We asked you to send us pictures of our local area - and you did not disappoint.

Here are some stunning snowy scenes, the first four pictures were taken at Chasewater, by local photographer Tony Alcott.

Please keep them coming.











Washbrook Lane.
Photo by Kath Rogers



A sky full of winter promise Local councillor (and our very own newsletter sub editor) Sheila Harding took this stunning view of the sky over Pinfold Lane, Norton Canes, on February 10. Red sky at night……...

March 2021

Norton Canes Village News

Cema Survey: The Results Are In



The results of a survey to find out how villagers would like to spend a £120,000 improvement package for a local park are now in.

A total of 137 people responded to the survey regarding the Chapel Street (Cema) play area in Norton Canes. Results show they are in favour of the following:

• Improved play equipment to include swings, wide slides, multi-games area, climbing frames, a zip wire and a roundabout.

• A circular pathway, 'green gym', more benches - and installation of bins.

Whilst the inclusion of an art feature split opinion down the middle, the likelihood is art will be included in the finished scheme - possibility creation of an entrance feature or interpretation panels.

Over 90 per cent of respondents would like to see the history of the site reflected in the play area design. This will now be incorporated into the design brief for play area contractors.

The six-week consultation was launched in November 2020 and closed on January 11.

Out of the 137 responses received, 122 were completed online, 15 on paper.

The results indicated that the park and play area are well used, two thirds of respondents visiting at least once a week.

Most respondents visit the area for exercise, walking the dog or playing in the park. Cannock Chase Council is now working with Norton Canes Parish Council to develop design options for the site based on the survey results.

The design proposals will go out for consultation after the Easter holidays so residents will have an opportunity to see the options.

The project, for the play area and open space, was approved in December 2019 by Cannock Chase Council's Cabinet. The money was allocated from Section 106 funds from new housing developments in Norton Canes.

People completing the survey were entered into a prize draw for £25 Argos vouchers. The winner was Lynn Jones-Devey.

If you would like a copy of the survey results/receive regular updates about improvement works visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/thecema For more information ring the parish council on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

A big hello – and welcome to the 33rd edition of your village newsletter.

A special welcome to anyone new to the village. We hope you enjoy reading about what (normally) goes on locally. If there is anything you would like to see in print please let us know. We are particularly grateful for anything cheerful in these times.

A huge thank you to all the contributors. I am grateful to have received my first 'C-word' vaccination and can report I was lucky enough not to have any side effects whatsoever. That's one small step for Jan, one giant step towards getting back to a rock gig……

If anyone has any spare time, please consider helping to deliver this newsletter, even if only in one street, once a quarter, particularly on the new estates in the village.

Stay busy and cheerful.
Loves,
Jan x
Editor
cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

To avoid disappointment items for the June newsletter must be sent to Jan at email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk By the end of the first week in May

Covid-19 Opening Hours

During the pandemic, councillors have taken the decision to close the parish office for face to face contact.

The clerk continues to work from the office but can only be contacted by phone or email 01543 276812 or nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk Otherwise, it is 'business as usual'.

The message is: if you have any queries or need our help then please let us know.

Best Kept Village 2021

Norton Canes parish councillors are not sure whether the Best Kept Village 2021 competition will be going ahead. But councillors are still making plans for summer hanging baskets and plants for village garden areas.

"A council spokesperson said: "This is about presentation of the village for the people who live here."



NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2020 ~ 2021

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

Thoughts on the Pandemic – by Councillor Johnny McMahon



I have been Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Health Care and Wellbeing since late July and therefore closer than most in the fight against the pandemic.

Norton Canes has had a particularly torrid time of late and to be locked down in the depths of winter feels cruel.

It is, however, the only way to save lives until such times as we, as a country, vaccinate a large proportion of the population.
It was announced on February 5 that in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent the NHS has delivered 206,000 vaccines into the arms of the most vulnerable in our community - and that is a great achievement.
They have a long way to go yet but I am satisfied that provided they get enough vaccine supply they have the organisation and capacity to deliver.

We all owe them heartfelt thanks for their efforts, particularly the Primary Care Networks made up of local practices in our communities, which are targeted to deliver over 50 per cent of the vaccines countrywide.

Staffordshire County Council runs a Dignity in Care Award each year. This is the seventh year and nominations have now opened.

The profile of the care sector has had a real shot in the arm during this pandemic -and rightly so - as so many in our community have done the right thing in supporting the most vulnerable in their hour of need.

This year there are nine different categories including young carers and voluntary carers.
Last year the awards had to be given virtually. Let us hope this year that winners can have their day in person!

I hope and expect a large number of nominations. If you would like to nominate anyone, please visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/dignityincare

There is now light at the end of the tunnel but we cannot be complacent. Remember the 'Hands, Face, Space' mantra for a little longer.

Councillor Johnny McMahon

Norton Canes Neighbourhood Plan: Update and Next Stages

Norton Canes parish councillors have been working alongside villagers who volunteered to help prepare the Neighbourhood Plan via a series of working groups. The Plan has now reached the stage where the wider community can be consulted about suggestions.
The document covers the following:

- The relationship of the Neighbourhood Plan to Cannock Chase Council's Local Plan (which covers the whole of Cannock Chase district). The Plan, currently under review, looks ahead to 2036. It includes proposals on allocating land for new housing and employment development.
- Healthy living - covering improvements to indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities including open spaces, play areas, and countryside footpath and cycle routes.
- Sustainable travel - seeking to improve bus services and footpath/cycle routes that access workplaces, Norton Canes High School and Chasewater.
- Protecting the countryside - seeking to improve biodiversity of many protected sites in the parish.
- Protecting historic environment and heritage assets including the former Grove Colliery site; identifying buildings which could be candidates via local listing; and a comprehensive planning approach for regenerating the former Grove Colliery site.
- Improving choice of local shopping whilst supporting existing retail businesses in the village centre.
- Community facilities - ensuring existing facilities including Norton Canes Community Centre and the library are retained for community use.
- Education - seeking to ensure Staffordshire County Council delivers improvements to primary education by making the most appropriate use of funding from housing developers and supporting the long term future of Norton Canes High School.
- Local economy – Cannock Chase Council is likely to make decisions on this topic (as well as housing) in its Local Plan on allocating new sites for business purposes which could be fairly large. The role of the Neighbourhood Plan in this context could be to have a series of 'asks' to secure local community benefits. In addition, there could be proposals to make land available on a smaller scale by expanding existing business parks and re-using/sub-dividing existing vacant business units.
- Housing - probably the most controversial topic. Major housing growth has taken place on the edge of the village but most of the required infrastructure has not yet been delivered. The suggestion is for future housing growth to be on a smaller scale and delayed until infrastructure is in place - exceptions being specialist housing for the elderly and small bungalows. If the district council chooses to allocate larger areas of new housing land there would be a list of 'asks' to secure local community benefits

Can YOU help young people have their say?

We are giving you the power to help shape the future of Norton Canes in the form of the Neighbourhood Plan.

If you're of the older generation, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Talk about the plan to your friends, children and grandchildren!

Encourage them to get involved.

Ask them to take part in our online questionnaire!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO OPEN THE SURVEY!

Norton Canes Library Update



The Burntwood Road library is currently open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am-12 noon for picking up, dropping off and ordering of books - as well as for taking phone requests.

During lockdown a number of new books have arrived from popular authors such as Anna Jacobs, James Patterson, Danielle Steel and Clive Cussler.

For those of you who entered the library raffle last year, the draw will be held at the beginning of March. Winners will be contacted by phone and the results will be announced on the library's new Facebook page.

Anyone with any queries or requests can ring the library on 01543 279592.

Library staff urge everyone to 'stay safe' and say they 'look forward to seeing you soon'.

Parish Council Precept – Zero Rise

Norton Canes residents can celebrate a zero rise in parish council tax for 2021-22.

There has been no rise in parish council tax for three years. The figures equate to £39.15 for Band D property owners.

Councillors say they have worked hard scrutinising income and expenditure for the current year. Decisions have been made regarding where best the money is spent for the benefit of the village.

A parish council spokesperson said: "Whilst we have been able to maintain this level of parish council tax we are still able to look at ways of enhancing the village."

Full details of the 2021-22 precept can be viewed at www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk/finance

If you would like to know more about the parish council tax ring the clerk on 01543 276812 (Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm) or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Happy Diamond Wedding Anniversary



Many villagers fondly remember Ken and Joy Brittle who ran The Pantry in Butts Way, Norton Canes, for 33 years. So we are sure you would like to wish the couple many congratulations on their 60th wedding anniversary. Ken and Joy, who are sadly missed in Norton Canes, ran their shop from 1968. Due to the pandemic, they were unable to celebrate their big day in the usual way – but they did enjoy a special meal which was delivered to their home by a local chef (organised by their daughters). The couple also received a congratulation card from the Queen. Ken, aged 80, and Joy (79) first met in Brownhills when Joy was delivering meat to a butcher's shop for her father. Ken's brother ran the shop in Brownhills and he was visiting his brother on that day. The current sister-in-law decided to play matchmaker - and the rest is history. The couple have two daughters Jackie and Michelle and four grandchildren. Ken and Joy are happily retired in Shifnal near their family. Their message to the village is: we both enjoy life in the country but often think about the customers and friends we left behind in Norton Canes.

Parish Assembly

Norton Canes Parish Council's annual parish assembly is scheduled to take place on Thursday April 8 at 7pm. But the format of the meeting very much depends on Government restrictions regarding Covid-19 at the time.

An update will be given on the parish council website, on notice boards and on the council's Facebook page. The parish assembly is a forum whereby the council reports on activities and achievements of the last year. It also gives residents an opportunity to raise any questions relating to the business of the council. Awards of grants to community groups as well as Community and Youth Endeavour Awards are presented at the meeting.

The plan is fully underway, but we still need to hear from the YOUNG PEOPLE of Norton Canes.

We will only be successful if it reflects the voices of ALL our community.

SO HOW FAR HAVE WE PROGRESSED?

We have explored and identified ways to help small businesses expand.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been underway for some time now and we've found a lot out that can benefit our village!

We have identified a need to improve indoor and outdoor sports and recreational facilities.

We are looking at ways to support our local services such as shops, cafes, pubs and takeaways.

Improving bus services and walking and cycling routes has become a key objective.

For more information visit our website:

nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

NORTON CANES
Neighbourhood Plan

your village,
your voice, ***your plan***

Your regular cheer-up session with local comedy duo Dandy



Here we go again. Doing our best to find some light relief in all the doom and gloom. Looking for the light at the end of the tunnel, keeping our upper lips stiff and our chins up.
It's hard when we listen to the daily Government briefing. Is it just me? Am I a wicked person? Whenever somebody comes on…an 'expert'…who is speaking from home and giving their all about something crucial….I simply don't hear them! I'm checking out the books and C.D. collection on the bookshelf behind them and I'm screaming: "My God! Will you look at that wallpaper!
"Pass me sunglasses! They've had that from Ikea! Billy Bookcase! Cheap as chips!"

How was your Christmas and were you in the correct 'bubble'? Not many pressies to buy this year. Most families had fallen out by then about who was sharing their bubble.
If you had too many relations over the police had the power to force entry to your property and send them home.
People were ringing up to ask if this service was free or would they have to pay. Hee hee!
Some people broke the rules by cremating the turkey and asking 30 people over for the funeral.

Christmas Day was different this year. There was none of the usual family games. No pass the parcel, sardines or snap.
There was a bucket down the yard for guests in case the loo was infected. The invitation read:
Bring your own plastic knives and forks if you want some dinner.
Sit and eat it in your car - that way you'll be a winner.

A friend's husband bought her a mop for Christmas. He said: "It's a joke…..we'll always remember this Christmas because of the mop!"
I think he will also remember it because of the black eye.
I feel sorry for the kids today with all their electronic devices. Poor substitute! They will never know the simple joy of playing in the street and throwing rocks at each other.



Continued on page 7

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)

Message from Events organiser Jenny Dunn



Hello everyone. I do hope you all are good and getting through the winter.

We have lots of new plans and a new programme for when we can start our dances at Norton Canes Community Centre.
Saturday and Sunday dances with Terry Benton are still very much in our plans.
I will continue the following events at the Community Centre:
Saturday night dancing to my music. (Keyboard nights remain on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month).
There will be one Sunday afternoon dance to my music.
The first Tuesday of the month will be a charity high tea afternoon dance with keyboards followed by three Tuesday afternoons of social dances (line dancing and sequence dancing with bingo) to my music.
I am also hoping to include an extra afternoon event.

I'm sorry to say I've given up organising the Friday Night dances at Norton Canes Community Centre. I feel it's time for a change.
I helped organise events at the old Norton Canes Community Centre with a social dance way back in in September 1999.
I would like to thank everyone who has supported me for such a long time.
I had some great Friday Nights and I've been very lucky to have met a lot of lovely people
Keep safe and well. I hope to see you very soon.
Love Jenny xx

Norton Canes Community Centre Upcoming Events



Please note these dates are provisional and will depend on Covid-19 regulations at the time. Thank you for your support in the past. We look forward to seeing you all soon. Keep safe.

May 29: talent show
June 13: Afternoon at the races
July 10: barn dance
August 1: summer fayre
October 30: Norton Canes comedy duo Dandy
December 5: Christmas fayre and concert
December 11 and 12: panto
*Dates to be arranged: a night at the dogs and quiz nights

Continued from page 6

Christmas night at chez Briscoe had all the hallmarks of the disaster movie we laughingly call 'Our Life'!
Just the two of us! Billy No Mates! I went mad and had a hot mince pie with whipped cream and spent the rest of the evening thinking I was having a heart attack.
They are quite the thing in my family! It was the worst acid reflux attack I have ever had. A throbbing, burning pain centre chest and right up into my throat. I spent all night walking up and down whimpering.
Allan spent all night in a panic running up and down to the toilet saying: "I don't know what to do!" Obviously!
We've had better nights.
Enforced proximity and long term confinement has put many relationships at risk. I can understand now why they have jail riots. You find yourself saying things like: "Do you have to make quite so much noise when you breathe?"

We have been bought an Amazon Firestick.
Allan thought it was something you poke a coal fire with. It has an Alexa remote control! We are both technophobes and as you probably know we are
escapees from the Black Country and the dialect can be hard to follow sometimes.
Allan and Alexa have become a double act. For the first week he called her Atlanta which was as close as his memory could manage.
He persevered….
First attempt…"Alexa – Netflix – Crooked House!" Very proud of himself…
On came a cartoon called "Cookie Mouse"!
It got even better when we started watching The Bay…
"Alexa – The Bay!" Alexa replied to him "Goodbye!"
He tried another twice and got "Toodle pip!" and "Tatty Bye!"
He's fell out with her. We turned it off and looked at the wall instead.
Home schooling has been a bit of a challenge for some, I read on Mumsnet last week.
If you get your kids to experiment making mixed cocktails does this count as chemistry? Asking for a friend.
Best one was a sign outside a house in the Black Country:
"If yow see mar kids locked out theer today….keep yow're snout out……
Wim Wum Schulin an' wim 'avin a Fire Drill!!"
Upwards and onward to Spring. Keep the faith.
Allan and Glynnis Briscoe

With love from local singer Nicky Moran……



Hope everyone is keeping well.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who followed my Musical Christmas Advent videos 2020.

It was heart-warming to see so many of you following my daily videos on YouTube. I received so many lovely comments of gratitude and support.

The videos were a true labour of love that my husband and I created over 3 weeks in November. Recording, filming and editing 24 songs in such a short time frame was certainly a challenge.

The Christmas period last year was different and difficult for many people, so it was nice to know that we were able to bring a little moment of happiness each day through music If you are interested in hearing more of my musical projects I am about to launch ‘Musical Monday’ on my Facebook page. Each Monday I will share a new song, mainly musical theatre based, so if this is ‘your thing’ you can follow me on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/nicky.moran.7. You could even leave me a request and I can try to record your personal favourites to feature I wish you all the best as we continue to navigate our way through these strange times.



Take Care.

Nicky

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

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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** 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 **10 Cannock Road, Swan Island, Burntwood** where the family look forward to serving both existing and new customers in **Burntwood** 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 RUGS DIRECT 2U

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 **08454 501221**.
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 the fifth year 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.

- Web: www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk
- Email: info@rugsdirect2u.co.uk



visit our website at **www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk**

Covid Testing at the Community Centre



Norton Canes Community Centre is offering testing for Covid-19. Although, like many service providers, the centre has had to close its doors to regular users it can offer this important service to the community. For the last few months the centre has been hosting Staffordshire County Council's Covid testing. A Community Centre spokesperson said: "Everyone we have spoken to about this service has said how professional and friendly the staff carrying out the tests have been and how well organised the process is. "The tests are for people who have no symptoms but require a test.

"There is no need for a referral from a doctor or any other medical professional."

Appointments can be booked online at Staffordshire County Council's website.

Miners Memorial – Almost There

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

Fundraising for a National Miners Memorial has almost reached its target. The campaign, led by Chase Arts for Public Spaces (CHAPS), set out to raise a staggering £100,000. CHAPS now report they are 'almost there' – having raised over £92,000. A CHAPS spokesperson said: "We need one final push to complete fundraising.
"Chisholm Wallace of Little Wyrley Estate has kindly donated £1,000 and Norton Canes Parish Council has donated one of the plaques on the monument. This is in acknowledgement of the fact that Norton Canes has historically been heavily involved in the mining industry." The memorial will be sited at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas. If you would like to make a donation towards the memorial (however small) you can find out more or buy a commemorative/fundraising pin, by emailing info@chaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk or ring 07583 655 199. You can also donate via www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chapsnationalminersmemorial; or text via DONATE. To donate £5 text CHAPS to 70970; to donate £10 text CHAPS to 70191. You can follow fundraising progress on www.facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpaces or on twitter @miners_memorial
Norton Canes residents who would like to buy a commemorative pin can ring CHAPS secretary Sheila Harding on 07733 346 280 or email ashinnorton45@outlook.com. Sheila will be happy to collect your donation or deliver the pin, Covid-19 restrictions permitting.

Covid-19 Vaccinations – Well Done

Norton Canes is well on track to meet Covid-19 vaccination targets. A parish council spokesperson said: “We are fortunate to have a separate vaccinating facility at the (soon to be) dental practice in Burntwood Road. “This is owned and run by pharmacists Kameljit and Rajinder Dhinsa (pictured). “There has been excellent work carried out by the teams at our medical centre.” The centre was opened in early February 4, 21021 by Cannock Chase Council chairman Councillor Alan Dudson an d Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Cllr John Preece.” Thanks are due to Briggs Equipment, and Neal Buckley and Katie Hill who supplied a marquee to go alongside the Nucare Covid Vaccination Centre. Neal and Katie helped erect the marquee which will provide shelter for patients waiting for their injections. It also shelters the volunteers.



Subway has kindly supplied volunteers with refreshments.



From left: Cannock Chase Council chairman Councillor Alan Dudson, pharmacist Kameljit Dhinsa and Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Cllr John Preece.



From left Pharmacists Rajinder Dhinsa and Kameljit Dhinsa.



Norton Canes resident Mrs Morgan: one of the first people to receive her vaccination at the centre.

Norton Canes Flower Club



Here we are in lockdown in cold weather and only able to go out for essentials and exercise. But in the garden the snowdrops are out nodding their heads and there are other signs of spring being not too far away - so we can look forward to spring flowers in the gardens and parks and hopefully warmer weather.

Unfortunately there is still no news about when we may be able to resume normal club activities. The committee will of course inform members when there is any new information. Our vice chairman Jo Davis will be carrying out an on-line demonstration on March 17 at 2.30pm. Members will have received information on how to access this demonstration.

The newsletter is providing an opportunity to keep in touch thanks to Jose. Stay well and safe. Hopefully things will improve and this year may not be so difficult as the last one.

Silver Sneakers Exercise Their Brains and Tongues

Norton Canes exercise group, Silver Sneakers, like many others have been unable to meet during the pandemic.
But as the following report shows, there has been some exercise going on…….

After a year of uncertainty and anxiety all of our group will hopefully have received their first dose of the covid 19 vaccine.
Now in 2021 with spring upon us and days getting longer and warmer we have good reason to be thankful we have come through all this.
We might even be able to get together again in the not too distant future.
How wonderful that will be.



I am sure you have been reading much more than usual and probably talked more on the phone too.
At least that will have kept our brains and our voices active!
Here's hoping that after this newsletter the next one in June will see us back at our normal venue.
Keep safe and we will let you all know when. Keep the positivity going.

Pam and Jan

*Silver Sneakers usually meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes.

On the Warpath against Fly-Tipping

Cannock Chase Council has launched a campaign to tackle fly-tipping which is affecting all areas in the district – including Norton Canes. There have been several incidents of fly-tipping in Washbrook Lane in particular. With people spending more time at home due to Covid-19, household waste and recycling centres have seen a huge rise in people wanting to dispose of unwanted items. This has led to an increase in fly-tipping locally. The council's Environmental Health team received almost 440 reports of fly-tipping across the district since the outbreak of the pandemic. The council has now joined forces with Keep Britain Tidy to launch a new campaign - #CrimeNotToCare. This aims to educate residents about the right thing to do with their rubbish and to reduce the amount of household waste fly-tipped by criminals who offer to take people's waste away for money and then dump it. The campaign aims to get the message across that if an individual's waste is flytipped, even if they paid a third party to dispose of it, they can be prosecuted and end up with a fine and criminal record. The council is offering a £250 reward to anyone who provides evidence leading to successful enforcement action against a person, business or organisation involved in fly-tipping in the district. The council is also targeting potential offenders by highlighting the consequences. Offenders could have their vehicle seized and crushed, an unlimited fine and possible imprisonment. Campaign messages will be displayed on council vehicles and on digital advertising on the council's website and social media accounts. Posters will also be displayed in hotspot areas as a deterrent. Cannock Chase Council's Portfolio Leader for Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Josh Newbury, said: "The council has a zero-tolerance approach to flytipping and always takes enforcement action when it has enough evidence. "We urge everyone to dispose of their waste properly to avoid the council taking enforcement action against them." Keep Britain Tidy chief executive Allison Ogden-Newton added: "#CrimeNotToCare is an important campaign for our country. We are delighted Cannock Chase Council is partnering with us. "Fly-tipping blights communities and our countryside and is a menace. We need the public to understand that their rubbish is their responsibility and they must do the right thing with it. "Giving it to 'a man with a van' who offers to get rid of it cheaply could prove costly for people and result in them getting a criminal record. They have a duty of care. This campaign will help explain exactly what that is and how to protect themselves." *Report fly-tipping by ringing 01543 462621 or email environmentalhealth@cannockchasedc.gov.uk For more information visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/flytipping



Message from your MP Amanda Milling



For some of you this is will be your first time reading the magazine, so I'd like to welcome you all to Norton Canes. I hope to meet you all when we can see each other again. In the meantime I hope you're staying safe. The battle against Covid-19 has continued into the new year, with the start of 2021 feeling much like an extension of 2020. While there are some aspects of 2020 that we would rather leave behind, the community spirit that came alive in 2020 is still with us. As always, our community continues to pull out all the stops to help those in need and you don't need to look far to see the best of Cannock Chase, be it neighbours helping neighbours, voluntary groups supporting those in need or people volunteering at vaccination sites. As a community we have so much to be proud about. Over the past couple of months, I have regularly met with officers from the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, who are leading the Covid-19 vaccination programme. I know they have a clear and well-resourced plan to deliver the vaccine to residents across Cannock Chase so as many people in the constituency as possible have received their first jab. I have also volunteered at the Roman Way vaccination site where it was truly fantastic to see so many people receiving their first injection. I would like to thank everyone involved in this huge national effort. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but in the meantime let's all work together to keep each other safe. I have also tried to continue many of the normal things I would do as your MP, such as holding surgeries and running events. Whilst everything these days is virtual, it's been great to see so many of you on screen. Recently, I held an event for local charities to find out how they can access funding - as well as an event with local businesses about the Kickstart scheme, which will help young people get jobs in the area. A year ago I would not have expected to have been holding these events from my kitchen, rather than out and about in the constituency. As always, if you have any issues you need my help with, please email me amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk, ring 01543 877142 or visit www.amandamilling.com/contact.

Keep this newsletter to hand - so you won't forget any dates!
Items for June 2021 Newsletter to the editor by
May 1 at the latest.
cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Appreciating Where We Live

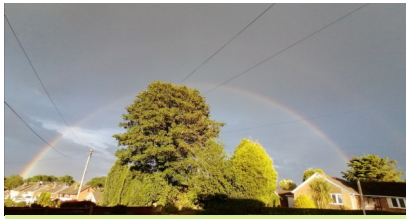
Many of you have been out and about taking stunning pictures of our local area.
Many photos have been shared and enjoyed on Facebook, lifting the spirits in these difficult times - for those who view them and those who take the pictures.
Norton Canes nature lover Maureen Ansell captured these gorgeous local scenes which make us feel thankful to live in an area where there is much natural beauty to celebrate.
If you have any photos you would like to share in our next newsletter please email them to cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk



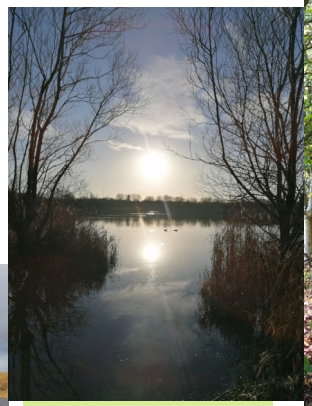
Rear of St James Church



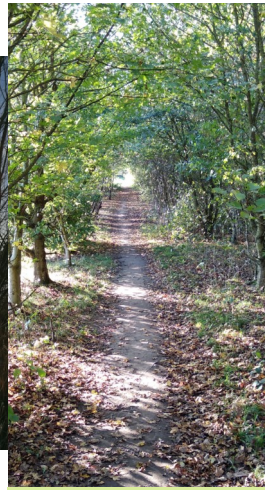
Norton Bog



Somewhere over the rainbow



Chasewater



Light at the end of the tunnel. Rear of St James Church



Kingswood Fishing Pool

Norton Canes Practice

COVID-19 vaccinations are well underway at the doctor's surgery.
We have lists of all patients who will be called as and when vaccines are available.
Letters are being sent out from the NHS for patients to book appointments at various locations.
Anyone who wishes to have their vaccine at the GP surgery does not need to ring. They will be called by the doctor's surgery when we are advised by NHS England which group to vaccinate and when we have a supply of vaccines.
We are still taking prescriptions over the phone. Unfortunately this means you may have to wait longer for your call to be answered - especially at busy times.
Please be patient. We are doing our best to keep you safe.
We are open for patients who need urgent care, so please don't be afraid to contact us. We are here for you.
Appointments are booked via phone calls. If the doctor needs to see you, the doctor will call you and tell you what time to visit the surgery.
The Carers' Association (CASS) continues to offer support to unpaid family carers via the phone helpline 01785 606675; or email ingo@carersinformation.org.uk; or visit www.carersinformation.org.uk for more information, advice and emotional support.
Please keep a safe distance and remember to wash your hands more often.

Norton Canes Practice
Partners in Life

Norton Canes Practice would like to inform patients that Dr B.K.Singh has retired. Dr Singh joined the practice as a junior partner 35 years ago. Over the years he has built up the practice to where it is today. During this time he has got to know many families, from grandparents to grandchildren. Over the years we have seen many changes but Dr Singh has always been there for us, to guide us and keep us on track with his vast knowledge and excellent memory. I am sure you all know that Dr Singh has always had the best interest of his patients at heart and has never been afraid to 'tell it like it is' - which some people may not have appreciated at the time. The practice will not be the same without him and his sense of humour. Dr J.B.Chandra and all staff would like to wish him a happy, very well-deserved retirement.
There will be no changes for patients as Dr Chandra, who has been working alongside Dr.Singh for the last four years, will take over running the practice.

Keep Cosy and Support Charity Plea

If you would like to support a fundraiser for Dementia Awareness, there are cosy knitted items on sale.

Local resident Jean Hill has knitted adult beanie hats and neck-warmers. They are on sale for £6 each (50% of all sales going to the charity). You can view them on Facebook Marketplace (search 'adult beanie hats') and local Facebook knitting groups.








Dementia Friendly Norton Canes

When lockdown allows, please look out for notices in shop windows and business premises. We hope to train as many people as possible so they can recognise the effects of dementia in its many forms. Dementia Friends training provides skills for people to help those living with these devastating conditions. For more information ring Sheila on 07733 346 280. If you require information about the Alzheimer's Society telephone 03331 503 456 or visit

www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-involved/dementia-friends

Forget-Me-Not Event

Due to current restrictions we will not be able to go ahead with our Forget-Me-Not event in May this year. But look out around the village for knitted and painted Forget-me-Nots. If you would like to offer any kitted, crocheted or painted flowers please let me know on 07733 346 280. The Alzheimer's Society is still 'United Against Dementia' and fundraising for Alzheimer's Dementia Awareness will start again as soon as possible.

Councillor Sheila Harding

More Stunning Pictures

These fantastic pictures are just some of many taken by local photographer Darron Matthews. Darron, who is chairman of Lichfield Camera Club, took the images over spring and summer last year. He said all the images were taken either in his garden or local to where he lives in Woodfield Close, Norton Canes.



Azure Blue and Poppy



Large Skipper and female Broad Bodied chaser



Small Elephant Hawk moth in Heather



Male Small hearth Butterfly



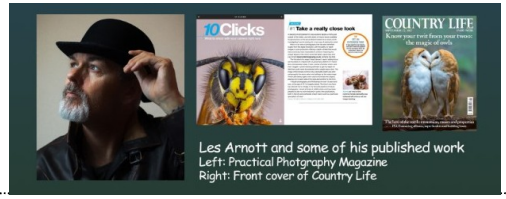
Common Carder Bee in flight



Common Blue Damselflies mating

Photographers Still Going Strong

Norton Canes' Practical Photography Group is still operating online until restrictions are lifted. If anyone would like more information email Sally on lesarnottphotography@hotmail.com For all group news check out www.theshuttershackstudio.uk



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

Crafty Glynnis Shares Her Passion for Doll Making



Hi there. You must be sick of hearing from me…but I have been asked to do a little article on my doll making in case any of you feel inspired to take up needle and thread.

I suppose I would be called a textile artist. Cloth ranks as one of the simplest and yet one of the most difficult doll making materials. The fabric doll is one of the oldest types of doll and is often associated with childhood memories.



My dolls are termed needle sculpture or soft sculpture and are all hand crafted. A needle and thread, scraps of material, wire, wadding and stretch material are the raw materials for a needle sculpture. Add to that imagination, humour, observation, some needle skill and lastly and most importantly inexhaustible patience.





They are classed as OOAK (One of a Kind) art dolls. I first started making them in 1987 as Briscoe's Bygones and I sold them at craft fairs. Back then I was making Black Country and Victorian characters like the Nailmaker and Chainmaker, Flower Seller, Punch and Judy Man, Chimney Sweep and many others. I also made life-size figures on commission.

When Allan retired I seemed to have less spare time….I wonder why! Coupled with the onset of neck problems I decided to give it up.

The boredom of lockdown has re-inspired me and I have designed a new range of dolls and I am calling them Glyndandy Dolls.





Continued on page 15

Easter at St James' Church



In normal times I would be writing to wish you all a happy Easter, but the last year has been anything but normal.

For some there have been tragedies, for all there has been stress and strain. St James' Church has kept going, offering worship to God and praying for the people of Norton Canes throughout the pandemic. For some of that time we have been online only, to ensure the safety of all, but our church members have been in the community praying and offering concern.



At the time of writing it is unclear what the situation will be when you read these words, so it is not possible to specify what our Easter services will be this year.

When we know, they will be announced on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stjamesnortoncanes/

In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, the Easter message is still one of great joy, and so, in the hope of better times, I wish that Easter joy may be yours.

Keep safe and well.
Father Neil

St James the Great Norton Canes
(weekly services are on the church notice board).
Sunday Mass at 8am.
Sung Eucharist 10.30am (Sunday School held during this service).
Weekday Holy Communion: Wednesday 11am and Thursday 7pm.

Rector Fr Neil Hibbins 01543 278969, email neilhibbins@gmail.com
Church clerk Mary Carpenter 01543 275296, email: marycarpenter243@gmail.com
Church warden Ann Eden 01543 278737.

Here is a beautiful poem by local resident Brenda Benton – with sentiments appropriate for these difficult times.

The Archer

I once read a story
about a teenage lad.
Who, when being tested, was
protected by his Dad.

He lived in a tribal village;
where manhood must be won.
The customs that they lived by were
followed by each son.

He was taken blindfold
and left in a forest deep.
Thinking he was all alone,
he found it hard to sleep.

He lay still and listened,
alert to every sound.
Afraid ferocious animals
were prowling all around.

The night seemed never ending,
but when the dawn light came.
He looked into the forest
and saw a human frame.

He recognised his father,
who watched over him all night.
With his bow and arrow drawn,
he kept him safely in his sight.

And we have a Loving Father,
Who is with us night and day.
Though we may not know it,
He protects us come what may.

If we are alone or frightened
this story of a father's care.
Reminds us of God's promise,
that He will always there.

Though, in times of deep distress,
we may not feel His protection.
But like the archer, He stands by,
hidden from our detection.



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 Easter.

Watch the church notice board for Easter Services.

Rev Margaret Eales can be contacted on 01543 682277.

God bless.
Chris and Ian Straughan.

*The church is in Poplar Street, Norton Canes.

Continued from page 14

My last commission 'The Diva' has been a challenge: sequins, bling and feathers have caused three migraines, sore fingers and as we say in the Black Country – 'much cussin'!



I hope to have a "Glyndandy" Facebook page set up very soon where you will be able to see more photos and videos.

You might find it is something you would like to do.
A lot of men are now involved in dollmaking and making a lot of money from it.
Get your crafty on. It could be your new hobby or new career.



Glynnis Briscoe
Norton Canes

*Try Pinterest and You Tube. There are textile dolls. Dolls made of air dry clay like das, paperclay, polymer self baking clay like Fimo and Sculpey - or if you are really serious B.J.D (ball jointed dolls) porcelain dolls. Google some of these amazing doll and textile artistes….Gayle Wray, Annie Montgomery, The Popovy Sisters, Lisa Lichtenfels,Elena Tuminskaya, Lady Lillypot and Holy Smoke.



Do you have an unusual hobby you would like to share with us? Send details to the editor at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Litter Picking

If you go for a walk around the village would you consider taking a litter picker with you? Because of the worsening problem of litter, Norton Canes parish councillors are inviting residents to help. Litter pickers and bags are provided by the council.
Due to the pandemic the council is unable to arrange community litter picks at the moment. As a result, councillors believe the amount of rubbish in the village is getting worse. A parish council spokesperson said: "If you could spare some time to help with collection of rubbish in your local area of the village this would be a great help.

Every little helps."

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,

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