NORTON NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE No 576

**** 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 CIRCULATION IMPORTANT NOTICE
Thank you for your preferences for receiving the Norton Newsletter. We have received 113 replies so far, out of 380 addresses! If you haven't replied yet, please would you respond by email to **nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com**, so we can gauge how to continue its printed circulation. We will discuss the logistics at our AGM in November. Thank you.

TABLE TOP SALE, Norton Village Hall, **Sunday 4th October, 11am–2pm.** If you have any bits and pieces you would like to move on, then your trash could be someone else's treasure! Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. All proceeds will go towards Norton Village Hall funds. To book a table, please contact Lindsay Elliott, 01935 881074 or 07774 646401. Jennie Harris for Norton Village Hall Committee

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT SEPTEMBER
PLANNING There were no planning applications, either current or outstanding, to report this month.
FOOD VAN VISITS TO NORTON, Monday 5th October, 4–7.30pm, Norton Village School car park. We're delighted to welcome back Somerset Catch for our Monday Food Van evening. They have proved very popular here, so come along and treat yourself to a proper seaside favourite. Everything is cooked fresh to order, with crispy golden fish and perfectly cooked chips served hot from their takeaway food van. Give yourself a night off from cooking and grab some delicious fish & chips instead.
POLICE ISSUES IN NORTON. Our local PCSO continues to support Norton following a number of incidents reported in the village over the summer. The Parish Council and local residents have reported a range of concerns to the Police, including:

- Vandalism to trees at Minchington recreation ground.
- A fire started deliberately on Blackspir Hill in August, which caused damage to an area of grassland and was attended by the Fire Service.
- Two fires started deliberately at Stoke recreation ground.
- The dangerous and illegal use of e-scooters on roads and pavements, ridden by children.
- A further dog attack was reported on Higher Street, involving two dogs that were both on leads. The incident resulted in an innocent dog being bitten on its leg, highlighting the importance of keeping dogs under proper control at all times.

The Police are investigating these incidents and our PCSO has been liaising with the Parish Council and residents while enquiries continue. As a result of the recent incidents, Police patrols in Norton have also been stepped up. We would like to thank all residents who have reported concerns and provided Police with information. Please continue to report incidents promptly, information from residents can be extremely helpful to ongoing investigations. If you see something suspicious or witness an incident, please report it to the Police.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU The Parish Council would like to express its sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to Nic Hale and Bob Gibson for taking on the refurbishment of the height barrier at the entrance to the Main Recreation Ground, next to the Village Hall. Nic and Bob generously gave up their own time, skills and hard work to transform the rather weathered structure into something truly remarkable. The barrier has been completely refreshed and now looks fantastic, making a very positive impact on the entrance to our Recreation Ground. It just goes to show what a fresh coat of paint and some TLC can do! The Parish Council is very grateful to Nic and Bob for doing this for the benefit of the whole village. Community spirit like this is something to be incredibly proud of, and we cannot thank them enough – we really do appreciate what they have done. Let's see if we can convince them to refurbish the goalposts as well!
The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 12th October at 7.30pm in the village hall committee room. Louise Brooks (Clerk to Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council)
clerk@nortonsubhamdon-pc.gov.uk

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the Reading Room on **Mondays 12th and 16th October between 1.30 and 3.30pm.** Come and join us for a couple of hours of friendly chat while we work on our projects. £2.00 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits. Tricia 01935 882646

NORTON MOVIE NITES Tuesday 13th October at the Lord Nelson skittle alley, doors open 7.45pm, film starts 8pm. Song Sung Blue (12A 140 mins) stars Kate Hudson and Hugh Jackman. The true story of a small-time Neil Diamond tribute act and their rise to fame. '…a beautiful, terrible, good, sad, heartfelt, and fun film…Hugh Jackman is a movie star, and this film proves it' (*Indie Entertainment Media*). Tickets £5 from Norton Shop.

PINT-SIZED PLAYS Thursday 15th, Friday 16th, Saturday 17th October, 7.30pm, Lord Nelson 'Alley Theatre'. Here we go again: performed by Norton's Stage Frighteners, another great line-up of short plays designed for viewing with a drink. There will be an an additional performance on **Friday 23rd October in Chiselborough village hall**. Tickets £9 on sale in Norton Shop and the Lord Nelson. All proceeds go to local causes. Lindsay Higgins, producer

'MEET THE VILLAGE' AT NORTON VILLAGE HALL Saturday 17th October, 11am–2pm. Our event scheduled for September was postponed to accommodate a very important village occasion on the same day. For October, everyone is welcome to pop in on Saturday 17th to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the new hall! Most of our village groups, clubs and hirers will be represented at this event. Please come along to support them and find out how they use the many benefits of our hall – you might be surprised to see how many people are involved in making our lovely village thrive. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available, so have a cuppa and a chat and see what interests you. If you would like to book a table to promote your group or business, please email NSHVHMTV@outlook.com. Jennie Harris for NVH

NORTON BOULES at 'Meet the Village'. Saturday 17th October, Norton Village Hall. We will be demonstrating the details of hurling spherical metal objects, safely, at this event. Should you be interested, we start our boules game each Thursday at at 6pm while weather and light permit, on Minchington Rec. This public facility remains available to use at any time with a boules set available from the pub during their opening hours.

NORTON HARVEST FESTIVAL Sunday 18th October, 6pm, St Mary's Church. Celebration with the usual harvest hymns and sermon followed by seasonal refreshments. All are welcome to give thanks for our abundance and for everything we enjoy. At harvest you are invited to make a donation to the Lord's Larder which helps local people who are in need. Please note the Larder can only accept usable canned or packaged food items, not fresh produce, and ensure they are unopened and have a long use by date. Richard Terrell

NORTON LADIES GROUP Just before our autumn season began, we enjoyed a garden games challenge with Pimms and nibbles, an event we might repeat next year. Ladies Group outings will now be decided at each monthly meeting. We look forward to our annual ten pin bowling challenge, the first of which will be held in November. We will also be taking part in 'Meet The Village' on Saturday 17th October, so do come along and see what we have been up to over the past few years. We will be pleased to talk to you, and we welcome new members at anytime. **Our next meeting will be on Monday 19th October** at 2.30pm in the Reading Room with a talk: 'Did King Arthur really exist?' Our final boules match of the season will be on **Tuesday 27th October**, weather permitting. Enquiries Sue 01935 881805

THE VILLAGE SCARECROW TRAIL Saturday 24th–Saturday 31st October. **Register your scarecrow by Friday 9th October**. Registration forms from Norton Shop, the Lord Nelson, Village Salon and Tea Room. The theme is Occupations. We hope as many villagers as possible will take part in this fun event, your scarecrow may be as big or as little as you like – maybe just a head looking over a fence or out of a window, placed in the driveway or front garden. There will also be letters to find among the scarecrows – unravel the letters to reveal the mystery word and enter the prize draw! So don't delay! We can't have a scarecrow trail without any scarecrows! Sue Lowder, as above.

THE VILLAGE CEILIDH WITH CURRY Saturday 24th October. Supper 6pm, dance 7.30–10.30pm, Norton Village Hall. Mark from the Lord Nelson will provide a choice of curries and The Skittlettes will open the bar at 6pm. The ceilidh will start at 7.30pm with local band Jigs for Gigs and a caller. Apple cake will be served in the interval at 9pm. Ceilidh with curry and a complimentary drink ticket £24; ceilidh-only ticket £10. Please note there are no curry-only tickets. Any surplus money after costs have been covered will be donated to Norton Village Hall. Tickets on sale from Norton Shop and the Lord Nelson. The C&C Committee

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER
Sunday 4th, 11am Morning prayer with hymns and sermon
Sunday 11th, 9.30am Sung Communion with hymns and sermon
Sunday 18th, 6pm Harvest Thanksgiving
Wednesday 28th, 9am Said Prayer Book Communion with sermon
Details of all services and information about the Benefice, www.hamhillchurches.org and church notice boards.

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB The Mobile Library will be in Chiselborough opposite the village hall on **Tuesday 27th October** from 9.30–10.00am and **in Higher Street, Norton from 10.10–10.35am**. The book club meets on the same day. Please contact Anne Fairweather for details 01935 882620

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING The next Village Coffee Morning will be at the home of Sophie and Charles Snow at Rocklands House, Little Street, on **Wednesday 28th October at 10.45am**. The theme will be Tins, Bottles and Boxes. 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 washing up is taken care of. If you are interested in hosting the coffee morning on 24th March next year we would love to hear from you. All money raised goes to support the Church. Many thanks. Janet Hutton 01935 881566 and Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

NORTON BOUNDS BREAKFAST WALK Saturday 31st October, 8.30am start from the Lord Nelson. Enjoy an early morning autumn walk followed by a Full Monty breakfast at the Lord Nelson. The walk starts and finishes at the Nellie, and will circumnavigate the village, following the rights of way nearest to the village boundary. The walk covers about 6 miles and takes about 2 to $2^1/_2$ hours to complete. There are plenty of shortcuts for those who don't want to do the full distance. At the end of the walk there will be a full English breakfast including coffee, orange juice and toast, for £12 from 11–11.30am. Please book directly with the pub well beforehand to avoid disappointment. John Bailey 01935 881227

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB. September winners are Tim and Pam Williams, Nic Hale, Sara Vann, Janet Hutton, Muriel Parkinson, Sophie Snow, Caroline Riley, Jane and Jonathan Dart, Chris and Sue Westwood, Barry Eastley. If you are interested in joining the Wine Club, please contact Simon on 07943 971566 or email simonbradley@gmail.com

THE OLD CHAPEL CLOCK After several months away, many will see the Chapel Clock has returned to its rightful place. Mark Wallbridge, Marketing Director of HS Walsh (regarded as one of the finest clock makers in the UK) has asked that his apologies are placed on record in the Newsletter. Mark has been embarrassed that the clock has spent more time in his workshop than it has telling the time in Norton. Peter Callaghan

NESTA GAUTIER-SMITH I wanted to let you know that my mother Nesta died – on the same day as Charles Campbell which would have pleased her enormously! As many of you will know, Nesta was eternally cheery, chatty and sociable. She was spirited, uncomplicated and a shameless flirt! Above all, she was kind, non-judgmental and great fun. My mum loved this village and lived in Courtfield Lodge for eight years before moving to a care home. Before that my parents were in Bower Hinton for ten happy years. Like my father Peter, she bequeathed her body to medical research, therefore no funeral. Annie Taylor

JUBILEE GARDEN If anyone has spare bulbs and would like to plant them in the Jubilee Garden, please do so, and pull up a few weeds while you're there! I would be most grateful. Lynn Orchard.

Norton event dates for your diaries, more details next month

CHRISTMAS MARKET Saturday 21st November, 11am–3pm, Norton Village Hall. Lots of stalls, grand raffle, refreshments and much more. Organised by Norton Community Matters to support various projects in our village, please come along to support us. Donations welcome and ideas for help with funding, please email helloncm@outlook.com. Jennie Harris and Sue Lowder for Norton Community Matters.

THE MUSIC QUIZ IN THE NELLIE, Sunday 29th November, 7.30 for 8pm, Lord Nelson. Jonathan Naughton's quiz raising money for the Reading Room. Book your table of up to six people at the Nellie, £5 on the night plus raffle ticket cash.

HAMSTONELIVE PRESENTS CARMENCO: A POCKET OPERA, Friday 13th November, 7:30pm, Norton Village Hall. 'Cabaret-style' evening of music, theatre and comedy. Tickets from £14. Lindsay Higgins and Nigel Laing

HAMDON HA! HA! COMEDY NIGHT, Saturday 14th November, Lord Nelson skittle alley, 8pm. Tickets £12, on sale at the pub and online (jokepit.co.uk) from mid-October. Lindsay Higgins

THE VILLAGE ART GROUP Annual Art Show & Sale, Saturday, 10th October, 11am–4pm, Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall. Do come along for a fantastic day. As usual, the Brownies will be serving refreshments and home-made cakes! And be sure to catch our next fascinating workshop with artist Natasha Lee who will be demonstrating Watercolour technique on **Saturday 7th November, 10.00am–3.00pm**. We meet at the Stoke Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.30 noon during school term time. First visit FREE! Please contact Andrew 01935 823691; SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com; Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

CHISELBOROUGH CREATIVES We are excited to share our 2026–27 programme with you. Our workshops and talks cover a broad range of interests from sewing skills to dried flower workshop via fabric printmaking and much more! Our new email address for the programme, bookings or enquiries is creatives@chiselborough.org. We look forward to welcoming you. Deb, Helen and Kate

VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Sunday 4 October Table Top Sale, Norton Village Hall, 11am–2pm
Monday 5 October Somerset Catch food van, Norton Village School car park, 4–7.30pm
Friday 9 October Registration deadline for Scarecrow Trail
Monday 12 October Parish Council Meeting, committee room, Norton Village Hall, 7.30pm
Monday 12 October Crafty Critters, Reading Room, 1.30–3.30pm
Tuesday 13 October Norton Movie Nites, Lord Nelson skittle alley, 7.45pm,
Thursday 15–Saturday 17 October Pint-Size Plays, Lord Nelson skittle alley, 7.30pm
Saturday 17 October 'Meet the Village', Norton Village Hall, 11am–2pm
Sunday 18 October Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church, 6pm
Monday 19 October Ladies Group, Reading Room, 2.30pm
Friday 23 October Pint-Sized Plays, Chiselborough Village Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 24–Saturday 31 October Scarecrow Trail, Norton Village
Saturday 24 October Village Ceilidh with Curry, Norton Village Hall, curry 6pm, ceilidh 7.30–10.30pm
Tuesday 27 October Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street, 10.10–10.35am
Wednesday 28 October Coffee Morning, Rocklands House, Little Street, 10.45am
Saturday 31 October Norton Bounds Walk, meet at Lord Nelson, 8.30am
Friday 13 November Carmenco: A Pocket Opera, Norton Village Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 14 November Hamdon Ha! Ha! Comedy Night, Lord Nelson skittle alley, 8pm
Thursday 19 November Flower Show AGM, Lord Nelson skittle alley, 7.30pm
Saturday 21 November Christmas Market, Norton Village Hall, 11am–3pm
Sunday 29 November Music Quiz for the Reading Room, Lord Nelson, 8pm
Sunday 6 December Choral Concert by the Trinity Entertainers, Norton Church

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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