June 2021 Issue 34

Norton Canes Village News

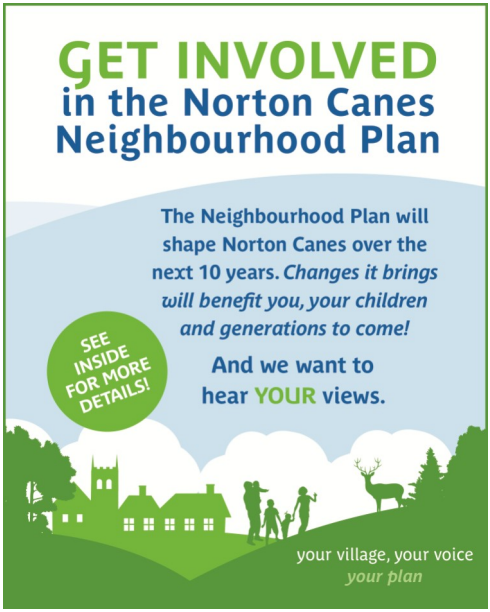
TIME TO REFLECT

Each year Norton Canes Parish Council holds a parish assembly – a forum for electors of the parish to attend and hear about the work of the council during the past year. The aim is also to give electors an opportunity to raise questions.
Due to Covid-19 restrictions the assembly did not take place in 2020 and a decision was made not to hold the meeting this year.
But councillors feel it is important the following message from parish council chairman Councillor John Preece is communicated to electors in the village.



Cllr John Preece

On behalf of the parish council I would like to mention people in the village who have lost loved ones to Covid. Particular mention goes to the late Richard Davis who was a very active and enthusiastic member of our Neighbourhood Plan and whose input and expertise will be greatly missed.



I would like to express thanks to Cannock Chase Coronavirus Network; Support Staffordshire; local chemists; and other groups who galvanised into action at the start of lockdown and who were instrumental in providing vital support to members of the community who would have struggled to cope with daily tasks.

Great community spirit shone through during this difficult time. I would also like to thank those who continue to volunteer, supporting the vaccination rollout in Norton Canes.

Turn to page 3

Hello – and a big welcome to the 34th edition of your village newsletter. Thank you to all the contributors. There would not be such a busy newsletter without you.

We welcome any contributions: serious, silly and in-between as long as there is a connection to the village.



Local pubs and clubs are especially invited to contribute articles, especially in these difficult times. Hopefully we are now in 'recovery time' and we can fly the flag for local entertainers.

If you are new to the village, please get in touch.
Equally, if you have lived here for decades there may be some story about the history of the village you would like to share.

As we make our tentative steps forward I send out a big hug to each and every one of you.

Thank you to our sub editor Sheila Harding who puts up with my pedantic nit picking without throttling me (though just between me and you I'm sure she'd like to at times).
Loves
Janet Lee
Editor

Looking Out For Our Village

Norton Canes parish councillors have submitted a response to Cannock Chase Council Local Plan.

Parish council clerk Linda Florence said the response was 'robust' and 'looked at issues for the village'.

If anyone would like to see a copy of the response ring Linda on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

For more details about the Local Plan visit

www.cannockchasedistrictcouncil/planning

To avoid disappointment items for the September newsletter must be emailed to
Jan at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk
by the end of the first week in August.

Continued from page 1

The work of the parish council continued in 2020. We are forging ahead with our Neighbourhood Plan which will enable the council to have more influence in shaping the village's future - and give councillors a voice at local and county levels.

Whilst the Best Kept Village competition was cancelled we still carried on improving presentation of the village, including our garden areas and hanging baskets which received positive feedback.
We were unable to hold the annual lantern parade in December which is always a well attended event but we are planning to hold it this year on the first Sunday in December. More information about this will be part of our September newsletter.

I am delighted and humbled to inform you I was re-elected Norton Canes Parish Council chairman at the council's annual meeting on May 18. Cllr John Bernard was elected vice chairman.
Norton Canes has been my home all my life and I am proud of its people and its history.

In its recent past the parish council has transformed areas like The Bridge and the Millennium Garden; created the lantern parade; won the Best Kept Village competition for Lichfield and Cannock area; spruced up the island and village entrances; and created a sense that more is possible - especially with the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan.

I believe it is time to invest in people too, so I have proposed the parish council looks at creating roles for a volunteer coordinator, youth outreach worker and elderly liaison support worker.

There are new projects in the pipeline to enhance more areas of the village and I can't wait to get stuck in.

If you would like to discuss council business or raise any matters please write to us at Norton Canes Parish Council, Parish Office, Burntwood Road, Norton Canes or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

**Usually at the annual assembly, grants are presented to local community groups. This year grants have been sent to the groups in the hope they can start meeting again to provide activities for residents.*

For a list of village community groups see the parish council notice board or visit www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

GET INVOLVED
in the Norton Canes Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will shape Norton Canes over the next 10 years.
Changes it brings will benefit you, your children and generations to come!

WHAT new facilities do you think are needed?

WHERE do you want to see improvements?

We want YOU to tell us...

WHO do you think we need to listen to?

HOW do you see the future for the area?

WHEN do you think these changes should be made?



It's so easy to get involved!

Here are 3 ways you can ensure your voice is heard...

ONE

TAKE PART in an online questionnaire

TWO

SIGN-UP to receive our email newsletter

THREE

LIKE & SHARE posts on our facebook page

Scan the QR code to visit our website for more information or visit

nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

NORTON CANES
Neighbourhood Plan

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

Swagman's Tales by Bob Whorton

Thank goodness there are people like Bob to watch out for the welfare of our local swans.

Local people were devastated to discover deliberate harm had been caused to a popular female swan (a pen), known as 'Mrs Majestic' in Norton East Road. Vandals have since also deliberately damaged a swan's nest. Here Bob shows the other side of human nature: how people care for the plight of our wildlife.

It's been a weird 12 months. There was the grief we felt at the loss of one of our most endearing wildlife icons, 'Mrs Majestic'. Visually, one of the most beautiful swans, she endured a rocky start. But with help from Eric providing straw she became a textbook mother to over 19 surviving cygnets.

The whole area was shocked by her death (caused by violent neck trauma by persons unknown). It broke my heart to find her body on the embankment end of the Swag after she had been missing for a couple of days and I witnessed the obvious distress of her partner, (the cob). After over ten years together these swans were dedicated to each other. The closeness of the pair was obvious to everyone who saw them. Her death changed people… They were going out of their way to check on the cob, bringing him food and paying him attention. I'm sure this human empathy helped him through.

Over the New Year a female swan arrived on the scene. Surprisingly she was not pushed away by 'Mr Majestic'. Their attraction grew throughout the year and the latter part of 2020 saw the influx of over 30 swans from Chasewater and surrounds - many were the previous year's cygnets with a large group of Canada Geese too.

Mr M' became super busy maintaining his alpha male status, chasing wannabees away from his 'new chick'. I expected a violent storm as the clock ticked towards mating time, but as quickly as they arrived, they were gone.

The closeness of the swans resulted in successful mating sessions in March. Many people have been keeping a close eye on the couple's welfare, especially after the 'local contingent of evil' saw fit to wreck the structure of the nest we prepared a year last March.

Arriving at the nest one morning to drop a bag of seed for the water birds, I was called over by a couple of ladies worried about the nest. The straw had been piled up too high by the pen. Without the rigid structure (that was thrown around the lakeside by team-evil) it had collapsed on the left side and the eggs were perilously close to sliding into the water. 'Mr M' allowed me over the fence to check the crisis.



New pen desperately trying to stop eggs rolling out of the nest

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Cob doing a bit of gardening - he's very house-proud.

On one side of the nest there were six or seven eggs - nothing but luck holding them in place. The pen had been desperately trying to roll each egg back but had given up and now sat still with the remaining few eggs beneath her. Only hours before, I had taken my wetsuit, waders and battery power tools out of my car (face-palm). I put out a call on the Norton/Heath Hayes site for help and tried to contact Chasewater rangers for two days. I also asked Les Barret for help via Messenger. Fortunately he called back and I explained the situation. He arrived a short while later with Rob, a minibus and useful bits and pieces. I wouldn't move from the nest site in case the eggs started to roll. Due to the influx of extra people the pen got quite irate. The cob jumped onto the other side of the nest (which actually helped), but then left and sailed around on the water checking what we were up to. Fortunately, Les had his waders with him, enabling him to get into two feet of water. Wood was used to support the falling side. Les was able to reach the eggs and pass them towards the pen. This relaxed her, but she still gave Les a few slaps - just because she could (lol). She was still a bit shaky as we put a length of wood and hard-core on the other side of the nest as a temporary fix until we could get back and finish later. We came back early evening in waterproofs with all the gear to make a good, strong, more permanent structure for the nest. The work was often noisy - but by now she had realised we were there to help. Hopefully this fix will last the rest of the season. The pen looked happy and more relaxed than when I saw her that morning and she slept. The cob was cruising the lake as though it was a normal day. By Sunday, everything was quiet and back to normal. Hopefully the eggs were not affected by the calamity. No one should approach swans as they can become very agitated, especially with eggs and young. Mating and rearing time is when they are at their most unpredictable and potentially dangerous.

** Please don't feed swans by throwing food on the nest. This encourages rats and the like. A swan needs lots of water to take in food, even juicy types, so it's best left on the steps on the Swag or thrown in the water. Best types of food for swans: sweetcorn (frozen but thawed); chopped iceberg or other greens thawed from frozen mixed veg'; seed and floating pellets; bread with seed as a last resort.*

Please refrain from giving white bread. It's not the best for birds or animals. Feeding should be in moderation so as not to interfere with their ability to forage. Food for swans at the Swag and Chasewater have been subsidised, due to their natural diet being affected by dropping and rising water levels. This is funded personally or by donations.

Dandy Golden Wedding Congratulations



Allan and Glynnis on their wedding day.

Glynnis and Allan Briscoe (aka comedy duo Dandy, from Norton Canes), have reached a huge milestone. Our heartfelt congratulations go to the couple and we thank them for brightening our lives with their fun take on life. Glynnis tells their story in her own inimitable style.……

We have just celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary. This made me realise we have actually lived in Norton Canes for 50 years! We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for acceptin' we Yam Yams into the community and mekin' we feel welcum even wen yow cor understand we!

On the April 17 1971 I was getting ready to 'plight my troth'. This sounded a bit like medieval torture.

These days people get married in scuba gear underwater or up mountains in Disney costume. Back then it was usually much more civilised…….

The longstanding argument with my mom concerning 'a nice traditional veil' or 'a big hat' and 'nice, smart, white, court shoes' - or 'them leggy, white, lacy boots' would finally be over and I had won!

Both of these decisions made the wedding vows invalid, apparently.

I had my hair cut (a big mistake). Allan didn't have his cut - an even bigger mistake.

Another discovery was that the grapefruit diet didn't work in the five days promised.

The big lad and I had met at a party in 1963 which means we have been together 57 years. Makes your eyes water to imagine.

For those of you wondering – no - he has not even paused for breath.

Back then I mistook his wittering for shyness and nerves. Now I realise it's what passes as conversation.

People change so much in that number of years but I think we are still basically the same people at heart and that's what counts. We still agree on the same important issues i.e. Allan isn't allowed to make decisions of any magnitude.

Father Burke at Holy Cross, Stone Cross, was due to marry us. He initially thought Allan was the bride (hair). He had done his best to school Allan in what to expect from a Catholic marriage…DENIAL!

Last minute he was called away and Father Gunn took over. Nice man who went on to greater things and became Canon Gunn. I do not lie!

The day was windy and the photographer, who was Darlaston's answer to David Bailey, was a greasy twerp who thought he was funny.

He insisted on putting house-bricks all around the hem of my dress.

Allan had already stood on it and nearly ripped the back out on the way down the aisle.

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The reception was to be held at the Manor House, Sandwell.
The Manor is a Medieval moated listed building and not, as Allan's parents suggested, the GKN canteen - as Harry, being Foreman, could get it for nothing.
I realised, too late, that I was marrying beneath me. Something my Mom had pointed out at every opportunity. The Manor, incidentally, is haunted and is now a museum which is rented out for Fright Nights and Halloween. Says it all really.
The day spiralled downwards pretty quickly after the meal.

We had planned an early getaway (less chance of us witnessing the fights). The plan was to pick up the car and suitcase from Al's house. I sat in our Mini outside his house while he went inside. The woman from the house opposite reversed out into the side of us. Very indignant. "Well…I was talking!"
And there rests the case for the defence, M'Lud. A typical Wednesbury response to most things.

When we got back to the Manor to say our goodbyes we were greeted by scenes of carnage, blue lights flashing and paramedics attending.
My Uncle Bert, who had had 'a funny turn' was holding court.
"I wor feelin' meself wen I gorrup!"

The children who had been playing (for this read 'fighting') had got over excited and pushed two kids into the moat. They were wrapped in blankets, dripping and snivelling. Relations stood around with arms folded and gritted teeth allotting blame.

Meanwhile the volatile Italian waiters had kicked off and had been throwing plates at each other.

My mother, still seething from the climb-down over the hat and boots, took great pleasure in telling me we would probably be billed for the damages. Allan's Mom consoled herself with "This wouldn't have happened at the GKN canteen!"

We set off in our dented car to the Lamb at Burford. This was a too posh Hotel in the Cotswolds. Out of our depth and our comfort zone we understood nothing on the menu. We were intimidated by the staff and the other guests who were very 'Horse and Hounds'. We ended up eating and hiding in a little pub round the corner.



We both agreed the highlight of the honeymoon was the amazing Cornish Pasties we had in Bath. Says it all I suppose!

Anyone up for a good laugh? We are a Norton Canes Community Centre on October 30 with our friends Eternity Duo.

**For details of upcoming gigs see dandycomedy.co.uk*

Please Help to Find Luna



Beautiful Luna.

As anyone who has ever lost a cat knows, it is really painful not knowing what has happened to them.
Local resident Kristi Roper has turned to the village newsletter to see if we can help her to find her beloved pet Luna.

Luna, from Norton Hall Lane, Norton Canes, went missing on December 20 and has not been seen since.
Her owner has posted the cat's photo online, put up posters and leafleted the area.
Luna, a tortoiseshell female is three years old. She is spayed and microchipped.
Kristi hopes that as no sightings of Luna have been reported someone may unknowingly have taken her indoors somewhere.
She also believes that as the cat is microchipped 'if the worst had happened' she would have found out by now.
Luna lived in Norton Hall Lane for 18 months before she went missing.
"I cannot accept she merely vanished," Kristi said. "I am confident 'no news is good news' and she is out there somewhere, laying low or being cared for in our community.
"I've had Luna as a family pet since she was a kitten and upon buying my first home she came with me.
"Not knowing what happened or whether she is safe is excruciating. But as she is only three years old, I cannot give up hope we will be reunited.
"My partner and I are massive cat lovers and absolutely adore her. As a young couple she is our 'baby' and even tolerates us cradling her like one.
"She's very vocal but instead of a miaow she makes a distinctive pigeon-like 'brrr' which I miss dearly.
"She's super laidback and has her own designated armchair which she likes to sprawl out on for hours. It's just so empty without her sitting there."
Kristi said Luna was not a cat to 'wander roads aimlessly'. Instead she would 'trot to and from nearby woods' to hunt and bring back 'gifts'.
"She's rather aloof and quite wary of strangers, unless they have a packet of Dreamies," Kristi added.
Luna also needs daily medication for an eye allergy so as time goes by, Kristi believes she could have been mistaken for as stray.
If anyone has taken Luna in to care for her or knows somebody that may have, Kristi would be very grateful for information with 'no questions asked'.
"But I'd like them to do the right thing and get her home where she belongs," Kristi added.
"Although I've unfortunately had no confirmed sightings, I appreciate the many people who have kindly been on the lookout for her. A big thank you to them.
Any information, however big or small, would be welcomed by Kristi on 07403 474 186.

Message From Your MP Amanda Milling



It has been over a year since we entered the first coronavirus lockdown, and as we enter into another summer with coronavirus still in our minds, we can be proud of local efforts taken over the past year to fight the virus and support our neighbours and wider community.

In the coming months, we all look forward to seeing more of Cannock Chase open up and a return to normal life.

The latest changes to social restrictions (which allow more outdoor contact) are very welcome to so many, as well as the ability to have had a much needed haircut!

The local testing and vaccination efforts across Cannock Chase have remained very impressive and I would like to thank everyone involved in this huge national effort. We do, however, still need to remain vigilant to the virus and do our bit to stop the virus being transmitted in order to protect our family and friends.

Meanwhile, as your MP, I have been undertaking many of my normal day to day activities, such as holding surgeries, having meetings and running events. However these are all done virtually.
I have also been out and about campaigning in Norton Canes for the local elections. It was a good way to enjoy some great weather as well as shed some lockdown pounds!

As always, if you have any issues you need my help with, please email me on amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk, call 01543 877142 or visit www.amandamilling.com/contact

Litter Pick – Please Help If You Can

Regular community litter picks are held in the village, the most recent being on June 6.
Norton Canes Parish Council clerk Linda Florence said: "We are grateful to volunteers who help us. Dates of litter picks are posted on the parish council website. The litter picks are important for the presentation of our village. We welcome new volunteers if you can spare the time."

Grab sticks and bags are provided. Some villagers litter pick near their homes; others clear areas where they are out walking.

For more details ring the clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

In Memory of Lol



Popular local character Laurence Bartle passed away in February.
Laurence (known as Lol), from Legion Close, Norton Canes, was 87 years old. Sadly, he was suffering from vascular dementia/Alzheimer's.
But this is not how Lol will be remembered. Villagers have fond memories of his outgoing personality, how he went out of his way to help other people and how he immersed himself in local organisations – even dressing as Santa for the annual sleigh tour of the village and sitting in his grotto at Norton Canes Community Centre.

Originally from West Hartlepool and Bolton Lol had been a widower for five years before he met Eve on a trip to Majorca. Lol had two sons and four grandchildren.
Eve, who lived in Redditch at the time, had been a widow for two years. She also has two sons plus one grandchild and four step-grandchildren.
The couple married and moved to Norton Canes where Eve's two sons lived. Eve and Lol enjoyed 30 years of happy marriage.
Lol, an engineer, joined Norton Canes Watercolour Club, a local camera club, RVS Darby and Joan - and Norton Canes Saturday Drama.
When he wasn't busy with local organisations he enjoyed gardening, golfing and sequence dancing.
Former Saturday Drama member Sheila Harding said: "I remember the first day at the old community centre. I had put an article in the local paper in 1995 announcing that we were starting a drama group to raise funds for a new centre. Lol was the first to walk through the door.
I was very fond of Lol - as were my drama students. He helped run the club and also played a fantastic Dame.
"Many young people benefited from his pearls of wisdom and northern humour. He was a very special person."

In his later years Lol was cared for at Waters Edge care home in Great Wyrley. He passed away in Walsall Manor Hospital from pneumonia.

Eve, aged 89, decided to give £463 donations from Lol's funeral to local charity Monthly Alzheimer's Support Events (MASE).

"I miss him," Eve said. "He liked fun and people – and people liked him for his cheerful personality."

Looking Forward to the Future



Debbie Pritchard at Hays Travel.

Oh how we all want things back to normal.
Local travel consultant Debbie Pritchard is on hand when you are ready to make those all-important travel plans.

Debbie, aged 44, from Norton Canes, has this message for you.

I am a personal travel consultant for Hays Travel. With the current climate the travel industry has been hit very hard. But I am hoping with the vaccine rollout people will gain more confidence and plan things to look forward to.

As a personal travel consultant I am not constrained to business hours and can be available at a time suitable for my customers.
Whether it's a simple cottage in the UK or a bucket list Antarctic cruise I can help plan a tailor-made, perfect, stress-free holiday.

I am fully Abta and Atol covered so your money is protected.
I have a Facebook page with daily offers and ideas on Debbie Pritchard at Hays travel or you can email me debbie.pritchard@hays-travel.co.uk

At last - Something Else to Cheer



Norton Canes Library has reopened on Mondays and Thursdays, 10am-12 noon.

Visitors are now allowed to browse (up to three people allowed in at a time, including one family group).

Library spokesperson Andrew Fox said: "New books are constantly arriving. We recently had new stock in by Danielle Steel, Stephen King, Josephine Cox, J K Rowling and David Walliams."

Congratulations to the library's Easter raffle winners (drawn a year late). All winners have now been contacted.

"Thanks to everyone who participated," Andrew added. "We managed to raise £156 for our defibrillator fund."

Musical Mondays With Local Singer



Singer Nicky Moran.

I can't believe how quickly this year is wizzing by.
As I write this we are already three months into my 'Musical Monday' series.

Thank you so much to those of you who have been following me so far. The lovely comments and support is just amazing.
'Musical Monday' is a music/video series which I started (back in the winter when COVID had us all locked inside) as my way of bringing some musical cheer to those dark days.

Each Monday I upload a new song/video to YouTube and Facebook. The songs mainly come from musical theatre but I am slowly starting to include a wider selection of easy listening genres.

Music and in particular recording is my lifelong passion. I love the whole process of recording and mixing. So, if you also enjoy easy listening music and have computer access please have a listen.

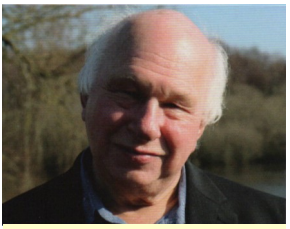
'Musical Monday' can be found on Facebook at 'Nicky J Moran' or 'Norton Canes and Heath Hayes' pages.

Have a great day. Fingers crossed the sun is still shining for us.

Nicky Moran

Thank You to Norton Canes Residents

Newly elected Cannock Chase Councillor Mike Hoare sends this heartfelt message to residents:



Cllr Mike Hoare

I thank residents who voted for me on May 6 most sincerely.

It is an honour and privilege to represent the people of our village and I will do my utmost to fulfil your wishes.

I also send a huge thank you to Zaphne Stretton for all her hard work over many years for the whole community.
It was indeed a pleasure to work with her last time we were both on Cannock Chase Council.

I thank all the people who have helped me - which is considerable. I look forward with interest in joining Cannock Chase Council again where I will work with Councillor John Preece on many issues for the benefit of Norton Canes.

Mike Hoare

Norton Canes Historical Society – We'll Meet Again

Historical society members are awaiting updates on Government guidelines before they can meet again.

Meetings usually take place at Norton Canes Library, but the community room cannot be opened for large groups at the time of going to press.

(Members do not usually meet in July and August even in normal times).

Although they have no firm date when meetings will resume, society secretary Mo Garbett said members will be notified 'as and when rules allow to meet up again'.

"We hope you are well and keeping safe and look forward to when we can safely meet again," she added.

Norton Canes Flower Club – Time for Optimism

Things are looking up.



Summer is here soon with warmer weather on the way when we will be able to spend time outside and in the garden.

And as restrictions ease, it looks as if our July, September and October meetings may be able to go ahead on the third Wednesday of the month– subject to Covid restrictions.

The meetings will take place at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes..

There may still be some restrictions in place but we should be able to meet if all goes according to the 'road map'.

Hopefully more things are going to open up which is good news. Members will be emailed with further details once everything is finalised.

The celebratory meal is now planned for luncheon at Chase Golf Club on November 10 (if Covid restrictions allow). The meal will be combined with a demonstration by John Chennell.

Meanwhile enjoy the garden and open spaces and trust we will be able to meet in the not too distant future.

Car Friend

Call us now! 01543 27 60 60

Fixed Price Service Menu

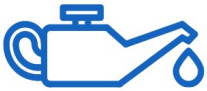
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Annual £145 — The most popular service, All vital fluids checked, Oil, Oil Filter & Air Filter changed, full comprehensive report, Also includes Battery check and a diagnostics check. Recommended every year

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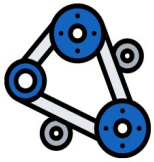

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Norton Canes Community Centre



Norton Canes Community Centre reopened on May 17. User groups are as follows:

Mondays Water colours, (email mogarbett@aol.com);
L'Rythmix Dance Academy (Leela 07821 774 456)
Tots O'Clock Toddler Group (see Facebook@totsoclock

Tuesdays Simply Crafting Card Group (Jackie 07570 452 948);
Tai Chi (Richard 07724 183 091);
Jenny's Afternoon Social (Jenny 07980 327 325);
Rainbows (Nortoncanesrainbows@gmail.com);
indoor bowls (07845 678 003).

Wednesdays Phyllis's Card Group (07968 291 694);
Sarah's Pilates (Sarah 07812 050 601);
RVS (Maureen 01543 279751); Zumba (Nev 07894 947 334);
Xaquarians Line (Jane 07515 931 389).

Thursdays Crafty Cards Card Group (Jackie 07570 452 948);
Crafty Sew and Sews (Jean 07412 191 439 or Irene 07958 484 271);
L'Rythmix Dance Academy (Leela 07821 774 456);
Sugar Craft (Sandra 07792 549 307);
Cannock Photography Association (www.cannockps.co.uk).

Fridays Tea dance (07845 678 003);
Spanish for Fun (Helen 07904 505 0334)
Befitt Chair Based Exercise (Beky@befitt.uk).
Xaquarians Line dancing (Jane 07515 931 389).

**Not all groups will return. Please contact group organisers as above.*

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are taking place face to face as directed by Government legislation. But councillors are having to adhere to social distancing. Parish council clerk Linda Florence said: "It is proving difficult to establish which venues are suitable for meetings and how many can attend. We are working through these issues."

Notices regarding future meetings will be displayed on the parish council notice board in the village centre and on the parish council website.

www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

More To Look Forward to at Norton Canes Community Centre



August 1: A day at the Races

September 12: Beetle drive with cream tea

October 30: Local comedy duo DANDY

December 5: Christmas Fayre and Concert

December 11 and 12: Panto

Quiz nights resume in 2022

*Please note these dates are provisional and will depend on Covid regulations at the time.

A Community Centre spokesperson said: “Thank you for your support in the past and looking forward to seeing you all soon. Keep safe. Hopefully restrictions will be lifted in time for us to hold these events. Please see our Facebook page, the notice board or email nccabookings@hotmail.com for further information.

Back Open For Business

Now that local businesses are starting to open up again, why not support your local café?

Ann’s Café and Catering, at 160 Walsall Road, is now open for indoor sit-ins. The café sells cakes, scones, salads, hot and cold sandwiches and ‘specials’.

It also has a new coffee machine.

Visitors can enjoy afternoon teas to eat in or take away – to be booked with 48 hours notice.

The café has an outside area where visitors can sit in the sunshine.



Tempting treats at the café.

To book a table (indoors or out), ring 01543 279376. A café spokesperson said: “We look forward to seeing everyone and having a chat.” *On arrival please wear a mask until you are seated.

We asked you to let us know if you have any unusual hobbies – and you didn't disappoint. Here is one of our most unusual.

Spruce up your Gnome!

When a Norton Canes resident was out and about on her travels she noticed how 'sad' some garden gnomes were looking.

This observation sparked an idea for a hobby/turned business for Maureen Ansell.

Maureen, aged 66, from Pinfold Lane decided to form Porton Gnomes Outfitters. (Porton – as in 'p' for Pinfold and Norton minus the 'n'!).
Her aim was to give garden gnomes, their 'pets' and general stone ornaments a colourful makeover.

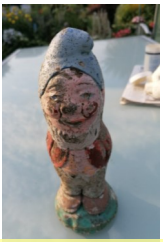
"I wasn't surprised the gnomes looked sad," Maureen said. "Their clothes were shabby and the shine had disappeared from their eyes.
"Their pets looked sad too, with fur or feathers matted with dirt - and a frog had lost his lovely 'smile'."

Maureen, a former nurse, gave them a warm bath and scrub then set to work in her garden shed giving them a makeover.

"It was lovely to see a brighter, beaming smile - and their pets also looked so pleased with their new look!" Maureen added. "I'm sure I saw them gazing proudly at their reflections in the garden pond!"

If you have a garden gnome, stone statue, flower pot - or frog in need of a smile - ring Maureen on 07830 179 066 or email silverbirch1511@gmail.com for details of charges.

*Maureen has also trained in aromatherapy, reiki and colour therapy. She is a spiritual healer, psychic medium and creates art using a wax/heat method for which she accepts commissions.





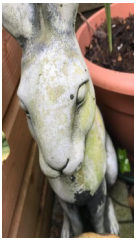
Sad gnome to happy gnome



Well-behaved, smiley frog Fernando.



The happy couple enjoying the garden view





The white Arctic hare BEFORE and AFTER



Wisteria stencilled onto garage wall







More of Maureen's creative art work.

Musical Tribute for Miners' Memorial

The unveiling ceremony of a new miners' monument at the National Memorial Arboretum looks set to be a stirring moment. As well as having a new statue at the Alrewas site a brand new musical composition will be played at the ceremony.



Image of the proposed National Mining Memorial

The music, commissioned by Chase Arts in Public Spaces (CHAPS) members Mike and Trish Mellor, is called Grounded in Gratitude. Trish said: "The music is being used to spread the word about the National Miners' Memorial to a wider audience."

The composition has been created by composer and piano/keyboard player Handre Potgeiter who lives in the USA.

It is performed by Handre and British violinist Lizzie Ball.

Handre said: "Grounded in Gratitude portrays a day in the life of a miner. Throughout the composition the music keeps elevating and building, paying tribute to the men and women who worked in coal mines in the First and Second World Wars. It is a dedication to them and their place in history."

CHAPS members launched an ambitious fundraiser to pay for the monument and are now close to reaching their £100,000 target. The concrete foundations are already on site.

The aim is to create a permanent legacy to miners who worked and fought for their country.

A film to accompany the music is also being created at no cost to CHAPS.

If you would like to help CHAPS reach their target, you can buy a pin badge and/or 10 x 8 prints of artwork which will be set in stone around the memorial.

Donations can be made via text or at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chapsnationalminersmemorial

For more details ring 07583 655 199;
email info@chaseartsfor publicspaces.co.uk or visit the website wwwchaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk

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

**Grounded in Gratitude has been released on music sites and on YouTube. Each time it is played it adds funds to the CHAPS appeal.*

Yes You Can!

A new initiative by Cannock Chase Council which will help residents make healthy lifestyle choices launches this summer.



Called Cannock Chase Can, it is a partnership between the council, the Community Wellbeing team at Inspiring healthy lifestyles (IHL) and others.
It will focus on supporting the Government's Child Obesity Action Plan, helping to address poor health and obesity by changing behaviour and attitudes.

A new Cannock Chase Can mobile app will enable residents to sign up and create personal profiles including target weight, personal goals, and 'individual wellness journeys'.

The app will also provide information about healthy eating, physical activity, and advice about how to make healthier lifestyle choices.
It will host a variety of wellness challenges which can be undertaken as an individual, group or family.

Over the next month, the council and IHL will be working with community groups, businesses and schools designing challenges which will feature in the app.

The programme will also include education projects for schools as well as customised initiatives for local businesses.

An advertising campaign will promote the district-wide health improvement programme.

Cannock Chase Council's Head of Economic Prosperity Dean Piper said: "The council is committed to improving residents' health and supporting the Government's wider agenda on obesity.
"This exciting programme will be available to download free from Google Play and the App Store.
"Once registered, users will be able to participate in a range of challenges - and gain rewards along the way."

Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles deputy managing director Chris Derbyshire added: "This really exciting project provides support in a new and innovative way.
"We hope the approach of involving the community in its creation will make it more accessible and meaningful." For more details email cannockchasecan@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

The Masked Silver Sneakers



Norton Canes exercise group members The Silver Sneakers are thinking of re-naming themselves when their weekly classes start up again. Do you think the name Masked Silver Sneakers has a ring to it? Here is a message to Silver Sneakers, desperate to return to their club, from members Pam and Jan:

What a wonderful time of the year with everything springing back into life.
We have enjoyed many glorious hours of sunshine which is a recipe for happiness in itself.

By now we will all have had two doses of the vaccine and things are less restrictive so that we can meet a few others.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all again so get your masks ready.



We might have to have a new title: the 'masked silver sneakers'.

We haven't yet had the go-ahead to restart our class, but when it happens our phones will be instantly buzzing.

Keep smiling.

Back to Church



Following relaxing Covid-19 guidelines, Trinity Methodist Church will reopen for services as follows:
Sundays June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8 and August 22.

It is hoped the Poplar Street church in Norton Canes will be open every week in September, Covid-19 regulations permitting. Saturday coffee morning resumes from June 5, 10am-12 noon. Bring your own cup.

Church members Ian and Chris Straughan issued the following statement: "We will be sending/taking out 'Worship at Home' (on the weeks when not in church) by Zoom worship every Sunday when not in church starting at 10.30am.

"We keep in touch with each other by phone, text and email to keep each other's spirits up. Meanwhile, stay safe, be kind to each other and please try to have a happy summer. "If you need prayer phone, ring Ian on 01543 276695 and we will mobilise our prayer warriors. God bless."

Watch the church notice board for regular services.
Reverend Margaret Eales can be contacted on 01543 682277.

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

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The Early Bird Catches the Scenes



Steve Keen

While most of us are still slowly waking up under the duvet, Norton Canes resident Steve Keen is out and about capturing stunning photos from our local area.

Steve, who shares his beautiful pictures on Facebook, has become a familiar face on the early morning walk circuit.

If you spot him, please give him a wave.



Waiting for their daily feed.
A kind couple feeds the swans every day. Photo taken in March.

"These walks have been a great help to me during the lockdown period as well as helping me keep fit," Steve said.
"I walk from home in Church Road up to and around Chasewater via Red Lion Lane – a two-hour round trip.

"If you see me on my travels please say hi." *More of Steve's photos on page 32*

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling in the village is being taken seriously.
That is the message from Norton Canes Parish Council.
Parish council clerk Linda Florence said Cannock Chase Council will take action against offenders and local residents are encouraged to report anyone allowing their dog to foul the area.
"We receive many complaints about dog fouling," Linda said. "And complaints are on the increase.
"The parish council is doing its best to make dog walkers aware of the issue – and encouraging them to clear up their dog mess."
Three dispensers with bags inside have been placed on the Cema park; at the entrance to Chasewater from Norton East Road; and on the Jubilee Gardens (where dog walkers use the old mineral line known as the 'Batter').
These dispensers, popular with dog walkers, are checked every week to ensure they have bags in them.
If anyone notices a problem with any bags missing please ring the clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk
*If anyone reports dog fouling to Cannock Chase Council they will be asked the date and time of the offence, the location(s), description of the owner and dog and if they know the owner's address.
They will also be asked if the dog owner is using a vehicle to visit that particular area. If so, a description and registration number of the vehicle would be helpful.

Here's a beautiful poem by Brenda Benton, from Chapel Street, Norton Canes, reflecting on what we have discovered about ourselves during lockdown.

On Your Doorstep

Sometimes we go out looking, and search the whole world through.
But now I have realised, something I believe is true.

The answer's on our doorstep, when we've looked far and wide.
So instead of looking outward, we find answers deep inside.

For, whilst we're busy looking, in some far-off land.
We often miss the obvious, that is very close at hand.

We may have a strong compulsion, to save our world and its ways.
But the most important thing is to give God all our praise.

For, the simple things around us bring the greatest satisfaction.
And when we find peace within we are ready for action.

With the power to change our world and make it a better place.
Resting where God has put us, We can live in His grace

Where we find contentment in everything we do,
As a new world opens up, that was hidden from view.

Then, the Lord may call us, to go out and travel far.
Because we took the time out to find out who we are.

So that we can help others to find themselves as well.
And we can help to save them, from their self-made hell.

The notice board outside the Co-op contains information which is updated regularly on parish matters.

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

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

You can also find information on the parish council website

www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

Open Door at St James' Church

St James' Church, Norton Canes, is now open – with no prior booking required.



Church clerk Mary Carpenter said the church reopened its doors on Palm Sunday.

"We still have to work with Covid restrictions but have managed to reorganise our seating to allow for a larger congregation and a small choir," Mary said.

"This means we now have some singing and music to enhance the service and bring us slowly back to normality. We welcome anyone to join us."

Mary said unfortunately the congregation is not yet encouraged to sing and will still have to wear face coverings.

"But we are getting there," she added.

"By the time you receive this magazine things may hopefully have improved further.

"If we all play our part we may be able to shake hands and have a hug before long."

**Services take place on Wednesdays at 11am, Sundays at 10.30am.*

Introducing Your New County Councillor

Councillor Samantha Thompson pledges to give Norton Canes the same support she will giving to her local villages of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury.



Councillor Samantha Thompson

As well as her new role on Staffordshire County Council, Cllr Thompson is also a district councillor representing Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury; and a parish councillor for Heath Hayes and Wimblebury.

She feels she has a connection with Norton Canes as all of her three children attended the village High School.

"I have lived in Heath Hayes for 30 years," Cllr Thompson said. "I love where I live and being part of the community – and I love to litter-pick!"

If anyone would like to contact Cllr Thompson her number is 07817 265 438.

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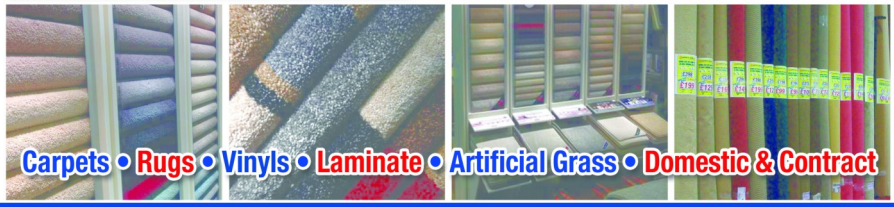
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Carpets Direct 2U is owned by **Robert** and **Mandy Freeman**, and their son **Richard**. The Freeman family have been serving customers throughout the Walsall and West Midlands area for four generations. Their years of retail experience have helped 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

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

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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.

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THE TALE OF TWO WALKERS AND A DOG

by

Jenny Dunn and Delia Dawson



20-page charity book in aid of:

Monthly Alzheimers Support Events (MASE) – who meet at St Luke's Centre, Cannock

Burntwood-based mental health charity shop MIND

cats and dogs rescue groups

Walsall Manor Hospital Breast Cancer Support Group

Book costs £5. For information ring Robert Ford on 07748 677 905.

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2021 ~ 2022

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Cllr J. Bernard (Vice Chairman)	01543 274427
Cllr J. Beddows	01543 279991
Cllr Mrs Z. Stretton MBE	01543 276959
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bernard	01543 274427
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Cllr Mrs D. Todd	01543 278778
Cllr R. Wilkinson	07956 994199
Cllr K. Fereday	01543 317967
Cllr D. Bilbie	07376 910135

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 Josh Newbury	07884 111282
Cllr John Preece	01543 270789
Cllr Mike Hoare	01543 279989

County councillor: Cllr Samantha Louise Thompson 07817 265 438

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

More beautiful photos by local walker Steve Keen



Deer - waiting in the sunshine for the next train.

Photo taken near the crossing of Chasewater Railway line (top of lane opposite Red Lion Lane) at the end of March.



Bit of a shock for the residents this morning.

Photo taken near new houses on the greyhound track, Brownhills Road, in March.



Low sunshine on this frosty *morning.*

Photo taken at the rear of Chasewater in February.



Just paddling by Pier 52 at Chasewater

In Memory of Mrs Majestic - photos by Bob Whorton

(see story pages 6 and 7)



New Pen looking after the saved eggs.



'Are we there yet?'



Late Mrs Majestic with her last 3 cygnets.



Cob coming in to land



Late Mrs M's last 3 cygnets