching under planning application number 20/01915/FUL.

Devolution of Assets: The transfer of the Minchington Recreation Field and Barn Orchard Green assets is progressing and is now with the solicitor representing the Parish Council. We will keep you updated and share any further information as soon as it becomes available. To clarify, the removal of the two children's swings was not the responsibility

of the Parish Council –this work was carried out by Somerset Council. Minchington Recreation Field is still currently owned by Somerset Council, and the Parish Council is actively pressing them to replace the two swings, as they were very popular with young families. It remains Somerset Council's responsibility to provide and maintain play equipment on their assets. Unfortunately, their current approach to damaged play equipment has been to remove items rather than repair or replace them, due to limited funding.

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 10th November at 7.30pm** in Norton village hall committee room. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council) clerk@nortonsubhamdon-pc.gov.uk

Allotments Available to Rent! Ever dreamed of growing your own vegetables but don't have enough space at home? Now's your chance! Three allotment plots have become available to rent at Greenham's Cross. The rent includes water, and you'll also get the opportunity to meet fellow gardening enthusiasts. It's a beautiful, peaceful spot, perfect for enjoying the satisfaction of growing your own produce. To find out more, contact Kath Crouch 07594 574150. Don't delay – allotments at Greenham's Cross don't become available often and they will go fast!

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the Reading Room on **Monday 10th and 24th November, 1.30–3.30pm**. Join us for a couple of fun hours crafting and chat. £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Call Tricia 882646 for more information.

NORTON MOVIE NITES at the Lord Nelson, Tuesday 11th November. We were unable to get The Ballad of Wallis Island until later this month. In its place is Black Bag, a suspenseful drama with cracking good dialogue, starring Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbinder, and directed by Steven Soderbergh. Tickets £5 cash only on sale in Norton Shop. Bring £1 for your chance to win the DVD! Doors open 7.45, film starts 8 pm.

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB The Mobile Library will be in Chiselborough opposite the village hall on **Tuesday 11th November** from 9.30–10.00am and in **Higher Street Norton from 10.10–10.35am**. The book club meets on the same day in the Reading Room.

NORTON LADIES GROUP Our speaker for October was Brian Wright who gave an illustrated talk on the Hidden Meaning of Nursery Rhymes, an interesting and informative presentation enjoyed by all. Our next meeting is on **Monday 17th November at 2.30pm** when we welcome Richard Kay, a very popular speaker, who will bring along some of his favourite artefacts for us to guess what they are. Visitors and new members are welcome to join us. Ten Pin Bowling is arranged for **Wednesday 19th November** when we start part one of the challenge for the much sought-after trophy for top scorer, while trying to avoid

the wooden spoon. I hope many of our members and readers will come along to the **Christmas Market on Saturday 22nd November**, 11am–3pm (see below). The Ladies Group **Christmas Party lunch will be held on Monday 8th December in Norton village hall** – always an enjoyable occasion, with friends and guests invited to attend. Please make sure your name is on the list if you wish to come along. More details in the December Newsletter. Sue Lowder 881805

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS Many thanks to Nic and Kevin Boyd for hosting the coffee morning in September when a grand total of £312 was made. Our next coffee morning will be at The Hollies, Higher Street, on **Wednesday 26th November at 10.45am** by kind invitation of Francesca and Ian Chignell. There will be a Christmas raffle, refreshments and a table top sale. Thinking ahead, we are looking for one venue for next year on Wednesday 25th March. If you would like to host this, please contact Debbie or Janet for more information. These events don't involve a lot of work for hosts – our team of helpers do all the serving of coffee and washing up! Thank you. Janet Hutton 01935 881566, Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

THE GREATEST ROBOT EVER HamstoneLive has invited Knotted Hawk Company to bring this **interactive dance theatre show to Norton School on Thursday 20th November**. Using projection, dance and storytelling, the children will interact with the performers in two daytime shows. The shows are sponsored by Denholm Industries for the schoolchildren from Norton and West Chinnock schools to attend for free. They will be learning a dance and designing their own robot character as part of this show. There will also be a workshop exploring resilience, friendship and well-being. Adults are not invited so you'll have to ask the children after the show to find out more. Lindsay Higgins for HamstoneLive.

NORTON COMMUNITY MATTERS Christmas Market, Saturday 22nd November, Norton Village Hall, from 11am to 3pm. Lovely items for sale in time for those Christmas presents. A fabulous Grand Raffle with 1st prize of a luxury Christmas Hamper, and many more amazing prizes. Bagnell Farm will be selling hot food, and tea and coffee will be available. Organised by Norton Community Matters raising funds for projects in the community. We would like to thank everyone who came to our recent Quiz in the Lord Nelson, also Helen and Mark for hosting it, and everyone who donated raffle prizes – all very much appreciated. We raised an amazing £430 which will go towards village projects (watch this space for updates). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and email: helloncm@outlook.com

NORTON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST Thank you to all those who came to the AGM in the village hall on 20th October and to everyone, near and far, who generously donate their spare change to the Norton shop collection box throughout the year.

THE READING ROOM Katy's Bakes at the Reading Room **closes On Friday 28th November**. Katy opened her new venture in March 2021 since when she has cleverly created and nurtured a thriving tea room in the heart of the village. As a keepsake for Katy to remind her of her time in Norton, we have put a book of thanks for friends and customers to sign in the Reading Room. Please pop in when the tea room is open during November to sign it. The Reading Room Committee and the village wish to thank Katy for her warmth, hard work and wonderful baking over the years, and wish her and Jack all the best for the future. With their baby due on Christmas Day, 2026 will be a very special year for them. And as one chapter closes, another one opens: Amy Andrews, born and raised in the village, will be opening **Amy's Tea Room on Tuesday 2nd December** and is really looking forward to meeting everyone. The Reading Room Committee wishes her great success with her new venture. More information will follow in the December Newsletter. And finally, please don't forget the **Reading Room's Pub Quiz on Sunday 23rd November, 8pm in the Lord Nelson**. The Question Master will be Mr Peter Callaghan. Donations of raffle prizes would be welcome and can be dropped off with Sophie Snow at Rocklands, on Little Street or contact Sophie 881099. To book a table please phone Helen at the pub 01935 881473.

JUBILEE GARDEN Many thanks to Miles and Adrian Cudmore for donating Penny's bench to the Jubilee Garden. I know how much she loved to go there when she was well enough and watch the birds feeding and look at the church in the sunshine. Thanks must also go to Peter and Steve for their work in refurbishing the bench and securing it in place. Please, please: can anyone spare half an hour or so to help sweep up the leaves before the rain makes them difficult to deal with? No doubt more leaves will fall, but not quite so many now there is one tree fewer than before – although we do have our beautiful owls. Thank you. Lynn Orchard.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB November winners are Charles and Sophie Campbell, Emily Waters, Jennie Byham, Mary Batstone, Jane Ashdown, Richard Raven, Peter Prager, Tim and Pam Williams, Karen Eastley, and Diane Waters. If you are interested in joining the Wine Club, contact Simon on 07943 971566 or email simonbradley@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS IS COMING Church of St Mary, Norton, Saturday 6th December, 7pm The Trinity Entertainers invite you to their fun concert of two halves; the first half is a musical mix of general songs, solos and poems; the second half is a seasonal themed collection with an opportunity to join in with some well-known Christmas tunes (not compulsory). Tickets £10 including a programme are on sale in Norton Shop. All proceeds will support the maintenance of the church fabric. The choir is already at practice and looks forward to performing and meeting you all on the night.

TREVOR HARRIS Beloved husband, Dad, Grandad, Brother, Uncle, Nephew, Cousin, Friend and a very special man. Trevor passed away after his long illness on Monday 13th October, with his close family by his side. We would like you to know that his celebration of life will be on **Tuesday 4th November, starting at 10.40am at Yeovil Crematorium**. Trevor had made the plans for this day, all written down. Everyone who knew Trev knew he was always up for a laugh, which will be reflected in the service (oh yes it will...!!!) He asked that it be as informal as possible, so just come as you are – whether you've been in the garden, decorating, cleaning windows, it doesn't matter – just get in the car and come to the Crem! No suits, no black, no flowers ("just a family arrangement on the cardboard box", Trev's words). Be prepared to sing, laugh and be happy for his life. Following the gig, we will be going back to the Lord Nelson for some nibbles, drinks, chit-chat, memories and more laughs. Should anyone wish to make a donation, Trev's chosen charities are St. Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil, and Ward 7A of Yeovil District Hospital. The amount will be divided equally between the two. Looking forward to seeing you there. Jennie, Stuart, Zoe and all the family.

NORTON HISTORY REVIVAL This venture was introduced at the Flower Show in August where we were fortunate to be given the position for a gazebo near the entrance/exit of the marquee. Stewarded by Janet Hutton, Malcolm Reid and Muriel Parkinson, it was hoped to attract interest in re-starting the study of the History of Norton. A selection of articles was for sale from nine editions of the highly prized Nortonian magazine. Copies of these are still available at £10 per pack of six – 16 pages in total. The titles are, with approximate dates: "The Norton Fruit Farm" 1916–1970s by George Sweet; "Artistry in Hamstone. A Reminiscence of William Micklewright", 1921 by Reginald Sweet; "Nortonian in Canada", 1912 by Sam Lawrence; "A New Road for Norton", 1897 by Katherine Muller; "Some Medieval Aspects of Norton" by Penny Cudmore. All Nortonian reprint profits will go to Norton Community Matters. We hope to have small informal meetings of enthusiastic people, similar to church coffee mornings but held in the evenings. The Nortonian magazine's articles could be used either to dig deeper into local history or to start a new enquiry. There is so much still to learn about our village. If you are interested, please let me know: malcolm.reid38@btinternet.com

TINKERS BUBBLE WORKSHOP Making a Wreath workshop at the Lord Nelson, Saturday 13th December. At our annual wreath-making workshop we will learn the basic weaving techniques used to make a willow hoop, decorated with 100% natural foraged decorations. Two sessions will run from 5pm and 7pm in the skittle alley. We offer a sliding scale of prices from £20–£40 per wreath (you choose!). Please contact Megan on 07933 950911 or email mwilloughby29@hotmail.co.uk to book either session.

HEALTH WALKS IN STOKE SUB HAMDON

Three levels of Health Walks in November.

There are trained leaders with this friendly walking group. Feel fitter after being out in the fresh air. All walks start at the Lighthouse Café next to Stoke Village Hall. Dress according to the weather, with stout footwear always recommended. Well-behaved dogs on short leads are welcome. Monday walks finish in the Café with a hot drink and maybe a cake. Tuesday walks have the option of a pub lunch.

Tuesday 4th November. Meet 9.50 to start 10.00.

The longest walk, 5–6 miles.

Monday 10th and 24th November. Start 9.30am.

Shortest 'Make Every Step Count', 40 mins flat walk on pavements.

Monday 10th and 24th November. Meet 9.50 to start 10.00am. Medium walks 3–4 miles, 90 minutes, mix of pavements and footpaths.

Contact Sue 07792 311736 for more information.

STOKE SUB HAMDON VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

We have had another excellent and most enjoyable annual art show, with very many thanks to the Brownies for their considerable assistance with the cafe! How about coming to join us and displaying your work in next year's event?

Would you like to develop your artistic skills? If you like drawing, painting or mixed media you could come along to our friendly group of local artists to develop your talent. We meet at Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.30 during school term time. First visit FREE! Please contact Andrew on 01935 823691; SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com; Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Saturday 1 November, Flower Show AGM, Lord Nelson 2.30pm
Monday 10 November, Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30–3.30pm
Monday 10 November, Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall committee room 7.30pm
Tuesday 11 November, Mobile Library and Book Club, in Higher Street from 10.10–10.35am
Tuesday 11 November, Norton Movie Nites, Black Bag, Lord Nelson 7.45 for 8pm start
Wednesday 12 November, Norton Newsletter AGM. Reading Room 7.30pm
Monday 17 November, Ladies Group, Reading Room 2.30–4.30pm
Wednesday 19 November coffee morning, The Hollies, Higher Street, 10.45am
Thursday 20 November, The Greatest Robot Ever, Norton School
Saturday 22 November, Christmas Market, Village Hall 11am–3pm
Monday 24 November, Crafty Critters, Reading Room 1.30–3.30pm
Sunday 28 November, Reading Room Quiz, Lord Nelson 7.45pm
Saturday 6 December, Christmas is Coming concert, Church of St Mary, Norton 7pm
Thursday 11 December, Frost & Fire (Storytelling), Chiselborough Village Hall 7:30pm
Saturday 13th December, Making a Wreath, Lord Nelson skittle alley 5pm and 7pm

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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