September 2021 Issue 35

Norton Canes Village News

Replica Memorial Plaque for Norton Canes

Local councillors were proud to attend a special ceremony to receive a replica of a plaque which forms part of a new mining monument.

The monument, sited at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, was created by sculptor Andy de Comyn. It is five metres long, two metres high and one metre wide.
It is surrounded by 24 plaques, which were sponsored as a way of helping to fund the monument.
Each plaque depicts an aspect of the history and story of miners.

Norton Canes Parish Council sponsored one of the plaques – depicting a miner's truck like the one installed in the village centre.
Councillors have now been presented with a replica cast of the plaque which will be weather-proofed, then mounted on a plinth and installed in the village for everyone to enjoy. The exact site has yet to be determined.

The actual monument, made from Derbyshire stone, is now completed and installed at the Arboretum.
It was officially unveiled and dedicated on September 3. Norton Canes councillors attended the ceremony with representatives of the mining community and other dignitaries.

The project was launched by Chase Arts for Public Spaces (CHAPS), a voluntary group, which raised over £100,000 from individuals and groups to build and maintain the monument. The project was supported by the National Union of Mineworkers.

The service of dedication was led by the Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE, Bishop of Lichfield and featured performances by Lea Hall Brass Band and choristers from Wolverhampton and Walsall Orpheus Male Voice Choirs.
Members of the public were able to view the dedication ceremony from the perimeter of the memorial site.
CHAPS president Mike Mellor said: "This was a very special occasion - the culmination of over four years working together on this project."
The monument recognises the colliers' contribution to the two World Wars; and remembers men, women and children who worked in the coal industry in the UK, recognising their bravery and the sacrifices.
Follow the project on CHAPS Facebook page or visit www.facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpaces or twitter @minersmemorial

See photos on page 2

Hi Everyone,
Welcome to the 35th edition of your newsletter.
And when I say your newsletter that is exactly what I mean – so please feel free to contribute an article in our next quarterly edition.
We really do try to include something of interest for all ages, so if you feel your age group is under-represented, rather than grumble, please send in your contribution.
This edition feels particularly optimistic with clubs reopening and friends meeting up again.
We all know that this time is precious and that we need cautious optimism.
But isn't it great to see our village back to being its normal, lively, busy self?
Thank you to all the contributors and special thanks to sub editor Sheila Harding. I'm surprised she has any hair left after I sent her 30 emails for this newsletter on one day alone!
She's a talented artist. I'm sure she could draw a photo of herself pulling her hair out.
Lots of loves as ever
Jan
Editor



The National Mining Memorial



Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece is pictured holding the replica plaque with parish councillors (from left): Diane Todd, Mike and Zaphne Stretton, Josh Newbury, Sheila Harding and Ann Bernard.



Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece alongside the national mining memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

New Chief Exec Pays Us a Visit

Cannock Chase Council's new chief executive Tim Clegg paid a visit to Norton Canes last month.
Mr Clegg visited the village at the invitation of Norton Canes district councillors John Preece and Josh Newbury.
Mr Clegg also heads up Stafford Borough Council - which has agreed to trial sharing a chief executive with Cannock Chase Council for a 12-month period.
He has been touring the district to learn more about its communities and their concerns, their experience with the district council and their hopes for the future.
Mr Clegg was shown the village's Jubilee Garden (which local councillors believe could be spoiled if plans for a 5G mast there go ahead).
He also visited Norton Canes Community Centre to see its facilities - and how a sports hall extension at the centre could enhance indoor sports facilities and benefit youth groups.
Councillors Preece and Newbury accompanied Mr Clegg to Elm Road to show him how Cannock Chase Council-maintained green spaces often look neglected and to point out that offers of help from residents have been turned down by the district council's housing department.
Mr Clegg then visited Betty's Lane play area - one of several in the village in need of an upgrade. (Local councillors believe this one in particular could be an opportunity to improve facilities for older children and teenagers).
The next visit was to Grove Colliery site off Lime Lane to show him this 'hidden gem' of Norton Canes' past which, with the district council's support, could be the centrepiece of a leisure and heritage themed regeneration of that area.

Speedwatch: Volunteer Appeal



The village Speedwatch is struggling to operate because of a lack of volunteers.
Norton Canes Parish Council continually receives complaints about cars speeding on village roads.
For some time now a Community Speedwatch initiative has been undertaking Speedwatch sessions on roads in the village where there are reported problems.
But the initiative relies on volunteer support.

Volunteers are trained by Staffordshire Police Community Speedwatch Unit.
Speedwatch sessions take place between one to two hours.
A parish council spokesperson said: "Currently we are not able to do as many sessions as we would like due to lack of volunteers.
"If you have some spare time and would be willing to help with this project we would like to hear from you."

If you can help, ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk







A Dignified Send-Off

On a bright morning last April, an immaculate horse drawn hearse led a dignified funeral cortege for the first service at the new Cannock Chase Crematorium. For the Crematorium Manager, Jo Walker, it was the culmination of months of hard work and the long-awaited chance to deliver an exceptional experience for bereaved families in the area.

People driving along Cannock Road watched the Crematorium being built on the former opencast coal mine site during 2020. When mining ceased in the 1980s, the site was left to nature, so the Horizon team inherited a wilderness of wildlife, semi mature self-planted trees and grassland. Their approach was to disturb only where they had to. The result is a crematorium, with its car park and formal gardens, set against the backdrop of nature. Now construction workers have departed, herds of deer are regular visitors to the site providing a special moment for mourners looking out of the ceremony hall's large picture window.

The building was designed by architect Ken Robertson of Robertson Design Practice, who brought with him experience of Horizon's facility on the Clyde Coast. He knew that the basic footprint of the building would be the same – a tripartite structure with a ceremony hall in the middle flanked by a large waiting room on one side and a cremator room and office block on the other. This is different from the traditional crematorium design. The coffin sits at the front and centre of a light, spacious ceremony hall which accommodates 140 mourners. Behind the coffin is a large picture window framing a view across the site - the window through which the site's deer are now frequently spotted. This arrangement means that once each service is over, staff must move the coffin by hand from the catafalque to the cremator room, but Jo and her team believe that the improvement in the experience for mourners is worth the additional effort.

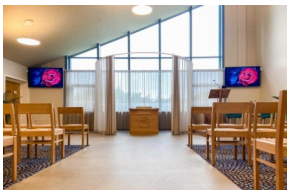
The other major difference is the provision of a large and comfortable waiting room capable of taking 90 people that allows those waiting for a funeral to sit down with a cup of coffee or freshen up in the ladies' and gents' toilets. The waiting room is equipped with TV screens and a sound system so it can also act as an overflow area for particularly large funerals. In recognition of the site's mining heritage the waiting room at Cannock features a display depicting the mining history of the area. Ken Robertson's brief was shaped by Horizon's desire to have their crematoria draw from and fit into their local communities and he was tasked with designing a building and using materials that reflected the best of the architectural vernacular in the area.

The practise of some other companies of having a ‘one size fits all’ design on sites up and down the country regardless of context is something Horizon does not wish to replicate. The design of Cannock Chase echoes the shape of the factories found in the Cannock area before and after the war. They were oriented so that glazing in a vertical plane of the roof would face north and illuminate rooms with a constant flat light. The resulting ‘shark’s tooth’ roof shape is redolent of industrial architecture of the time and still does its job, filling the ceremony hall with light and nowadays also providing a south facing pitched roof on which solar panels can be fixed. The building is clad in larch with sharp edges emphasising the roof shape. Corten is used around the ceremony hall window and the entrance to the offices. Corten is a type of steel that ‘rusts’ down to a pleasing bronze colour and was, again, chosen to echo the area’s industrial heritage.

The memorial gardens have been designed by Robinson Landscape Design. Named The Fair Lady Memorial Gardens after the name locals use to refer to the adjacent Coppice Colliery which closed in 1964, the gardens set planting in a series of concentric rings that break up pathways through the site. Memorials, and space for future memorials are set within planting and there are plenty of spots for quiet contemplation and remembering, A separate, dedicated space called Charley’s Garden has been created for those who have lost children. Approached through a pergola of rose trees it is secluded from the rest of the gardens by banks of planting. The memorial tree at the centre of Charley’s Garden is made from Corten to tie the gardens into the architectural language of the building.

A range of other Corten memorials have been specially designed for the site and were inspired by the ‘Top Hat’ pipe caps used underground. Summarising the philosophy of the team, Crematorium Manager Jo Walker said: “We offer a refreshingly different experience. Working within this unique building, we offer funerals that are a celebration of life, giving families the comfort, space, time and technology to bring a service to life. This is all delivered with the detailed attention of a dedicated team who care.”

In the few months since opening, the horses that drew the first hearse to the site have been followed by many other funeral corteges. Families and funeral directors in and around Cannock have reacted well to the new crematorium and the service they receive from Jo and her team. Cannock Chase Crematorium looks set to be a success and to play an important role at the heart of its community for years to come.







A Tribute to John

Norton Canes parish councillors paid tribute to one of their former colleagues John Hampshire who died in June. John, from Stag Crescent, was 78 years old. During his time on the parish council he was involved in many activities - including playing Santa at the village lantern parade. Council chairman Councillor John Preece said: “John will be fondly remembered for his humour, his passion for his community and his love of the outdoors, particularly Chasewater. “John has been a scout leader, drama enthusiast and an avid Manchester United fan - to the point where he'd remind us if meetings were over-running if there was a European game on! “All those flowers you see around the village are there because of John's constant desire to ‘bloom up the village’,” Cllr Preece added. “His most important piece of work was to improve the island on Blakeney Way. “His legacy will continue in the gardens around the village. John will be sorely missed.”



John Hampshire



John Hampshire (Santa) is pictured with Cllr John Preece (left) and Dave Smith

John, who worked as a BT engineer, loved nothing more than to have a good old sing song and be part of ‘open mic’ sessions councillors said. Councillor Sheila Harding added: “Having shared a stage with John in many Norton Canes High School productions it was a real pleasure when he joined us on the parish council. “We knew we had our work cut out to keep up with his ideas for Norton Canes.” Making sure ‘beware of the deer’ signs were erected in the village was just one of John’s projects. “John was someone who cared so much about the presentation of our village,” Cllr Harding added. “He used his contacts around the village to make sure we would greet each New Year with a show of daffodils.”

John leaves a partner Chris Owen, two daughters, one son and three grandchildren.

Dog Fouling: Problem Continues

Norton Canes Parish Council is still receiving complaints about dog fouling issues in the village despite pleas to owners to clear up after their pets.

Parish council clerk Linda Florence reiterated Cannock Chase Council will take action against offenders.

Local residents are encouraged to report anyone allowing their dog to foul the area. Dog owners have no excuse. Dispensers with bags inside have been placed on the Cema park, Chapel Street; at the entrance to Chasewater from Norton East Road; and on the Jubilee Gardens (on the old mineral line known as the 'Batter'). These dispensers are checked every week to ensure they have bags in them. If anyone notices a problem with bags missing 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 for 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. A description and registration number of the vehicle would be helpful.

Cannock Chase Council has introduced a Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control), which makes it an offence for anyone in control of a dog not to remove mess from land to which the order applies. The order also makes it an offence to not have or produce, when requested by an authorised officer, 'a receptacle for picking up dog dirt prior to its disposal'. It is also an offence to not dispose of the faeces in a suitable bin provided.

Norton Canes Library – Come and Visit



The library's new opening hours are: Mondays, 10am-12pm; Tuesdays 10am-12pm; Thursdays 10am-12pm; Fridays 10am-2pm.

There is also a new Thursday Craft Group which started on August 5.

A Summer Reading Challenge for children aged four to 13 runs until September 13; and there is a Mini Reading Challenge for the under 4s. *See the library's new Facebook page Friends of Norton Canes Library for latest news.

Churches Together



Trinity Methodist Church, Norton Canes, is merging with Bourne Methodist Church in Heath Hayes.

The churches' new joint name will be Trinity and Bourne Methodist Church. Main services will be held at Norton Canes. Spokesperson Chris Straughan described the news as 'exciting'. "We will be keeping both premises," she said. "Watch this space."

Services held at Trinity Methodist Church start again from September, Sunday services taking place each week from 11am.

A new group called Hand in Hand, run by trained counsellors, has been set up. It is aimed at anyone feeling low, depressed - or simply in need of a listening ear. It will be held every Tuesday at Trinity Methodist Church from 11.30am-2pm. The message is: "Come and see us and see if we can help."

Norton Canes Watercolour Club on the Move



Watercolour Club Exhibition at Trinity Methodist Church in 2017

Watercolour Club members have had many happy and productive years at Norton Canes Community Centre.

We would like to thank present and former Community Centre committee members for their support.

After speaking to group members, who are all of 'a certain age', it was felt that a larger room would be more appropriate. In view of the continued Covid issues we don't want to take any chances.

An opportunity has arisen for us to take the large room at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, and we will be starting there on Monday September 13 at 10.30am. The meeting will finish at 12.30pm.

We look forward to starting back and promise to send copies of some of our future creations to Newsletter editor, Jan, for consideration.

Sheila Harding

Community Food Table

Over the past year, a group of us have been inspired by the Community Food Table at Heath Hayes.
We decided to follow in its footsteps and run our own table in Norton Canes.
With the backing and much valued support of Lisa Wilson, who set up the group in Heath Hayes, we have been able to offer villagers basic food essentials.
The table is run on Saturday mornings, 10am to 12 noon, outside the Victoria Club, Norton East Road. It offers a selection of fruit and vegetables, basic canned foodstuffs and bread.
We also have a small selection of dog and cat food kindly donated by Canine Capers.
The table is there for anyone. We do not make judgement on anyone who visits us. Please visit and see what we have to offer. All we ask is that you limit yourself to one bag of food per person.
We appreciate this may be a sensitive issue for some people, so if you feel a little apprehensive visiting us contact us directly if there's anything you need. You can check us out on Facebook (search for NORTON CANES COMMUNITY FOODTABLE and send us a message), contact me on 07929 558 885 or email me johnpreece77@hotmail.com
The food is provided by Aldi, the Co-op and Greggs. Nigel Payne and I collect it on a Friday night.



The food varies from week to week; but fresh usable food that would otherwise be thrown away that night is offered to an individual or family who will appreciate it.
This is a very worthwhile facility for our community. Not only does it help villagers, it also helps reduce food waste, ensuring good food doesn't get thrown away.



I would like to thank Aldi, the Co-op Group and Greggs for their wonderful support; and thanks to Nige, the Margs, Kath and Linda for their time and commitment to making this project a success.
We welcome donations of tinned food, cereals, UHT juices and milk if anyone would like to support us.
If you know anyone who would benefit from our service please let them know and share the message far and wide. Thank you.
John Preece

Activity at The Cema

Norton Canes parish councillors hosted a special activity day at the Cema Park, Chapel Street, on August 24.

Parish councillors, Cannock Chase Council and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles provided information stalls about the proposed improvements and the history of the field before it became a park.



One of the fun activities to take place was making a pit pony out of willow – the brainchild of Forest of Mercia creative team. The organisation Planet Art worked on painted flags and drawing designs for the entrances to the park and play areas.

Parish councillor Sheila Harding said: "We asked for your help and you came. It was a very useful, enjoyable day which included canal art projects, face painting, and games.

"Creative Souls and members of the parish and district council provided surveys for the Neighbourhood Plan. Thank you to all who visited."



A Cannock Chase Council spokesperson added: "Over the last few months, we have been working closely with Norton Canes Parish Council to undertake improvements to the Cema park and play area.

"Works to be carried out on site include a new circular pathway and installation of green gym equipment alongside the pathway.



"Kompan was appointed to undertake work to the play area. As part of their design work, local residents and schools were asked for their views on their proposals.

"The design incorporates views and suggestions of residents who took part in the first round of consultation undertaken in November 2020.

"It reflects the mining history of the area as well as providing fun and engaging equipment for children to use and experience.



"Plans are also underway to develop art pieces that will be positioned around the park.

"Additional landscaping works including planting of trees, shrubs and wildflowers will also take place thanks to the support of the Forest of Mercia which contributed £12,000 towards this."



Landscaping is due to take place this autumn. The new play area and pathway should be completed by the end of September.

For more information ring the parish council on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Footy Fans Celebrate Club Milestone

Norton Canes Football Club celebrated its 20th anniversary in July.

To celebrate, club members held a special event at Norton Canes Primary Academy, School Road.

There were fun, five-a-side football matches played by the youngsters' parents, live music, stalls, food and a beer tent.



Fun for the kids

The club has places available for players in some of its teams. Teams range from age six to veterans. There are also coaching roles available.

More information about the above is available from 07926 270 993, 07860 884 408 or 07545 569 802.



Footballers in action



Footy for all ages

The veterans (age 35 and over) and under 15s teams are managed by Lee Bourne. Lee is recruiting for both his teams at the moment. He can be contacted on 07969 375 038.

Club spokesperson Kelly Love said: "We are currently recruiting for the baby of the club, Norton Canes Football Academy that I run with my son Joe, for children aged three to six. The cost is £4 per session." Sessions run from 10am-11am on Saturday mornings at Norton Canes Primary Academy.

Money that parents pay for sessions covers the cost of equipment and astro turf pitch hire over the winter months.

For details ring Kelly on 07305 163 990.
All teams train and play at Norton Canes Academy.

Message from your MP Amanda Milling



It's been great to get out and about in Cannock Chase as Covid restrictions have cautiously and safely been lifted.

I've spent the past few weekends on the doorstep speaking to as many of you as possible about some of the issues you're facing locally.

As we begin to recover from the pandemic it's been brilliant to open two new businesses in Kingswood Lakeside Business Park. I recently opened the new national headquarters of technology firm, TES. This new business provides a number of technology-based services, including recycling electronic equipment. I have also opened the packaging firm, All Pack, which has recently relocated from Aldridge. Both new businesses will bring fantastic opportunities to the local economy. It's businesses like these that will play a pivotal role in Cannock Chase's recovery from the pandemic and help us to build back better. Kingswood Lakeside has been a real success story for Cannock Chase, seeing a former opencast coal mine transformed into a well located, high quality business park.

As the summer continues, I will be visiting more local organizations and businesses and holding my regular surgeries.

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

Kano Judo Club is Back

Kano Judo Club
Norton Canes
Staffs



Kano judo club is re-opening at Norton Canes Community Centre.

The club kicks off with free taster sessions on Monday September 6. It caters for everyone from complete novices to 'old campaigners'. All will be made welcome.

For more information/to book a place visit the Facebook page Kano Judo Club AEJF or ring Ian on 07549 108 829.

Judo has many benefits physically, mentally and socially. Why not come along and see what it's all about?

Fun Times Are Back

Brownies and Girl Guides are back in September.
Girls aged between seven and 10 can enjoy making new friends as well as taking part in fun outdoor adventures, badge challenges, sleepovers and crafts.
The 2nd Norton Canes Brownies meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on Tuesday evenings. The Guide group, for 10 to 14-year-old girls, runs after Brownies on the same night.

The girls decide on their own activities and day trips. They also learn a range of skills and take part in fun group activities including camping, cooking and survival skills.

Register at girlguiding.org.uk for Brownies or Guides and more details will be sent to you by group leader Helen.

Neighbourhood Plan: Consultation Continues

Work on the village Neighbourhood Plan continues.

A consultation process has begun whereby residents have been asked to complete surveys relating to various topics for inclusion in the Plan. These include housing and transport.



From left: Cllr Ann Bernard, Cllr John Bernard, Cllr Dale Bilbie, Cllr Josh Newbury, Cllr John Preece, Marilyn Calvert, Steve Small, Cllr Sheila Harding, Cllr Mike Holder.

A parish council spokesperson said: "We are developing policies that will be included in the Plan to shape the village for the future."

If you would like to know more about the Plan visit www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk where there is a dedicated page on what is involved.
If you would prefer to speak to someone ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncaneparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Friendly words from Betty Ferns.

July 30 was International Friendship Day.

To celebrate the occasion, 93-year-old former Norton Canes Primary School headteacher/local resident Betty Ferns wrote a short poem.

Lichfield nursing home residents then presented the poem with flowers to shoppers.
The home's activity carer organised the event.



Betty Ferns

Residents were taken by minibus to 'accost and surprise' shoppers outside Boots in Lichfield.
Betty hand-wrote the following poem:



Lichfield,
'The Lady in the Vale'
Lichfield, a lovely city in every way.
Please accept this token of friendship
For you today.



Welcome Back to the Darby and Joan Club

The Darby and Joan - Royal Voluntary Service starts up again on Wednesday September 8. Meetings will take place at Norton Canes Community Centre.

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
Together for older people

Anyone over the age of 50 is invited to join in the fun.

If you wish to attend please ring Maureen Hall beforehand on 01543 279751 so she will know how many to cater for.

Maureen is also appealing for people to join the committee.
There is no age limit for being a committee member. Members just need to commit to two hours on a Wednesday afternoon.

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





Norton Canes Flower Club

On July 21 Flower Club members met for the first time since February 2020.

It was a really good afternoon, when we were able to catch up in person although still being cautious.

It is good to feel that life is slowly getting a bit more to how it was pre lockdowns.

The time of the meetings from now on is 1pm for a 1.30pm start, instead of in the evenings.

Some members went on an outing with Streetly Flower club to Flora Media in August and had been looking forward to the experience.



Dorothy Clive Gardens

Regular meetings are resuming (Covid permitting) from September.
September 15: demonstration by Sharon Badger entitled 'A New Lease of Life'. How apt!
October 20: a talk by the head gardener of Dorothy Clive Gardens.
December 15: a Christmas workshop and (if permitted) party refreshments.
November 10: a special event – a celebratory luncheon and demonstration at Chase Golf and Country Club, Penkridge. This is a celebration of the Club's 50 years in existence which was actually in 2020 but circumstances prevented the event taking place then.

Luncheon will be followed by a demonstration by national demonstrator John Chenell.
This will be an afternoon to look forward to: an opportunity to meet old friends, enjoy good food and see an excellent demonstrator.
Old members and friends are especially welcome.
Tickets (£28 for non members) go on sale in September. For more details ring 01543 278370.

Club members meet at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on the third Wednesday of the month at 1pm for 1.30pm. New members are most welcome. Ring the above number for more information.

Car Friend

Call us now! 01543 27 60 60

Fixed Price Service Menu

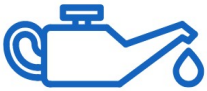
Interim £99 — Oil & Filter Change & Vital Visual Checks, Recommend for high Mileage cars as a mini service between Annual services

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

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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,


MOT £45


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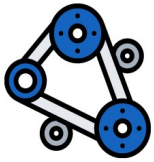

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Gnomes: Ready and Waiting

In our last edition we reported how a Norton Canes resident was sprucing up garden gnomes as a hobby.
Maureen Ansell, aged 66, from Pinfold Lane, has also formed a business Porton Gnomes Outfitters.
One of Maureen's recent challenges was to spruce up a pair of gnomes in memory of their late owners.
Maureen used the late owners' favourite colours and handed over the gnomes to 'Lin' in memory of her parents. Lin was 'really pleased' with their new look, Maureen said.
Now Maureen has received donations of garden ornaments which she transforms with new 'outfits' and sells them in aid of local charity Monthly Alzheimer's Support Events (MASE).
MASE supports residents and family members living with dementia by running monthly clubs in Cannock and Burntwood. Families enjoy lunch and entertainment and can receive advice.
(For more information about MASE ring Daphne on 01785 211140 or visit www.themasegroup.com).
At the time of going to press Maureen had eight small and medium garden ornaments, including small animals and gnomes, all awaiting new 'outfits'.
*If you would like to donate any garden ornaments or buy one of them in aid of MASE ring Maureen on 01543 277188 and leave a message.



Before



After

The gnomes have been spruced up in memory of a lady's parents. Maureen used the lady's late parents' favourite colours leaving the customer 'very pleased' with their new look.

Norton Canes Dementia Friendly Communities

For advice and support following a Dementia diagnosis call 0300 124 0900
(local rate)

Feast of a Fundraiser



A charity event held at a Norton Canes café raised over £1,120 for Breast Cancer Now.

Ann's Cafe and Catering, at 160 Walsall Road, hosted its annual Afternoon Tea fundraiser.

Ann Twist, who runs the café with her mum Lesley Twist, said this year's event was 'bigger and better than ever'.
"We wanted to bring the community together after these hard times while raising money for an amazing cause," Ann said.
Seventy local people attended the event which also featured games and a raffle (prizes donated by local business and café customers).



For the first time there was also live entertainment by singer Nicholas Hawkins.

Ann said thanks are due to Norton Canes Community Centre committee for the loan of chairs and tables.

"Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon eating sandwiches, cakes , scones and more," Ann added.
"Thank you for all the support and raising so much money - which will help many people across the UK.

"We can't wait until next year to make it ever bigger and better."



Ann and Leslie Twist



Singer, Nick Hawkins

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


ORGANISED BY
INK ROX APPAREL
AND
CARDS BY NESSA
Autumn
Craft Fayre
Seasonal Crafts from a selction of amazing stalls
SUNDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2021
12-4PM
NORTON CANES
COMMUNITY CENTRE
FREE ENTRY
PLEASE CONTACT LAURA 07858
701044 OR VANESSA 07411331580
TO HIRE A TABLE
FREE TEA AND COFFEE FOR STALL
HOLDERS

Cannock Photographic Society: Back in the Frame



Society members are pleased to announce they re-started physical meetings on August 26.
Members meet at Norton Canes Community Centre at 7.45pm for an 8pm start.

A society spokesperson said: “Since Covid began, in order to safeguard our members, it was decided we would hold our weekly meetings via Zoom. This has been a success in keeping the club running and our members connected but everyone looked forward to meeting in person.”

Members are adhering to Covid safety recommendations proposed by Community Centre management. In addition, only members who have had two Covid vaccinations will be allowed to attend.

The first meeting comprised of a ‘welcome back presentation’ before the usual programme of events.

Events include top quality photographers showcasing their work; club competitions; members’ nights (which include members showing their work); and project nights with some training.

New members are always welcome. To view a collection of images by Cannock Photographic Society, visit the Museum of Cannock Chase in Hednesford where an exhibition by members is on display until October 15.

CPS **Cannock Photographic Society**
(Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Midland Counties Photographic Federation)

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

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

For details ring the parish council clerk Linda on 01543 276812 (10am-2pm) or email her

nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Pay a Visit to Norton Canes Community Centre

Mondays: X'Aquarians Line Dance - Jane 07515 931 389
L'Rythmix Dance Academy Leela 07821 774 456
Kano Judo Club (AEJF) Ian 07549 108 829
Simply Crafting Card Group Jackie 07570 452 948

Tuesdays: Tai Chi Richard 07724 183 091
Jenny's Afternoon Social Jenny 01922 415232
Rainbows
Indoor bowls



Wednesdays: Active Kidz
RVS Darby and Joan Maureen 01543 279751
Zumba Nev 07894 947 334
X'Aquarians Line Dance Jane 07515 931389

Thursdays: Crafty Cards Card Group Jackie 07570 452 948
Crafty Sew and Sews Jean 07412 191 439
Sugar Craft Sandra 07792 549 307
Cannock Photographic Society www.cannockcps.co.uk

Fridays: Tot's O'clock; Tea Dance restarts on September 3, 1.30pm-3.30pm. £2.50 (includes tea, coffee and biscuits) 07845 678 003
X'Aquarians Line Dance Jane 07515 931 389

Saturdays: L'Rythmix Dance Academy Leela 07821 774 456

Sundays: Shining Stars Mutual support and self help group

Norton Canes Community Centre: Upcoming Events



September 12: Day at the races

October 30: Dandy

November 20: Melody Lane

December 5: Christmas Fair, lantern parade and concert

December 11 and 12: Panto Dick Whittington

January 29 2022: Barn dance

Please note these dates are provisional and will depend on Covid regulations at the time. For more details email nccabookings@hotmail.coml.com

Group Sneaks Back

Norton Canes exercise group the Silver Sneakers is back.

Members met up again on May 27. As well as being delighted to see each other again they also welcomed new members.

Group spokesperson Pamela Louies said having new members was 'wonderful'.



"If there is anyone out there who thinks gentle exercise suits them, please get in touch or just turn up," Pamela said.
"You will be most welcome. We are a small friendly group and the first class is free so that you can see if the group is for you."

Members pay £4 after the first free meeting. Wear loose clothing.

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

"Big thanks to Jan for putting together such a good read every quarter," Pamela added. "And a big thank you to Norton Canes Parish Council for giving us a grant again this year."



Members meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on Thursdays, 12.30pm-1.30pm.

More To Look Forward to at Norton Canes Community Centre



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.

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Jenny and Terry's Dances

at

Norton Canes Community Centre

From Saturday September 4, 2021
8pm-11pm, £5 pay on the door

1st Saturday each Month dancing to Jenny's Music

3rd Saturday each Month Dancing to
Top Guest Keyboard Players

Charity Dance Specials

"A Touch of Blackpool Tower"
Dance to top keyboard players
Posh Monthly Tea Dance plus bingo every
1st Tuesday in the month starting September 7
1.30pm-4pm, £8.50 includes food,
bring your own drink

2nd, 3rd and 4th (5th) Tuesdays
Bring your own food and drink and enjoy a social
afternoon dancing to Jenny's Music.
1.30pm-4pm, £4
Tuesday December 28 will be a special
Christmas Charity Dance

See the December Village Newsletter for details of
our Christmas and New Year's eve Dances





This thought-provoking poem has been sent to us by talented local poet Brenda Benton. Enjoy.



Welcome Back to Norton Canes Chess Club

Norton Canes Chess Club is open again.

We can accommodate players of any level and enjoy social chess - and league chess when we are able to again.

We will help players to start chess even if they are not confident. Chess is an excellent game to help you think and concentrate.



Come and join us and have fun at The Lido, School Road, Norton Canes, on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Young children are welcome if accompanied by a parent. For more details ring me on 01543 279989.
Mike Hoare

St James Church

We are pleased that things are getting back to normality.

Though restrictions have been lifted we still have to take care.

Everyone is welcomed back to church. Numbers for weddings and funerals are no longer limited but we still try to maintain social distancing and request that people wear face coverings whilst in the building.



The Parish Church of St James the Great,

We are now able to sing, which brings a lot of pleasure to all.

We did manage to celebrate our Patronal Festival in style with a barbecue in the Rectory garden thanks to Father Neil and Sue.

We would like to thank all those who have helped with strimming and grass cutting in the churchyard recently.

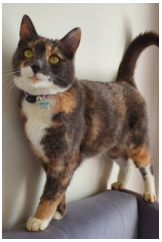
Due to lockdown and the weather it had got rather overgrown.
We are pleased that thanks to the hard work of members from Norton Canes Parish Council and the church, plus friends, it looks much better.
Unfortunately the grass continues to grow - so it is an endless task.
Services take place on Sundays at 10.30am; Wednesdays 11am.

Mary Carpenter

Contact details:
Rector Fr Neil Hibbins 01543 278969,
email neilhibbins@gmail.com
Church clerk Mary Carpenter 01543 275296,
email: marycarpenter243@gmail.com
Church wardens: Ann Eden 01543 278737,
Kim Lloyd 01922 413718 .

Luna Still Missing

In our last edition we told the tale of tortoiseshell cat Luna who went missing.
Sadly, her owner Kristi Roper, from Norton Hall Lane, Norton Canes, is still searching.
Luna vanished on December 20 last year. She is microchipped.
If you have any information please ring Kristi on 07403 474 186.



Beautiful Luna.

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"Great quality carpet" – **Clare S**

"Excellent service, excellent fitting, friendly staff" – **Suzanne W**

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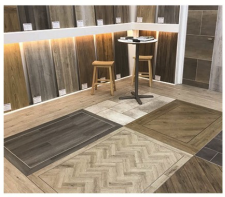
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Your Local Discount Carpet Store

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

Carpets Direct 2U is easily accessible to everyone in the area with retail premises in **Aldridge, Burntwood** and **Pelsall** and a huge warehouse in **Norton Canes** which is open to the public and has thousands of rolls in stock ready for customers to take away.

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 from **£25**.
If you want a particular range or you don't see what you're looking for, you can order just what you want from a number of sample books and normally get it delivered the very next day.

Fitting Service

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

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

Measuring Service

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

RUGS DIRECT 2U®

Rugs

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

Customer Satisfaction

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

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

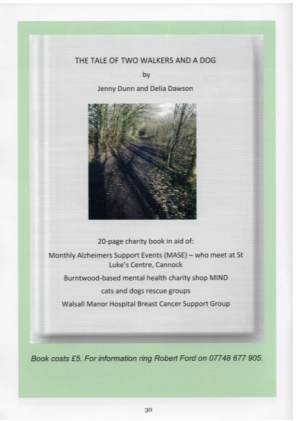
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Charity Book Update

In our last edition of the Newsletter we featured an article about a book compiled by Jenny Dunn and Delia Dawson.



The 20-page publication was on sale to raise money for four charities. The book, called The Tale of Two Walkers and a Dog, raised £1,000.

The money has now been shared between Monthly Alzheimers Support Events (MASE), based at St Luke's Centre, Cannock; Burntwood-based mental health charity shop MIND; cat and dog rescue groups; and Walsall Manor Hospital Breast Cancer Support Group.

Prepare to Parade

Norton Canes' annual lantern parade is planned for Sunday December 5.

The parade will leave Norton Canes Community Centre at 5pm.

Parish councillors will be working with local schools and community groups so that children can make lanterns.

A council spokesperson said: "This is always a popular event to start the festive season. Please put this date in your diary and come and enjoy the event. Santa will be there.

"The parade consists of a short walk around parts of the village. As in previous years we have tried to incorporate other roads as part of the parade but have to take into account the age of the children and how far they can walk."

The route, the same as previous years, will be displayed on Facebook, on the parish council website and notice boards.

Full details of the lantern parade will be in the November newsletter.

If anyone has any queries about the event ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

*The parish council continues to support Christmas lights in the village. The Christmas switch-on will take place on December 1.

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2021 ~ 2022

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
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
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	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

We have no Best Kept Village Competition this year - but the show must go on.

Here are some lovely scenes from around the village to remind us we can still make the most of our surroundings

Norton Canes parish councillors are also encouraging villagers to take pride in their gardens.

Enjoy.

















