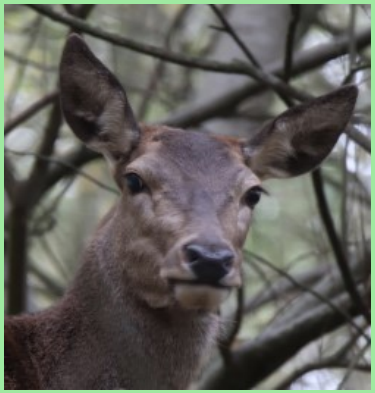
These beautiful pictures were taken by local photographer David Brown at Chasewater.
David patiently walked around the country park and took the photos near Norton Canes.
*If you have any local pictures which we could feature in the newsletter please send them to us at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk











December 2020 Issue 32

Norton Canes Village News

Let's Hear Your Ideas on £120,000 Improvement Package

Do you have any ideas on how to improve the Cema park in Norton Canes?
Plans for improvements to The Cema, in Chapel Street, were approved by Cannock Chase Council's Cabinet last year.
Now villagers are invited to have a say on how the £120,000 package for the play area and open space will be spent.
The money has been allocated from Section 106 funds collected from housing developments in the village.
The improvements will include a new fully equipped play area, circular footpath, landscaping and green gym equipment.
There will also be artwork incorporated to recognising the area's canal basin heritage.
Cannock Chase Council is working with Norton Canes Parish Council to seek views of villagers.
They aim to find out how the wider community would like the new play area and open space (set to open in summer 2021) to look.
The development will be designed to fit into the surroundings and enhance the local environment and will be suitable for all ages and interests. https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160569308770
Consultation is now taking place and will close on Monday January 11, 2021. Villagers can complete an online survey at www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/thecema.
On completing the survey, people will automatically be entered into a prize draw to be in with a chance of winning £25 worth of Argos vouchers.
If you would like a hard copy of the survey or would like more information about improvement works, ring the parish council on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk
*Due to Covid-19, the parish office (at the rear of the Co-op) is closed to the public. Completed surveys can be placed in the parish office letter box from which they will be collected. *See page 17*

We are so proud of local fundraiser Jenny Dunn, featured in this newsletter. See her story on pages 2 and 3

Hello all – and welcome to the 32nd edition of your newsletter.

A special big welcome to all residents on new housing developments in the village.
Thank you to all the contributors for this edition. I do try to remind people when the next newsletter will be written, but if your club or organisation has been missed, please email me for the next edition.
Deadline dates are always printed in the quarterly magazine.
In these strange times it is even more important for us to 'fly the flag' for local entertainers, so in this edition we are waving the flag enthusiastically for singer Nicky Moran, for comedy duo Dandy and for Backstreet Theatre Company.



If you are an entertainer, in any form, do let us know so we can fly the flag for you.
Like most of you I am trying to stay busy and positive.
Living opposite the most magnificent Christmas tree in the village (in Church Road) will help to lift the spirits on cold evenings. I am sure you will love it too as you drive by.
I hope you enjoy the mixture of articles in this edition.
Happy Christmas however you choose to celebrate.
Love to all
Jan

Local Fundraiser Awarded British Empire Medal

A fundraiser, well known in Norton Canes for her charity work, has been awarded the British Empire Medal.
Jenny Dunn, from Leacroft Lane, Churchbridge, received her award 'for community and charity work over the years'.
Jenny started her charity work at the age of 16 with her first boss, Rita Titley, (who became a lifelong friend). Jenny was working as a sales assistant at Corfield, Cannock, a company which sold electrical appliances. They raised money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) by holding dinner dances, discos, garden parties and Jenny helped with the raffles.
Jenny chaired the League of Friends at Greenwood House Nursing Home, Burntwood, for nearly 16 years in the 1980s/'90s.
During this time she became aware of other people's suffering and sad situations -and decided to help make the situation better for residents and others in the community, however she could. So Jenny became involved in organising events for residents. This was also where she learned her craft of bingo calling.



Jenny Dunn with her 'best friend' Ben (Robert's neighbour's dog).

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2019 ~ 2020

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr J. Beddows (Vice Chairman)	01543 279991
Cllr Mrs Z. Stretton MBE	01543 276959
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr Mrs S. Harding	07733 346280
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279475
Cllr M. Stretton	01543 276959
Cllr J. Newbury	07884 111382
Cllr Mrs D. Todd	01543 278778
Cllr R. Wilkinson	07956 994199
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

Message of Hope from County Councillor Johnny McMahon



When I wrote last year, for the newsletter, we had heard there had been a strange virus that had infected a few people in Wuhan Province China.
Little did we know then that this would turn out to be a world pandemic that would have a profound influence on all of our lives.
As I write this in late October, I have little idea what sort of life we will be subjected to by Christmas because we are living with such a fast moving situation.
In my time in clinical practice I learned two things which I think may be of help: despite whatever unfortunate circumstances befell people, those who concentrated and worked on what they could do rather than worry about what they could not, did far better; and those who went out of their way to help others rather than concentrate on their own lot were generally happier.
During this season of goodwill, under the dark cloud of Covid19, going the extra mile for others and concentrating on what we can do despite the circumstances, will help see us through.
Finally, Christmas is a time of hope.
Our forebears suffered pandemics before and came through them. We will get through this. It will not be like before but I have every confidence the new normal will be one of opportunity, prosperity, freedom and hope.
Merry Christmas
Johnny McMahon

Grant Aid Applications Invited

Local community groups are invited to apply to Norton Canes Parish Council for grant aid.

Each year the council provides grants to help support community groups deliver activities for residents.

The application form is available to download on the parish council website www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk with a deadline for January 30, 2021.

If you are unable to download the form and would like a hard copy please contact the clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk/finance/grants
Parish councillors will consider all applications.

Groups will be notified of awards and cheque presentations will take place at the Annual Parish Assembly in April 2021.

Continued from page 2

During this time Jenny said she enjoyed organising many events and met some ‘amazing people’.
Since then she has raised money for all kinds of charities, her favourite being for cat and dog rescue groups. Jenny has raised money for cats and dogs by holding numerous fundraising stalls.
Recently Jenny ran functions at Great Wyrley Wesley Chapel (in aid of cat and dog rescue); and Friday night dances/raffles at Norton Canes Community Centre.
Over many years Jenny has organised many sponsored walks.
In recent years Jenny and her friend Delia Dawson have run a Line Dance Group at Wesley Chapel, Great Wyrley, with all profits going to the local community.
After reading thank you letters to Jenny from various charity groups, Line Dance Group members Ann Hedges and Ann Pugh decided Jenny was worthy of an award.
They worked on the award for two years - sending photos, emails and details to the Cabinet Office.
In May, Jenny received a phone call from the Cabinet Office telling her she had been put forward for an award – but she thought it was a joke! So her partner Robert Ford took the phone and noted the details!
It wasn’t until Jenny received a confirmation email that she believed it. She was then sworn to silence until October 10.
Jenny, whose dad was a miner, will be receiving her medal at a special event yet to be announced (due to the pandemic).
Jenny said: “I was totally shocked and surprised. I have enjoyed it all. It’s been a pleasure and rewarding; not a hardship - even though it's been stressful at times.
“I have had fabulous times and attended some amazing fundraisers. I have worked with many lovely people and made many good friends. It is all these people who have helped me to achieve this award. Thank you to everyone.”
Jenny said the award has come ‘at the right time’.
“Everyone is so low in spirits,” she added. “I have had lovely messages and cards. It has made a lot of people happy.”
Jenny’s connection with Norton Canes began when she joined a tap dancing class at the old Community Centre in the village. Yvonne Noaks was the teacher and they became good friends.
In 1987 Jenny and Yvonne started a Friday Afternoon Tea Dance and that is when Jenny really put her roots down in Norton Canes.
Jenny, Yvonne and their husbands helped organise events such as dances to fundraise for the old Community Centre and for the new Community Centre we enjoy today.
Jenny has been a member of Norton Canes Community Centre committee since 1983.
She remembers advice she was given: “What you put into it you will get out of it. “When you get fed up and you’re not enjoying it – pack it in!”
No sign of that at the moment.

NORTON CANES

Neighbourhood Plan

Do you want to have a say in how our village develops?

Well this is your chance.

The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan has been placing power in your hands to help shape the future of Norton Canes.

This is a community-led initiative, made up of residents, parish and district councillors, professionals and business owners.

We want to hear from YOU through a series of surveys, questionnaires and discussions, which can be found here:

WWW.NORTONCANESPARISHCOUNCIL.CO.UK

You can also make your voice heard on our FACEBOOK PAGE where you can discuss issues important to you.

SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

Norton Canes Community Centre Events



December 12 and 13: panto Dick Whittington, performed by Backstreet Theatre Company, 2pm and 6pm. Tickets £7 (4 for £25). Limited seats to meet Covid-19 guidelines.



2021

January 31: Barn Dance

June 20: Afternoon at the races with afternoon tea.

May 29: Talent contest.

For more information on the above events email nccabookings@hotmail.com

All events are subject to Covid 19 guidelines.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

*Not all groups are open at the moment due to Covid-19. Please contact groups direct for further information.

Photography Group Soldiers On

The Practical Photography Group, which used to run from Norton Canes Library, is not operating as normal due to Covid-19. But 'teaching at low levels' is taking place.



Les Arnott and some of his published work
Left: Practical Photography Magazine
Right: Front cover of Country Life

The group's spokesperson Sally Arnott said: "We still run the Facebook group associated with the Practical Group so people can join us that way.

Hopefully things will change in the future."

For more details email Sally at lesarnottphotography@hotmail.com

Norton Canes Community Centre User Groups

Day	Time	Event	Contact
Monday	10am-1pm	Watercolour	01543 275013
	2pm-4pm	Crafty Quilters (sewing group)	01785 603 255
	7pm-8.30pm	Guides	Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com
	6.30pm-8pm	Norton Canes Judo Club	076800 845 523
Tuesday	4pm-5pm	Rainbows	Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com
	5.15pm-6.15pm	Brownies	Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com
	7pm-8pm	Poundshedders	
	7pm-9pm	Indoor Bowling	01543 278534 / 07716 356 907
Wednesday	11am-1pm	Norton Canes Craft Group	07968 291 694
	1.30pm-3.30pm	RVS/Darby and Joan	01543 279751 / 01543 274216
	5pm-6.30pm	JGM Karate Academy	07548 424 280
	7pm-10pm	Line Dance	07515 931 389
Thursday	9am-4pm	Crafty Sew and Sews	07412 191 439
	9.45am-12.15pm	Crafty Cards	07845 678 003
	4pm-5pm	L'Rythmix Ballet Class	07821 774 456
	6pm-7pm	Norton Canes Judo Club	07800 845 523
	7pm-9pm	Sugar Craft	07792 549 307
	8pm-10pm	Cannock Photographic Society	Cannockps.co.uk
Friday		'tots o'clock' Toddler Group	See facebook for details
	1.30pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	07716 356 907
	4pm-6pm	L'Rythmix Dance	07821 774 456
	7.30pm10.30pm	Jenny's Social Dance	
Saturday	10.30am-1pm	L'Rythmix Dance Class	07821 774 456
1st & 3rd	8pm till late	Jenny and Terry's Social Sequence Dance	07980 327 325
2nd & 4th	8pm-midnight	Nev's Line Dance	
Sunday	Morning	WW	(Formerly Weight Watchers)



In memory of Brenda Rose

A Family Tribute to Celebrate the Life of Brenda Rose.



Brenda is pictured at the Remembrance Day service at St James Church.

We would like to thank Norton Canes community for support, kindness and friendship to our mother over the past few months during her short illness - and throughout her life in the village.

Mom, Brenda, was born in Brownhills in 1932, the second of four daughters. She moved to Brownhills Road, Norton Canes as a child. She worked at Yates's boat dock where she met her future husband Trevor. Both enjoyed the outdoors. They cycled all over the Peak District and Ireland, staying in hostels. After marrying in 1954 at St James's Church, Norton Canes, they lived in Hednesford Road, Norton Canes, and had three children Christine, Judith and Mark. In 1961 they completed building their own home at Brownhills Road. Mom was brought up in the era of 'make do and mend', 'mustn't grumble', and 'I can make you one'. 'Concoct' was one of her favourite words; something she did easily, leaving us with many home-made wonderful things. She could turn her hand to most things: painting, decorating, sewing, knitting, crochet, tapestry, dressmaking - even tent making and was happy to pass her knowledge to those keen to learn. Her charity efforts resulted in a steady stream of orders for knitted figures and badges right up until this summer. As her children grew, mom worked at Norton Canes Primary School as a dinner lady and cleaner; then ancillary assistant and learning support tutor. She was a school governor for over 25 years. She volunteered to run the 1st Norton Canes Girl Guides and became assistant district commissioner. Her summer camps (including trips to Switzerland) were legendary.

Following the death of our dad in 2016, after 62 years of marriage, mom tried to forge a life on her own. She was active with the Royal British Legion for most of her life, insisting her membership was renewed in the month she passed away. (In 2015 she was presented with an award for 75 years' service). After retiring, mom visited school for many years to help conduct the Remembrance Service. She talked to pupils about life during the war, sharing original objects, clothes, ration books and more. A fountain of knowledge about the village, its people and history, mom was well known and respected by generations. Mom attended coffee mornings, and skittles and quiz evenings at the Chapel. She joined the Crafty Sew n Sews, spending happy hours creating. She also enjoyed the Lido Over-60s club. We will miss the apple pies!

Continued on page 7



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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- **Email: info@rugsdirect2u.co.uk**

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29 HIGH STREET, PELSALL, WALSALL WS3 4LX
OPEN 6 DAYS
MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
TEL: 01922 691555

BURNTWOOD BRANCH
10 CANNOCK ROAD BURNTWOOD WS7 0BJ
OPEN 6 DAYS
MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
TEL: 01543 672025

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www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk

Brenda Rose continued:

She had a regular supply of visitors, supportive neighbours and a growing family (local and further afield). Mom went on holiday with her friend Kath Swafield, enjoying sitting on the seafront, people watching and chatting to all. She loved trips with family and friends and had time for everyone. The lockdown from March cut short her social life, yet she insisted all was well when we rang. Her illness, diagnosed at the end of July, took us by surprise - as did the speed at which she deteriorated. Our amazing, multi-tasking mom was also a super nan; loved by many and independent to the end. It was wonderful and moving to see so many school staff, pupils and friends applauding and ex-guides saluting as mom made her final journey.
Her children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren will miss her, but take comfort that she is reunited with Trevor.
We imagine them sitting somewhere, finishing each other's sentences and reminiscing about their lives.

A Personal Memory of Brenda Rose
by Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece

Like many of us who grew up in Norton Canes, I first met Brenda at school during lunchtimes when she was a dinner lady.
This only scratched the surface however of how much Brenda was involved in the life of our community.
She was a tireless fundraiser for various local charities, passionate British Legion member, dedicated Guides leader – and so much more.
Like many others, I was devastated to learn that she had passed. I had known Brenda all my life.
I last saw her at a British Legion Norton Canes branch meeting (before our world changed because of Covid-19).
She was her usual mischievous self, with a joke and story to tell.
She would tell me about life in Norton in the 'olden days', living in the shadow of the pits and how she began fundraising for the British Legion when she was a girl. If there was a story to tell about our village, Brenda would know it.
As most of you have seen as you drive through the village, there is an inscription on a stone at the Millennium Garden (opposite Nevells).
The inscription reads 'NORTON CANES remembers those who had the village in their hearts'.
The stone was installed by Norton Canes Parish Council and it is dedicated to those who worked for the benefit of our community.
This stone is for people like Brenda Rose. We will miss you Brenda. Norton Canes will never forget you.
XXX.



Further tribute to Brenda Rose

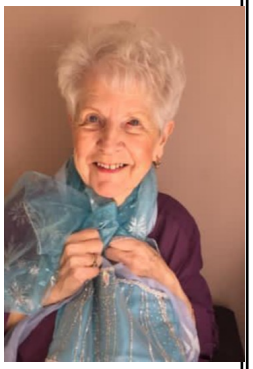
Royal British Legion spokesperson David Smith added: “We will miss Brenda greatly and are grateful for the time and effort she gave.”



Pictured from left: RBL members Dave Smith, Brenda Rose, Tony Carpenter, Ray Bunn and Trevor Grey with Cllrs John Beddows, John Preece and headteacher Karen Amos.

Brenda is pictured at the Remembrance Day service at Norton Canes Primary School in November 2016. This was a British Legion event that Brenda took great pride in organising and being part of for many years.

Norton Canes has also lost well known character Kath Wigley.



Kath, from Norton Hall Lane, passed away suddenly, but peacefully, in her sleep on November 4. She was 86 years old.
Kath was the widow of Alan Wigley – the village’s first Norton Canes Parish Council clerk.
Alan and Kath had moved to the village when they were in their 30s and both were fully involved in local organisations.
Kath was a committee member for Norton Canes WI. She was also a member of the village’s Young Wives Club. In her later years she enjoyed activities at Norton Canes Darby and Joan Club.

Kath leaves a daughter Vicky, who lives in the village with her husband Steve; two grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.
Vicky said: “Mom lived a good life. She was always good fun. She liked to be with her family and have get-togethers. She loved watching any sport on TV. Mom also supported her grandson Kris at football matches and supported her grand-daughter Faye at gymkhanas. She was always involved with everything we did as a family.”
Kath was also good friends with Brenda Rose and helped her to run the Girl Guides; and was great friends with her neighbour Pat and his family.
Kath’s funeral took place at St James’ Church, Norton Canes, on November 19. She is buried at a family plot at the church.

Silver Sneakers – Time to Reflect



With things not getting any nearer to exercising together again we need to be patient and remain positive, knowing that eventually everything will get better.
We might have to find new ways of doing things when we can but we have all been used to change over the years after all.

We had some devastating news since the last newsletter that one of our members had died.
Olwyn will be greatly missed and I still can't believe that she is no longer with us. Last Christmas she volunteered to help me decorate the tree in the church and we spent a very enjoyable hour making the tree look pretty.

This Christmas is not so far away now and whatever we are doing let's remember in our hearts two of our lovely members, Gwenda Allen and Olwyn Freeman.

A very happy and safe Christmas to you all.
Pam and Jan.

Norton Canes Flower Club



Well here we are in autumn with all the glorious colours of the trees and the occasional bright day to see them at their best.

Unfortunately we are still unable to meet together as a group and about to go into ‘lockdown’ again.

The situation remains unclear and there is no timescale for when we will be able to meet together as a group; therefore the committee has taken the decision to delay the 2021 programme until after Easter when we may be able to meet as a group.

There will be more information about this as and when the committee is able to make decisions.

In the meantime please take care and stay safe.
Hopefully everyone's Christmas will be as good as it can be - and may 2021 be a better year for us all.

Gill Crutchley



STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER
Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

STAFFORDSHIRE SMART ALERT

Covid Tragedy for Village Family

Well respected Norton Canes resident Richard Davis has died suddenly from Covid-related pneumonia.

Richard, from Gainsbrook Crescent, had lived in Norton Canes for 40 years.
He passed away in hospital on November 8.

A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said: "Richard was a volunteer for Cannock Coronavirus Support Network group during lockdown in March, helping local people who were self isolating and vulnerable.

"It is very sad that he himself became a victim of the virus.

"Richard was also a valued member of Norton Canes Parish Council's Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group. His enthusiasm and commitment will be missed."

Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece said Richard's contribution and vision for taking the village Plan forward was 'immensely valuable'.
He described his passing as 'a real loss'.
"Our thoughts are with his family," Cllr Preece said.

Richard, who was a contributor to this newsletter, leaves a wife, daughter and son.

Council Award to Food Bank

Norton Canes Parish Council will be diverting its £100 community award budget to the local Food Bank this year.
Each year, the parish council usually receives nominations for its Community and Youth Endeavour awards which recognise residents' and young people's contribution to the community.
But due to Covid-19 this has not been able to take place this year.
So councillors have looked at other ways in which awards can be made.

A council spokesperson said: "It would be difficult to signal out any one person during this pandemic as there have been so many people who have made a real difference and helped support people who are vulnerable or in need of help.

"It was agreed at a recent council meeting to use the £100 award budget as a donation to the Food Bank which has provided much-needed support to people who have struggled through the pandemic - and continue to do so."



Norton Canes comedy Duo Dandy (Allan and Glynnis Briscoe) Give us Something to Smile About

A man walks into a pub with a gang of mates….No! Not really! Wishful thinking! And so it continues…I hope by the time you read this that things have improved for us all. Restrictions! Lockdown! Distancing! Isolation! They are such cruel words.

In comparison, our parents and grandparents endured far worse loss and hardship in WW2. It is hard to find that strength. We are cut from a softer cloth and have known much easier lives.

How are you adapting? Winter is upon us and all of the Midsomer Murders, Endeavour, Vera etc have been repeated and slept through by every man and his dog up and down the country.

Did you enjoy the series of Credit Crunch films they have shown? Charlie and the Boarded Up Chocolate Factory; One Dalmation; The Devil Wears Primark; The Empire Cuts Back; and Brassic Park.

I find the adverts so irritating. All that seems to apply to my age is funeral plans and the one where a mythical creature exists - the woman who dances round and is so thrilled to be wearing incontinence pads.

A lot of us have ordered online. Amazon reported an increase in sales of men's hair and beard trimmers. That explains why so many men have spent the summer in woolly hats and hoods.



Made me feel nostalgic for our childhood games where we used to knock somebody's door then run off and hide. This is still being kept alive by Amazon Delivery. "I put it behind your bin!"
"My bin wasn't there!"
"Well, I put it behind somebody's bin!"
That will explain why you may have seen Allan skulking up and down the street behind people's bins with a torch. Only arrested twice!

Continued on page 11

Norton Canes Practice

Doctors and staff from Norton Canes Practice would like to thank 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 phone consultations.

We intend to continue doing as much work remotely to help prevent 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.

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

Anyone interested in registering for on-line services please contact reception staff for details.

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 information, advice and emotional support.

We hope you all have a good Christmas and New Year.
Please stay safe, keep a safe distance and remember to wash your hands more often.

We are urgently 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

CHASEWATER DOGS

Opening Soon!

DOG SHOP, NUTRITION AND TRAINING SUPPORT

Support a local business

Opening soon on Heath Hayes High Street
Offering delivery in WS11 and WS12 postcodes

For Training, walking or to pre-book dog food deliveries call us on 07367 466519

Follow us on social media @chasewaterdogs

www.chasewaterdogs.co.uk

Support your veterans

Continued from page 8

Like so many people I ate my own weight in unsuitable foods so I ordered a jogging suit. Ha! Ha! For that - read 'lounging about' suit. If I try jogging, my thighs will rub together and cause a small fire.
I am 3lb away from Google Maps putting me down as a small island.
This is the first year I won't be doing the London Marathon because of Covid. I usually don't do it because I'm fat and can't run!



A drawing of Tina Turner by talented artist Glynnis Briscoe

We are all trying new pastimes and hobbies. I am making my dolls and doing some artwork.
All of us getting 'crafty', which usually means accidentally cutting through the duvet or tablecloth and getting glue and felt pen on every possible surface, including the dog.
Speaking of duvets: Allan said the other day "How can they call women the weaker sex when they hang on to the duvet in Winter?!" He's a bit sensitive because I'm stronger and a better thrower.
"Yow dow mess with Friar Park Wenches!"
His family were strong men. His Grandad Briscoe knocked out a champion boxer with one punch! He was never allowed back in Crufts….



Glynnis's creations: her bespoke Santa with her hand made doll on his knee.

We need to pick up the threads of our lives which have been on hold for so long. Where necessary follow a different path. You might prefer the new destination. Move forward in small ways. Stay engaged, stay in touch with loved ones and stay positive.

I have had a trapped nerve in my shoulder since August but as long as I can still throw things at the telly and give Allan a slap when he's pinched my chocolate…

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas from me and himself.
Dandy. Xxx

*When Glynnis says she **makes** dolls. She actually does make the dolls, not just their clothes. Watch out for a feature about Glynnis's doll-making in a future edition.



Allan and Glynnis: comedy duo Dandy.

No Festive Window Competition – but Xmas Cheer Goes on

Norton Canes Parish Council has taken the difficult decision to cancel the annual festive window competition.
In normal times judging would take place to find the most festive shop or business.

Although the competition will not take place, shopkeepers are still encouraged to
decorate their windows.

Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece said:
"Christmas windows will go a long way to lifting our spirits.
"We look forward to seeing lots of decorations in shops, businesses and gardens. "Some lights are already sparkling."
Cllr Preece is also encouraging residents to welcome Christmas Eve and 'cheer Santa on his way'.
Residents are invited to take part in a 'worldwide Christmas Eve Jingle' taking place for two minutes at 6pm on December 24 – followed by optional doorstep carol singing.
The idea is to bring 'magic, hope and togetherness' to communities.

So the message is: "Find a bell and make a noise on Christmas Eve'.

Lantern Parade

Sadly, the village's popular annual lantern parade has also had to be cancelled.
Parish councillors reluctantly cancelled this year's event due to Coronavirus.
But their message is: "We will be back next year."
Villagers are asked to look out for appeals next year for help in making lanterns,
entertaining en route and marshalling traffic.
And there is an extra message for youngsters:
"Don't worry. Santa will still be visiting villagers – young and old."



St James the Great



I have just read through the report I wrote at the end of August for the September edition of the Newsletter.
Unfortunately I have to say that what was printed then still stands.
As I write this, the second wave of the virus is taking hold. Restrictions are likely to become tighter in the not too distant future.
This makes it very difficult to plan for the future as we are unlikely to be able to hold any large services such as Remembrance or even services for Christmas, including the Christingle service on Christmas Eve - a favourite with many.
We can always hope things will improve if we abide by the guidelines and stay safe, (difficult I know but necessary) if we hope to see families for Christmas and not risk having another spike in infections in the New Year.
Mass is still held on a Wednesday morning at 11am and Sunday at 10.30am with an additional service at 11.30 am with our limit of 13 family groups to achieve social distancing.
Anyone wishing to join us on Sunday is asked to contact Father Neil on 01543 278969 in advance to book a place.
If things improve, which we hope they will, notices will be put in the village with additional information. But until then, follow the rules and stay safe.
If you would like anyone placed on our prayer list please contact Fr Neil.
Best wishes to everyone
Mary Carpenter

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.





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 and please try to have a Happy Christmas.
God bless.

Chris and Ian Straughan

*The church is in Poplar Street, Norton Canes.

Here is a touching poem written by our talented local poet Brenda Benton, from Chapel Street, Norton Canes.

'Sam', mentioned in the poem, was Brenda's black Labrador.

Winter Wonderland

We walked in a wonderland,
my faithful friend and I.
As snowflakes gently fell
from a heavy laden sky.

Sam really enjoyed himself
as he frolicked in the snow.
It was so exhilarating,
that we had an inner glow.

Everywhere looked beautiful,
with transformation taking place.
All ugliness was hidden,
a perfect picture of God's Grace.

For in this world of darkness,
He can make things bright.
And use all of our mistakes
as He puts our lives right.

For when snow has fallen,
God can speak to our heart.
Through a simple snow scene,
He depicts a brand new start.

Where we can face the winter,
because we're wrapped up warm.
And with God in our lives
we can withstand any storm.

Isaiah 1 v 18

Hello from Nicky

Hello.
Many of you may know me through my many years of singing and performing. Although my music career takes me all around the country, I'm proud that I often get to sing on home turf, particularly with my husband Cliff at the annual October Cabaret and Comedy evening with Dandy at Norton Canes Community Centre.



Sadly of course this year entertainment has been non-existent.

This time of year is usually my busiest with gigs every day through December.
With time on my hands this year I have decided to record a 'musical advent calendar' - so each day in December I will be releasing a new song/video on Facebook and YouTube hoping to bring a little festive feeling with well-known classics and a few lesser-known Christmas tunes as we count down the days to Christmas.

I wish you all good times and good health and look forward to seeing you again just as soon as we can
Stay safe
Nicky Moran
www.nickymoran.biz



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

Police Community Support Officer Report

We have generally seen an increase of anti-social behaviour in the use of off-road bikes in and around the Newbury Road area of Norton Canes. Whilst on patrol in the area I am particularly focusing on monitoring of play areas as well as anti-social behaviour hotspots such as the back of Newbury Road.
As well as this we have seen an increase of anti-social behaviour at Norton Canes Services. I am working closely with the team there to identify these individuals.
Whilst on duty, my patrols are structured around problem areas in Norton Canes, which is why you may not always see me around. Hotspots are a particular focus of mine as well as spots such as Norton Lane and Washbrook Lane for fly tippers.

Because of Covid-19 this is an uncertain time, and as such, face-to-face activities are very limited at the moment. In the future we may be looking at online surgeries; but nothing has been confirmed yet.

Be sure to follow Cannock Police on social media for up to date information about the local area.
PCSO Ashton

Welcome to the Ruchie

Norton Canes welcomes its brand new restaurant, the Ruchie, which is now open.
The restaurant will be serving takeaways and deliveries - and will open for indoor dining when Covid-19 rules allow.
Situated on Brownhills Road (opposite the Co-op), the Ruchie will offer Indian cuisine. (Ruchie is the Indian word for 'taste').
The family business, run by A Khan, will be open seven days a week from 5pm-11pm.
The aim is to cater for everyone's taste: for people who enjoy a mild meal to those who love something spicy. English food will also be available.
The message from the family to villagers is: "Please get the word around on social media. We need your support during these difficult times."
The restaurant, which has undergone a total refurbishment, aims to attract business from Norton Canes residents and surrounding communities.

Continued from page 14

Earlier this year CHAPS member/ex-miner Len Prince and his wife Jackie visited the NUM to give a presentation about the memorial to the Yorkshire branch committee, with Chris Kitchen in attendance.
This followed on from a visit to the NUM offices last year by CHAPS president Mike Mellor and his wife Trish.
Mike said: "CHAPS is absolutely delighted with the donation, which takes funds raised or pledged to £80,000.
"Members of the public and mining groups have been extremely generous in pledging sponsorship for the pictorial bronze plaques which will be fixed to the memorial and now there are just two of the 22 available for sponsorship.
"CHAPS wish to thank everyone who has made a contribution to this long overdue tribute to men, women and children who worked in the coal industry. Plans are on target for the unveiling to take place in June/July 2021.



From left: CHAPS member Len Prince with NUM general secretary Chris Kitchen.

*If you would like to make a donation to the National Miners' Memorial (however small); find out more; or buy a commemorative/fundraising pin, email info@tchaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk or ring 07583 655 199. You can donate via www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chapsnationalminersmemorial
You can donate by text via **DONATE**. To donate £5 text CHAPS to 70970; to donate £10 text CHAPS to 70191. *Follow progress on www.facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpaces or on twitter @miners_memorial



Mining Memorial Pin Badge.

Pin badges (£5 + post and packing) are available from CHAPS members or ring 07583 655199

If you live in Norton Canes phone Sheila Harding on 07733 346 280 CHAPS Secretary who will deliver.

C.H.A.P.S
Chase Arts for Public Spaces

Seal of Approval for National Miners' Memorial

Chase Arts in Public Places (CHAPS) and the National Miners' Memorial have royal approval (sort of).

The approval comes from Queen Elizabeth 1- good Queen Bess (otherwise known as Lesley Smith, Tutbury Castle curator).

Lesley is well known to thousands of people locally, nationally and globally for her work as an historian and her portrayal of notable women characters in history.

Her research and knowledge is thorough and extensive. Anyone who has the privilege of witnessing one of her performances always comes away energised and enlightened.



Queen Elizabeth 1, a.k.a Lesley Smith, Tutbury Castle curator.

CHAPS are thrilled that Lesley is endorsing and promoting the project to build a National Miners' Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas.

Information about the project is on Tutbury Castle's website. Lesley has National Miners Memorial leaflets available in the tea rooms and….. (drum roll) she will be presenting an evening as Queen Elizabeth in Cannock next year to help raise funds for the project. There will be more news about that nearer the time.

Lesley said: "I support this memorial that is brilliantly designed and recognises the men, women and children who have served over the centuries. "It also makes sure that we don't forget a once proud and thriving industry that brought such riches and comforts from the deep earth, which contributed so much to our prosperity as a nation."

Funding for the memorial has received a huge boost and is now well on the way to achieving the target of £100,000 needed to complete the memorial.

Funds were recently bolstered by a donation from the National Union of Miners (NUM).

NUM general secretary Chris Kitchen said: "The NUM welcomes that a memorial will be erected in the arboretum to recognise the role the coal mining industry played in war time and peace time to the economic prosperity of the UK and the sacrifice made by miners, their families and communities. "The NUM would like to thank CHAPS for the work they have put in to make this possible. We are happy to make a £20,000 donation towards the memorial.

"We wish CHAPS every success in raising the remainder of the funds required."

Message From Your MP Amanda Milling



2020 has been a very different and difficult year, and as we approach Christmas it is worth taking the time to reflect on a year where so much has changed.

To fight the virus and keep each other safe we have had to change our daily lives, the way we interact with our love ones and our community as well as how we work.

However, 2020 has also shone a light on the best of Norton Canes and what we all are capable of to help those in need. Residents, local businesses, public bodies, voluntary groups, and key workers continue to keep our community going as we fight this virus. This is a year that our area can hold its head high and be proud of what it has done to protect the most vulnerable in our community.

Sadly, many of our normal community events have not been able to take place this year, but through the power of technology I have been able to meet businesses and pupils online and continue to help many of you at virtual surgeries.

As we move into next year, we should look back with pride at how our community came together and build on that community spirit as we go forward.

All that remains, is for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and, as always, if you need my help with anything, please contact me at amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or on 01543 877142.

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 and we wish you all a happy Christmas.

Until we meet again, hopefully in the New Year, I wish you all well.
Mo Garbett
Secretary

A trip down memory lane



Norton Canes High School PTFA in rehearsal for Cancer Research Royal Charity Gala at The Royal Albert Hall October 4, 1998



Pictured in the dressing room at the Royal Albert Hall October 4 1998. From the left: Sheila Harding, Sonia Cameron and Jean Green

Stepping back to 1998 – when Norton Canes High School Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) members took part in a huge charity gala. The variety concert, which took place at the Royal Albert Hall, raised £35,000 for Cancer Research.

It featured a cast of about 500 people, mostly from the Midlands, singing and dancing – with a grand, Old Time Music Hall-style finish.

PTFA secretary Sheila Harding said: "It was an honour for us to perform at this prestigious venue. The dressing rooms left a lot to be desired - but it is a 19th century building.

"We had to travel to London the night before, rehearse all morning then do three costume changes in a mixed dressing room.

"We were shattered at the end of the day but I'm glad I was part of it."

*Were you there? Are you still part of a group? If so, let us 'Fly the Flag' for you on our local entertainment page.

Christmas Message from Your Parish Council Chairman



I have noticed the Christmas decorations going up a little bit earlier this year.

Trees and lights are flashing in gardens in the middle of November and Christmas songs are being played much earlier on the radio.

There's a social media joke meme that goes around this time of year: a picture of Noddy Holder saying, to paraphrase, "It ay Christmas 'til I says it is."

But this year there's another one which says, "Bin a rough year ay it? So goo on then!"

Well, Sir Noddy's right. We've all had a tough year this year.

Christmas this year will also be so different to the ones we've had before.

Norton Canes parish councillors, for example, has been extremely disappointed to have to cancel the lantern parade.

Carol services will not happen in the way we knew them; and works' Christmas parties and dinners will be put on hold until next year.

Our lives have been altered in ways unimaginable when the clock struck 12 on New Year's Day to bring in 2020.

But one thing unaltered is the spirit and meaning of Christmas.

Christmas invites us to think of others. When we've clapped on the doorstep, shopped for our neighbours or socially distanced in the shops, we've also recognised the value of others.

In this spirit - can I thank everyone this year who has played a part in responding to help others during this pandemic? You are the embodiment of what Christmas is all about.

For our benefit you have displayed this spirit all through the year. For that, on behalf of our community, thank you - and may you all have a very peaceful and safe Christmas.

Councillor John Preece

To avoid disappointment items for the March 2021 newsletter must be sent to Jan by the end of the first week in February
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

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

Christmas
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7 MEALS & 3 DESSERTS

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6 FREE† Artisan Mince Pies

This Christmas season, steer clear of the busy supermarkets and let our chefs do the hard work. They've been cooking up a feast for you to enjoy with our very special Christmas Collection, filled with effortless ideas to make your spirits bright.

Why not give us a try? **Our new Limited Edition Christmas Collection Menu** is bursting with brilliantly easy meals for a Christmas feast - plus, if you order the Menu Pack of 7 meals and 3 desserts for only £39.00 you'll get a FREE pack of 6 Artisan Mince Pies!

You can also request a FREE Christmas brochure and browse our full menu. No contract or commitment, just good old-fashioned service! Go on, treat yourself - it is Christmas after all...

- **FREE* no contact delivery** at your doorstep..
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Wiltshire Ham


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Chocolate Orange Roulade with Chocolate Custard


Christmas Sherry Trifle


Christmas Pudding & Custard

*Minimum orders required in some areas

† Offer available for orders between 26th October 2020 up to and including 1st January 2021 or while stocks last.



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The Cema Chapel Street Park

Complete a short survey by **11 January 2021**

Visit **www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/thecema** for more information.

If you would like a hard copy of the survey please call the **Parish Council** on **01543 276812**

Be entered into a prize draw and be in with a chance of winning **£25 in Argos vouchers**

Coming soon - Summer 2021

Inspiring healthy lifestyles

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Fixed Price Service Menu

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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,

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