NORTON NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE No 577

**** 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 CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER
Sunday 1st, 11am All Saints, Morning prayer with hymns and sermon
Sunday 8th, 10.50am Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 15th, 6pm Sung Evensong with hymns and sermon
Wednesday 25th, 9am Said Prayer Book Communion with sermon
Details of all services and information about the Benefice: www.hamhillchurches.org and church notice boards.

CHURCH FLAGS The George Cross will be flown from the Church Tower on 1st and 2nd November for All Saints Day and All Souls Day. The Union Flag will be flown on 8th November for Remembrance Sunday, 11th November for Armistice Day and on 14th November for the birthday of His Majesty the King**.**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8th November, 10.50am, Norton Church. November is often called a month of Remembrance with All Saints Day at the beginning of the month and Remembrance Sunday a week later. These are occasions for honouring past events, people and experiences that should inspire us towards a better way of living. 'We shall remember them' is a familiar phrase. A special Service of Remembrance to remember all who have been involved in conflict. RT

KEEP IN TOUCH The Norton Festival Website is updated weekly with church and community information, articles, photographs, posters and diary. Please send information to the web master (revrichardterrell@gmail.com) for inclusion and click on www.nortonfestival.org.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER
PLANNING There was one previous planning application on which to report back.
Planning Application 23/02859/OUT – The Stables, Land Behind Highwoods, North Street, Norton-sub-Hamdon. The Clerk reported that Somerset Council had approved the outline planning application for up to five dwellings, with all matters reserved except access. The Parish Council expressed its disappointment at the decision, having objected to the application on planning grounds since 2023. Objections included concerns regarding surface water drainage, access visibility, pedestrian safety due to the absence of a footpath, and the capacity of the local drainage infrastructure, particularly in light of existing flooding issues in the village centre. The Parish Council had also requested that at least two bungalows be provided to help address privacy concerns affecting properties in Highwoods Close. The Parish Council expressed concern that its local knowledge and planning objections had not been given sufficient weight in the decision. Somerset Council had not afforded significant weight to the provision of new housing due to its inability to demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites. The application was approved under the Council's scheme of delegation, with housing delivery in accordance with Policy S4 of the National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026) being a key consideration.
FOOD VAN: A TASTE OF SALERNO RETURNS! Monday 2nd November, 3–8pm, Norton Village School car park. We're delighted to welcome back Marco and his wood-fired pizza van! With the evenings getting darker, this earlier start gives everyone the chance to pick up their pizzas before nightfall. It should also be handy for parents collecting children from Norton School, and stagger the orders to reduce waiting times. Marco was a huge hit on his previous visit, serving freshly made pizzas before selling out, so make sure you get your order in time. A big thank you to everyone who supported Somerset Catch in October, another complete sell-out. We've received lovely comments from residents.
SUPPORTING OUR FOOD VAN VISITS The Parish Council does not receive any payment from the food van traders and no pitch fee is charged. We promote these visits as a community service, giving residents access to a wider choice of food, including those who may find it difficult to travel further afield. Without sufficient customers, it may not be viable for traders to return, so spread the word to give these popular evenings the best chance of continuing. Thanks to everyone who

supports our food van evenings – your custom makes a real difference to the traders and ensures we can continue welcoming them to the village.
MINCHINGTONS REC A whitebeam tree near the lower entrance from the road was identified in the recent tree survey as needing removal. The tree has three large wounds and a cavity through its trunk. Given its proximity to the road, footpath and overhead power lines, felling is considered necessary for safety reasons. On a more positive note, four additional cherry trees will be planted this autumn to help fill the gaps in the beautiful cherry tree avenue. These trees have been generously donated by local residents. The Parish Council thanks them for their kind support.
MAIN REC Essential dead-wooding work will be carried out on four trees along well-used footpath routes. This work is necessary to address safety concerns and help keep the recreation ground safe for everyone to enjoy. There is good news on the planting front: three horse chestnut trees and a Cox's Orange Pippin apple tree will be planted, replacing those lost this year due to disease. The apple tree will replace the one dedicated to Prue Biddle, our much-loved former Parish Councillor. Prue made a huge contribution to the village over many years and was instrumental in so much of what the Parish Council achieved. The Cox's Orange Pippin was her favourite apple tree, so the replacement will be a meaningful tribute to her memory.
FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE – A REMINDER TO LANDOWNERS The Parish Council has received reports that some public footpaths crossing private land are difficult and potentially unsafe to use due to overgrown vegetation. Landowners and occupiers have a responsibility to keep public rights of way clear of obstructions, ensuring that vegetation does not encroach to prevent or hinder public access. One footpath with a concrete surface has been reported as having thick brambles growing across it, making it difficult and potentially hazardous for walkers. We ask landowners to check any public footpaths crossing their land and arrange for vegetation to be cut back promptly. Thank you for your co-operation.
The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday 9th November at 7.30 pm in Norton Village Hall committee room.

CRAFTY CRITTERS We hope you've seen the wonderful poppy display in Norton churchyard. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Monday 9th November and Monday 23rd November between 1.30 and 3.30pm**. Come and join us for a couple of hours of craft and chat. There is a charge of £2.00 per session which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. For more information contact Tricia on 01935 882646.

NORTON MOVIE NITES Tuesday 10th November at the Lord Nelson skittle alley, doors open 7.45pm, film starts 8pm. The Christophers (R, 110 mins), Steven Soderbergh's black comedy stars Ian McKellen, Michaela Coel and James Corden. The offspring of a deceased famous artist enlist a forger to access his unfinished paintings so they can secure a useful inheritance. Please note that while this is a funny and engaging film, very strong language occurs. Tickets £5 cash from Norton Shop.

NORTON NEWSLETTER AGM Wednesday 11th November, 7.30pm, in the Reading Room. All are welcome to discuss plans for the Newsletter in future. If you haven't yet let us know your preferences for receiving the Newsletter in future, **please would you respond before our AGM** on Wednesday 11th November so we can gauge how to continue its printed circulation. Thank you. nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com.

CARMENCO – A POCKET OPERA Friday 13th November, bar opens 7.00pm, play starts 7.30pm, Norton Village Hall. CarmenCo's A Pocket Opera is more than a concert, it's a performance of Spanish music presented as a play interpreting Bizet's *Carmen*, but from Carmen's point of view. "An unusual, highly entertaining evening...three first-rate musicians rise to the challenge of acting and dancing…superb range of musical colour and artistry" *Ayrshire Post*. Tickets £14 from Norton Shop or TakeArt, ticketsource.com/take-art. Nigel Laing

HAMDON HA! HA! COMEDY NIGHT Saturday 14th November, doors open 7.45 for 8pm start, Lord Nelson skittle alley. We have a brand new line-up for you – three professional stand-up comedians along with a headlining opener act. What's more, we also have a new MC for the evening, Chris Barnes – a chance for us to polish up our usual audience banter! Tickets £12 from the Nellie, or from Hamdon/jokepit.com plus commission. Lindsay Higgins

NORTON LADIES GROUP Did King Arthur Really Exist? We agreed with our October speaker that he did, although not as a King in the modern sense. Our next meeting will be on **Monday 16th November 2.30pm in the Reading Room**. This meeting will be more hands on than usual with Lynne Jones teaching us how to make tree decorations for Christmas. A fun afternoon with refreshments included. All welcome. **Forthcoming events:** Take up the challenge of our first round of ten pin bowling, **Wednesday 18th November** at Hollywood Bowl Yeovil. Our Christmas Party will be held on **Monday 14th December from 12.30pm** in the Village Hall. We welcome back Jan who will provide lots of musical entertainment,

and we'll be incorporating some of our annual rituals so this should be another fun filled afternoon. More information at our November meeting when a list will be available for those who wish to come along. Non-members are welcome so please get in touch. Sue Lowder 881805

NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW AGM Thursday 19th November, 7.30pm, Lord Nelson skittle alley. As many of you know, 2027 will be a very special year for the Flower Show and we invite you to join our celebration of the 125 years since it started. Building on the great success of this year's Show, we'd like to make the 21st–22nd August 2027 a bumper Festival Weekend. Please come to the AGM and share your ideas. We hope to have a '125 Events Committee' to work alongside the Show committee with an extra-special programme of sport and entertainment. This can only happen with your help! If you would like to join the 125 Events Committee, please email Caroline Riley (Chair) rileypeacehaven@icloud.com
Your Show Needs You!

CHRISTMAS MARKET A Norton Community Matters event, Saturday 21st November, 11am–3pm, Norton Village Hall. We have lots of lovely craft stalls to browse for that unique Christmas gift. Also, a grand raffle with a coffee maker as top prize, a luxury hamper as second prize, followed by many more superb prizes. Tombola and refreshments. Kick start your Christmas shopping, grab a unique gift and buy those raffle tickets for a chance to win. Everyone welcome. Admission free. Sue Lowder

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB The Mobile Library will be in Chiselborough opposite the village hall on **Tuesday 24th November** from 9.30–10.00am and in **Higher Street, Norton from 10.10–10.35am**. The Reading Room is open on the same day and time for the Book Club and a table is usually reserved for them. Contact Anne Fairweather on 01935 882620 for details.

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING will be on **Wednesday 25th November at 10.45am** at Francesca and Ian Chignell's home, The Hollies, Higher Street. The theme will be Christmas! 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 would be interested in hosting the coffee morning on Wednesday 24th March next year we would love to hear from you. All money raised goes to the Church Fabric Fund. Many thanks. Janet Hutton 01935 881566 and Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

THE MUSIC QUIZ Sunday 29th November, 7.30 for 8pm at the Lord Nelson. Get out your old records, tapes and CDs and start revising! We hope to fill the skittle alley as well as the pub for this popular quiz format compiled by Jonathan Naughton, this time in aid of the Reading Room. Book your table, six people max, at the Nellie now! £5 on the night plus raffle tickets, both cash.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB October winners are Niall Clifford, Richard Terrell, Mary Batstone, Jeremy Reid, Jenny Byham, Sophie Campbell, Karen Eastley, Tim and Pam Williams, Robert Vaux, Simon Bradley. If you're interested in joining the Wine Club, please contact Simon 07943 971566 or simonbradley@gmail.com

NORTON COMMUNITY MATTERS would like to give a big Thank You to all who participated in the Scarecrow Trail. We hope everyone enjoyed it and will look forward to another one in future.
If you would like help with funding a project that benefits the village community, email helloncm@outlook.com

MEET THE VILLAGE The hall committee would like to thank everyone who attended our Meet the Village event on Saturday 17th October. It was lovely to see so many groups and village organisations that use our hall regularly, and to welcome the re-formed Friends of Norton School (FONS) – we look forward to working together. Date for your diaries: **Quiz at the Lord Nelson, Sunday 31st January** in aid of Village Hall funds, set by Lindsay Elliott. Watch out for posters and more details. Everyone welcome. Jennie Harris.

NORTON BOULES Our Thursday boules evenings on Minchingtons Rec are ending as darkness encroaches, but this public facility remains available to use at any time. If you don't have your own boules set, one is available from the Lord Nelson during opening hours.

THE READING ROOM committee has agreed to an increase in its rental charges. This is due to inflationary pressures and a loss of income while the Tea Room was not available. The new rate of £14 for three hours and £40 for the day is still considerably cheaper than in similar venues elsewhere. The increase will take effect from **1st December** and will be reflected in the January invoices. We are very pleased to welcome Lara and Amy, now running the Tea Room, with help from Julie. Open from 10am to 3.30pm, Tuesday to Friday, the Tea Room offers coffee/tea and cakes, as well as light lunches and specials throughout the week. Do pop in to say hello and support them.

JUBILEE GARDEN If you have some spare bulbs please plant them and pull up some weeds while you're there! Thank you so much. Lynn Orchard

THE TRINITY ENTERTAINERS, Saturday 5th December, 7pm, Norton Church. For your fun and entertainment, the Trinity Entertainers invite you to their latest concert to help us get into the seasonal spirit. The group consists of a mixed ensemble of about a dozen talented vocalists and performers who focus on close-harmony singing, variety, humour and lighter musical entertainment. With something enjoyable for everyone, including an opportunity to join in with some well-known tunes. Looking forward to performing and meeting you all on the night. Tickets at £10 on sale in Norton Shop. All proceeds will be used to support the maintenance of the church fabric.

RAFT REFUGEE AID TAUNTON Circumstances at home have led me to decide to end my long connection with Raft. I do regret that it must happen but, sadly, it is the right time. In my September notice I asked for help with delivering donations to Raft, and two people kindly volunteered. I thank them very much for their support, although they are only able to collect and deliver the donations, not receive or store them. Raft Taunton can be found easily online if anyone wishes to take goods to them. The voluntary trustees working there are always welcoming. I have previously expressed my gratitude to all who have supported these endeavours over many years and am now doing this for the last time. It has been a privilege to work with so many thoughtful, generous people. With best wishes to all. Geraldine Downey. PS: Someone asked that a black bag be returned to her after use. I have both bags that she used, but no name or telephone number. Please can she get in touch.

THE VILLAGE ART GROUP (STOKE) We had another excellent and enjoyable annual art show. Many thanks to the Brownies for their considerable assistance with the cafe! How about joining us so you can display your work in next year's event? Our next workshop is on **Saturday 7th November, 10am–3pm, Stoke Memorial Hall** when artist Natasha Lee will demonstrate her watercolour technique. We meet at the hall on Tuesdays 7.30pm–9:30pm and Fridays 10am–12.30pm 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 2 November Taste of Salerno pizza food van, Norton Village School car park, 3pm–8pm
Sunday 8 November Remembrance Sunday, Norton Church, 10.50am
Monday 9 November Crafty Critters, Reading Room, 1.30–3.30pm
Monday 9 November Norton Parish Council meeting, committee room, Norton Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday 10 November Norton Movie Nites, Lord Nelson skittle alley, doors open 7.45, film starts 8pm
Wednesday 11 November Norton Newsletter AGM, Reading Room, 7.30pm
Friday 13 November Carmenco: A Pocket Opera, Norton Village Hall, bar open 7pm, play starts 7.30pm
Saturday 14 November Hamdon Ha! Ha! Comedy Night, Lord Nelson skittle alley, doors open 7.45 for 8pm
Monday 16 November Ladies Group, Reading Room, 2.30pm
Thursday 19 November Flower Show AGM, Lord Nelson skittle alley, 7.30pm
Saturday 21 November Christmas Market, Norton Village Hall, 11am–3pm
Monday 23 November Crafty Critters, Reading Room, 1.30–3.30pm
Tuesday 24 November Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street, 10.10–10.35am
Wednesday 25 November Coffee Morning, The Hollies, Higher Street, 10.45am
Sunday 29 November Music Quiz for the Reading Room, Lord Nelson, 8pm
Saturday 5 December The Trinity Entertainers' Choral Concert, Norton Church, 7pm

NEWCOMERS TO OUR VILLAGE If you know of anyone who has moved to Norton, please ask for their details and contact us so they can be welcomed to our village. Editors Chrissie Way and Rowena Alsey, proof reading Ronan Walsh, nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com

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