

Norton Canes crafters pay tribute to the NHS and key workers.

Knitting and Crochet by the Knit and Natter group Painting by Mo Garbett and Sheila Harding







Embroidery by Jean Hill and chrochet by Brenda Rose from Norton Canes 'Crafty Sew and Sews'



Teddies wearing masks knitted by Pauline Stabler



September 2020 Issue 31

Norton Canes Village News

Update: New Crematorium and Cemetery

The problems of lack of burial space and travelling to a crematorium outside the area look set to be resolved.

Work continues on planning a new burial ground adjacent to St James' Church.

And building has already begun on a new crematorium at Lichfield Road, near Five Ways island at Heath Hayes.

Norton Canes Parish Council will be the Burial Authority for the St James project.

Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece explained: "We have recently gained planning permission (with new access) for the site and are now undertaking legal work on establishing a right of access with Lichfield Diocese.

"The cemetery will be run independently from St James's churchyard - and as is the case now – the parish council will not be responsible for burials and maintenance of the existing churchyard."

Cllr Preece said parish councillors recognise Norton Canes residents wish to be buried close to their loved ones near the church.

"We will endeavour to ensure that this facility will allow residents to do that," he added.

Parish council clerk Linda Florence said: "We are moving forward but there is still a lot of work to be done."

Cannock Chase Council will be responsible for the new district cemetery, adjacent to the crematorium, at Heath Hayes.

The district council acquired the former Bleak House site to ensure burial capacity for the district for 25 years.

Phase 1 is due to be completed by end of December 2020.

The crematorium is being built by a company called Horizon. The development will include a ceremony hall and parking areas.

Ninety per cent of the site will be landscaped and turned into formal gardens where there will be memorials, a garden of remembrance and areas where ashes can be scattered.

Although the crematorium and cemetery will be run separately by Horizon and Cannock Chase Council, access to both sites will be shared from Norton Road.

Currently the nearest cremation sites are at Stafford or Streetly.

This new site will mean Cannock Chase residents can choose to have their final wishes carried out in their home area.

*The district cemetery at Stile Cop, Rugeley, is close to capacity; the cemetery in Cannock is full; and Stafford Crematorium offers short service times to cope with demand.

A big hello and welcome to Newsletter 31.

I think it is clear from the articles in this edition that villagers are trying to make the best of these strange times.
And we welcome any good news with open arms.
Our sub editor Sheila and I are proud to promote our new 'Flying the Flag for local entertainment' in this edition (see page 7); and we look forward to hearing from our talented residents.
We are trying to remain optimistic that venues will be able to host events in the near future and look forward to some sense of normality.
In the meantime we are proud that we have been able to produce our newsletter in these times – and fill it!
Our sincere thanks to all our contributors.
Please keep the articles coming.

Loves and socially distanced hugs.
Jan x

To avoid disappointment items for the December 2020 newsletter must be sent to Jan by November1.
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2019 ~ 2020

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr J. Beddows (Vice Chairman)	01543 279991
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Cllr K. Fereday	01543 317967
Cllr D. Bilbie	07514 786146

Clerk to the Parish Council Mrs L Florence
01543 276812 (between 10am-2pm)

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 Mrs Zaphne Stretton	01543 276959
Cllr Josh Newbury	07884 111282
Cllr John Preece	01543 270789

County councillor: Johnny McMahon 07584 638 356
Email: johnny.mcmahon@staffordshire.gov.uk

Amanda Milling MP on 01543 877142 or email
amanda.milling.mp@parliament.com

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

Support Staffordshire – Willing to Help

Could Norton Canes benefit from Support Staffordshire?
The organisation is the lead organisation in the county which helps the local voluntary and community sector.
It has almost 1,000 member organisations in the county with over 300 member organisations providing services and support to Cannock Chase residents.
A wide range of services are covered: including health and projects providing social or general community benefit (such as helping people with diabetes, hearing loss and disabilities).
The organisation helps people suffering from social isolation, those who have money worries or anyone in need of general social support.
Support Staffordshire assists local communities in many ways, such as bringing in funding to the voluntary sector; helping to strengthen and develop groups and activities; and helping groups and parishes work together.
In collaboration with Hednesford Town Council, the organisation has recently recruited a community officer.
Support Staffordshire has been awarded a National Lottery grant to support groups developing Good Neighbour schemes, helping local communities with travel, shopping and socialising.
There has been a surge of volunteering during the Covid-19 pandemic.
The organisation is working with the county council to launch Do-it Staffordshire - a local version of the national volunteering website.
Support Staffordshire stays engaged with local communities and holds forums to share information/gain insight into local initiatives/ identify gaps.
During the pandemic, three online support forums have been hosted for Cannock Chase organisations.
A six-weekly meeting is hosted for Cannock Chase Dementia Action Alliance. These are aimed at anyone interested in supporting 'dementia friendly' communities.
Recent changes caused by the pandemic have determined what local activities people can or cannot participate in – and it is recognised this may have a longer term impact.
*For more details about any of the above email Cannock Chase senior locality officer Michelle Cliff michelle.cliff@supportstaffordshire.org.uk or ring 07956 441 395.
If you are looking for a particular service or support organisation visit https://www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk/membership/organisation-directory
Support Staffordshire is welcoming new volunteers. You can sign up at https://www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk/volunteering/i-want-volunteer

SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE

Community Speedwatch – Could you Help?

STAFFORDSHIRE safer roads PARTNERSHIP
Our roads - let's make them safer

Norton Canes parish councillors are still receiving complaints about speeding on village roads.
Some time ago the parish council set up a Community Speedwatch initiative in conjunction with Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (Staffordshire Police).
Speedwatch sessions are carried out regularly on roads where a problem has been identified.
But in order to carry out these sessions, the council relies on volunteers.
Parish council clerk Linda Florence said: "We are always looking for new volunteers to enable us to expand the scheme. We currently only have a few volunteers - which does not allow us the capacity to do more.
"If you feel that you have spare time and would like to support Community Speedwatch we would like to hear from you."
Volunteers are required to undertake a one-day training course with the police.
For more details ring Linda on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Norton Canes Payphone at Risk

The payphone at Norton East Road could be removed.

Consultations are taking place with British Telecommunications about the future of the phone which is outside the One Stop shop.

The consultation process is based on its usage rates.

Norton Canes parish councillors have in the past objected to removal of the phone as it was felt there was a need to retain it.

If you would like to have your views considered about whether the phone should stay, send your comments to Cannock Chase Council's Development Control Department before a draft decision is made.

Your comments should be received by September 2.
Once the draft decision has been issued there will be a further consultation period of one month to make any further comments.

A notice regarding the draft decision will be displayed in the payphone.

Planning Applications – the Process

Norton Canes Parish Council receives all planning applications relating to the village. A planning committee, consisting of five councillors, reviews all applications and submits our responses to Cannock Chase Council.

All applications are reviewed in terms of what is best for the village and councillors do robustly challenge applications.

Parish councillors are working on a Neighbourhood Plan which will enable councillors to have more power and say in planning developments and the shaping of the village in future.

Where it is felt that the application requires parish councillors to challenge applications, they regularly speak at Cannock Chase Council's Planning Committee to try and influence decisions that affect the village. In some cases councillors seek expert planning advice to enable them to challenge in the most appropriate way.

Councillors acknowledge that it is important to be focused on any applications that affect the village.

In some cases they have been successful in getting applications refused - but also sometimes have not been successful. Councillors' views, whilst accepted, do not always have the outcome they would like.

Planning applications are an agenda item at each parish council meeting. All planning applications relating to the village can be viewed on Cannock Chase Council's planning portal which provides all relevant information for each application. If you would like to know more about planning applications you can attend a parish council meeting and take part in the public participation section of the agenda.
Alternatively, ring the clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Would you like to advertise your business in this newsletter and reach every home in the village?

A half page ad' costs just £25, full page £50, double page spread £100.

For details ring the parish council clerk Linda on 01543 276812

Norton Canes Flower Club

This has not been a good year for anybody with the restrictions we have in order to keep safe and well – for the benefit of ourselves and our fellow citizens. This has affected everyone.

We have been unable to meet since February; and as this was the golden anniversary of the club it has been an extra blow.
Sadly the committee has made the decision to cancel the remainder of our programme for 2020.

There has been uncertainty around venues and that has been the main consideration.
The programme for 2021 has been organised and more details will be available later.
Dates have been rearranged at the Cannock Chase Golf Club for the celebratory dinner and at the Prince of Wales Centre for 2021.

The event at Trinity Church, Norton Canes, has also been rearranged for July next year.
Sadly, Jonathan Moseley, who was booked for the demonstration at the Prince of Wales, is not available for 2021 but John Chennell has been booked instead.
Jonathan Moseley has been re-booked for 2022 for the Christmas demonstration.
Also booked for 2022 are Dean Sharpe and Lorena Dyer.



In the meantime, please keep safe, enjoy the flowers and the garden this summer and hopefully 2021 will be better for us all.

We truly hope we shall be able to meet up again.

Think of all the catching up we shall have when it happens.

Norton League of Ladies

We hope all our members and their families are keeping well.

As you all know it has been almost six months since our last meeting in March – during which we have had some sad news.
We will be mentioning this to everyone at our next meeting.

At the present time we still don't know when we can hold our next meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As soon as we know it is safe for all of us to meet we will be in contact with everyone with all details.

So in the meantime, stay safe and hope it will not be too long before we can have our ladies' night again.

Norton Canes Practice

Dr B K Singh

Doctors and staff from Norton Canes Practice would like to thank our patients for their understanding and patience during these difficult times.

Since the pandemic started we have been taking prescriptions over the phone and have been doing telephone consultations.
We intend to continue doing as much work remotely to help prevent the spread of the virus.

We are now starting to call patients in for annual reviews. Not all patients will need to attend surgery for reviews. Asthma reviews can be done by phone.

Anyone who has their own blood pressure monitor can give us their readings and most reviews will be done over the phone.

Any other information that patients can provide us with - such as weight and smoking status may avoid having to come to surgery.

We are looking at ways of how we can keep everyone safe whilst doing our flu campaign this year. As soon as we have decided the best way of running flu clinics we will advertise around the village and send text messages out for patients to book appointments.

As the phones are used more this means sometimes we may be busy and you might have to wait a little longer.

Anyone interested in registering for online services please contact reception staff for more details.

Don't forget we are open for patients who need urgent care, so please don't be afraid to contact us. We are here for you.

The Carers Association (CASS) continues to offer support to unpaid family carers during this time via the helpline 01785 606675; email ingo@carersinformation.org.uk or visit www.carersinformation.org.uk for more information, advice and emotional support.



Please stay safe, keep a safe distance and remember to wash your hands more often.

Parish Office Re-opens

Norton Canes Parish Council office re-opened on August 10.

The office had been closed due to COVID-19.
The business of the council continued during lockdown with the clerk, Linda Florence, working from home.

Measures have now been put in place for the protection of staff at the office which includes: asking residents visiting the office to book an appointment which will enable the clerk to manage the number of visitors at any one time.

A decision was taken to close the public toilet located at the parish office for the time being.

This decision will be reviewed in line with government guidelines.
The parish notice board (outside the Co-op) and the parish website are updated regularly. Visit www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

Thank You

Villagers owe a debt of gratitude to all those who showed kindness and tried to make life easier during those awful first weeks of lockdown due to Covid-19.
Local councillor Sheila Harding said she, like many others in the village, received a note offering help pushed through her door.
It came from Richard and Caroline Joyce, from Church Road, Norton Canes.
The note said: "If you are self isolating or need a bit of support due to Covid-19 we can help (for free) with essential shopping, non-prescription pharmacy or posting urgent mail."
The note then went on to give advice on how residents can stay safe – and how not to be scammed by strangers pretending to offer 'help'.
To protect themselves and others, Richard and Caroline even advised volunteers not to come forward if they had any symptoms such as a cold, cough or fever.
Cllr Harding said: "I think it is a smashing example of people helping people.
"Richard tells me they did a few shopping trips at the beginning.
"The demand wasn't great - so instead he turned his hand to making face protection visors and giving them out free."
This is just one example of residents who went out of their way to help others.
Thank you.

Dear Editor.

I recently experienced a tyre burst while driving In Norton Canes at the junction of Jerome Road and Walsall Road. This junction is notorious for having had numerous potholes across its whole width for some years now, resulting in drivers performing particularly strange manoeuvres to avoid being shaken up both bodily and mechanically. This particular pothole is six inches deep, 18 inches long and 10 inches across and is positioned where vehicles turning left onto Walsall Road run diagonally across it.
My tyre burst immediately and had a rip two inches long across it near the alloy wheel edge which was also damaged.

As is the way with wheel nuts, we could not move them, which resulted in using our breakdown cover to call a mechanic from Walsall just to change a wheel - a galling waste of resource and pollution while we were stranded on a busy road junction for an hour with other vehicles having to pull around us.
I am informed that this particular pothole has been reported previously at least twice to Staffordshire County Council who deemed it insufficiently serious to repair. Clearly that is incorrect.
I dread to think what could have happened if a motorcyclist should have hit this. They would have been fetched off their bike and thrown into the path of oncoming vehicles from two directions with dire consequences.
This junction has been in need of a complete rebuild for several years.
Why it was constructed with a line of kerb stones across its width I cannot imagine, This is a built in weak point.
Added to the camber of the two roads meeting being opposed to one another rather than level seems a travesty in engineering terms.

May I call on Norton Canes residents who suffer this junction regularly to report the situation to Staffordshire County Council, who are responsible for maintaining this road, before someone gets killed or seriously injured please?
Sadly, the more noise we as residents make, the more likelihood that a repair or preferably a rebuild is undertaken. Pothole online reporting to Staffordshire County Council - www.Staffordshire.gov.uk Report a Pothole page. Thank you.

Jennie Woodman

*A highways officer has now assessed the site and arranged an urgent works instruction. A Highways spokesperson said: "We receive approximately 4,000 highway reports each month, urgent works of this nature are usually carried out within seven days and 98% of the most serious defects are made safe within 24 hours. Please be aware that urgent works may include temporary repairs to make the location safe."

**If you would like to send a letter to the newsletter about any issue in the village please email the editor cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk*



CARPETS DIRECT 2U

Your Local Discount Carpet Store

Carpets Direct 2U is owned by **Robert** and **Mandy Freeman**, and their son **Richard**. The Freeman family have been serving customers throughout the Walsall and West Midlands area for four generations. Their years of retail experience have helped them to identify a niche in the market and come up with an idea that allows them to buy and sell carpets to the public at discounted prices.
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 DIRECT 2U

Rugs

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.

Customer Satisfaction

Carpets Direct 2U/Rugs Direct 2U are delighted to have been voted 'Most Loved Carpet & Rugs Business in the UK' (as voted for by local people) for six years running. See what customers have to say about their service and products on the Best of Walsall website. Log onto the Best of Walsall website to read the numerous testimonials and see for yourself why **Carpets Direct 2U** and **Rugs Direct 2U** are so highly recommended as UK's most loved carpet and rugs business, an accolade they are proud of.

Sincere thanks to all customers, old and new, for taking time to forward your recommendations.

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Flying the Flag!



We need good news – and we need to look forward to the future.
So Norton Canes Parish Council will now be flying the flag for local entertainers via this newsletter.

We have an abundance of talent in this village.

We are fortunate to have comedy duo Dandy (see their article in this edition) and many musicians, actors, artists and writers.

If you are part of a group: anything from a rock band to a choir to a drama society or an orchestra; or if you are a solo artiste or part of a duo for example – let us know when and where you will be performing and we can offer free publicity on our Flying the Flag page.
Maybe you would like us to write a feature about you or your group?
Or if you run a pub or club in Norton Canes, let us know who you have performing in the future.

The new entertainment page will start in our next newsletter, when hopefully venues will be in a position to offer entertainment.
Remember, the newsletter is quarterly, so keep an eye out for deadline and publication dates which are provided in this publication.
We are really keen to give our local talent the publicity they deserve.
Let us know when/where you will be performing; or let us know what event you will be hosting, by emailing cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Dementia Friendly Communities

Why do we need Dementia Friends?

In these unprecedented times when coronavirus is affecting our whole communities people living with dementia may need extra support.

Becoming a dementia friend simply means finding out more about how dementia affects a person; then, armed with this understanding, doing small, everyday things to help.

For more information call 03331 503 456 or visit www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-involved/dementia-friends

Encounters of the Herd Kind

Here's something to make you smile: a message from Norton Canes comedy duo Dandy.

Hello there from Dandy. Hope all is well with you and yours. Can't believe we are hurtling towards autumn.
We are still doing the daily walk and have really had chance to see the seasons changing.
I was still unprepared to see how quickly they are changing at The Range. Last week they still had all the garden furniture, barbeques etc alongside the Halloween masks and wigs - and they had just started introducing the Christmas stuff! Time warp!

Couple of weeks back we had a wild and wonderful experience. Plodding through the long, wet grass near the Orbital I looked up and found three very big stags in our path.
Allan hadn't noticed so I whispered, "Look up....don't scream…..and start walking backwards slowly!"
He'd screamed last week when I'd showed him a frog.
As we only see deer on Christmas cards we were a bit overwhelmed. We had never encountered many in Wednesbury.



Encounters of the herd kind.

We backed off and detoured round the copse to get back to the main road -only to find they had gone round the other way and were in front of us again. Allan started to whimper.
Back again through the thistle and long, wet grass only to find the original three deer where we had left them.
Realization dawned that there must be six of them!
In my mind I could see the headlines: 'Elderly Couple Trampled by Herd of Stags who did Not Understand Black Country Accent'.
"Dow worry, we woh 'urt ya! Wim gooin now! See ya Chrismus!"
Apparently this meant nothing to them.
We completely re-traced and got back onto the lane just as a truck screamed round the corner.
We ended up in the ditch.
I shouted in a colourful manner expressing doubts about his intelligence, his driving skills and his parentage, swiftly followed by Allan whispering, "He's heard you! He's stopping….RUN!!
We arrived back home: socks wet, boots wet, jeans wet (for various reasons).

Continued on page 9

New Community Health and Wellbeing App Finder

During the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, we are all adapting to new ways of delivering health and wellbeing guidance and care support to at-risk residents.
Health apps are one way to help older residents or those with long-term conditions to manage their health at home.
But there are thousands to choose from - and not all apps can be trusted to offer up to date advice.
So how can residents know which are good and trustworthy or can safely be recommended to family or loved ones? Staffordshire County Council is offering free access to a super, easy-to-use Health and Wellbeing App Finder service.
The app finder offers an invaluable free resource for parish councils, volunteers, local organisations, community leaders, and carers, as well as the general public to access an easy-to-use library of fully reviewed and handpicked health apps.
The library is safe and secure to use and features hundreds of apps all independently reviewed and rated, and proven to deliver results and help manage specific conditions and more general health and wellbeing, including: anxiety and stress, diabetes, weight loss and fitness, dementia, mental wellbeing, cancer, muscular and arthritic conditions, stopping smoking, pregnancy and more.



Going, Going…… Gone



How many of us walk or drive by without noticing what is going on around us?
Did you notice this tree before it disappeared?

Did you notice the tree man working perilously - perched at the top of the tree?
After the deed was done, did you drive past and get the feeling something was missing?
Local resident Brenda Benton had a bird's eye view of the whole operation; and her husband Stuart took these photos a few weeks ago to capture the moments in time.
Brenda said: "There was a large tree taken down in a garden that we can see from the front of our house. I noticed that few of the people walking by even noticed the amazing work that was going on."

Know where it is/was?
Our thanks to Brenda and Stuart.

A Fairytale Life (How it Used to Be)



Watercolour by Sheila Harding

Once upon a time a group of very young-at-heart people travelled to Norton Canes Village Hall on a Friday night.
They all dressed in very pretty clothes; the ladies had sparkles on their shoes and one lady had pink hair.
They called it dancing for older people and the music was loud (for those who couldn't hear).
A lot of people sang while dancing and laughed.
Can you believe they laughed, and you could see their faces? (There were no masks anywhere too be seen).
They danced holding each other very close and bodies touched.
At the beginning of these meetings most kissed and hugged each other.
At the end they did this strange practice. Men shook hands! That meant they were being friendly.
(I was told a lot of this happened when people met up and saw each other at various events).
How I would love to go to a happy dance.
I think it must have been much better than my Friday Nights Now.
Bless
Jenny Dunn



Norton Canes Historical Society

As with so many clubs and societies, the Historical Society will not be
able to meet safely any time soon.

The programme of speakers is cancelled until further notice.

We hope all members and non members are staying safe.

Until we meet again I wish you all well.
Mo Garbett

Continued from page 8



Glynnis survives another local walk.

Our lives and the rules that govern them are changing on a daily basis.
So pleased for all the grandparents who finally got to spend time with their families again. Kids managed a bit of schooling.
Teacher to class first day back, "Well, children - what did we learn spending all that time at home?"
Jenny: "Mom can be a bit of a slapper!"
Jason: "Dad's crap at D.I.Y. and we need to get a proper man in!"
Alice: "Nan says I can use newspaper to wipe my bum 'cause she had to!"
Lot more masks about.
First dog to second dog: "Why are all the humans wearing muzzles?"
Second dog: "'Cause they couldn't learn to sit and stay!"
There was talk of lockdown for people 50+.
It will take a bigger man than Boris to convince menopausal women they have to stay in. Good luck with that!
Now we are told we are eating and drinking too much. Obesity a problem. Next directive - EAT OUT TO HELP OUT!
Friend of mine went for a blood test and found out her blood group is now Chardonnay A Positive!
Good way to get kids to eat veg is to threaten to change the WiFi password and not tell them the new one.
Any of you still doing the home improvement thing? We had a painter/decorator round to ours. He is currently a furloughed Virgin Atlantic Pilot. Made a lovely job of the landing. Boom! Boom!
Breaking news: Department of Health is looking for married couples of seven years or more to educate people on social distancing.
We've not done too badly - although I feel that the wedding vows should include 'Do you promise to help him find things when he is looking right at them?'
Strange, this is the first year we haven't gone for a holiday in Hawaii because of Covid-19. It's usually because we can't afford it!
Finally, with a nod to strange act 'The Tiger Lillies', who shared this profound thought: If you are feeling worried about how little you have achieved, remember Bram Stoker didn't write Dracula until he was 50 - and Dracula didn't kill anyone until he was dead!

Hold on to your Happy!
Allan and Glynnis Briscoe
Dandy

Miners' Memorial – Please Help

Last year the group Chase Arts for Public Spaces (CHAPS) launched the project to build a National Miners' Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas - home to over 350 national memorials.
Its purpose is to remember all those men, women and children who worked in the coal industry in the UK, to recognise their bravery and the sacrifices they made. It also remembers all miners who fought in both World Wars - 45 of whom received the Victoria Cross for their actions.



Image of the proposed National Mining Memorial.

We have to raise £100,000.
Locally, almost £20,000 has been raised - fantastic!
Some is through personal donation, some from a wide variety of fundraising events, all held before lockdown.
This memorial is for miners from all parts of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.
We are doing quite well at getting the information out but need some help.
And hopefully you may be able to give that help.
We want to keep to the original date for the unveiling and dedication of the memorial - June/July 2021 - which is why we need to move on with fundraising.
The artist Andy de Comyn and two CHAPS members (Mike Mellor and Len Prince) were interviewed at the National Memorial Arboretum by the BBC. The piece went out on Midlands News – here is the link: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10223324439038791&id=1220000405&sfnsn=scwspmo&extid=WL9YQx744Es9XAIZ&d=n&vh=e

If everyone who knew someone connected with the coal Industry were to donate just one pound, we would reach our total.

Some individuals and groups wish to donate more and also to be connected more closely with the memorial, which is why the 22 plaques within the memorial are offered for sponsorship at £2,500 per plaque.

Individual donations can be made through Just Giving: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chapsnationalminersmemorial?utm_term=EmxbkzDbG More information is available on the website: www.chaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk; on Facebook page www.Facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpace; or ring Mike on 07583 655 199.

Thank you for reading this and for whatever help you can give.

Mike and Trish Mellor
CHAPS

Silver Sneakers: Moving and Chatting

Exercise class members Pamela Louies and Jan Kosta have been trying to keep their spirits up by keeping in contact with members and swopping stories.



Pamela said: "It seems that our exercise class will not be able to re-start for a good few months yet, maybe longer.
As a group we are keeping in phone contact now. It really brightens up the day to have a good chat when life is not as we would like it. However it will be a happy day when the group meets again and we will value it so much more. Until then KEEP MOVING!
Pamela Louies

With all the difficulties of the last few months I think that what we are missing is the ability to laugh at ourselves (and others). . . .
Like many others I decided to use lockdown time usefully, planted some herbs and placed them in my bay window. I also wanted to make some soup to freeze for emergencies.
Due to lack of space in my freezer, I reasoned that zip top plastic bags were the answer.
I'm not the best at the internet, but managed to source, order and pay for them.
I duly made the soup- a vast quantity I might add, opened the parcel of bags and discovered they were only 1.5 inches square. Whoops!
No wonder they were a bargain at 300 for £2.99.
A 'friend' showed one to a colleague, who said they were drugs bags.
I've now got a reputation of growing cannabis on my windowsill, and bagging them up!

Many of us are grateful to all those good people who have been shopping for us. I've been emailing my shopping list to my daughter and at the time when flour was difficult to get, decided to put a packet of Ryvita on the list as back up.
When she delivered my shopping, she mentioned that there was one item she couldn't find.
On investigation it transpired that predictive text was the culprit. It had changed Ryvita to revitalise, and she had been trawling the aisles looking for some!

I've got a few more funnies - car wash is one, but I expect most of Norton has heard that.
Jan Koster

We are always looking for people to help deliver this newsletter.

If you could deliver in your road or near please contact the parish council clerk Linda on 01543 276812 (10am-2pm)

email: nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Here's another poem from our talented Norton Canes poet, Brenda Benton

The Hero - by Brenda Benton

He had been a fighter pilot
An air crash investigator
A glider pilot
Studying the psychology of air crashes
He was the ideal person for the job
Suitably chosen.

He remained calm
Those in his care remained calm
They all survived
Against the odds!

It couldn't have happened in a worse place
A better place
New York, crammed with buildings
With people
Yet, there was the Hudson River
Waiting for an amazing landing
A safe landing
Thank God!

This pilot, a testament of how to react
Stay calm
Look for a safe place
Trust!

He will be an example to many
Many will learn from him
Many are alive because of him
Lord, help us all to believe
Beneath us are Your Everlasting Arms!
May we too have a safe landing. Amen.

This poem was written as a tribute to the bravery of Captain Chesley Sullenberger 111



Norton Canes Celebrates and Remembers



2020 will be remembered as a year when our lives changed. coronavirus has affected us all in various ways. This said Norton Canes has not failed to remember that it is 72 years since Aneurin Bevan instigated the formation of the NHS we acknowledge the work and sacrifice of medical staff and to the key workers in all organisations during this present pandemic. Please see photos on page 28.
Thank you to Jean Hill and Brenda Rose for the embroidery, Pauline Stabler and the ladies of the Knit and Natter group for their craft work, Linda Florence for knitting, Mo Garbet and Sheila Harding for the painting.
This year we also celebrated VE day on May 8 while social distancing. We also celebrated and remembered VJ Day August 15.
At 11am on November 11 we will remember the fallen wherever we may be.



Message from your MP Amanda Milling



With Parliament being in recess it means I can spend more time here in Cannock Chase.

With lockdown measures gradually being eased it is great that I can now get out and about again, supporting our local high streets, visiting businesses and meeting with community groups.
Like many people, I was relieved to have my first post lockdown haircut (much-needed), drink in a pub and enjoy a meal in a restaurant!
It has been amazing to see all the measures that local businesses have put in place to enable them to open back up, whilst protecting staff and customers.
Like everyone, I have had to adapt to a different way of working and over the last few months I have held many online surgeries, a format that has proved very popular. Over recent weeks the casework I have been dealing with has moved away from Covid-19 and towards matters I would have typically seen before the pandemic. While many feel the world is returning to normal, we do have to remain alert – regularly washing our hands, using face coverings and keeping our distance.
I remain in constant contact with local authorities and the police to ensure that residents remain safe.
The remainder of the parliamentary recess is filled with more visits, more surgeries and plenty of casework to keep me busy.

If you have any issues you need my help with, please email me on amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk, call 01543 877142 or visit www.amandamilling.com/contact and I can arrange an appointment for you.
Stay safe and stay alert.

Brownies and Guides Busy in Lockdown

The 2nd Norton Canes Brownies and Guides are unable to meet at the moment due to government guidelines.

But in the meantime the girls are able to access meeting ideas, activities and festivals online at girlguiding.org.uk

Their leader Helen Jenkinson said: "We will resume at a later date when guidance changes."

The girls usually meet at Trinity Methodist Church on Tuesdays during term time: Brownies from 5pm-6.15pm; Guides 6.40pm-8pm.

Don't Lose Your Vote



Cannock Chase Council managing director Tony McGovern.

Local residents are warned not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date in the annual canvass.
With district; county council; and police, fire and crime commissioner elections taking place in Cannock Chase in May 2021, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.
The annual canvass ensures that the Cannock Chase Council can keep the electoral register up to date, identifying any residents who are not registered so they can be encouraged to do so.
The council's electoral registration officer Tony McGovern said: "It's important that residents keep an eye out for mailings from the council so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in our district.
"To make sure you are able to have your say at elections, simply follow the instructions on the form you are sent.
"If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in the forms we send. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or we'll send you information explaining how to do this in the post.
"This year's canvass, which we have to carry out by law, is taking place during a challenging public health situation. We are working to ensure we take account of public health guidelines, including the continued importance of social distancing.
People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the council's voter registration communications and check the details.
"Research by the Electoral Commission indicates that recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time."
Electoral Commission head of support and improvement Melanie Davidson added: "It's really important that everyone who is entitled to vote is able to do so. Making sure you provide the necessary information to your local authority when it is needed will ensure the process runs smoothly. This is particularly helpful in the current public health situation, as it will help avoid the need for home visits from canvassers.
"There's lots of helpful information about registering to vote on our website https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter."
Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team by emailing electionsoffice@cannockchasedc.gov.uk or ring 01543 464457, 01543 464437 or 01543 464754.

St James the Great



Things have improved slightly. We are now holding regular services in line with social distancing and more recently the wearing of face coverings.

We hold a regular Mass on a Wednesday Morning at 11am; on Sundays at 10.30am; and if needed (because of limited numbers) also at 11.30am.

These services will also continue to be streamed on Facebook.
Anyone who wishes to join in these would be very welcome, but in the first instance should contact Father Neil on 01543 278969 to reserve their place as we can only accommodate 13 family groups at the time of writing.

This may seem a little strange - as is everything at the present time but we have to play our part and abide by Government guidelines.

We are very pleased to be able to get back into church for services and a little socially distanced chat outside afterwards. Luckily the weather has been kind to us so far and we have not had to shelter from rain.
We are very grateful to Fr Neil and Sue for their continued efforts in finding a way we can continue to worship and to Andy for playing us some music during the Sunday Service even though we are not allowed to sing.

Things are moving forward but we all have to be patient and stay safe.
Hopefully, by the time the next Newsletter makes print things will have improved even further and we may be able to think about celebrating the birth of Jesus as we have always done.

Bogus Callers



There have been several reports on-line about bogus callers in the area.
Please be vigilant. Do not let anyone into your house or garden if you have not called them. If in doubt call 101.
The lines are very busy at the moment and there may be a long wait.
If you or someone you know can go on-line via Facebook etc, please do so as this will gain a much quicker response.
*Contact on Facebook by searching Staffordshire Police and clicking on 'contact us' on their page.
The Twitter handle is @Staffs Police

Message from Trinity Methodist Church



Although our church building is closed due to COVID-19 our church certainly isn't.

We are sending/taking out 'Worship at Home' to everyone every week and we have well attended Zoom Worship every Sunday at 10.30am.
We keep in touch with each other by phone, text and email to keep each other's spirits up.

Foodbank is running from Chadsmoor. If you need food please phone the organiser on 01543 422394.

If you need prayer phone, contact Ian on 01543 276695 and we will mobilise our prayer warriors.

Meanwhile, stay safe, be kind to each other.
God bless.

Chris and Ian Straughan
*The church is in Poplar Street, Norton Canes.

How to mark Remembrance Day this year?



That is the problem facing local churches, schools and organisations.
Remembrance Day 2020 will be held on Sunday November 8.
But unless the Covid-19 situation improves the commemorations could look very different.

Norton Canes parish councillors are advising residents to keep an eye on the media and the parish notice board (outside the Co-op) for any updates nearer the time.
Local organisations wishing to commemorate the day will have to follow Government guidelines issued at the time.

The day is to honour those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life; and to remember the service and sacrifice of the armed forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth.
The commemoration is united across faiths, cultures and backgrounds.

Village Library Reopens Soon



Hello everyone. Hope you are all well and keeping safe.
The library is due to re-open on Monday September 28. Opening hours will be Monday 10am-2pm; Thursday 10am-2pm.
This will be a reduced service for the present time. You will be able to return, request or order books.
We will be doing a one way system, in through the main front door, then through the main meeting room and out via the side emergency door.
The main part of the library will not be accessible and toilets will not be available at present.
As you enter there will be boxes to place your returned books.
There will be a hand sanitising station on entry plus free mask for use once in the library (sorry, no browsing).
Any ordered books will be on tables in the main meeting room for you to collect.
There are three ways you can order books: email norton-canes.library@staffordshire.gov.org; ring 01543 279592 or use an order form.
If you have a problem collecting books please get in touch and we will see if we can deliver to you.
We look forward to welcoming you all back - albeit with restrictions.
Norton Canes Community Managed Library team.

Message from your County Councillor Johnny McMahon



It is great news that Norton Canes Library will be re-opening late September. Unfortunately, I will not be able to start my surgeries again because the meeting rooms in the library are not allowed to open.
In the meantime, if needs be, you can contact me on johnny.mcmahon@staffordshire.gov.uk
As can be seen by the Covid-19 spread at the 'Crown and Anchor' pub in Stone, this dangerous virus is still in our midst.
Please keep reminding each other about meticulous personal hygiene and maintaining social distance.
Thank you.

Car Friend

Call us now! 01543 27 60 60

Fixed Price Service Menu

Interim £99 — Oil & Filter Change & Vital Visual Checks, Recommend for high Mileage cars as a mini service between Annual services

Annual £145 — The most popular service, All vital fluids checked, Oil, Oil Filter & Air Filter changed, full comprehensive report, Also includes Battery check and a diagnostics check. Recommended every year

Major £249 — A fully comprehensive and extended service, Everything the annual service offers with the addition of Cabin filter, Fuel Filter, Spark plugs, Gear oil & Brake fluid. Recommended annually for high mileage & every 2 years for average use vehicles.

Manufacturer Specific £ — Advised for new cars still within warranty, The use of Genuine parts and specific oil, , Price on application, Must have your mileage and your registration number to hand upon booking,

Having a fixed price menu means you know exactly what you will pay when it comes to collecting your car.!

We Promise to NEVER apply any hidden charges, Any surcharges will be discussed upon booking, Rest assured if we notice anything we think you will benefit from doing while your car is with us, we will always contact you and let you have the choice.

Something you don't understand? No problem let our experts explain exactly what's wrong, how it can be fixed and we can even show you old parts to prove what we have done.

Fancy Something Extra?

If your car has a large engine the oil capacity is usually large so we have to cover our costs for the addition oil and as such there is a surcharge of £26 likewise if your car or you request a specialist type of oil we need to charge you for that too but everything will be explained upon booking.


Diagnostic £35


Brakes


Dash Cams


MOT £37.50


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Wipers


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