

NORTON NEWSLETTER August 2026 ISSUE No 574

**** 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://nortonsubhamdon-pc.gov.uk>

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WEBSITE
<https://nortonsubhamdonpc.co.uk/friends-of-norton-church>

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

NORTON NEWSLETTER We need more committee members, but in particular we need a **CO-EDITOR/ PROOF READER**, full training will be given. If interested in joining us please email nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com. We also would like to remind our regular contributors that items should be between 150 and 180 words long. We understand that at certain times of the year this is difficult but please be mindful of the length of your article. Our margins are now at the maximum limit for the printer, and our font size down to 9 in order to fit everything onto four pages and some sensitive editing has been necessary.

CRAFTY CRITTERS will meet in the **Reading Room on Monday 3rd August between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. We will be working on our own project or making poppies. Come and join us for a couple of hours of friendly chat with coffee/tea and biscuits. £2.00 per session. Tricia 01935 882646.

POPPIES As of the 15th July we have just over 800 poppies that people in the Village (plus family and friends) have made. Brilliant news! There's still plenty of wool so it looks as though we will easily reach our target and more. Thank you.

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB The Mobile Library will be in Chiselborough opposite the village hall on **Tuesday 4th August from 9.30–10.00am and in Higher Street, Norton from 10.10– 10.35am**. The book club meets the same day in the Reading Room. For more details contact Anne Fairweather on 01935 882620.

NORTON MOVIE NITES AGM, Tuesday 11th August, 7:30, Lord Nelson skittle alley. All are welcome to join us. Find out what we did in 2025–26, and take part in our movie plans for the future.

ENTRIES FOR NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW are due by Wednesday 12th August. The bar code on the front of the schedule takes you to the Flower Show facebook page where you will find the classes and entry form. Spare printed schedules with classes and entry form are also in Norton Shop. Complete the form, take a photo of it and email it to janem11@hotmail.com **by 4.00pm on Wednesday 12th August**. BACS details are on the form. You can pay by this method or take your form and fee to the **Reading Room on Wednesday 12th August between 7.00-8.30pm**.

Please bring your **tombola donations** to the Reading Room on the evening of Wednesday 12th August or to the Village Hall on the morning of the Show.

Any offers of help will be gratefully received, please contact janem11@hotmail.com or rileypeacehaven@icloud.com.

NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW Saturday 15th August 2–5 pm. Festivities will commence with Steve on his magic bicycle leading the procession from the Lord Nelson at 1.30pm. Please join in – waving flags, blowing whistles, dancing along to the music – and enjoy! Gate admission is £2.00 for adults, children and patrons are free, or you can buy your entry wristband from 1st August from Norton Shop. **The show opens at 2.00pm**, with the **marquee open to all at 2.30pm**. Patrons and advertisers are invited to the marquee at 2.00pm for a preview of exhibits whilst sipping a glass of bubbly. We are pleased to welcome the Enigma morris dancers who will be performing at 2.15pm. New this year is the petting zoo, so come and meet all the animals. The bubble man is back, and the 'Tipsy Swing' band will play. The ever-popular speed flower arranging will take place at 3.15pm. Lots happening!

NORTON MOVIE NITES at the Flower Show, Saturday 15th August, film starts 8:45pm in the marquee. If you fancy a singalong after all the wonderful Flower Show activities, then *Mama Mia!* (cert 12, 108 mins) will give you a chance to belt out some old favourites. And if you want to get creative, there will be a prize for the best Mama Mia-themed fancy dress. Bring your own picnic and drinks for 7:30 (approx.). Anyone willing to help with setting up and clearing away will be welcomed with open arms and much appreciation. Tickets £5 in Norton Shop (under 18s free).

CAKES FOR THE FLOWER SHOW It's that time again! To all you lovely bakers out there, we need cakes to serve with refreshments at the Flower Show. We are **required to provide a list of ingredients for each home-baked cake**, so please be sure to bring one. Please bring to the Village Hall **by 1pm on Saturday 15th August** and don't forget your ingredients list! We wouldn't have any cakes to sell if you didn't bake or buy one. Thank you so much. Sue Lowder.

NORTON HISTORY STAND AT THE FLOWER SHOW will be at the far end of the hall. There will be a display board showing Traditional Norton Families, along with 'Norton Remembered' DVDs and prints of articles from old Nortonian publications which will be for sale. Malcolm Reid

CLASSICS AT THE NELLIE Monthly car meet for classic, vintage and interesting cars. Last Tuesday of the month throughout the summer, **25th August and 29th September, 5.30pm to 8pm**. Whether you are an owner, enthusiast or simply curious about cars, everyone is welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2026 PLANNING The Parish Council had no planning applications to consider for this month. However, one previous planning application has been granted approval from Somerset Council:

Ref. No: 26/00317/HOU - 19 New Road Norton Sub Hamdon Stoke Sub Hamdon Somerset TA14 6SB. Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension and existing single storey side structure extended to form two storey side extension. **APPROVED**.

FOOD VAN VISITS TO NORTON A Slice of Salerno – Another Sell-Out Success! July's food van visit with Marco from A Slice of Salerno was another fantastic success. The feedback from residents has been incredible. Marco was kept very busy, cooking nearly 100 delicious pizzas for hungry residents. He is already looking forward to returning

later in the year. A huge thank you to everyone who supported him so well.

AUGUST FOOD VAN VISIT – SOMERSET CATCH FISH & CHIPS are back – Monday 17th August, 4–7.30pm in Norton School car park.

We're delighted to welcome back **Somerset Catch**, who are well known for serving some of the best fresh fish & chips in the area. Following their hugely popular previous visit, they are returning with more fish this time after being overwhelmed by the fantastic turnout! Treat yourself to a proper seaside favourite. Everything is cooked fresh to order, crispy golden fish and perfectly cooked chips served hot from their traditional takeaway van. Simple, classic, and absolutely delicious. Residents who managed to get some were certainly not disappointed and many are planning to return. The word locally is that these are some of the best fish & chips around, so don't miss your chance to try them! Come along, enjoy a night off from cooking, catch up with neighbours, and support our visiting food vans.

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE TIDY A few residents shared concerns at our July meeting that some areas of Norton are beginning to look a little overgrown. While greenery is a valued part of our village's charm, in certain locations hedges, bushes and weeds have extended onto pavements. This has been noted along Rectory Lane, Broadmead Lane, New Road, Great Street and Little Street. In some cases, this growth is narrowing walkways, making it difficult for pedestrians – particularly those with prams, mobility aids, and visual impairments – to pass safely without stepping into the road.

Concerns were also raised about the trees along Rectory Lane. These have grown considerably in recent years, and some may now require maintenance, such as cutting back or crown reduction. Overhanging branches or falling debris could pose a risk to those using the lane. Responsibility for this work lies with the respective landowners who are kindly encouraged to seek advice from an arborist to arrange any necessary work, ensuring trees are managed safely and responsibly. Dense tree coverage in this area also increases shade and damp conditions which may affect nearby properties. This can encourage algae growth on building surfaces, leading to more frequent cleaning of windows and fascia boards, and may also affect vehicles parked along the lane. We appreciate everyone's efforts in helping to keep Norton a safe and pleasant place for all.

PUBLIC SAFETY WARNING: PLEASE AVOID BONFIRES AND OPEN FLAMES DURING EXTREME HEAT

With the hot, dry weather continuing, it's concerning to see bonfires and open fires still being lit in Norton. Recent wildfires in the local area have already placed huge pressure on our emergency services who are putting themselves at risk to protect people, homes, and the environment. A Red Wildfire Risk Warning is currently in place due to the extreme heat and very dry conditions across the South West. The ground is exceptionally dry, meaning fires can start easily and spread quickly. Please help keep our community safe by not lighting bonfires, campfires or using open flames outdoors, including barbecues, during this period. Smoke is also a serious concern. Many people are struggling with the heat and are keeping windows and doors open for relief. Bonfire smoke can reduce air quality and cause distress, particularly for elderly residents, young children, and those with breathing conditions. Please also remember that excessive smoke affecting neighbours may be reported as a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Thank you for acting responsibly and helping to protect our community, our emergency services, and those who may be most vulnerable during this extreme weather.

ANOTHER GENEROUS DONATION We are absolutely delighted and incredibly grateful to have received another generous donation towards the new swings and safety surfacing project at Minchington Recreation Ground. Following their fantastic event held on 25th June, Hamstone Live has very kindly donated £400 towards the project. This wonderful contribution means that the Parish Council has now raised more than the funding required to complete the improvements. Thanks to the generosity of local groups, organisations and residents, we have been able to release £400 of the Parish Council's allocated funds, meaning this money can now be redirected towards important repair works for the slide/multi-play unit, as highlighted in the recent safety inspection report. While these repairs are not considered urgent, they are necessary to ensure the equipment remains safe and enjoyable for everyone who uses the recreation ground. A huge thank you once again to Hamstone Live for their kindness and support. Contributions like this make a real difference and are helping us to continue improving Minchington Recreation Ground for the whole community.

UPDATE ON THE NEW SWING INSTALLATION There has been a slight delay with the new swing unit arriving in the UK. We are pleased to confirm that the installation date has now been scheduled for **10th–11th August**. Thank you to everyone for your patience while we await the arrival and installation of this exciting new addition to Minchington Recreation Ground. We look forward to seeing the new swings in place and available for the community to enjoy. There is no Parish Council meeting in August.

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 14th September at 7.30pm in the village hall committee room**. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council clerk@nortonsubhamdon-pc.gov.uk)

NORTON TOWER GAMES AND THE HISTORY OF FIVES, Friday 18th September in Norton church

The Friends of Norton Church are delighted to welcome back Doctor John Ashton FRCGP who has kindly agreed to deliver another of his interesting and amusing local history talks in the church. John will be talking on the subject of fives, an ancient game often played in courts such as the historic one in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, but more often against the sides of local churches with their walls and buttresses forming the makeshift court. A date for your diaries, further details to follow.

NORTON LADIES GROUP Wow, we had a ball at our 25 years celebration on 15th July. We would like to give special thanks to Mark and Helen at the Lord Nelson who provided a delicious three-course meal, and a special mention to Bryoni, Danni, and Esme who served and looked after us so well – thank you so much. We were entertained by singer Jan McNeil who did a grand job getting everyone singing along and dancing to her varied programme. We will be taking a short break in August, but shall be serving tea and cakes at the Flower Show on Saturday 15th. Our new term begins on **Monday 21st September at 2.30pm in the Reading Room** when our speaker will give a presentation on his journey and work in Nepal. We meet in the Reading Room at 2.30pm on the third Tuesday each month. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Enquiries to Sue Lowder 01935 881805.

THE VILLAGE CEILIDH WITH CURRY Norton Village Hall, Saturday 24th October. Remember to put the date of this new village event in your diary! All dances will be explained so no ceilidh dancing experience is required, just your enthusiasm. The event will be run by volunteers, with ticket price and bar profits covering costs, and any surplus donated to Norton Village Hall. Doors open at 6pm for a ticketed, seated meal – a choice of curries made by Mark

from the Lord Nelson. The separately ticketed dance starts at 7.30pm with local country dancing band Jigs for Gigs and caller. There will be a short break at 9pm. Doors close at 11pm – it's intended that, not being Vikings, everyone will have left by then! Tickets sold in advance in September/October. Dance ticket £10, meal options and price to be confirmed. The C&C committee.

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS After the summer break, Coffee Mornings will start up again in the Autumn. We are looking for hosts for **Wednesdays September 23rd and October 28th**. These events are great for catching up on Village News and meeting new people. They only last an hour and all the serving of drinks and the washing up is taken care of. If you're interested, we would love to hear from you. Many thanks. Janet Hutton 01935 881566 and Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

THE READING ROOM We regret to announce that Amy, who has been running Amy's Tea Room at the Reading Room since before Christmas, is going to be leaving at the end of July for personal reasons. We are, of course, very sad that she is leaving us, but we wish her all the best for the future. There has been a considerable interest in taking on the business and we are currently meeting all applicants to find a successor. Please bear with us. We are hoping to have the Cafe up and running again by September.

NORTON COMMUNITY MATTERS We would like to thank everyone who came to the Jubilee Garden Party last month and made it such a successful event. Thanks to all the stallholders who gave up their time so generously. The weather was kind and the entertainment was very much appreciated. We would like to thank Jack Hardesty for loaning chairs and tables which we couldn't have done without, and to Neil and Carol Wilkins who supplied water and electricity so that the Gyros van could operate. Thanks to the generosity of those who bought tickets, Jenny's raffle made £600.00 towards funding projects for enhancing the village, and Malcolm Reid generously donated the money raised from the quilt auction to our funds. Our fantastic Norton Community Matters event could not have taken place without the foresight of Lynn Orchard who instigated the creation of the Jubilee Garden. Let's do it all again next year on 26th June 2027.

Our AGM took place on 16th July. After formalities, the same committee agreed to stand again. Over the last year we have raised funding to provide wool for the Poppy Cascade, oil to preserve the furniture in the Jubilee Garden, and over £3000 for new baby swings and safety ground cover for Minchington Rec. Funding considered for future projects include a defibrillator for Little Norton, play equipment for Minchington Rec, and a security light at the bus stop on Great Street.

Our next event will be free CPR and defibrillator awareness training on **Monday 7th September, 3pm in the Village Hall meeting room and Tuesday 8th September, 6.30pm in the Reading Room**. To register for these 90-minute sessions please email hellocm@outlook.com or phone Sue 881805. Future events include a Scarecrow Trail, 24th–31st October, Christmas Craft Market, 21st November, and a pub quiz in March next year.

Please email helloncm@outlook.com with funding requests or to make a donation. Without your support, events and projects for the village would not be possible. Norton Community Matters

CHURCH FLAG The Union Flag will fly on Saturday 15th August for the Flower Show.

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

Sunday 2nd, 11am Morning prayer

Sunday 9th, 9.30am Communion

Sunday 16th, 6pm Evensong

Wednesday 26th, 9am Communion

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

EVENSONG IN CHURCH Flower Show Weekend

Our Flower Show weekend service will have a new home this year: instead of the marquee, we're delighted to be holding a special nature and flower-themed Evensong in Norton church at 6pm on Sunday 16th August. This promises to be a lovely, reflective way to round off the weekend, with hymns and readings inspired by the beauty of the season. Afterwards, please stay for a glass of elderflower wine and some cheese & biscuits in the church. Everyone is warmly welcome. You'll be pleased to know that all the teddies that braved the parachute jump off the church tower have been returned safely to their owners (no tears fortunately).

THE LORD'S LARDER The Lord's Larder Food Bank is operated by volunteers from churches in and around Yeovil. It began in a small way in 1991 when a representative of Yeovil Citizens' Advice Bureau spoke to members of one of the churches in Yeovil about the need for emergency food. The Food Bank is now supported by over 60 local churches, 45 schools and several community groups. In 2025 over 154,000 items of food were given out via 70 different agencies to help over 8,572 local people, (4,947 adults and 3,325 children). Food and money are donated throughout the year by local churches, businesses, schools and other charities. Volunteers sort and store all donations of food in a purpose-built larder. Requests for food are made by phone through recognised agencies only, who then collect parcels to hand on to their clients. Emergency food parcels are made up by the volunteers, according to need.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB

August winners are Jenny Byham, Paulina Callaghan, Heather Hawkins, Jenny Harris, Jeremy Reid, Diane Waters, Jayne & Jonathan Dart, Peter Prager, Peter Wilsher, Alec Seccombe. If you are interested in joining the Wine Club, please contact Simon on 07943 971566 or email simonbradley@gmail.com.

JUBILEE GARDEN Volunteers needed for general tidying up, cutting back and light weeding. Whether you can spare half an hour now and again, or help regularly each week, every little makes a big difference. Just pop down, basic tools provided. Many thanks to all those who help already. Many hands make light work. Lynn Orchard.

NORTON BOULES The ever-popular Thursday evening boule nights continue. We now have score display signage, thanks to 'metal' Steve Collier, for which we thank him as he battles his other challenges – 'C'mon, Steve'. Weather permitting, we will be continuing from 6.30pm each week at Minchington Rec by the pub. This public facility remains available at any time, with a boules set available from the pub during its opening hours

NEW ADVERTS

SELF CONTAINED ANNEXE Need somewhere nearby for family or friends to stay? No room at home for overnight guests? We have the perfect solution! Our cosy, self-catering annexe is part of a charming Grade II listed cottage in the heart of Norton. It sleeps up to three guests, with one double bedroom and one single bedroom. The annexe is self-contained, with only the entrance hall shared with the main cottage. £85 per night or £500 for full week. No dogs, sorry! Available from 7th September. Please get in touch if you'd like more information or to check availability – Alison at Nortonaccommodation@outlook.com

HAZEL COTTAGE HOLIDAY LET A light and spacious detached cottage in Norton. Two double bedrooms, fully equipped kitchen, walk-in shower, and comfortable lounge. For more information see our website www.hazeltcottage.co.uk

THE VILLAGE ART GROUP Our very successful summer term has now ended, with the autumn term commencing on and from Friday 4th September. We will be having a 'Painting Out Day' during the summer holidays. Whatever your preferred medium and skill level is, do come and join us! We meet at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30–9.30pm and Friday mornings 10.00–12.30am 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

- Monday 3 August** Crafty Critters, Reading Room, 1.30–3.30pm
- Tuesday 4 August** Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street, 10.10–10.35am
- Tuesday 11 August** Norton Movie Nites AGM, Lord Nelson skittle alley, 7.30pm
- Saturday 15 August** Procession starting from the Lord Nelson, 1.30pm
- Saturday 15 August** Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show, Norton Village Hall & Recreation Ground, 2–5pm
- Saturday 15 August** Mamma Mia! Singalong, Flower Show marquee, 8.45pm
- Tuesday 25 August** Classics at the Nellie, 5.30–8pm
- Monday 7 September** CPR & defibrillator training, Village Hall meeting room, 3pm
- Tuesday 8 September** CPR & defibrillator training, Reading Room, 6.30pm
- Saturday 12 September** Super Saturday, Village Hall
- Monday 14 September** Parish Council Meeting, committee room, Norton Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Friday 18 September** Norton tower games and the history of fives, Norton Church
- Monday 21 September** Ladies Group, Reading Room 2.30pm
- Tuesday 29 September** Classics at the Nellie 5.30–8pm
- Thurs–Sat 15, 16 & 17 October** Pint-Sized Plays at the Lord Nelson
- Friday 23 October** Pint-Sized Plays 'on tour' at Chiselborough Hall
- Saturday 24 October** The Village Ceilidh with Curry, Village Hall, 7.30–11pm

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: 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.

DISCLAIMER This edition of the Newsletter contains information which has been supplied directly to the editors of the Norton Newsletter. **We reserve the right to edit or change copy if necessary.** None of the information published within expresses the views of either the editors or members of the Norton Newsletter committee and should not be relied upon. The editors and members are not responsible for the consequences of errors or omissions. Any comments should be addressed to the committee via the Newsletter at nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com

