NORTON NEWSLETTER September 2026 ISSUE No 575

**** 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
Many thanks for your responses to our request for your preferences for receiving the Newsletter – it's good to know it is appreciated. If you haven't replied yet, **please respond before 1st October**, either by the coloured slip that was attached to the August issue (if you still have it!), or by email to nortonnewsletter24@hotmail.com, so we can gauge how to continue its printed circulation.

MOBILE LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB The Mobile Library will be in Chiselborough opposite the village hall on **Tuesday 1st September** from 9.30–10.00am and **in Higher Street, Norton from 10.10–10.35am**. The book club usually meets on the same day, but as the Reading Room is closed for that date, please contact Anne Fairweather for details, 01935 882620.

NORTON TEA ROOM We are happy to announce the opening of Norton Tea Room! We'll be open **Friday 4th September from 10:30 to 15:30** for sweet treats and drinks. We'll be introducing our savoury menu on **Tuesday 8th September**. We look forward to seeing you then, Amy and Lara

READING ROOM A very warm welcome to Lara and Amy who will be opening their tea rooms in The Reading Room **on Friday 4th September** We hope you will enjoy their exciting meals menu and we wish them well in their new venture.

BOOKS to borrow – As well as a good selection of 2nd hand books, we now offer IT books on loan. These include IPad and Iphone user guides as well as Microsoft Office from beginners to advanced. Contact us on nortonrrbookings@gmail.com
The Reading Room Committee

CRAFTY CRITTERS will be meeting in the **Reading Room on Mondays 7th and 28th September between 1.30 and 3.30pm.** Come and join us for a couple of hours of friendly chat whilst we work on our projects. £2.00 per session includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Crafter Critters send many congratulations to everyone who has been busy producing poppies for our Remembrance display. We now have just over 1000 poppies! There is still wool available so please keep making more until we run out. We would like to collect the final poppies by the end of September to give us time to attach them. Thank you so much for your support. Tricia, 01935 882646.

NORTON MOVIE NITES at the Lord Nelson skittle alley, Tuesday 8th September. Doors open 7.45, film starts 8pm. We begin our autumn season with The Choral (12A, 113 mins). A choral society's members leave to fight in WWI, so it's left to Dr Guthrie to recruit a mixed band to perform a challenging concert. With Nicholas Hytner directing and Alan Bennett writing, this is top quality entertainment. Tickets £5 from Norton Shop.

SUPER SATURDAY AT NORTON VILLAGE HALL. Saturday 12th September, 11am–2pm. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the new hall! Most of our village groups, clubs and hirers will be represented at this Meet the Village event. Please come along to support them and find out how they use the many benefits of our village hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. Norton Village Hall committee looks forward to seeing you there. If you would like to book a table to promote your group or business, please email NSHVHMTV@outlook.com. Later that day we have our **70's & 80's Disco from 7–11pm** run by our very own DJ, Roy Warry. Bar and raffle, and Tex-Mex platters (with gluten-free and vegetarian options) supplied by our local caterer Sue Foreman. Tickets for the Disco on sale for £5 from Norton Shop. Let's make it a day to remember for everyone! All money raised will go towards the upkeep of the hall. Items on the wish list include replacing the veranda doors and the kitchen shutter. **Date for your diary: Tabletop Sale, Sunday 4th October, 11am–2pm**. To reserve a table, contact Lindsay Elliott on 01935 881074.

NORTON SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
There was no August meeting, however we do have these items of interest:

Planning: The Parish Council received the fourth set of amendments for Planning Number: 23/0285/OUT
Proposal: Outline Application with some matters reserved except access for the construction of up to 5no. dwellings, parking, landscaping, ecology areas and associated works utilising a modified existing highways access.
Location: The Stables Land Behind Highwoods North Street Norton Sub Hamdon, Somerset
Application Type : Outline Application
The Parish Council continues to OBJECT to this application due to the continued absence of safe pedestrian infrastructure, unresolved highway safety concerns, an inadequate housing mix, and insufficient assurances regarding drainage.
If you would like to view the latest amendments and the Parish Council's response, you can do so via the Somerset Council Planning website. Search for planning application 23/0285/OUT. All submitted information, including the latest documents and the Parish Council's response, can be found in the Documents section.
September food van visit, Monday 7th September in the Village Car Park. We're very excited to welcome **Go Greek Catering** to Norton for the first time – and we hope you're going to love their seriously delicious Greek street food, packed with authentic Mediterranean flavour: Pork Gyro Wrap, Chicken Gyro Wrap, Halloumi Wrap, Falafel Wrap, Greek Sausage, Loaded Fries, Greek Salad, Special Greek Box. Whether you're after a proper Greek feast or just fancy trying something different, this is one not to be missed!! Let's give Go Greek Catering a really warm Norton welcome.
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14th September 2026 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, 7:30pm, Norton Church. Tickets at £5 each are now on sale in Norton Shop. Dr John Ashton will give an interesting and amusing talk 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 whose walls and buttresses formed a makeshift court. Proceeds from the evening will be used by the Friends of Norton Church to maintain the fabric of our church for future generations. A wine and soft drinks cash bar will be available from 7:00pm and, with the new under-pew heating, a warm welcome awaits you.

NORTON LADIES GROUP While we took a break from our meetings in August, we were very busy in charge of serving teas and cakes at the Flower Show. Thank you to everyone who supplied such scrumptious cakes, and to all volunteers who did such a splendid job. **Our next meeting will be on Monday 21st September at 2.30pm in the Reading Room** when our speaker will give a talk on his fundraising travels to Nepal for St. Margarets Hospice. We meet on the third Monday each month at 2.30pm in the Reading Room. New members and visitors are always welcome. Enquiries Sue 01935 881805

NORTON VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING. After the summer break, Coffee Mornings will start up again in the autumn. The first one of the season is on **Wednesday 23rd September** at the home of Debbie and Simon Bradley in Norton House, Great Street. The theme will be 'Harvest'. These events are great for catching up with village news and meeting new people. They only last an hour, and all the serving of drinks and washing up are taken care of. If you're interested in hosting the coffee morning on Wednesday 24th March next year, we would love to hear from you. Many thanks. Janet Hutton 01935 881566 and Debbie Bradley 07710 352194

NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW
Thank you all for your help in creating a wonderful 2026 Flower Show. Steve and his magic bike started things off by leading the procession from the Lord Nelson. He was joined by the Blood Bikes rep and the Bubble man, and many others waving flags, blowing whistles and creating bubbles to everyone's delight. In spite of several heatwaves, the exhibitors produced plenty of entries. Congratulations to all our Cup winners, in particular Kate Hodge who won a total of eight cups for her flowers and cookery! New exhibitor Rob Jarvis won the Brimsmore trophy for the best exhibit in the Show. In the Children's classes, Flossy Hardisty won the best exhibit and Jasmine Clark won most points. In the Young Adult classes, Evie Hardisty won the best photography and the most points. New exhibitors Constance and Verity Martin won awards for their miniature gardens, ages 8-12 and under 8 respectively. The speed flower arranging organised by Kath Crouch continues to draw a crowd, while the Morris dancers were good fun. Special thanks to Sue Lowder and the Ladies Group for the wonderful refreshments. Well done everyone! Later, we watched the sing-a-long version of Mamma Mia! – the perfect end to a fabulous day. We now look forward to our 125 year celebrations in 2027.

NORTON BOULES Thursday evening boule nights continue and, as we now have score display signage, we know what is happening! Weather permitting, we will be there from 6.30pm each week at Minchingtons Rec. This public facility is available to use at any time, with a boules set available from the Lord Nelson during its opening hours.

NORTON COMMUNITY MATTERS We have a few places available for the CPR awareness course on **Tuesday 8th September, 6.30pm** in the Reading Room. Please email helloncm@outlook.com if you wish to come along. Thank you to everyone who has signed up already.

THE VILLAGE CEILIDH WITH CURRY Norton Village Hall, Saturday 24th October. Dinner 6pm, dance 7.30–10.30pm. Mark from the Lord Nelson will provide a great choice of curries for your delectation, and local dance band, Jigs for Gigs, and caller will kick off from 7.30pm with a short break from activity at 9pm. Doors close at 11pm. Dinner tickets price to be confirmed soon. Dance tickets £10. Any surplus money after costs have been covered will be donated to Norton Village Hall. Tickets will be on sale separately for meal and dance during September/October.

WANTED: SCARECROWS! We're planning to install a village Scarecrow Trail **from 24th–31st October** so we'll need some scarecrows. The theme will be Occupations, so let's make this the best trail ever: think teacher, sports person, TV presenter, actor, pop star – the world's your lobster! Registration forms available from Norton Shop, Lord Nelson and Village Salon. Look out for posters and register your scarecrow before 10th October. And another date for your diary: **Saturday 21st November Christmas Market**. More details about scarecrows and the market in the October Newsletter.

A PROBLEM SHARED I wonder how freely you share problems. We all have them. Some may be serious and others trivial. They niggle away and remain until they're solved. The first step is to admit we have a problem, and the second is to share it. Sharing is not without danger – we need total confidentiality from those with whom we share, otherwise things could escalate. Good advice comes from wisdom and experience, but by expressing the problem we may find relief. Here 'prayer' may be helpful. The problem may not be solved entirely, but 'a problem shared is a problem halved'.

FRIENDS OF NORTON CHURCH WINE CLUB
September winners are Robert Vaux, Brian Frosdick, Adele Wassell, Roger Webb, Alexia Hill, Tim & Pam Williams, Richard Raven, Lindsay Higgins, Liz Fish, Jane Ashdown. If you are interested in joining the Wine Club, please contact Simon on 07943 971566 or email simonbradley@gmail.com.

NORTON CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER
Sunday 6th, 11am Morning prayer
Sunday 13th, 9.30am Communion
Sunday 20th, 6pm Evensong
Wednesday 23rd, 9am Communion
Details of all services and information about the Benefice, www.hamhillchurches.org and church notice boards.

JUBILEE GARDEN Many thanks for the help we have received in the garden during this very hot summer, it has all been very much appreciated. Please, if you can spare any more time and energy in the next few weeks or so to cut back and weed for the autumn, I would be most grateful. Thank you so much! Lynn Orchard.

VILLAGERS RUNNING FOR CHARITY You might have seen us running around during the previous few months while training for September's New Forest marathon. In true Norton style, many villagers have provided friendly waves and encouragement to help us on our way. We thought we'd share our reasons for such a mad adventure: we're running for The Sundeep Watts Memorial Fund, a super little charity that has built and now funds a school for almost 300 children in a very poor part of Kenya. Starting from a few orphans being taught under a tree, it's now a purpose-built school. However, proper accommodation is needed for the wonderful teachers who live in tin shacks. The charity has almost no overheads, so about 98% of all funds go directly to the school. To borrow a slogan, every little really does count. Donations can be made via www.sundeepwatts.org where you'll also get information on the charity. Thanks for all your encouragement. Ronan and Liz Walsh

DONATIONS AND ASSISTANCE REQUESTED
September again, and Raft (Refugee Aid from Taunton) seeks clean, washable winter clothing; winter footwear for men, women, teenagers, children and babies; new underwear and toiletries for all; unused medical supplies; disability aids; nursing bras and maternity clothes. Blankets and sleeping bags are always needed. Raft has been seeking donations since 2015 when Syrians first began fleeing President Assad's civil war. I made my first delivery of donations to Refugee Support Group, South Somerset, ten years ago this month. The group also organised fundraising events including for overseas charities: concerts, quizzes, supper evenings, coffee mornings, Burns' nights, a stall at country fairs and Music in the Meadow. While such events have gradually ceased as caring duties, ill health and other projects have diminished our numbers, I continued accepting or collecting donations, storing them and finally delivering a car load to Raft. I am very grateful to those who have donated goods over the years, some regularly since the beginning. Now I'm seeking someone, or perhaps two people together, to assist during winter months, particularly with driving, as my health becomes less reliable, and who could gradually take over the project from me. I do not want to suddenly leave everything in chaos and I would prefer it to continue being useful. With grateful thanks, Geraldine Downey 01460 271358

THE VILLAGE ART GROUP Would you like to have a go at drawing with charcoal, pencil or pen? How about exploring pastels, watercolour, acrylics or oil? There's so much choice! Our autumn term commences on **Friday 4th September** at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall. The Village Artists Group meets 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

Tuesday 1 September Mobile Library and Book Club, Higher Street, 10.10–10.35am
Friday 4 September Norton Tea Rooms open 10.30am-3.30pm
Monday 7 September Crafty Critters, Reading Room, 1.30–3.30pm
Monday 7 September CPR & defibrillator training, Village Hall meeting room, 3pm
Tuesday 8 September Norton Movie Nites, Lord Nelson Skittle Alley 7.45pm
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, 7.30pm
Monday 21 September Ladies Group, Reading Room, 2.30pm
Monday 28 September Crafty Critters, Reading Room, 1.30–3.30pm
Tuesday 29 September Classics at the Nellie. 5.30-8pm
Thursday–Saturday 15, 16 & 17 October Pint-Sized Plays at the Lord Nelson
Friday 23 October Pint-Sized Plays 'on tour', Chiselborough Village Hall
Saturday 24 October The Village Ceilidh with Curry, Norton Village Hall, 7.30–11pm
Saturday 14 November Ha! Ha! and Curry Night, Lord Nelson
Saturday 21 November Christmas Market, Norton Village Hall
Sunday 29 November Music Quiz for the Reading Room, Lord Nelson
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 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.

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