December 2022 Issue 40

Norton Canes Village News

Festive Fun Starts Here

You are invited to take part in a fantastic event to kick off the festive season.

The annual Lantern Parade sets off from Norton Canes Community Centre on Sunday December 4.

Excited local children have been busy making lanterns in workshops at their school or at groups such as Scouts, Guides and Brownies.



Lantern Parade on Norton East Road, December 2021

Santa will be in attendance at the event on his sleigh, joined by children's characters parading around the village.

Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece said:
"We hope you will be able to join us again this year.
"Come and join us and bring your own lantern if you wish.
"Please arrive no later than 3.40pm – particularly if you need to pick up lights.
"We look forward to seeing you there."

As it is difficult to gauge the amount of children due to attend this popular event, lights for the lanterns will be provided first of all to those who made their lanterns in the workshops.

There may be a few spare lanterns and lights available for anyone who doesn't have one. These will be handed out on a first come, first serve basis.

Sweets will be given to the children on the parade.

**Please note there is a change in the start time from previous years.*

This year's parade will leave the community centre at 4pm prompt. *See route map on page 2.*

A big festive hello!

Welcome to the 40th edition of the newsletter.

How many? Yes, you heard it right – 40!

It's a special number indeed at the moment. My partner and I are celebrating our 40th anniversary in three days' time as I write this. So,

happy anniversary Newsletter and happy anniversary Alex.

Thank you to all the contributors for your energy and enthusiasm in keeping the Newsletter entertaining.

As you drive through the village and enjoy the sight of the wonderful Christmas tree at the Church Road/Norton Green Lane junction please spare a thought for the family of Peter Matthews who sadly passed away in October.

The tree lights were Pete's creation enjoyed by villagers every year. You may have noticed they were lit earlier than usual this year. Pete's family wanted to ensure he could enjoy the view from his window in his last days.

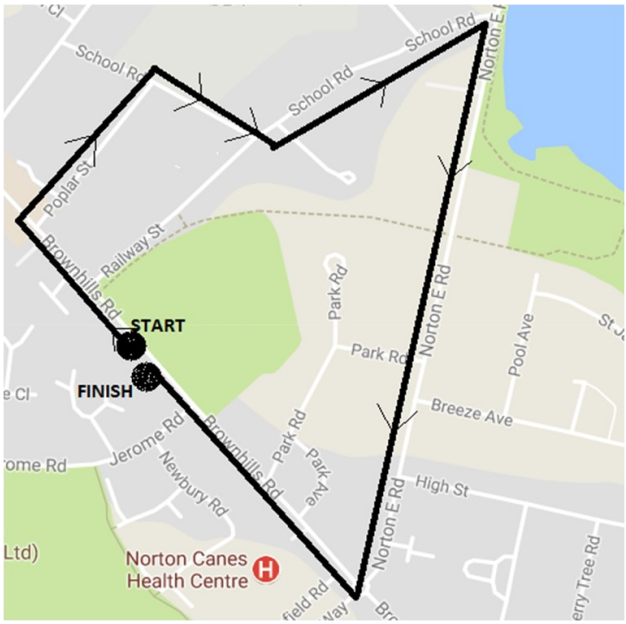
Our thoughts are with Pete's family and we thank them for keeping the lights on the tree in his memory.

Special Christmas loves,

Jan

Route for Lantern Parade

Right out of Community Centre, along Brownhills Road.
Right into Poplar Street.
Right onto School Road.
Right onto Norton East Road.
Right onto Brownhills Road back to the Community Centre



Accession of King Charles III



King Charles III

It seems a world away that in the last newsletter we were sharing the wonderful pictures of the Jubilee Celebrations celebrating Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne.

It is with sadness that, in the subsequent newsletter only three months hence we now talk about Queen Elizabeth II in the past tense.

When Queen Elizabeth came to the throne in 1952 Norton Canes was a much different place to what it was now.

Canals and railways still snaked through the village, and pitheads and slag heaps dotted Cannock Chase landscape.

The postwar construction of council housing was just beginning to happen around Norton East, and along School Road and Poplar Street.
Coppice Row (Norton Terrace) and Pudding Bag (High Street) were still names fresh in the minds of our grandparents and great grandparents.
The Bridge (where the traffic lights and the Coop are) actually was a bridge, and we were part of Brownhills Urban District.

Who knows what the future will hold, but life moves on.

For most of us the Queen is the only monarch we have known and it will take some getting used to King Charles III especially the anthem, the money, the stamps – they will all look and sound strange at first but I am sure that they'll become more familiar as time goes on.

Norton Canes Parish Council would like to wish the King well in his new role as Head of State of our nation.

God Save the King.

Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece

New Parish Council Clerk and Hours of Opening



Ginetta Adams

Norton Canes parish councillors welcomed new clerk Ginetta Adams who began working for the council on October 10.

Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece said: “We look forward to working with Ginetta in taking the parish council forward.

“Ginetta brings lots of skills to the post which we are sure will enhance the business of the council.”

The new office hours (open to the public) are Monday-Thursday, 10am-2pm.

A message can be left on the parish office phone 01543 276812 or email clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

The parish council and councillors all now have new email addresses, details of which are on the parish council website nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

The main contact is clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

New Cemetery

The new cemetery project, adjacent to St James Church, Norton Canes, continues to move forward.

Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece said: “We are currently in the legal process of purchasing the land which will then enable us to move forward in the future with construction of the new cemetery.

“We hope to be able to give a more definite plan for the project in the next edition of the Newsletter.”

Norton Canes Parish Council

Parish council meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month (no meeting in August).

Public participation is from 7pm-7.30pm. All are welcome.

https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/

Grants

Each year Norton Canes Parish Council present grants to local community groups to help them provide activities in the village.

The grant application process for 2023 is now open and groups can apply.

The application form can be found on the parish council website nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

If you are unable to download this and require a hard copy please ring the clerk on 01543 276812 or email clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is January 30 2023.

Applications will be discussed at the February council meeting with presentations being made at the annual Parish Assembly in April 2023.

Neighbourhood Plan

An update on the work of the Plan was included in our September edition of the Newsletter.

A steering group will meet shortly to steer the Plan forward.

The Plan belongs to the local community who have a say in the contents to help shape the village for the future.

NORTON CANES
Neighbourhood Plan

You have a voice and it is important that you have input in the consultation events which will be arranged sometime in the new year - but more importantly at the stage of the Referendum.

Public notices and information relating to these events will be available in the spring so please take part.

If you would like more information in the meantime ring the parish clerk on 01543 276812 or email clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/

Enjoy a look back at the last few months and look forward to the festive season Dandy-style. Comedy due Glynn and Allan Briscoe (aka Dandy) entertain us.

Life and Times

Seasons Greetings to you all. Hope 2022 has been kind to you.

It has been a strange year with so many highs and lows for us as a nation. We witnessed the joyful Platinum Celebrations followed by the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth.

Although the funeral was sad I think many of us felt pride in the amazing planning and execution of such an important event. The eyes of the world were upon us and we carried ourselves with dignity and unity.

Not so much unity closer to home. An outburst from Allan: “If you already know a better way to do it why don’t you do it yourself?!” I detect the start of a mini mutiny.



Glynnis and Allan: on stage where they belong.

Just heard they are changing the roadside breathalyzer test for men. They will now be expected to fold a fitted sheet in under three hours.

We went to see some friends at a pub in Brewood last week. It was quite scary. I watched a woman getting her ear pierced right in front of me. On a related note they won’t let Allan play darts there again….

The other event we marvelled at was the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Brum. Again we felt pride in our heritage - and for once, Brummies and Yam Yams came together to celebrate the new and the old and embrace diversity.

We all fell in love with the magnificent bull and thrilled to see the return of Ozzy as we prayed he wouldn’t fall off his platform.

The last few months has been a bit of a magical mystery tour trying to get out of Norton Canes. There have been many road works and diversions. What might be useful is a pothole map or ‘How to save your Suspension Guide en route from the Orbital’. When we suddenly lurch across the road I hold up a sign saying: “Not drunk - avoiding craters!”

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6
Speaking of signs I saw a couple in the Black Country I loved. On the window of a little shop in Wednesbury: “We mend wot yow’re husband’s bost!” At a pub in Tipton a lack of punctuation caused mayhem: “WANTED. Bar staff to wash glasses and two waitresses.” There were a lot of lads ready to give it a go….

We have all been through the political wringer of late. There has been such high emotion. Is Boris in….is he out? Made me Truss and U Turn all night with worry. What a farce!

Now we discover Liz Truss has allegedly had her phone hacked by the Russians! WHY? In God’s name, why? Were they trying to discover her shopping list for Waitrose? She has left her mark: chaos, panic and disorder! “My work here is done!” She is lucky we are coming up to the pantomime season. There’s sure to be a few vacancies.

For this joke you can substitute any of the list of Prime Ministers we have had. Man arrives in Heaven and is being shown round. He notices a wall of clocks. All the fingers say different times. On asking he is informed they are ‘life clocks’.“

Everyone on earth has one - and each time you tell a lie the fingers move.” On two clocks the fingers had never moved - Mother Teresa and George Washington. They never told a lie.
The man asked: “Where are the life clocks of Tony Blair, Boris Johnson?”
“They are in God’s Office. He uses them as ceiling fans!”

The cost of living legacy is worrying; also the emerging rally to rejoin the E.U. We passed a vagrant in Lichfield last week. I asked how he had ended up in that situation. ”Was it gambling, drink, drugs?”
“No. I left the immersion heater on by mistake.”

“Everything is going up, even necessities, even the cost of hearing aids. Deaf people all over the country are shouting: “HOW MUCH?!”

I read last week that naturism is becoming popular again. This seems an odd choice given the cost of heating. I can see us huddled round our candle sharing a piece of stale bread.

True story. Constant accidents on a bad bend in a narrow country lane prompted residents to put up their own sign: BAD BEND AHEAD. All ignored.
Eventually they solved the problem by changing sign to NATURIST CAMP. The cars nearly ground to a halt trying to see over the hedge. Psychology at work.

Enjoy the festive season. All good things to you and yours.
Glynn and Allan

Christmas Message from your Chairman



The last couple of months of the year are a busy time in Norton Canes Parish Council's calendar.

We've just organised our first Remembrance Sunday parade in conjunction with the 1st Norton Canes Scouts.

It was wonderful to see the children in their full uniforms - well done!
In December we organise our Lantern Parade as we lead up to the Christmas Festivities.

Everyone is welcome. It's a lovely festival of light and captures the spirit of Christmas. Please attend.

Details are at the back of this Newsletter.

On behalf of Norton Canes Parish Council may I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Councillor John Preece
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman

Elections 2023: Get Involved?

Local elections will be taking place in 2023.

Do you have an interest in local politics or feel you can make a difference to where you live?

Next year, elections will take place for Norton Canes Parish Council.

For more information on local elections visit the Cannock Chase Council website.

Norton Canes Parish Council

The notice boards outside the Co-op and on The Bridge crossroads contain information which is updated regularly on parish matters.

Christmas at St James



Church Services:

Carol Service: Sunday December 18 at 4pm followed by wine and mince pies.

Christmas Eve: Christingle at 4pm; Mass in Christmas Night, 7pm.

Christmas Day: Mass at 9am.

As the nights draw in and the autumn air turns into winter we would like to invite the wider community in to the warmth of St James Church.

Advent is a time of preparation and with this in mind the St James events team are offering two Christmassy events to get all ages involved.



On Friday December 2 at 6pm join us at the church for some festive willow wreath making. Festive cheer, wine, greenery, ribbon, cinnamon sticks and willow will be provided for a small charge of £15.

We encourage you to get your creative juices flowing by bringing extra bits, fairy lights, ornaments etc to make your wreath stand out.

The events team will also be running a drop-off crafting session for primary aged children from 11am on Christmas Eve.



Rumour has it that Santa's very own Christmas Labrador Tilly will be in attendance for the festivities.

Parents will be able to drop off their little ones with a packed lunch to give them a little Christmas preparation time and join them again for the Christingle service at 4pm. A small donation of £1 or more to be paid at the door.

**If either of these events interest you please email us with your name and the event you are interested in at stjameschurchevents@gmail.com*

Busy at Trinity



Sunday Worship takes place at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church at 11am.

Enjoy a coffee and chat on Saturdays, 10am-12 noon.

Sunday December 18: Carol service at 11am.



Sunday December 25: Christmas Day service with the Reverend Chris Ambler at 10.30am.

(There will be no New Year's Day service).

Girls' Brigade meets on Thursdays: Explorers (aged four to seven) and Juniors (aged seven to 10) meet from 6pm -7pm; Seniors (11-13) and Brigadiers (14-18), 7.30pm-8.30pm.
New girls very welcome. For details ring Chris on 01543 276695.

** The church is in Poplar Street, Norton Canes. Contacts are Reverend Chris Ambler on 01543 876610, senior steward Ian 01543 276695.*

Deer on our Doorstep

This beautiful photo was captured by resident Maureen Ansell.

I can't help but notice how the deer appear to be posing with their 'best hoof forward' and jostling to be at the front," Maureen said.

"I feel privileged to see beautiful wildlife."



Recycle!

Need a second bag for your paper and cardboard recycling? You can order another blue bag by ringing 01543 462621 - or visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/do-it-online/request-it/lost-bin-new-bin-request

Christmas Message



Rev Chris Ambler

As we approach Christmas this year there is a lot of anxiety around it - some from the cost of living crisis, some from the energy crisis.

What we often do not notice about Christmas in more 'normal' times is the anxiety which is already part of the story.

A young woman about to give birth to her first child is a strange town without any of the help or support we would regard as essential, and perhaps without the care of family around her either.

For me, part of the power of the Christian faith and of Jesus in particular is the way he comes into the reality of human life. He knows the challenges from the inside and meets with us in the most difficult places.

I have always found that - and the fact that Jesus is ready to work with us from the lowest or most difficult point - most encouraging. We do not have to live up to what Jesus wants before we can encounter him.

The encounter itself can be the new beginning, the way into something different.

So I pray that this will be a good and happy Christmas for everyone, even if it needs to be different or controlled in some way due to other pressures upon it.

What will not be limited by any of these pressures is the love of God which is being revealed in Jesus, so I pray in the middle of everything else that love will be known and received.

Happy Christmas.
God bless

The Reverend Chris Ambler
Trinity Bourne Methodist church



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For details ring the parish council clerk
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clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

To avoid disappointment items for the
March 2023 newsletter must be emailed to
Jan at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk by the first week in February 2023

Norton Canes Historical Society

The society meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Norton Canes Library.

December meetings are usually informal. Society chairman Roger Knowles brings older local newspaper cuttings and books for members to view.

This informal evening gives everyone a chance to ask about/discuss Norton Canes historical issues such as mining, old shops, street names etc.

Please join us and let us know what speakers you would like for the 2023 programme.

Admission is free. All welcome. Doors open at 7pm. The event ends at 9pm.

Mo Garbett
Secretary

**There will be no meetings in January and February. The first meeting will be in March 2023.*

Fancy a Crafty Get-together?

The Friday Craft Club meets every Friday at Norton Canes Library. New members are invited to join the group, which meets from 10am-12 noon.



Craft Club spokesperson said: “This is a small, friendly group for craft and card- making. All materials are provided; also includes a cuppa and biscuit.”

The club is ‘ideal for beginners’. The cost is £3 per morning.

For more details ring Lynn on 07375 916 865.

The notice boards outside the Co-op and on The Bridge crossroads contain information which is updated regularly on parish matters.
https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/

Norton Canes Flower Club

Another year nearly gone - and this year has been good because we have been able to meet up in groups again.

It's not until you are unable to do so that you realise how important it is to meet together. There is Christmas and a New Year to look forward to.

Hope you've got your snuggle wraps to keep warm on chilly nights.
In August some members made a visit to Winterbourne House in Birmingham and it was a delight.

The house and garden are part of the University of Birmingham and the gardens are lovely; and although when we were there the weather wasn't at its best we really enjoyed our tour with the head gardener.

We also had the opportunity to look round the house which was very interesting too.

In SeptemberJo Davis visited the club with her demonstration entitled 'Blooms and Tunes'.

Jo produced some lovely arrangements using a good variety of flowers inspiring us with lots of tips and information.

In October Teresa Smith gave a workshop on making paper flowers. The results were really good and we have to thank Teresa for sharing her expertise with us.

Our annual meeting took place in October; and once the business part had taken place members enjoyed a cuppa and a piece of cake.



Beautiful floral arrangements from Jo Davis's demonstration 'Blooms and Tunes'.

November's demonstration by Chris was entitled 'Christmas is Coming'. We looked forward to ideas for Christmas flowers.

December 14 is the Christmas celebration which we all enjoy.

January brings a New Year and a new programme for the club.

**Monthly meeting are held at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on the third Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise stated) at 1.30pm. New members and visitors are most welcome. For details ring 01543 277492 or 01543 278370.*

Darby and Joan: Come and Join Us

Fed up, bored or lonely?

Then why not volunteer for two hours a week at Norton Canes Darby and Joan Club?

Club spokesperson Maureen Hall said: “Many friendships are made here.
“We have a game of bingo, raffles, talks, and provide light refreshments.
“We organise day trips, parties for special occasions - and are soon off to Eastbourne for a few days. We are a very friendly club.”

Members meet at Norton Canes Community Centre, Wednesdays, 1.30pm-3.30pm.

If you don’t wish to be a volunteer, anyone over 50 can join the club.
The first week is free after which the charge is £2.
For more details ring Maureen 01543 279751.

Councillors and a Cuppa

District Councillors John Preece and Josh Newbury continue to pick up local issues raised by residents.



Councillor John Preece



Councillor Josh Newbury.

They are out and about in the village for their regular street surgeries – ‘coming to you so you don't have to come to them’.

The councillors would also like to remind villagers that Norton Canes Library is holding a free coffee morning every Saturday from 10.30am.



John or Josh will be there from 11am.

Their message is: “These are a great opportunity to get out of the house and meet people. Who doesn’t like a free cuppa?”

Norton Canes Remembers

Norton Canes held its own special tribute to those who lost their lives fighting for our freedom.
The village held a parade which set off from Jerome Primary School to St James' Church.
Local dignitaries and the 1st Norton Canes Scouts attended.
The event was organised by Norton Canes Parish Council with the Scouts.



1st Norton Canes brigades assembling at Jerome School



Mini-bus courtesy of Cllr Steve Loundes leads the parade in Pinfold Lane



Josh Shirley Standard Bearer



Councillors Robert Wilkinson, Parish Chairman John Preece and Josh Newbury

Norton Canes Remembers



Poppy wreaths are presented at St James Church Memorial Window



St James Church



District Councillor Mike Hoare and County Councillor Samantha Thompson

Poppy display and sales on behalf of the Royal British Legion at Norton Canes Library







Trinity Bourne Methodist Church Remembrance

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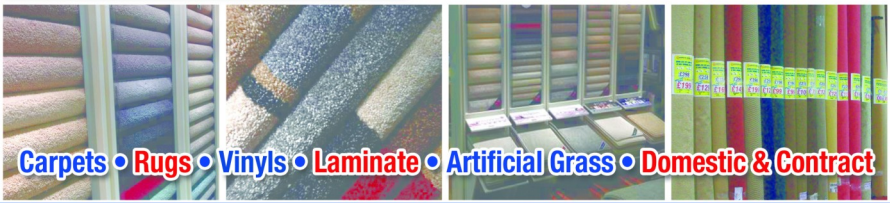
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Carpets Direct 2U is easily accessible to everyone in the area with retail premises in **Aldridge, Burntwood** and **Pelsall** and a huge warehouse in **Norton Canes** which is open to the public and has thousands of rolls in stock ready for customers to take away. Most recently, **Carpets Direct 2U** is proud to have opened a new retail store at **324/326 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury** where the family look forward to serving both existing and new customers in **Wednesbury** and the surrounding areas. **Carpets Direct 2U** has established a reputation for providing customers with good service and quality floor coverings, priced to suit everyone's pocket.

Great Value, Great Quality

So how do they do it? Generally, when buying a carpet to fit your room, this price will include other costs such as storage and distribution by the stockist.

Carpets Direct 2U buy and sell in a different way. In simple terms they buy full rolls of carpet in bulk direct from the supplier, then cut them into standard room sizes and hold the stock themselves at their warehouse in **Norton Canes**. The savings they make are then passed **Direct 2U**. Discounts apply to all ranges. In addition to the vast range of stock they hold, they have hundreds of pattern and sample books to browse through in their showrooms or, you can take away samples to check and match against your individual colour scheme in the comfort of your own home.

Vinyls

The vinyl selection is endless at prices to suit everyone. In the store they stock remnants of all sizes: **2,3** and **4** metre widths with discounts of up to **75% off** normal cut length prices. Any time of the day, every day you can go to **Carpets Direct 2U** and buy a cut-price piece of vinyl, 2m x 2m for **£25**.

If you want a particular range or you don't see what you're looking for, you can order just what you want from a number of sample books and normally get it delivered the very next day.

Fitting Service

Carpets Direct 2U offer a fully comprehensive fitting service, provided by a team of self employed professional fitters with vast experience in the flooring industry. If you require underlay **Carpets Direct 2U** stock a variety and sell it at discounted roll prices, which is half the normal cut length price.

"Everyone's tastes are different whether it be 100% wool carpets or 100% polypropylene stain resistant carpets. The one thing every customer wants is quality carpets at the best possible price and that's what we give at Carpets Direct 2U." **adds Robert.**

Measuring Service

Carpets Direct 2U offer a free no obligation measuring service and are happy to provide written insurance quotations on request.

Rugs

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Whilst you can find a great selection of rugs in store, you can also shop online at **www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk** or order over the telephone on **01922 691555**. **Rugs Direct 2U** offer quality rugs at the lowest prices. They have rugs to suit all tastes and budgets from retro designs to timeless classic styles from their traditional collections. They offer a wide variety of colours in materials ranging from luxurious wool to durable manmade fibres.

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Substance Misuse and Addiction Therapy

Are you using something more than you want to?
Do you want to do something about it?
If yes then please contact Rachael for a chat.

YOU, CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

In Memory of Pete

Villagers will know Peter Matthews for the magnificent tree in his garden on the Church Road/Norton Green Lane junction in Norton Canes.



Peter Matthews

The tree, with its 7,000 lights, was always lit up for Christmas.
Pete, aged 75, passed away on October 24. He had lived with his wife Marg in the village for 23 years.

Pete's varied work life included being a barman, tool maker, grocery shop owner in Aldridge, car test driver and engineering lecturer (the latter of which he was very proud).

Pete's son Stuart said: ""Dad was all about the family. He was always fixing something and did all the DIY on his bungalow. He had a great sense of humour and lots of stories. He loved the neighbourhood and all the friends in Norton."

The tree will now be used as a fundraiser for St Giles Hospice. There is a sign with a QR code by the tree with information about how to donate and the family has set up a Just Giving page.



Donations collected at the funeral on November 17 were for the British Heart Foundation.

Pete leaves his wife Marg, two children Stuart and Sarah, and two grandchildren Jorge and Olivia.

**The Just Giving page link is https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thetreeatnorton*

Norton Canes Library: Something for Everyone



Christmas Holiday
The Library will close on December 23, 2022 and re-open January 5, 2023

Groups using the library weekly are:

Little Chicks on Mondays 10.30am-11.45am (parent and toddler group aged six months to five years).

Craft Group on Tuesdays, 10am-12 noon.

Rhythm Time on Wednesdays, 9.30am Babies 10.30am Toddlers

Card Craft on Thursdays, 10am-12 noon.

Let's Get Together Craft Group on Fridays 10am-12 noon.

'Open Arms' (simply pop in if you fancy a bit of a natter and tea or coffee). All welcome on Fridays 11am-1pm.

Knit & Knatter on Fridays, 1pm-4pm.

In these difficult times a warm welcome awaits you at our Burntwood Road Library. Why not join us for a cup of tea/coffee/toast, biscuits and a natter on Saturday morning 10am-12.30? There will be local councillors there to give advice and answer questions you have about our village.

Groups using the centre monthly are:

1st Wednesday: League of Ladies, 7pm-9pm.

2nd Tuesday: Norton Canes History Group, 7pm-9pm.



A library spokesperson said: "We are always looking for new volunteers.
Feel free to come in for a chat."

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Did you know?



Norton Canes Community Library offers a free home reading service for the elderly, vulnerable and less mobile members.

The service, run by volunteers, is available to residents who are perhaps homebound or unable to visit the library due to mobility issues.

Volunteers work on a particular set day (decided by the library) on a fortnightly basis during daytime only. No timed service can be offered.

The delivery/collection service is not generally available to all library members and is offered at the discretion of the library. Users must meet certain criteria.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this service, please ring the library on 01543 279592 for more details.

Opening times are as follows:

Monday 10am – 5pm

Tuesday 10am – 1pm

Wednesday, main library is closed. Details for Rhythm Time Classes Can be found on www.nortoncanescommunitylibrary.co.uk or pop in during normal opening hours and ask the volunteers for details.

Thursday 10am – 1pm

Friday 10am – 5pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm (with free refreshments until 12.30pm
We also have 20 minute Story time' for 2 to 5 year olds on Saturday commencing at 10.40am

The library volunteers wish all our members a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2023.

I'm overdrawn at the bank and they keep phoning me.
I wish they would just leave me a loan.



**Thank you Cllr John Bernard*

Message from Your MP Amanda Milling



It's surprising how quickly 2022 has gone by. It has been another busy and eventful year in Parliament, to say the least!

As we look to 2023, I look forward to working with the new Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, as he delivers for the country.

The Government is committed to restoring economic stability, while delivering fair and compassionate support for the most vulnerable.

I understand that many families here in Cannock Chase are struggling with rising prices and higher energy bills. That is why the Government is helping families with energy costs and remains committed to supporting those most in need.

As we look back on 2022, we will reflect on the high points of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee and holding the Commonwealth Games mountain biking competition here in Cannock Chase.

But we will look back with immense sadness at the passing of Her Majesty.

Personally, I had the immense privilege to represent Cannock Chase at many of the local and national events to celebrate the Jubilee back in June, but more recently to mourn the loss of her late Majesty.

Her late Majesty was a key part of Christmas Day for so many households over her 70 year reign and I look forward to His Majesty the King's first Christmas message.

As we head into the festive period, all that remains is for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2023.

As always, if you need my help with anything, please contact me on

amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or call 01543 877142.

Silver Sneakers Invite You to Join



Our exercise class still meets every Thursday from 12.30pm-1.30pm.

Members generally stay for a cuppa with a biscuit or two afterwards which gives us half an hour of getting to know each other.

Unfortunately since the last newsletter we lost two of our lovely members Betty Miles and Pearl Precious and they will be very sadly missed.

We will finish on Thursday December 15 and return on January 5.

We wish all our members past and present a very happy and healthy Christmas.

For those who have often thought of taking some gentle exercise make it your New Year resolution to join us. You will be made very welcome.

Our exercise class meets at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church every Thursday from 12.30pm - 1.30pm.

For more details ring Pam on 01543 899367 or Jan 01543 495796

Check Mates



Norton Canes Chess Club's new team is top of Division 4 in the Cannock league.

They won their first match 3-1 to go with the two draws already recorded.
Club spokesman Mike Hoare said: "Well done to all concerned.

"Unfortunately our first team lost to Stafford by the same score after being in very promising positions.

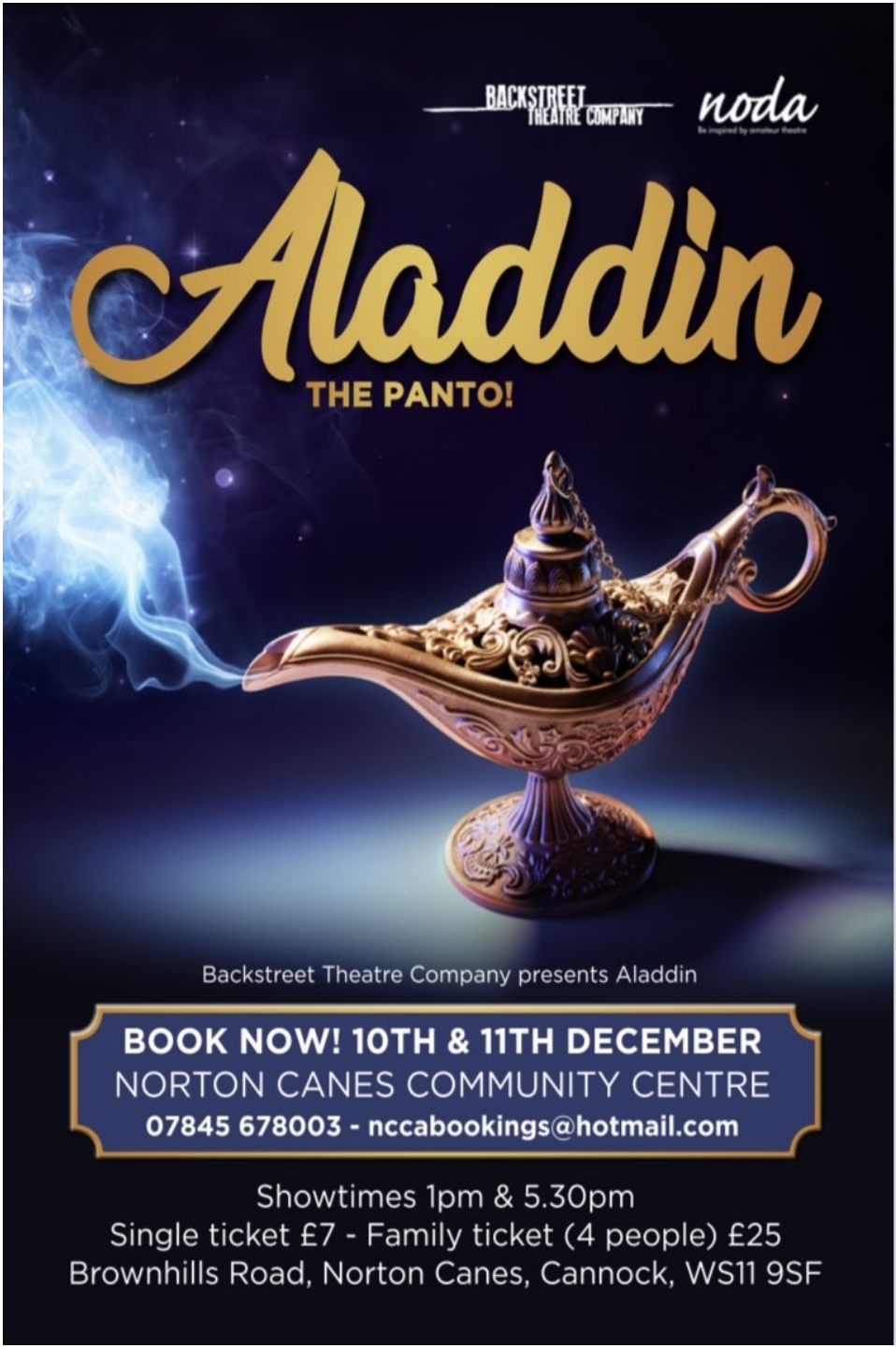
"It is very pleasing to have new members who are improving greatly after only a few months.

"We are open for new members and can cater for all.

"In addition to League chess we all enjoy social chess which means having fun with non-serious games."

Members meet at the Lido, Norton Canes, Tuesdays, at 7.15pm.

For details ring 01543 279989


BACKSTREET THEATRE COMPANY
noda
Aladdin
THE PANTO!
Backstreet Theatre Company presents Aladdin
BOOK NOW! 10TH & 11TH DECEMBER
NORTON CANES COMMUNITY CENTRE
07845 678003 - nccabookings@hotmail.com
Showtimes 1pm & 5.30pm
Single ticket £7 - Family ticket (4 people) £25
Brownhills Road, Norton Canes, Cannock, WS11 9SF

Jenny and Terry's Dances

Norton Canes Community Centre
Brownhills Road
WS11 9SF

Check in with Jenny or Terry for Christmas and New Year *Party* information

1st and 3rd Saturday each month Terry and Jenny's Social Dances
Dancing to *Jenny's Music*
8pm-11pm, £5 pay on the door.
Please make a note: There will be no Dance 1st Saturday in December.

1st Tuesday in the month Charity Lunch Social,
Fun Bingo, Dance 1.30pm-4pm, £8.50 includes food.
Bring your own drink. A Lovely Afternoon
No Dance 1st Tuesday in January 2023

2nd, 3rd and 4th (5th) Tuesdays Social afternoon.
Dancing to *Jenny's Music*
Bring your own food and drink and enjoy a chat and a 'tipple'
1.30pm-4pm, £4 on the door

I'm a big Take That fan.
Unfortunately the store detectives aren't.

Around the village I'm known as a bit of a looker!
Although the police call it voyeurism.



Terrible jokes courtesy of Cllr John Bernard!

What's On At Norton Canes Community Centre

Day	Time	Event	Contact
Monday	10am to 12 noon	Well Being in Mind	07563 516 121
	10.30am to 3.30pm	X'Aquarians Line Dance	07459 473 519
	4.15pm to 6.15pm	L'Rythmix Dance Class	07821 774 456
	7pm to 9pm	Simple Crafting	07570 452 948
	7pm	Kano Judo Club	07549 108 829
Tuesday	9.30am to 3.30pm	Little Group of Sewers	07958 484 271
	11am to 12noon	Tai Chi	07724183091
	1.30pm to 4pm	Jenny's Social Dance	01543 415 232
	4.45pm to 6.15pm	Rainbows and Brownies	07711 822 291
	7pm to 8pm	Poundshedders	01543 278 534
	7pm to 9pm	Indoor Bowling	07716 356 907
Wednesday	11am to 1pm	Norton Canes Craft Group	07968 291 694
	1.30pm to 3.30pm	RVS/Darby and Joan	01543 279 751
	1.30pm to 3pm	Living springs community church bible study group	07593 850 112
	5.45pm to 6.45pm	Zumba	07894 947 334
	7pm to 10pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07459 473 519
Thursday	9am to 4pm	Crafty Sew and Sews	07412191439
	10am to 12noon	Crafty Card	07845 678 003
	7pm to 9pm	Sugar Craft	07792 549 307
	8pm to 10pm	Cannock Photography Society	Cannockps.co.uk
Friday	10am to 12noon	Tot's O'Clock	Janiv18@yahoo.co.uk
	1.30pm to 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	07716 356 907
	5.30pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07459 473 519
Saturday	10.30am to 1pm	L'Rythmix dance class	07821 774 456
	8pm until late	1st and 3rd Saturday each month - Jenny's dance	07980 327 325
	8pm to midnight	2nd and 4th Saturday each month - Nev's Line Dance	
Sunday	9.30am - 10.30am	Weight Loss and Being Group	07742 336 815

What's on Later in the year at Norton Canes Community Centre

December 4, Story time with Santa.
Lantern Parade.



December 10 and 11, Panto, Aladdin by Backstreet Theatre Company,
1pm and 5.30pm.
Tickets £7 (Family ticked for four £25) from
nccabookings@hotmail.com or 07845 678 003

**Ticket and other information can be found on our Facebook page - Norton Canes Community Centre*



As Christmas is fast approaching, on behalf of the centre committee, I would like to offer our thanks to the many people who support us in making the venue such a success.

We are lucky to have a wide number of activities taking place at the centre - which is run by friendly and dedicated group leaders.

It is their regular hiring of the centre which helps cover the day to day expenses which the venue incurs.

We are also fortunate to have support from Norton Canes residents and those from other local areas who buy tickets for events and support our fairs and other activities.

I would like to thank committee members for their hard work in keeping the centre going - especially during the current financial situation.

Thank you to everyone involved with the centre in whatever capacity. Without your hard work and support the village community centre could not survive and the village would be a poorer place.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.
Ian Reeves
Norton Canes Community Association secretary

Tots' Adventure with Childminders

Tiny tots from local childminding services raised almost £840 to help keep animals warm and fed.

Twelve youngsters, all under three years old, toddled around Chasewater for their sponsored walk in October.

Some managed up to four miles and some one-year-olds even managed two miles.

The money raised was in aid of Oak Tree Children's Farm in Stonnall.

Childminder Leanne Cope said: "We experienced all weathers on our walk giving us the opportunity to talk about how animals stay warm, dry and fed.

"It was a real team effort with the older children encouraging the younger ones; and parents praising and encouraging the whole group.













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“The general public in Chasewater cheered us all on. It was a lovely day. I was very proud of the children even before I counted up how much they had raised - and for their families for always supporting us.

“The children showed resilience and determination - and most importantly had fun.”
“Our ethos is about being sustainable, giving back to our community and real life experiences,” Leanne added.

She said the children love to visit the farm and interact with the animals: feeding and observing them.

“We wanted to raise money to help keep the animals warm, happy and fed over winter - just like ourselves,” Leanne said.

**Oak tree farm is a children’s farm in Stonnall. It set up as a poultry farm in 2009 and has since rescued animals and grown. The money raised paid for four hay bales which were delivered to the farm. This will provide hay and straw until the spring.*



KANO JUDO CLUB

Norton Canes Staffs

Kano Judo Club is a friendly, family orientated club which caters for all ages from five years old to adults of any age.

We run sessions at Norton Canes Community Centre on Mondays, 7pm, for younger children and 8pm for older children and adults.

We charge £3 per session with discounts for family members.

All our coaches are qualified instructors with the relevant insurance and are DBS checked.

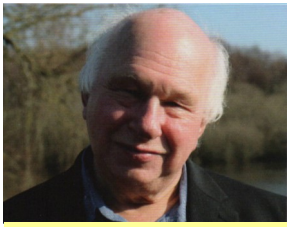
We are a totally not for profit organisation and none of our instructors or other officers receive any payment or help with any expenses they incur as part of the club.

If you, or someone you know, would like more information about what we do or think you would like to give judo a try then come along on a Monday evening.

If you are under 18 please bring a responsible adult along with you.

For more details ring 07549 108 829.

Meet Mike



Cllr Mike Hoare

District councillor Mike Hoare holds a regular surgery at the Lido Club, Norton Canes, on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6pm.

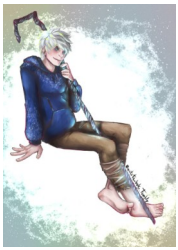


Any residents who have any issues to discuss can attend.

To avoid disappointment items for the March newsletter must be sent to Jan by the first week in February 2023
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

OK. Winter drawers on! Here's a poem to warm the cockles of your heart from Norton Canes funny lady Glynnis Briscoe

Jolly in Jan

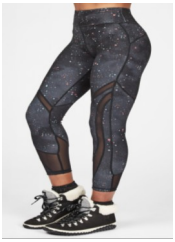


Hard to be jolly in Jan.
Jack Frost to bite at your toeses.
Thick knickers, Vick and a vest for your chest
And the cold wind to redden your noses.



Hard to be jolly on Dark Days.
Watching repeats on the telly.
Snuggling nest with cushions and blankies
Feeding the Winter belly.
Eating the left over chocs you don't like.
"Hide 'em now…I've had enough!
Where did you put them you…
You know I was joking!
Find 'em now or it's gonna get rough!"

Hard to be jolly and self improve
The "Fit Bit" not what I expected!"
The talking scales told me "One at a time!"
So I'm feeling a tad dejected.
I now am "at one" with me leggings.
Whittle your waist, thighs and tum!
I know that they would look really hot
If I could get them up over me bum.
I'm quietly confident of their success.
Lycra has promised great things.
And although the colour is vomit green
It distracts from me Bingo Wings!





Soooo hard to be jolly in Jan.
And although I am riddled with guilt
No balanced Chakras or work on me Abs.
I'm just staying here under me quilt.

myStaffs

This is the ‘go-to’ app for your local council.
myStaffs brings together services provided by Staffordshire County Council and Cannock Chase Council.
County Councillor Samantha Thompson said the app can be used to report issues, for example regarding highways.
Cllr Thompson stressed: “I do need residents to report rather than go to the parish council or myself first so it gets in the system.
“And then if they are not happy I will happily chase the issue.”
myStaffs combines all the services you may need, from just a tap of a button - all your council services in one place, available to download now.
myStaffs is available free on iOS and Android devices and can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



Councillor Samantha Thompson

*Cllr Thompson can be contacted on samanthahompson@staffordshire.gov.uk or ring



NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2022 ~ 2023

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr J. Bernard (Vice Chairman)	01543 274427
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr Mrs S. Harding	07733 346280
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279475
Cllr J. Newbury	07884 111382
Cllr Mrs D. Todd	01543 278778
Cllr R. Wilkinson	07956 994199
Cllr K. Fereday	01543 317967
Cllr D. Bilbie	07784 740969
Cllr P. Sanders	07866 749390
Cllr W. Bird	07400 932929
Cllr S. Loundes	07859 361849

Parish Clerk: Ginetta Adams

Parish Council Office: 01543 276812
Between 10am-2pm Monday to Thursday
If the office is unattended please leave a message and someone will get back to you.
https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/
See Facebook, Norton Canes Parish Council for latest information.

Useful Contacts for District, County and Other Matters

Residents may wish to keep a note of local councillors' and MP contact numbers if they have any Cannock Chase district or Staffordshire County Council matters to discuss.

The district councillors are:

Cllr Josh Newbury	07884 111382
Cllr John Preece	01543 270789
Cllr Mike Hoare	01543 279989

County councillor: Cllr Samantha Louise Thompson 07817 265 438
email samantha.thompson@staffordshire.gov.uk

This newsletter is put together by just two people:
Editor Janet Lee
Sub editor Sheila Harding
It is published by Norton Canes Parish Council
https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/

LANTERN PARADE

Sun 4th December 2022

For more information contact
Ginetta Adams: Parish Office, Burntwood Road, Norton Canes
Telephone: 01543 276812 Email: clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Come along & enjoy the start to the festive season

Sweets for the Children!!

Children's Characters will support the Parade!!

SANTA will be joining the parade on his sleigh

Courtesy of... The Cannock Rotary Club





Commencing from Norton Canes Community Centre at 4pm*

Children will be making lanterns in their schools and at local groups to enter into the parade.
There will be some extra lanterns available, but they will be supplied on a first come first served basis.

**Please be there from 3.45pm to pick up lights for lanterns.*

Posters supplied by: IPD Signs Ltd (01543) 270033