December 2021 Issue 36

Norton Canes Village News

Message from your Parish Council Chairman



Welcome everyone to the last village Newsletter of 2021.
It has been a confusing year for many of us. The worst of 2020 is behind us, but we're still not anywhere near being back to how things were before March last year.
This has been the same for Norton Canes Parish Council.
On the one hand, we are absolutely delighted to be able to host our Lantern Parade this year and to have gone back to having parish meetings face to face.
On the other hand, a lot of our long-term plans have been slowed down, such as formulating the Neighbourhood Plan and the development of other village enhancement projects.
Nevertheless, things are moving forward, and we will be continuing our village enhancement efforts throughout next year.
My memories of this year have mainly been about the sporting events of 2021, particularly the Euros final back in July.
Walking to the pub, I could hear the chants of fans and the singing of Sweet Caroline echoing all around the village.
Not long after that, I enjoyed our sporting success in the Olympics, waking up every day to the news that Team GB had won another medal.
I am sure that 2022 will give us more success with the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
Cannock Chase is in a privileged spot next year with the games as we will be hosting the mountain biking event at the Forest Enterprise site at Birches Valley.
We at the parish council intend to create a legacy from the games to harness the increased interest in sports by improving our leisure facilities - an endeavour that will be a key part of our Neighbourhood Plan.
Please check out the parish council website for links to the Plan to see what policies are being considered and comment on those ideas.

On behalf of the parish council, may I wish you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas, and a safe, prosperous and Happy New Year.

Councillor John Preece

A big hello and welcome to the 36th edition of your very own newsletter.

Thirty sixth edition and 36 pages: so I thought it would be timely to look back at the first edition of the newsletter to compare it with today's.

The first edition came out in February 2013. It was all in black and white and was just 12 pages. Wow, I had an easy life then.

Sub editor Sheila Harding and I now spend many weeks creating the bumper editions we have nowadays. (We blame the increased workload for our extra grey hairs and world-weary expressions).

Joking aside, it's a privilege to have so many contributors. This enables us to create a diverse newsletter which we hope you enjoy.



February 2013 Issue 1

Norton Canes Village News

Happy New Year – and a very warm welcome to readers of this brand new village newsletter.
With the loss of your local paper the Chase Post, it was decided the village needs its own newsletter more than ever.
And thanks to an initial grant from Norton Canes Parish Council this newsletter will be available to every household in Norton Canes on a quarterly basis.
The content will be edited by former Chase Post journalist Janet Lee who will be delighted to receive any contributions for the next edition.
The aim is to provide information about issues affecting the village – and also to provide pages of interest to all ages: from community groups, to schools, local clubs and societies.
Let us know if you have celebrated a golden or diamond wedding anniversary or if you, or someone you know, has achieved something remarkable. Send us your funny stories.
If you would like an article in the next newsletter, email Janet at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk by March 31 latest or drop your article into the parish council office at the rear of the village Co-op

NORTON CANES FESTIVAL

Make a diary date.
Thanks to the success of last year's Diamond Jubilee Party in the Park at Brownhills Road playing fields, the parish council has decided to host another festival in 2013.
Norton Festival will take place on Saturday July 13.
More information will be provided nearer the date.
Part of the festival will include a prize draw early in the new year to generate funds to support the event. There will be a first prize of £250 plus other prizes.
So watch this space for more details or see posters around the village.
Last year's festival saw a craft fayre, kids' parade and footy match (won by Jerome Primary), Party In the Park with bands and singers, and lighting of a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

*This Newsletter is Published by NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

Our 1st front page.

And though I may regret saying this, there is always room for more. If you would like your interests covered in this newsletter please send in your contribution, especially new residents in the village.



Speaking of new residents, we have tried in this edition to be more mindful that when we mention places we say exactly where they are.
Have a fabulous Christmas whatever you choose to do.

Happy New Year – and as ever lots of loves and hugs.
Jan
Editor

New Cemetery

Norton Canes Parish Council continues to work towards a new cemetery on land adjacent to St James' Church churchyard.

A parish council spokesperson said: "We are in a legal process to obtain a Deed of Easement regarding the access pathway to the new cemetery site but this has taken much longer and is more complicated than we envisaged. We will continue to update residents on this project."

Anyone with any queries about the new cemetery can ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812 (Monday to Friday, 10am-2pm) or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Parish councils leading the way on tackling climate change



Councillor Josh Newbury.

Last month, I represented Norton Canes Parish Council at the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (virtual) annual conference. Don't worry, Norton hasn't defected to Warwickshire! WALC just invited councils in nearby counties to attend. The timely theme of this year's conference was climate change and how parish and town councils can do their part to tackle it.

Parish councils often have small budgets compared to the big beasts higher up the food chain like district and county councils, so I started off thinking that there wasn't a lot a parish council could do. How wrong I was! Whether it's major projects like natural flood alleviation or small changes like converting mown grassed areas to wildflowers, parish councils up and down the country are doing amazing work and making positive changes in their area.

Parish councils are looking internally to see how they can get rid of their own carbon footprint, but also looking beyond to engage, inform and inspire their residents. There was also a big focus on biodiversity. The Wildlife Trust are working hand-in-hand with parishes to create spaces which work for people and wildlife, something which I'm sure will be close to many Nortoners' hearts given we have Chasewater on our doorstep.

The speakers all put across the same key messages:

· parish councils can, and are, tackling climate change in their communities
· parish councils are the closest level of government to the public so it's easier for us to engage residents
· we have to involve all residents; older age groups are even more concerned about climate change than young people
· start small and gradually build up your ambition; nobody is motivated by diving in at the deep end

I will be giving a full report on the conference to our next parish council meeting.

I hope that we can be inspired by other councils to take a more active role in tackling climate change locally. Watch this space!

Councillor Josh Newbury.

Swagman Tales The New Batch

This year has been one of ups and downs for our resident swan families, in fact very hectic at times – no way as straightforward as recent years.

Throughout the last six months the community has shown a commitment to our local wildlife, whether it walks, swims or flies by providing help, input and donations of life saving ‘intel’ and supplies. Following on from the spring crisis about the nest collapse at The Swag, Norton East Road, the ‘mark II’ has held together very well and is in very good order. It will not require too much of an overhaul for next season (fingers crossed).

The new swan pen has proven herself really fruitful in her first breeding season by producing nine eggs. It would appear that some of the exposed eggs couldn't mature, with only six of the birds hatching in May. This caused concern as it was two weeks overdue (based on previous years). Still - a Swag record and fair play to an excellent mum! Out they popped, literally, one by one with numbers three and four arriving together - all inside a few hours. They quickly fluffed up into the typical bundles of joy we’ve come to appreciate. Mom and Dad looked radiant and quite proud. They were a mature batch too, as within a day they were more anxious to get into the water than all those previous babies before them. It was quite comical to watch for those of us lucky to witness it. Instead of walking into the water, they insisted instead on throwing themselves off the top of the nest structure like lemmings. This led to a few modifications to the nest design by Les and myself to stop the little beggars getting stuck! Finally they got the message, using the more orthodox route and everything went swimmingly over the next few months.



The New Batch



Aaaahhhhh!

The speed of growth of water birds never ceases to amaze: the trade-off, losing their little, fluffy, cuddly demeanour for the grey, racing pullet phase - that crucial period where everything from pike, heron and herring gulls could prey upon them.

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All six made it through to a mid-growth third month intact, with necks getting longer, strong legs and the beginning of those magnificent wings.



'Wing Ding'

Along came the worries... Around the district we were finding more and more fishing lines and hooks which led directly to the death of one of the Brownhills Road cygnets and entrapment of several more.

Getting the word across often proved difficult.

The intense heat spell led to one of our cygnets suffering from heat exhaustion and dehydration and it had to be taken into a controlled cooler environment - thankfully with the help of Donachie and Townly Vets in Rugeley providing free treatment to get the poor thing hydrated. They were fantastic with the bird - providing statistics and continuing rehydration care over five days. 'Junior' (as he became known) spent five days in my care, before being carefully released back to family.

He was noticeably overjoyed to be back, racing around catching up with his Dad, Mom and siblings. It was a joy to watch (video is on the Norton Heath Hayes Facebook site).



Junior Swim

More worryingly a bad stomach bug hit the area's swans. Most were affected producing horrible loose bodily waste messes around the shores and our nSeveral cygnets around the parish died as a result of this infamous bug. Sadly, one of our own (despite vet and sanctuary care) fell along with them. I was gutted. Under advice from the sanctuary and vets our nest site was stripped and cleaned. Donated sawdust and hay was laid down with the addition of a DEFRA approved disinfectant, effectively killing off any bugs causing the tragedy. It was re-done when necessary.

Big thanks to Fred and Carole Bayliss for their valuable help along with Lodge Farm for straw and three wonderful ladies for sawdust and useful bits.

A special probiotic diet was administered periodically over the last months and things improved significantly.

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Over the last three months the remaining five cygnets have survived the 'attack of the leeches'. It was a bad year as there were many tiny leeches that cling to swans' and cygnets' eyes and get inside their nasal cavities. This can actually drive their metabolism crazy and kill them. They are particularly dangerous for the cygnets. Also, various flocks of geese and extra pairs of swans tried all season to invade the Swag but were driven away by the resident swans, affectionately known as Mr and Mrs M. Despite the problems, the cygnets have reached an astounding size and weight, rivalling their parents.



'Mr M'

As the season ends we are seeing a similar mini migration from Chasewater again. - maybe because the food is better and easier to get at the Swag. Huge thanks to the dedicated people who take time to check on the swans and give them quality snacks during lean periods.

Bird Flu Advice

Dr Bob Wharton is offering the following advice to anyone visiting Chasewater with their children or dogs.

- Avoid walking too close to birds on the shore and treading in their bodily wastes.
- Do not feed birds at one spot, then walk to another spot to feed different birds, even on the same shoreline.
- If pets have been exposed to poop, wash on arrival at home as normal and apply a pet-friendly antibacterial disinfectant to these areas. Also wash their faces. Adaptil is one of a number of sprays available on Amazon (Prime).
- Disinfect boots.
- Check the health of yourself, children and pets daily for symptoms similar to a heavy cold, rising temperature, runny nose, lethargy and difficulty breathing. Call the NHS 111.

The Government and heath advisory services are taking this recent avian flu outbreak very seriously as it is transmissible to humans. This requires a routine in much the same way as Covid 19 with daily texts or calls to check on a person's health.

To report ill or dead birds please contact DEFRA on 03459 335 577 option 7 photographing and GPS/mapping the exact spots where the bodies lie.

Calling All Mini Bus Drivers



Norton Canes community mini bus service has launched an appeal for volunteer drivers.

Drivers must be aged 25-70 and hold a class D licence.

A spokesperson for Norton Canes Partnership, which operates the service, said “Following the past two years when Covid 19 has interrupted our lives we now find we need to compile a new list of available drivers.”

If you can spare an hour or two, ring Beryl Hall for more information on 07974 569 482.

Silver Sneakers – Onwards and Upwards



Luckily we are meeting and enjoying our exercise class thanks to Carol, who brings humour and laughter to our sessions while giving us the exercises we need to keep our mobility on the up.

With winter upon us we all need to be especially careful when outside - so take care everyone.

By the time this newsletter is published our oldest member, Jackie, will have reached her 90th birthday. Congratulations Jackie.

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



We wish a very special Christmas to all our members; and a very happy Christmas to our wonderful newsletter editors and all Norton Canes residents.

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

To avoid disappointment items for the March newsletter must be sent to Jan by the end of the first week in February

email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Have a laugh with Norton Canes comedy duo Dandy. Here, one half of the duo Glynnis Briscoe, looks back on a strange year.

We are nearing the end of another year. As I write this the grey blanket of autumn is settling across our shoulders and the sunbeds and barbecues have been packed away.

We've seen a year of more change and an attempt at some normality…whatever that was.

There was an easing of lockdown rules which left us in a state of total confusion.

We worked out we could have a barbecue and invite five and a half people if they agreed to: bring their own chairs and cutlery; present a lateral flow test and vaccination certificate; bring Prosecco and not that mingin' Lambrini; and supply us with a barbecue.



Happy Christmas from Glynnis and Allan

No vegans who moan about sausage; no people who want to talk about Brexit; and don't use our privy.

We have all spent the year trying to avoid variants. Allan misheard and thought they'd said vagrants so he's crossed the road every time he's seen anybody begging.

Considering we have no lorry drivers there still seems to be something leaving great craters in the roads. Coming home from what few gigs we have had, we have encountered a 'big bully' lorry (in Allan-speak 'up our backside'). This is a lorry that seems intent on flashing headlights to encourage us to speed up - or drive the car into a ditch - whichever comes first.

A lot of us, rightly or wrongly, had the vaccine. It became the new conversation. Which one did you have and how did it affect you? We had the Astra Zeneca, one of the contra-indications being 'slight side effects'. You don't say! Allan couldn't stand and I walked into a wall I hadn't noticed.

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Good we can get back to pub life. Man goes into a pub: “A pint of your best ale, a large Glenfiddich, drinks all round - and one for yourself landlord.” When asked to settle the bill he explained he’d got no money. The landlord picked him up and threw him out on the pavement. Next night, same thing: “A pint of your best ale, a large Glenfiddich and drinks all round. But nothing for you landlord; you get nasty when you have a drink.”

In the world of entertainment Abba are working again. At the rehearsals in London you could hear the drums from Nandos….

Kanye West, the rapper has officially changed his name to “Ye”. Ye and Kim Kardashian are seeking a divorce. It is not known who will have the children North, Saint, Chicago and Psalm - but they both want custody of Kim’s amazing, shapely, money-making backside. Speaking of which - the diet is still on hold after the purchase of some ‘relaxed fit’ jeans. Obviously this was a better promotional sell than ‘will fit a bum the size of Bilston’.

A lot of people embraced STAYCATION. This is the name they came up with to make it sound less like camping in your grannie’s yard. Amazing how many people have been able to afford a Motorhome. Our bolt hole in Criccieth, North Wales, has been overtaken this summer by ‘yupsters’. Apparently they are a cross between yuppies and hipsters. Who knew? Who gives a toss? Got sick of hearing them say ‘Can I get?’ These are the people who normally go glamping with Theo and Jonty to the South of France.

The BE KIND campaign is still not evident on Facebook where people could start a fight in an empty room. Facebook is a bit like passing notes round at school. I have now joined a new anti social networking site called Shutyerfacebook Seems to be working for me. It reminds me of a gig at a retirement home where I went over to an elderly lady who didn’t seem to be getting the jokes. She said: “I’m 89 and I’m deaf as a post.” I said: “Oh, dear, you should get a hearing aid.” She replied: “My dear, I’m 89. I’ve heard enough! “



*Dandy will be performing at Sutton Little Theatre on January 22 and Norton Canes Community Centre on April 30, 2022 (Other gigs are not open to the public. For more details visit dandycomedy.co.uk)

Glynnis Briscoe, funny lady extraordinaire and half of Norton Canes comedy duo Dandy, has another amazing talent – creating beautiful dolls. She excelled herself with her latest life-size creation which ended up on stage with a touring band!
Glynnis takes up the story……..

One or two people I met round the village asked me how my doll-making is going.
We worked together as Dandy with a wonderful band on the Black Country Theatre Tour called The Ronaldos for a couple of years – and they often took the figure I created for them on stage. They called him Aston 'Woody' Wood. He even had his own Facebook page! (The band plays Cuban/skiffle music, which means they do songs we all know at a cracking pace and with lots of audience participation. The lead vocalist, Ron Rogers, you may know from his other band T'Pau).
In July I received a request from a friend Ian (one of the band members) to replace 'Woody' – the life-size sculpture I created for him several years ago.
I presented The Ronaldos with their new 'band member' at the Fuse Festival in Lichfield in August.
They were so thrilled with him they took him right on stage and introduced him to the audience.



Pictured with 'Dandy Warhol' are band members The Ronaldos from left: Rich Bongatti Jones, Simon Hunter and Ron Rogers. (Ron founded the band T'Pau with Carol Decker).



Ian Rowley (left) is pictured with the band and 'Woody' (sitting second from right).

Even better was the fact that his hair glowed in the dark because he was wearing a Halloween wig which I obtained from a charity shop!
The band members decided their new doll looked like the artist Andy Warhol because of his nose and white hair.
In honour of me (and my comedy duo Dandy with husband Allan) they decided to call him Dandy Warhol!
I was sad to see Dandy Warhol go as I was grooming him to be Allan's replacement - but I couldn't deprive him of his big chance to go out on the road with a rock band.
*See my Facebook page Glyndandy dolls



Glynnis with 'Dandy Warhol'



Norton Canes Flower Club



Merry Christmas and happy 2022 to you all from flower club members.

It has been another difficult year but things do seem to be getting better slowly.

We had our first 'proper' meeting in September when Sharon Badger came along to present her demonstration entitled 'A New Lease of Life'. This was greatly enjoyed by us all as we listened to Sharon's commentary and watched her varied arrangements being assembled. The raffle at the end meant the lucky winners went home with a lovely arrangement.

In October, the Dorothy Clive Garden's head gardener gave a talk with slides about the garden. This was very interesting, and appreciated by everyone.

The annual meeting also took place in October when reports were given and officers elected for next year.

The lunch celebrating 50 years of the club took place on November 10 - a very special occasion for members and friends. (More about this in the next newsletter).

The December 15 meeting will be a workshop for Christmas and an afternoon tea - something to look forward to.



A new programme starts in 2022 on January 19. Hopefully this will be the start of a better year for us all.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 1pm for 1.30pm start.

New members are welcome. For more details ring 01543 277492.

All the Best for Christmas and the New Year

Your county councillor Samantha Thompson would like to wish all Norton Canes residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If anyone would like to contact Councillor Thompson please ring her on 07817 265 438 or email

samantha.thompson@staffordshire.gov.uk



Councillor Samantha Thompson

We Remember

There are additional displays in Norton Canes this year as part of Remembrance Day commemorations (see photos of some of those).

A parish council spokesperson said: “A big thank you to Jean Hill who worked hard on producing poppies to be displayed on the parish noticeboard and also to Norton Canes High School for support with the plaque which is located in the noticeboard (near the Co-op).

“Thanks to local resident Beryl Hall and Norton Canes High School for their support. They created two plaques, one located in the parish notice board and one in the Co-op window now framed by Jean's poppies.

“Thanks also to Norton Canes Watercolour Club for poppies displayed on wooden barriers in the village centre.”



Millennium Garden
Photo by Ann Wright



Jubilee Garden
Photo by Ann Wright



Display in the notice board at the Co-op entrance
Photo by Alan Harding



‘Yarn Bombing’ for remembrance *white poppies for peace, purple for the animals that were lost and red because we must never forget.*
Photo by Alan Harding



High School plaque in Co-op window
Photo by Ann Wright



Royal British Legion wreath in coal tub on the Millennium Garden
Photo by Ann Wright



Painted poppies NCWC
Photo by Ann Wright



The 2nd Norton Canes Brownies and Guides created a special Remembrance Day display at the community garden. The display, at Norton Green Lane, was created from painted stones and recycled plastic bottles.
Photo by Helen Jenkinson

New Play Area Swings into Action

The finishing touches are now being made to a new Norton Canes park and play area - The Cema at Chapel Street - ready for its grand opening. Over the last few months, Cannock Chase Council has been working closely with Norton Canes Parish Council and residents to come up with the final design for the play area.

The district council appointed Kompan to undertake works to the play area which has included installation of new play equipment and a new 'green gym'.

Youngsters in the local community were also asked to get creative and design ideas for the entrance-way art features which are due to be installed before Christmas.

New sign posts at each entrance to the park will depict local historical landscapes of significance and be designed by Planet Arts in consultation with the parish council, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL), CHAPS (Chase Arts for Public Spaces) and residents of all ages.

Landscaping works, including planting of new trees and shrubs, will also be completed by mid-December.

The Forest of Mercia has kindly donated £12,000 to contribute towards this element of the improvement works.

These funds are from central Government to tackle climate pollution by planting native trees and shrubs around the country.

Improvement works are due to be completed by December and will be marked with an official opening ceremony in the new year.







Outdoor 'green gym' equipment.

These facilities will provide the opportunity to increase participation levels in sport and recreation - and promote healthy and active lifestyles across the local and wider community of Norton Canes.

For more information about this development, contact Norton Canes Parish Council on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Festive Message From Local Singer Nicky Moran



Festive wishes from Nicky Moran

Following a busy summer break I re-started my 'Musical Monday' series a few weeks ago. For those of you who may not be aware, I am a professional vocalist - and Musical Monday is a series of songs/videos that I record in my home studio, covering all areas of easy listening music from musical theatre to country and classical. You can find a new song/video every Monday on my Facebook page 'Nicky J Moran' and on 'Norton Canes and Heath Hayes' Facebook page. Last year I also created my Musical Christmas Advent Calendar – a new festive song every day throughout December.



It was a true labour of love to record and film all the songs in time as the idea wasn't even born until the middle of November! I had a lot of very kind followers and supporters of this project last year, so if you were one of my watchers thank you very much indeed. I am planning on re-running my Musical Advent Videos again this year so please check them out if you're on Facebook and if you enjoy festive music. If easy listening is your thing, you may enjoy my Youtube channel. On my channel there are so many more songs, live and studio performances, and it is of course the home of Musical Monday. I am filming and adding new songs constantly. The link for my Youtube Channel is https://www.youtube.com/c/NickyMoran-MusicalMonday

Wishing you all the very best for a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Take care.

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

Get Snapping

Norton Canes Practical Photography group for the Community continues to run on a smaller scale with practical sessions and photo shoots.

The group covers all aspects of photography and using a camera - from beginners to intermediate. There is a Facebook group with weekly competitions.

Anyone interested in joining can email theshuttershackstudio@gmail.com



Ben Wilkes by Les Arnott



Macro Session by Callum Steel



Still Life Session by Sally Arnott

Festive Window Competition

Norton Canes Parish Council is asking local shops to get involved in a festive window competition

The format has been altered this year. Councillors are asking shop owners to send in photos of their displays by December 15. The photos will then be put on the parish council Facebook page and the parish council notice board in the centre of the village. Residents are invited to be the judges.

There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd trophy/shield for the winners which will be presented at the January parish council meeting.
A parish council spokesperson said: “Please look out for the photos and let us know who you have picked for your winners.”
Email your chosen winners to nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk or post your decision in the letterbox at the parish office (rear of Co-op)

HELP SUPPORT NORTON CANES LIBRARY

Become a volunteer: a few hours a week can make a big difference

- **Meet new people**
- **Learn new skills**
- **Get valuable work experience**
- **Support your local community**
- **Full training is provided**



If you are interested, please contact

Library Volunteers at

libraryvolunteers@mpft.nhs.uk or

Ask at the library

NHS
Midlands Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust
A Keele University Teaching Trust

YOUR LIBRARY
Staffordshire County Council

Norton Canes Library - New Opening Hours



Norton Canes Library is now open on
Mondays 10am-12 noon;
Tuesdays 10am-12 noon;
Thursdays 10am-12 noon;
Fridays 10am-5pm.

The Thursday Craft Group is looking for new members.
The IT suite is now open for people to use. Printing and photocopying is also available.

A library spokesman said: “We are always looking for new volunteers. Feel free to come in for a chat if you can help.”

See the library’s new Facebook page Friends of Norton Canes Library for updates.

Jenny and Terry's Dances

Norton Canes Community Centre

1st Saturday each Month dancing to Jenny’s Music
3rd Saturday each Month Dancing to
Top Guest Keyboard Players 8pm-11pm, £5 pay on the door

Monthly Tea Dance every 1st Tuesday in the month.
Dance, Bingo and Raffle
1.30pm-4pm, £8.50 includes food, bring your own drink

2nd, 3rd and 4th (5th) Tuesdays dancing to Jenny’s Music
Bring your own food and drink and enjoy a social afternoon
1.30pm-4pm, £4 on the door.

The following Charity Dance events are Ticket only available from Jenny on 01922 415232

December 24, 2021 Christmas Eve Charity Dance Special £6
Bring your own Food and Drink

Tuesday December 28
Christmas Charity Dance 1.00pm - 4.00pm £9.50

New Years Eve £11 Bring your own food and drink.

Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment

Car Friend

Call us now! 01543 27 60 60

Fixed Price Service Menu

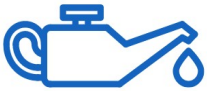
Interim £99 — Oil & Filter Change & Vital Visual Checks, Recommend for high Mileage cars as a mini service between Annual services

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

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

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


MOT £45


Servicing


Brakes


Tyres

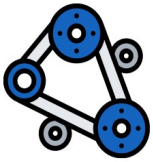

Tracking


Repairs


All Makes & Models


Diagnostics


Clutches


Timing Belts

As recommended on thebestofcannock

thebestof BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2019 WINNER IN CATEGORY

TRUSTPILOT

Google Reviews 5.0

"Just by Norton Aluminium!"

Open As Usual

During The Coronavirus Outbreak

Protecting Customers & Colleagues. Additional Hygiene Procedures - Designated Key Drop & Social Distancing Measures All In Place For Your Peace Of Mind

Your Local Garage

01543 276060

Car Friend - Unit 9
Norton Canes Business Park
Norton Green Lane
Norton Canes
WS11 9SS



Opening Times
Monday - Friday 9am -5pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm
Sunday CLOSED
Bank Holidays & Saturdays By Appointment Only

Competitive Prices - Great Advice - 5 * Service - Multi Award Winners

10% OFF Any ... Service MOT Or Labour

with this voucher one per customer valid for one item only subject to change no cash alternative

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THE MOTOR OMBUDSMAN

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Norton Canes Remembers



1st Norton Canes Scout Group leads the parade.



1st Norton Canes Scout Group.
Photo by Samantha Picken



Parade enters St. James Church.



Involved in Remembrance Day celebrations are (from left): Norton Canes High School student Charlotte Sault, High School acting headteacher Sarah Diggory, parish councillor Sheila Harding, High School governor Beryl Hall and High School acting assistant headteacher Ian Windsor.



Wreaths being presented by local Scouts and Guides with (left-right) former Royal Engineers soldier Brian Rutter on behalf of MP Amanda Milling, Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece and Levi Williams a representative from Victoria Motor Cycle Club.

More Photos from Remembrance Day 2021



Wreaths beneath the East Window of St James' Church.



Uniformed groups on parade with their Standards.



Wreaths placed at Trinity Methodist Church War Memorial in Norton Canes.



The parade leaves St James' Church.



1st Norton Canes Scouts leave St James Church after the remembrance service.

What's on at your Community Centre?



Monday
X'Aquarians Line Dance Jane 07515 931389
L'Rythmix Dance Academy Leela 07821 774 456
Kano Judo Club (AEJF) Ian 07549 108 829
Simply Crafting Card Group Jackie 07570 452 948

Tuesday
Tai Chi Richard 07724 183 091
Jenny's Afternoon Social Jenny 01922 415232
Rainbows
Indoor Bowls

Wednesday
Active Kidz
RVS – Darby and Joan Maureen 01543 279751
Zumba Nev 07894 947 334
X'Aquarians Line Dance Jane 07515 931 389

Thursday
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

Friday
Tot's O'clock
Tea Dance 07845 678 003
X'Aquarians Line Dance Jane 07515 931 389

Saturday
L'Rythmix Dance Academy Leela 07821 774 456

Sunday
Shining Stars Mutual support and self help group

Enquiries about the centre should be sent to nccabookings@hotmail.com

Friday Afternoon Tea Dance
Norton Canes Community Centre
1.30pm- 3.30pm
£2.50 includes tea/coffee and biscuits
Sequence, line, ballroom and party dancing.
Come along and give it a try!
Make new friends
Meet old friends

Norton Canes Community Centre Events

Sunday December 5:
Christmas Fayre, 12.30pm-3.30pm followed by Lantern Parade, leaving the Centre at 5.30pm.
Join us for our Christmas Family Concert at 6pm (approximately).

December 11 and 12:
Panto Dick Whittington at 1pm and 5.30pm. Tickets £7, (family ticket £25 admits 4)

December 19:
Christmas quiz, 6.30pm for 7pm start. £2 per person. Pay on the door. Maximum six per team.

2022 Events – Make a Diary Date



January 29: Barn dance.

March 6: table top sale.

April 30: local comedy duo Dandy.

June 12: A Day at the Races.

July 30: A Night at the Dogs.

September 11: Autumn Craft Fayre.

October 30: Murder Mystery

December 4: Storytime with Santa

December 10 and 11: Panto.

For more information ring the booking clerk on 07845 678 003 or email nccabookings@hotmail.com



Backstreet Theatre Company Presents
A Family Pantomime

December 11 and 12

1pm and 5.30pm. Tickets £7, (family ticket £25 admits 4)

07845 678 003
Or email nccabookings @hotmail.com

In Memory of Rita – the Norton Nightingale



Rita Elliott

Popular Norton Canes character and singer Rita Elliott has died at the age of 89.

Many local people will remember Rita for her stunning soprano performances of Climb Ev'ry Mountain (often dressed as a nun) at local events and fundraisers. Rita, the daughter of a miner, was born in Norton Canes, attended local schools and lived in the village all her life.

She worked at Crabtrees in Brownhills where she met her first husband John Wale. The couple married at St James' Church, Norton Canes, in 1953 and had a daughter Linda.

Sadly, John passed away from lung cancer at the age of 33.

Rita found love again when she met Aubrey (Aub) at a party. The couple married at Trinity Methodist Church, Norton Canes, in 1965 and had a son David. Aub passed away in 2005 but the couple managed to celebrate their Ruby (40th) wedding anniversary.

As a gifted singer, Rita won many talent contests and even got through the first two stages of TV's Opportunity Knocks.

She sang in the Methodist Church choir and with 'Mavis and the Melody Girls' – raising thousands of pounds for charity by performing in concerts around the Midlands and entertaining residents at elderly people's homes.

Rita performed in many local productions as part of Norton Canes Saturday Drama Group (set up by Norton Canes councillor Sheila Harding and John Hopkins). Cllr Harding remembers: "When the drama group had a visit from two Chernobyl orphans we asked them what they needed and they asked for soap. Rita knocked on doors of people she knew in Norton Canes and the orphans left with 360 bars of soap."

Continued on page 25

In Memory of Rita continued:

Rita's love of musical theatre saw her travel to watch most of the major musical theatre greats.



Rita in Costume for The Sound of Music

She had five grandchildren and was a keen knitter – often kitting out new-born babies with matinee sets.

At the funeral service Rita was described by her family as 'a nan in a million, glamorous, funny, talented – and stubborn!' Rita, a resident of Abbey Court Nursing Home in Heath Hayes became affected by dementia and passed away in September.

The service to celebrate her life took place at Cannock Chase Crematorium – where appropriately the music played was Climb Ev'ry Mountain by Peggy Wood and Somewhere by Michael Ball and Alfie Boe.

She was a lady with a big voice and a big heart.

Grant Aid

Each year Norton Canes Parish Council provides grants to local community groups.

Applications should be submitted by January 30 2022, which councillors will consider at its February 2022, meeting.

The grants will be presented in April 2022.

The application process for 2022 is now open and application forms can be found on the parish council website

www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk/finance/grants

To avoid disappointment items for the March 2022 newsletter must be emailed to
Jan at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk
by the first week in February



PRIMARY TUTOR

DAVID HALLIWELL

AGES 6-11

HAWTHORN DRIVE,
NORTON CANES

CONFIDENCE BOOST?
KNOWLEDGE GAPS?
HOMEWORK HELP?

CONTACT ME NOW!

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- QUALIFIED & EXPERIENCED PRIMARY TEACHER
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- LESSONS IN NORTON CANES, CANNOCK
- ONE-TO-ONE AND SMALL GROUP TUITION
- SAFEGUARDING CERTIFICATE

HALLIWELL
TUITION

Message from your MP Amanda Milling



In recent weeks, we have tragically lost both Sir David Amess MP, who was stabbed to death while carrying out a constituency surgery, and James Brokenshire MP who sadly lost his battle with lung cancer. Parliament will be a lesser place without Sir David and James but we will never forget the work they did and the legacies they have left behind.

I know not everyone will agree with my politics, or even have voted for me. But disagreement in a democracy is to be expressed at the ballot box – and not through verbal or physical violence.

I love that I am accessible to the people of Cannock Chase and feel it is one of the most important parts of our democracy.

While a lot has changed in Parliament, I continue to work hard to make Cannock Chase a better place for us all. This includes attending events, visiting businesses such as Icon Exhibition & Displays Ltd in Norton Canes, and meeting constituents.

I am delighted to be once again running my annual Best of Cannock Chase competition which aims to find your favourite independent retailers across Cannock Chase.

There are lots of different categories, including best local independent shop in Norton Canes. I was delighted to award the Norton Canes prize last year to 'Just Blinds' - a wonderful blinds company on the Walsall Road – and look forward to seeing who will take the prize this year.

To show support for your favourite high street businesses this year, all you have to do is visit www.bestchasebusiness.uk and cast your vote.

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

Norton Canes Chess Club Report

Norton Canes chess club members have started to play league chess again. We agreed a draw against Coleshill but had to forfeit the match against Rugeley.

We are still in Covid-19 times and need to try to keep safe. I am pleased to announce we have new members interested in joining the club - but we still have room for more. We play at the Lido Club, School Road, Norton Canes, every Tuesday at 7.30pm. We can accommodate all levels of ability. Instruction of how to play is free. Young children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

For more details ring me on 01543 279989 or e-mail at hoaremichael7@icloud.com

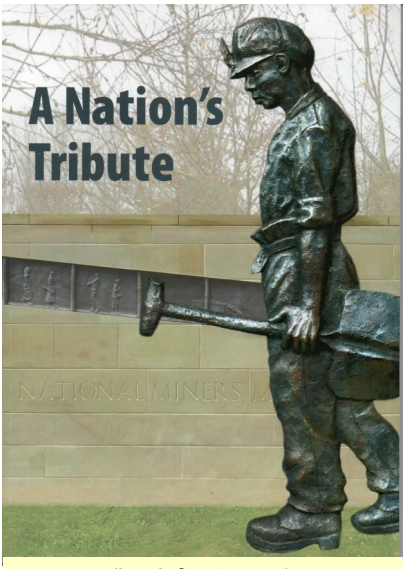
Mike Hoare

A Nation's Tribute

Members of Chase Arts for Public Spaces [CHAPS] are delighted with the success of a book they produced.
The book, by historian Brian Elliott, was produced to coincide with the dedication of the National Miners' Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas.
Called 'A Nation's Tribute', it contains 'a wonderful insight into the personal stories of miners' experience underground'.



HRH The Duke of Gloucester at the Dedication Service on September 3, 2021
Photo: Richard T Harris Photography



(book front page):
A Nation's Tribute

Brian is the author of many books connected with coal mining. A chapter is dedicated to 47 miners awarded the prestigious Victoria Cross, 45 of them in World War I, two in WW2. There is a photo of each person along with the citation and a little of the recipient's background.

A further chapter highlights the plaques on the memorial with a page devoted to each one.

The bronze plaques tell the story of men, women and children who worked in UK coal mines over hundreds of years. A description is written above each photo of the plaques with a dedication from the person or group donating the plaque beneath it. There are also chapters concerning CHAPS, the story behind the memorial and many messages of support received during its construction.

The book (£10 plus postage) can be obtained by emailing info@chaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk or call 07583 655 199.
It can also be collected from CHAPS members or the Museum of Cannock Chase, , Hednesford, or from the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas.
Details of the project can be found on the group's Facebook page www.facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpaces or twitter @miners_memorial

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

Norton Canes Historical Society

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

The programme of speakers is cancelled until further notice.

We hope all members and non members are staying safe and we wish you all a happy Christmas.

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

Mo Garbett
Secretary

Norton Canes Practice

We have listened to patients' comments about getting through on the phone. Please note that our busiest time is from 8am-11am.

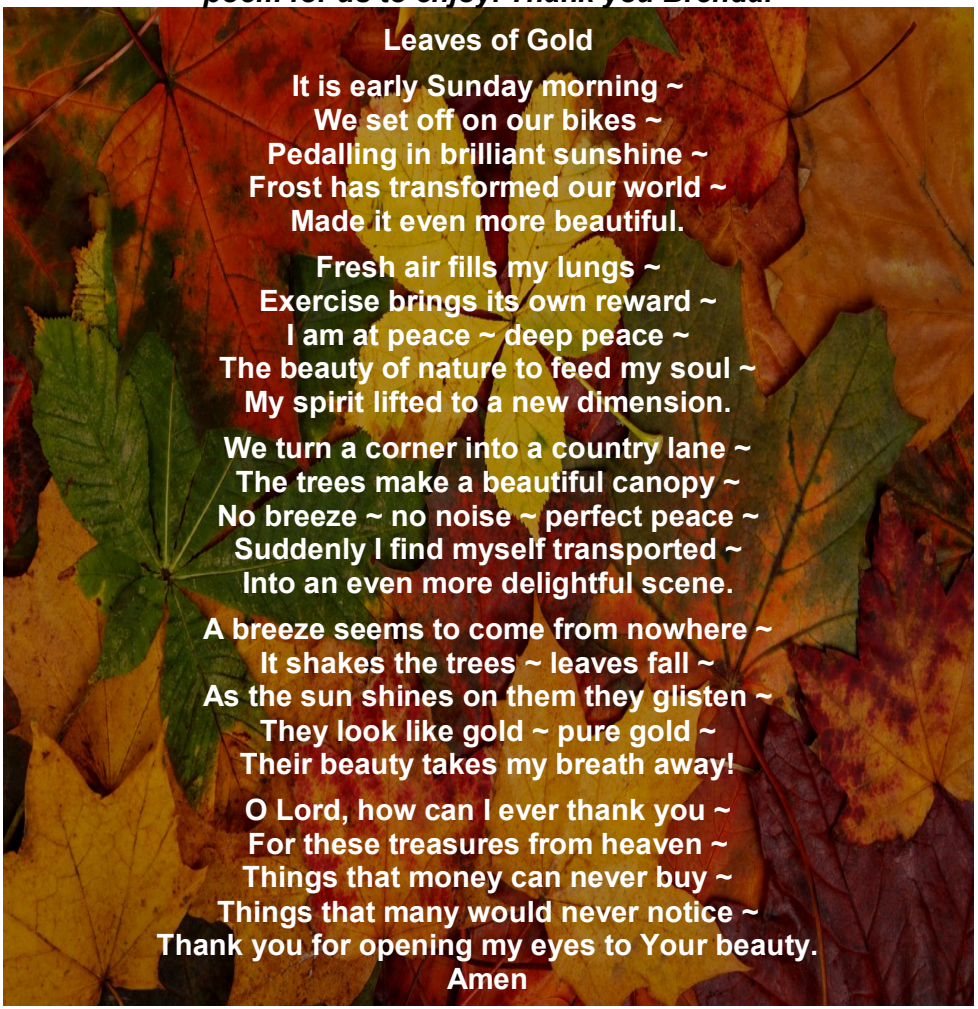
Prescription requests are not taken over the phone. Please remember you can order repeat prescriptions online via a personal computer, tablet or mobile phone. Please ask a receptionist if you would like to sign up to this service.
You are able to request a prescription via your nominated pharmacy or complete a request form available at reception.

Please call after 12.30pm for any results.
Prescriptions over Christmas: please note that there is no need to order prescriptions any earlier than usual. Due to safety reasons we cannot process prescriptions that are more than one week early. If you need to order them early due to going on holiday etc, please make sure you tell us by writing it on your request form.

Our opening times over the Christmas period are: Friday December 24, 8am-6.30pm; December 25-December 28 closed.
Wednesday December 29, Thursday December 30 and Friday December 31, 8am-6.30pm.
New Year's Day, Sunday January 2 and Monday January 3 closed.
From Tuesday January 4: open normal times.

Dr Chandra and all the staff at Norton Canes Practice would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Norton Canes poet Brenda Benton has shared this lovely autumnal poem for us to enjoy. Thank you Brenda.



Leaves of Gold

It is early Sunday morning ~
We set off on our bikes ~
Pedalling in brilliant sunshine ~
Frost has transformed our world ~
Made it even more beautiful.

Fresh air fills my lungs ~
Exercise brings its own reward ~
I am at peace ~ deep peace ~
The beauty of nature to feed my soul ~
My spirit lifted to a new dimension.

We turn a corner into a country lane ~
The trees make a beautiful canopy ~
No breeze ~ no noise ~ perfect peace ~
Suddenly I find myself transported ~
Into an even more delightful scene.

A breeze seems to come from nowhere ~
It shakes the trees ~ leaves fall ~
As the sun shines on them they glisten ~
They look like gold ~ pure gold ~
Their beauty takes my breath away!

O Lord, how can I ever thank you ~
For these treasures from heaven ~
Things that money can never buy ~
Things that many would never notice ~
Thank you for opening my eyes to Your beauty.
Amen

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

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021



Sunday19 December 6.00pm
Carol Service in St James

Please join us 24 December Christmas Eve 7.00pm

First Mass of Christmas please be aware of revised timing 25 December Christmas Day Mass 9.00am

26 December Mass 10.30am

Whilst restrictions are slowly being relaxed we still ask you to think of others and wear face coverings in Church where possible.



Because of the number of children who normally attend and the risk involved, we have regretfully taken the decision that we shall not hold a Christingle Service this year, sorry kids.



WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE HAS A BLESSED AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Welcome to Trinity Methodist Church



Services take place as follows:

Worship every Sunday at 11am. All welcome.

Sunday December 19: Carols at 11am.

The church is in Poplar Street, Norton Canes.

Girls Have Fun

Norton Canes Girls' Brigade is recruiting.

Four to 10-year-olds are particularly needed, but all ages are welcome.

The girls meet on Thursday nights at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, from 6pm-8.30pm.

For more details ring Chris on 01543 276695.

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your local family run discount carpet store



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

★★★★★

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NORTON GREEN LANE
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MON-SAT

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SUN 10AM - 4PM
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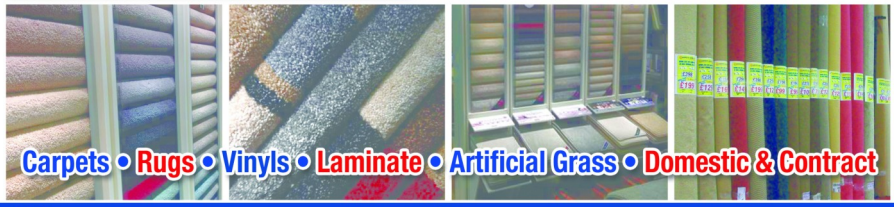
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Visit the huge showroom at our Pelsall store for a vast selection of rugs




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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. 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

RUGS DIRECT 2U®

Whilst you can find a great selection of rugs in store, you can also shop online at **www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk** or order over the telephone on **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.

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

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Meet Your District Councillor



Local district councillor Mike Hoare will be holding surgeries at the Lido Club, School Road, Norton Canes, on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6pm.

All residents are welcome.



Cllr Mike Hoare

District Councillors John Preece and Josh Newbury are continuing to hold their regular 'street surgeries'.

John said: "We appreciate that residents can't always come to us at a certain time so we knock on doors to speak to people directly. We will always put a card through your door a day or two beforehand to let you know the day and time we will be on your street.

Our contact details are on the next page so you can contact us about any local issues at any time."



Cllrs John Preece (left) and Josh Newbury

Where Do the Gardens Grow?

Here's a handy guide to explain exactly where Norton Canes Parish Council gardens are situated in the village. We hope this will be particularly useful for new residents.

Jubilee Garden: Crossroad at Brownhills Road and Burntwood Road, traditionally known as the Bridge. This garden also provides access to The Batter a footpath leading to Five Ways, Heath Hayes.

Millennium Garden: Junction of Walsall Road and Burntwood Road, traditionally known as the Square where the stone and Union Jack flag are located.

Centenary Garden: The community garden maintained by Norton Canes Guides and Brownies in Norton Green Lane where it meets Butts Lane.

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 111382
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

LANTERN PARADE

Sun 5th December 2021

"Come along & enjoy the start to the festive season"

For more information contact Linda Florence:
Parish Office, Burntwood Road, Norton Canes
Telephone: 01543 276812
Email: nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

SANTA
will be joining the parade on his sleigh

Courtesy of...
The Cannock Rotary Club



Children's Characters will support the parade funded by the Welcome Back Fund

Sweets for the Children!!



Commencing from Norton Canes Community Centre at 5pm*

Children will be making lanterns in their schools and at local groups to enter into the parade.
There will be some extra lanterns available, but they will be supplied on a first come first served basis.

**Please be there from 4.45pm to pick up lights for lanterns.*

Posters supplied by: IPD Signs Ltd (01543) 270033