March 2022 Issue 37

Norton Canes Village News

Re-Designed Park Now in Full Swing

Long-awaited works on the Cema park at Norton Canes have now been completed.



Pictured trying out the slide are Parish Councillor Sheila Harding, councillor Doug Smith, Kathryn Sharratt, director of Forest of Mercia, chair of parish council John Preece, and councillor Adrienne Fitzgerald. Photo by Kate McBey

To mark the occasion an official opening of the Chapel Street park took place on February 3.

Cannock Chase Council chairman Councillor Doug Smith and Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Cllr John Preece declared the park 'open' with an official ribbon cutting.

The event celebrated completion of the project by showcasing the new improvements and thanking those who helped bring the project to a successful conclusion.



. Artwork at one of the park entrances.

Norton Canes residents can now enjoy their new green space and make the most of the newly installed circular pathway with green gym equipment - as well as a new play area for children and families.

When entering the park, visitors will be greeted by beautiful artwork which depicts the site's history.

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A big hello – and welcome to the fattest newsletter yet at 40 pages!
It just keeps going up and up. And that is all thanks to you, the readers, for providing all of the information needed.
Please keep the articles coming: the good, the bad and the funny.
In the absence of a local free paper I am proud that Norton Canes has its own publication. (Thanks to parish councillors for agreeing to fund it – and thanks to our sub editor Sheila Harding for her hard work). Thanks also to the advertisers in this newsletter.
As the village grows this means we need to deliver even more newsletters to residents on the new estates.
If you could spare a little time to deliver the newsletter to just one road in the village please contact the parish council clerk Linda on 01543 276812 (10am-2pm weekdays).
The newsletter is produced on a voluntary basis so any help offered is gratefully received.
As we all cautiously go about rebuilding our lives I hope you manage to enjoy some of what our village has to offer – whether it's local clubs, pubs, a walk in the regenerated Cema park at Chapel Street or just a chat with friendly locals at nearby green spaces.
Until next time. Loves and hugs
Jan
Editor



Good news: Nil Increase!

For the fourth year running there will be no increase in Norton Canes Parish Council's precept.
Each year the parish council reviews its budget. Decisions are based on the previous year's expenditure and the amount required for day to day business of the council - whilst also looking at village enhancement and projects for residents' benefit.
Councillors said they are 'happy to report' the nil increase has been achieved through the tax base calculation and a contribution of £8,116 from parish council reserves to mitigate any potential increase.
The precept for the financial year 2022/23 is £102,180.
Parish council clerk Linda Florence said: "The Precept enables us to continue looking at enhancing the village.
"One of the examples of this is the weed spraying programme.
"Due to the reduction of weed spraying provided by Staffordshire County Council, the parish council felt that additional weed spraying should take place between April-October to assist in keeping the village tidy."
For more details about how the precept is calculated and what this means for residents visit www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk/finance/precept

Continued from front page.

A small woodland area has been created in collaboration with the Forest of Mercia which included planting additional trees and shrubs around the site.

A total of 488 native trees and shrubs have been planted thanks to a donation of £12,000 from the Forest of Mercia and the help of the local community.

Planting these trees will help fight against climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, filtering pollution and improving air quality, reducing flooding and supporting urban wildlife.

Cannock Chase Council's Portfolio Leader for Housing, Heritage and Leisure, Cllr Adrienne Fitzgerald, said, "When I look at the Cema, I can't believe how much has changed over the last 12 months.

"The new park brings a sense of community, a place where people can come and play in a safe environment. It is now a place for everyone to enjoy and spend time with friends and family.

"As well as being involved in physical activity which can lead to improvements in health, being outdoors can improve your mood as well as lowering blood pressure and stress. This is why it is so important to have access to good quality parks so that people can use them to help with their own health and wellbeing goals.

"The revamped play area is great for Norton Canes and will provide endless fun for youngsters living in the local area".

Cllr John Preece added: "This project originated over a decade ago when a small group of residents got together to create ideas to redevelop the park. I'm thrilled to see this vision now realised.



Cllr John Preece (left) and Cllr Doug Smith cut the ribbon to declare the new play area open.

"The Cema will be the first of several park and leisure improvements for our village. "The parish council looks forward to working with Cannock Chase Council to make those happen."

For more information about the Cema improvements visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/thecema

Introducing Norton Canes Youth Project

Late last year Norton Canes Parish Council agreed to fund a youth project to provide outreach to the young people of the village. We asked the team to introduce themselves and tell us more.

Who we are?
The team are Grace, Sam and Dan from the charity Bloxwich Community Partnership.

We are experienced youth workers who have developed and delivered successful outreach youth programs in North Walsall.

During the pandemic we were one of four hubs in Walsall delivering food parcels, prescriptions and befriending calls to those in isolation. For children and young people we went virtual and delivered activity packs to their homes.

What's our aim?
The aim of the project is to gather the opinions of Norton Canes teenagers and to show they are valued members of the community. Youth workers will be walking the streets and parks talking to young people asking them what they would like to do.

We hope to become familiar faces and build rapport. We aim to do this through creating positive and trusting relationships by visiting the area on a regular basis.



All views and opinions get fed back to the parish Council, which then will be used to invest in new projects for the young people of the area.

What's new?
We are trialling the new Youth Bus project which is a mobile pop-up youth club to act as a safe space for young people to engage in various enriching activities or just to have a chat.

We will be around the streets of Norton Canes on Thursdays between 4.30pm-5.30pm. Also keep an eye out for our youth bus which will be located on the Community Centre car park as and when the opportunity arises.

*For more details ring 07763 369 686 or email yatesg@bloxwichcp.co.uk

Councillor Vacancies

Would you like to become a Norton Canes parish councillor?
Vacancies have arisen following the resignations of councillors John Beddows (who sadly has since passed away); and Mike and Zaphne Stretton.
All vacancies can now be co-opted in line with the legal process.
Due to different times of the resignations, one vacancy has now passed the deadline for applications and will be considered at February's council meeting.
The two other casual vacancies (deadline date for applications March 30) will be discussed at the April council meeting.

Parish clerk Linda Florence said: "If you feel you would like to become a councillor and help shape the future of the village we would like to hear from you."
Anyone interested is advised to observe a council meeting to see what is discussed.
The last opportunity to do that before the application deadline will be the meeting on Wednesday March 16.
It will take place in the small meeting room at Norton Canes Community Centre, 7pm.

For more details, to hold an informal chat or to request an application form ring Linda on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

*Notices are displayed on the parish council notice board outside the village Co-op and on the parish council website

Annual Parish Assembly

Norton Canes Parish Council's Annual Assembly will take place on Wednesday April 6.
The event will be held at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, at 7pm.
It is a forum where the council reports on its activities and achievements during the last year. It also gives an opportunity for residents to raise any questions relating to council business.
During the Assembly, grants to local community groups will be presented .
The message is: "Come along and hear what we do - and have your say."

New Bus Route for the Village



A new bus service will take in parts of the village which, until now, have been left out in the cold.
Staffordshire County Council has awarded a tender for the number three bus service to D & G Chaserider.

The new route/timetable started on February 21.
It will run from Cannock Bus Station-Kingswood Lakeside-Norton Meadows-Norton Canes-Brownhills West-Brownhills (and return).
The hourly service runs from Monday to Saturday.

The service has been made possible thanks to what are known as 106 monies that come with new developments, which in this instance was paid by the landowner to support a bus route servicing the Norton Hall Meadows estate.

But not everyone is happy about the news as parts of the village still have no service.
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece said: "While we welcome that this money has now been allocated and will service this part of the village we also recognise that other parts of the village have and are still being affected by the removal of the previous Number three bus service.
"The Parish Council will be lobbying Staffordshire County Council to get them to address that.
"We would also ask residents to email the county council and express their concerns about the removal of the Number three and the areas it leaves out via public.transport@staffordshire.gov.uk"

*For more details about the bus service visit http://www.chaserider.co.uk/assets/ck3_2022-02-20.pdf...

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A beacon will be lit in Norton Canes on Thursday June 2 to mark the historic Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The event, the first of many, is part of a nationwide programme. The beacon will be lit at 9.45pm. The location of the beacon is yet to be decided.

More information will be provided by Norton Canes Parish Council when all plans are in place.

The aim is to produce a programme of activities in the village during the celebration weekend.

Time for Fun

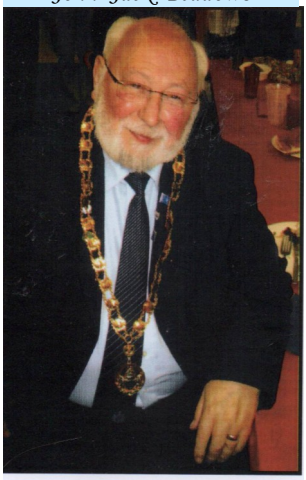
Come and have fun in the summer sun.
A Family Fun Day aimed at younger children has been arranged by Norton Canes Parish Council in partnership with the village Community Centre and other community groups.
It will take place at the Brownhills Road Community Centre on March 19 *(see poster on the back of this newsletter)* from 11am-3pm.
There will be three separate one-hour fun sessions of activities for reception/primary school children.
The youngsters can enjoy a bouncy castle, games, face painting and dancing. There will be children's favourite characters there on the day.
Admission to the sessions is free but admission is by ticket only in order to know how many will be attending.
Tickets are available on a first come first serve basis from the Community Centre on 07845 678 003.
Posters will be displayed around the village with all the event details.
For more details contact the Community Centre or email the parish council clerk at nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk
*Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is free but there will be a charge for drinks and sweets.

Festive Window Competition



Winner of the village 2021 festive window competition was Nevells at Burntwood Road.
The competition followed a different process last year whereby Norton Canes shops and businesses were invited to take photos of their Christmas displays.
Members of the community would then send in their chosen winners.
Second place was awarded to NSD (Norton Square Deals) on Brownhills Road.
The competition is run by the parish council.
A parish council spokesperson said: "Thank you to all who entered and to residents who took part in the competition."

Tribute to a Wednesfield Lad



John 'Jack' Beddows

24th April 1935 - 9th December 2021

Norton Canes has lost much loved local councillor John Beddows who passed away in December.

The following information was provided by John's daughters Sue Mincher and Sian Morgan.

John who was 86, always considered himself a Wednesfield lad because that was where he was born, brought up and settled with his first wife and two daughters.

He moved to Norton Canes with his second wife Maureen in the late 1970s and quickly became part of the local community. He became a Conservative councillor serving Cannock Chase Council and Norton Canes Parish Council – and did not always tow the party line! He held the role of Cannock Chase Council chairman from 2009-2010 and 2011- 2012.

He attended many functions as part of the 'chain gang' which he relished, never missing an opportunity to hand out his famous pens or tell his life story.– even when his daughter Sue accompanied him to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace!

John was involved with setting up youth club KONCAS (Kids of Norton Canes), often putting his own money into the venture.

He also supported building Norton Canes Health Centre. Although John ran a successful optics business, life was very hard in his early years. He contracted TB at the age of three, then diphtheria at the Stafford sanatorium where he was being treated. Told he would never walk again, he set about regaining the use of his legs with the aid of a trike.

John always believed he had been spared for a reason and determined to do good wherever he could. He left school at 15 for an apprenticeship with JJ Potts and Partners and optics became his passion. He became a master craftsman, earning himself the nickname 'Mr Magic'.

John completed national service in Manchester which is where he met his first wife. Times were hard so he always had at least two jobs: optics by day/barman, cockle and mussel man; even working for the General Post Office as a telephonist by night.

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In1975 he decided to become his own boss and bought Portland Optical Laboratories. In Wednesfield, John and his first wife got involved with committees for the local carnival and helped run a disco at the local community centre on Friday nights. In 1977 John organised a street party for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in Wednesfield.

He met his second wife that year, setting up home with Maureen and her children in Great Wyrley then Norton Canes. John and Maureen worked in the optics business, which grew into nine practices and a laboratory.
After Maureen's death, John and his daughter Sue continued to run the business.

John was awarded 'The Freedom of the City of London' for his contribution to optics - which entitled him to drive sheep over London Bridge! In 2015, John made the reluctant decision to close the lab, sell off the rest of the business and retire – something that broke his heart. His daughters Sue and Sian said he was 'never quite the same' afterwards, but he kept his hand in, facilitating the supply of frames and specs from his own stock. The day before he died, he was talking about going home and making specs.

John, a former choirboy at St Thomas Church, Wednesfield, and member of the church Boys Brigade, always kept in touch with the Wednesfield lads he grew up with – visiting one of them just weeks before he passed away. John was still working for Norton Canes Parish Council just a month before he died.

He was known for his generosity, often providing wine and raffle prizes for events. John's wife Maureen passed away in 2009. He leaves two daughters who say they will 'miss him and his stories every day'. He leaves four grandchildren of whom he was very proud, having supported them in gaining their degrees. (The grandchildren have fond memories of 'bum shuffling' races in the hall and John dressing up as Father Christmas). He also leaves two great grandchildren.

John often said: "I started off wanting a house and a car, then something better for my children. It's the wanting that has always driven me to do better." *The name 'Jack' was also used on the order of service.

His father's name was also John but went by the name of Jack. His father said if it's good enough for him, it was good enough for his son!

Have a Titter

Glynnis Briscoe, one half of Norton Canes comedy due Dandy, always makes us smile.



Allan and Glynnis Briscoe aka Dandy

Happy New Year from me and himself. Moving on slowly. Two steps forward and one step back. Bit like a line dance. I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas. If the queues at the Orbital were anything to go by then you probably did. Always a learning curve.

Another thing we learned this year was that an unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.

Apparently, Christmas is the prime time for accidents in the home: putting up decorations, rogue candles, lifting heavy turkeys. Christmas tree lifting and poking in the eye counts for 34%. Along with…flashback effect lighting the pudding, flashing lights causing seizures.
Who knew? RoSPA apparently! The more bizarre included eating Christmas ornaments you thought were chocolate (19); testing a 9v battery on the tongue (3); and watering the Christmas tree when the lights are plugged in (31).
Top of the list for accidents…novelty slippers! So keep yer eyes on yer bunny ears!

Me and himself spent yet another Christmas in our 'Billy no mates bubble of two'. Both of us had coughs and colds so couldn't be with friends. I discovered a prehistoric chicken at the bottom of the freezer along with a couple of mingin' sausages, so we didn't starve.

Glad they still managed to do nativity plays at schools. A friend of mine asked her children to draw the scene.
"Who's that big, fat man next to Mary and baby Jesus …is it Joseph?" she asked.
"No! We sing about him…it's Round John Virgin, mother and child!"
Bless!

The diet is still shelved until it's hot enough for lettuce to look appealing. Went into a coffee shop and said: "What can I have without fat or sugar?"
"Napkins."

I need to cut out wine. You know you need to when you enter your pin number to work the microwave.

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Friend of ours went to A.A. The counsellor said: “What have you learned about your drinking?”
He said: “It’s hard to get out of a skip and I have an alcohol-related problem - the wife.”

The entertainment business, at our level, is in freefall. Still getting gigs re-scheduled and cancelled. Need to tighten our belts.
Have a week part-booked in Gran Canaria but think it might be too much hassle. The world really has become a much smaller place.
My health holiday record is a disaster. We have to pay excess luggage on my first aid kit.
On a weekend in Chester I accidentally pulled an elastic-linked pair of platform shoes from a high shelf onto my face. Cut mouth and lip. Manager called. Blood everywhere. Think how much more scope I have abroad.
Last visit to Italy Allan UNKNOWINGLY ate some snails and spent all night projectile vomiting. It was like a scene from The Exorcist.
Both feeling our age….which is old! Days of festivals and protest marches are over. I’ve got the perfect Tshirt ‘BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, CAN’T REMEMBER IT’.
As someone said: “You know you are getting old when your zimmer frame has an airbag.”
We are now officially allowed to call anybody ‘What’s His Face’ and any item ‘the thingy.’

I have spent the last two weeks tearing the house apart looking for my hoarded birthday money from August. Every now and again I jumped up and shouted: “I’ll have one last look!”
When checking for the 100th time in my wardrobe I noticed the two coats I had bought with it back in September! Doh!



New sign up in the local library:
We have been having a bit of a move round.
TRAVEL is now in the FANTASY Section
SCI-FI is now in CURRENT AFFAIRS
EPIDEMIOLOGY is in SELF HELP…and
POLITICS is in HUMOUR

Finally, something that made me laugh. A child talking to her Mother: “Mommy did you want a boy or a girl?”
Actually I just wanted a back rub!”

KEEP SMILING

The Plight of Our Wildlife by Dr Bob Whorton



Love struck Mr Majestic

The swan named Mr Majestic at The Swag in Norton Canes feels like an old friend after almost 16 years. He has survived thanks to boundless energy, sharp wits and a little help from his friends now and then. Since gaining hierarchy at The Swag in Norton East Road in 2010 he has had his share of tragedy.
But over the last three months he and his family faced the biggest crisis of his lifetime – avian influenza which struck at the beginning of November.
Within days there were losses around the district. The obvious was confirmed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
Avian flu ravaged our local wildfowl, inflicting the worst losses across several species of waterfowl in recent history – at least an 80 per cent loss.
As in the rest of the country, our popular sites, especially those with daily feeding regimes, constituted the biggest numbers.
The virus rages on, presenting a massive threat to decimated colonies. We are still finding, reporting and collecting bodies of swans, geese, gulls - and now carrion species like crows, magpies and even foxes.
Please don't take bird flu lightly. It is a significant virus which can and will cross species to affect even humans.

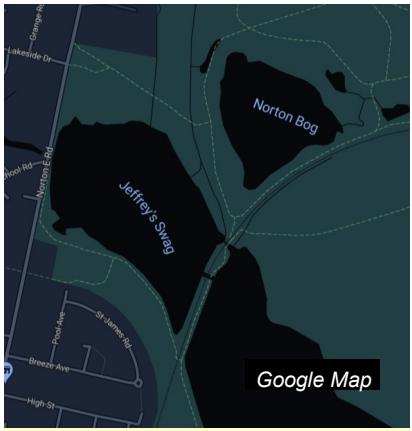


Mr Majestic and second wife Hope

The strict DO NOT FEED THE BIRDS, DO NOT TOUCH SICK OR DEAD BIRDS is paying off. This helps prevent another wave of deaths, by limiting the amount of species mixing at one site, especially Canada geese and gulls.
Geese and gulls are nomadic feeders and will go to several different sites in a day spreading the virus, for example to Chasewater – Stubbers Aldridge – Pelsall Junction, canals and various fishing lakes and ponds.
I congratulate our county councillor and district and county councils for taking this seriously and acting very quickly to control the spread further.
Mr Majestic's second wife 'Hope' was with us for just a fleeting season, giving him six beautiful cygnets. Alas she was taken by the virus along with one of their precious offspring right in front of our eyes.
Bodily waste is absorbed into grazing areas, paths and shallows and can spread rapidly - just 36 hours of incubation before the tell-tale 'spiral of doom'.
Within another eight to 10 hours birds die of what looks like a stroke.

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A DEFRA vet confirmed the virus gives birds irreversible brain damage. Swans put their heads back and fall into their last sleep.
Two of our local families of eight were reduced to two. We also lost a cygnet from the 'Brownhills Road gang'; and two cygnets from the Yates family (a pair of productive swans that nested near Yates' at Lime Lane, Norton Canes).
The invasion of Canada geese brought the disease to Pelsall junction and wiped out five of the family, including the parents.
This was gut-wrenching after such effort was put into their wellbeing last season and all the years before.
Hopefully, the remaining birds have now developed antibodies, but we know from recent years the virus can mutate and return. ONE infected/ carrier bird is all it takes.
At The Swag we were lucky, due to the unique isolation from the majority of public feeding sites on the main lake. This meant goose encroachment was at absolute minimum, kept in check by Mr Majestic and Hope.
But a huge influx of gulls towards the railway embankment was unmanageable. We watched a cygnet taking its first flight, only to be confronted days later by its death.
Our birds were strong and lucky overall but it's not over yet.
Everyone can do their bit. Use a pet friendly disinfectant after visiting sites where wild birds frequent. Keep pets away from anything birds have made – and away from dead birds and fallen animals such as foxes.
DEFRA is closely monitoring feeding hotspots and much stricter control will be put in place to help prevent future tragedy.



Norton Bog one of the areas where our dedicated local volunteers work tirelessly.

Hopefully there will be a major downsizing in carrier birds hawking for handouts at parks and reserves. They affect natural biodiversity and long-term health of the public and wildfowl.
Avian flu infects across species into carrion birds and animals such as foxes (three found in our area) - even to coastal seal colonies.
Please report dead, dying or injured birds to your local council rangers, Environmental Safety office or to DEFRA (online or by phone).
Please consider a donation to our local effort for wildlife support and conservation. The dedicated team of rescuers, Lindsay and the team at Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary, do wonders for us. *See https://www.linjoywildlifesanctuary.org.uk/ and the donations page https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_donations&business=small_furries06%40yahoo.co.uk&item_name=Donate+to+BWRLS&currency_code=GBP&source=ur

Don't Feed the Birds

Visitors to Chasewater are asked not to feed the birds.

The request is to help reduce the spread of avian influenza.

It follows a number of outbreaks of the disease across the country including confirmed cases found in wild birds at Chasewater.

While cases have reduced, feeding the birds may cause them to gather together and cause an increase in the disease.

Visitors to the park are also asked to keep dogs on leads near the water and stay to the paths.

People should not touch or try to rescue sick or injured birds and should report them to the park rangers or to the Defra helpline on 03459 335577 and select option 7.

Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture at Staffordshire County Council said: "While the number of cases of avian influenza in wild birds at Chasewater has reduced, we are still finding some affected birds. To ensure we keep cases low, it is really important not to feed the birds at the moment.

"For those visiting Chasewater or any of our other country parks it's really important that people follow the guidance on site. It may seem like a harmless activity but feeding can attract other wild birds to the area which can increase the risks of avian influenza."

Officers from Staffordshire County Council's Trading Standards Animal Health team are also reminding people who keep birds and poultry that they must keep their birds indoors and follow strict biosecurity measures.

The measures introduced in December apply to anyone keeping birds, whether it's a few hens in a back garden, rearing game birds or a large commercial farm.

Further advice for bird keepers on reducing the spread of avian influenza is available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu



Cllr Mike Hoare

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.



Message from Your MP Amanda Milling



I would like to start by wishing everybody a happy and healthy new year.

I am proud that we were the first nation in the world to administer a vaccine, and one of the fastest in Europe to roll it out. We kept open this winter while others locked down.
And we're the first to emerge from Omicron because we delivered the fastest booster campaign in Europe.
The vaccine has played a key role in fighting Coronavirus so if you haven't already been vaccinated, it is not too late to get your first, second or third jab.

Turning to local news, I am delighted a new bus service will serve parts of Norton Canes not covered by the Number 60, including the Norton Meadows development, after concerns were raised about scrapping the Number 3 bus.



Colour Sergeant Watchman V

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the much loved Colour Sergeant Watchman V - Staffordshire bull terrier and mascot of the Staffordshire Regimental Association - who recently passed away.

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

Meet Your District Councillors



Cllrs John Preece (left) and Josh Newbury

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 details are on page 39 so you can contact us about any local issues at any time."

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 Info



The Burntwood Road library is open as follows: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-12 noon; Fridays 10am-5pm.
The Thursday Craft Group is looking for new members.

The IT suite is now open for visitors 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."

Check out the library's new Facebook page Friends of Norton Canes Library for latest news.



"When one door closes another one opens.
Apart from that it's a great car".

"I was feeling down all last night in bed.
Turned out my pillow had split".

(Jokes sprinkled through this newsletter are courtesy of Cllr John Bernard).

New Health and Wellbeing App Goes Live



The new 'Cannock Chase Can' app is now available to download for free by visiting Google Play and the App Store.

Local residents are invited to download the app and sign up to Cannock Chase Can. Those signing up in February will be entered into a free prize draw and be in with a chance of winning an annual membership at Chase and Rugeley Leisure Centres. There are five annual memberships up for grabs.

Cannock Chase Council in partnership with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) has been working closely with local partner organisations and community groups over the last 12 months to develop the Cannock Chase Can programme - which aims to help people live happier and healthier lives.

The app provides information about healthy eating, physical activity and healthier lifestyle choices - as well as how to budget, sleep and manage emotional wellbeing. This is presented as a Wellness Wheel, which captures all the themes to help you live a happy and healthy life.

It hosts a variety of wellness challenges which can be undertaken as an individual, group or family. To celebrate success, users will be given trophies and instant rewards provided by local businesses.

Officers from the council and IHL toured the district in February to find out more about people's 'wellness worries'. They visited supermarkets, town centres, community venues and schools.

Councillor Valerie Jones, Portfolio Leader for Community Engagement, Health and Wellbeing said: "Cannock Chase Can will help you improve your health and wellbeing in a fun and friendly way.
"I would like to thank the local community for the support they have given throughout the development stages of this app. This feedback has helped to shape the final version of the app and its future potential.
"Be inspired by others, submit challenges and gain rewards and points for your progress improving your health."

The council is calling on individuals, local community groups, businesses and organisations to submit challenges and rewards which will feature as 'new' content in the app.

Challenges can be submitted by video, audio, step-by-step instructions and a web link. An online submission form with guidance packs are available to download from the council's website. For more information email:

cannockchasecan@cannockchasedc.gov.uk or visit www.cannockchasecan.co.uk
*Follow on Facebook 'Cannock Chase Can'.

In Memory of a Selfless Lady



Kath: always thinking of others

Norton Canes bids a fond farewell to popular local character Kath Swaffield.

Kath, aged 94, passed away at home just before Christmas surrounded by her family.

Older Norton Canes residents will remember her working at Meads chemist on the village square where she got to know villagers.

She was also the crossing lady on the square for many years, earning her the love of many local children who sent her Christmas cards.

Kath will be remembered in the village as someone who was 'always on the go'.

She was involved in Norton Canes High School Parents Teachers Association's Amateur Dramatics Society - making costumes, painting the sets and taking part in the occasional chorus line.

Along with her best friend Brenda Rose she helped run Norton Canes Guides and Brownies.

Kath's son Paul Swaffield said: "She would do anything for anyone. She believed in the church and all that it stands for. That was her way of life: garden fetes, bring and buy sales - she was there.

"She lived her life to the full, had no regrets and was very happy."

Kath, a grandmother and great grandmother, was laid to rest at St James' Church, Norton Canes, with her husband Leslie who passed away many years ago.

She leaves two sons Andrew and Paul, and a daughter Helen.

To avoid disappointment items for the Special Souvenir
June 2022 newsletter
must be emailed to
Jan at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk
by May 4, 2022

CARPETS DIRECT® 2U

your local family run discount carpet store



This is what customers say...

"Fantastic carpet shop" – **Louise R**

★★★★★

"Great quality carpet" – **Clare S**

★★★★★

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

★★★★★

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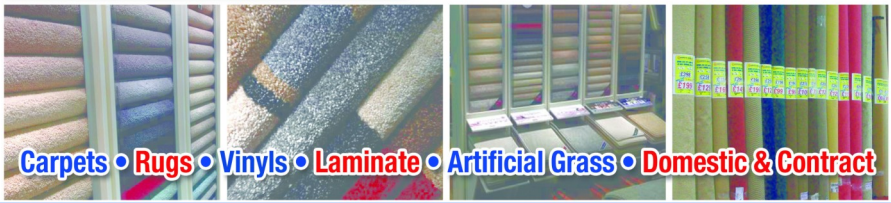
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email enquiries: **info@rugsdirect2u.co.uk**



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CARPETS DIRECT 2U®

Your Local Discount Carpet Store

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

Carpets Direct 2U is easily accessible to everyone in the area with retail premises in **Aldridge, 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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visit our website at www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk

Scouting Around for Litter

Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece expresses his gratitude to local Scouts who were a great help on a recent community litter pick



Aaarrgghhh! Put your rubbish in the bin For goodness sake.

We were delighted to welcome the 1st Norton Canes Scouts at a community litter pick in early February.

As part of their ongoing mission to support young people in their personal development and empowering them to make a positive contribution to society the Scouts approached Norton Canes Parish Council for local projects in which they could take part.

As Covid restrictions are being removed and people are becoming more confident in meeting it has become easier to organize community litter picks again. This was a perfect opportunity for the Scouts to join us. Fortunately, the weather held up and although windy, it was relatively dry.

The route was roughly along the old mineral line from Pool Avenue, over Norton East Road, out along the Community Centre park and then to the Brambles. We also continued along the Mount towards Conduit Road and towards Betty's Lane park.

The Scouts seemed to thoroughly enjoy the challenge and were quite enthusiastic about seeing who could pick up most litter.

Whilst for the Scouts it was fun, it struck home the fact that litter and waste is a never-ending scourge for our community.

Even though there are five litter bins along the stretch of pathway from Pool Avenue to Brownhills Road alone, the Scouts still managed to fill 17 bin bags of rubbish.

Group Scout Leader Dylan Pickin said: "We are pleased to support Norton Canes Parish Council in any way we can. As a group we are always looking for community projects to take part in."

Continued on page 23

Continued from page 22

The Scouts are actively recruiting new members and volunteers. If anyone is interested, email Dylan at 1stnortonsl@gmail.com

Norton Canes parish councillors thank the Scouts for their efforts and will endeavour to support any individuals or organisation willing to undertake any project that helps support the community.

More community litter picks will be organised in the coming weeks covering areas all around the village.

If you would like to be added to an email list telling you when litter picks take place, email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Scout Groups: Where and When

The 1st Norton Canes Scout Group runs at Norton Canes Primary Academy as follows:

Mondays Squirrels: 5pm-6pm. Email Chelsie Lee squirrels.nortoncanes@gmail.com

Explorers: 7pm-8.45pm. Dylan Pickin cannockchasecollieryexplorers@gmail.com Scouts: 7pm-8.45pm. Paul Flanagan 1stnortoncanesscouts@gmail.com

Tuesdays Cubs: 6.15pm-7.45pm. Mark Anderson-Bray cubs.nortoncanes@gmail.com

Wednesdays Beavers: 6pm-7.15pm. John Anderson-Bray beavers.nortoncanes@gmail.com

*Group Scout leader is Dylan Pickin 07948 098 630, email1stnortongsl@gmail.com



I'm at Birmingham Airport and this bloke in front of me collapsed on the luggage carousel
He's coming round slowly.

I see the price of balloons have gone up again...
that's inflation I suppose.

I made some fishcakes - but they ignored them and swam away.



Think You Know Norton Canes?

To celebrate Norton Canes Community Centre starting monthly family quiz sessions from March 13 we will be including a quiz in our Newsletter. The quizzes will take place on the second Sunday of each month. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. (Maximum six per team, £1 per person). Bring your own food and drink.

Here are clues to 10 words. All the words can be linked to street names in Norton. You're welcome to use googlemaps!

1) This can be found on most British eggs.

2) A word that is associated with a jet, a hawk and a football team in Worcestershire

3) A football league stadium in the West Midlands

4) The Prime Minister's holiday home

5) Where the British Darts Championship has been played in the past

6) Where the 1,000 Guineas and the 2,000 Guineas are run.

7) Shakespeare's longest play

8) The surname shared with Stonewall – an American Civil War general, Samuel – an actor, and a world-famous singing family.

9) A tree whose scientific name is Betula pendula

10) Word that follows Moderate, Fresh and Strong on the Beaufort scale.

Answers on page 29

Silver Sneakers Back in Business

Silver Sneakers gentle exercise classes started again in early January.



A group spokesperson said: "We have been wonderfully surprised at our attendance rates so far.
"New members come regularly and we thank everyone for their support.
"We have such a lovely group now and it's a pleasure to be a part of this."

Members meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on Thursdays, 12.30pm-1.30pm.
For more details ring Pam on 01543 899367 or Jan on 01543 495796.

Norton Canes Flower Club

Here we are with Spring on the horizon, warmer weather to come (hopefully) and getting out into the garden again



Flower Club members celebrate their belated 50th anniversary in style.

On November 10 flower club members, past and present, and friends enjoyed lunch at Chase Golf Club. This event celebrated the club's 50 years existence (a year late due to the pandemic). It was a very good afternoon with lunch followed by a Christmas demonstration by national demonstrator John Chennell, who produced stunning arrangements which some lucky recipients won in the raffle. There was a chance to meet up with friends and view photographs of previous occasions.

In December we had a Christmas afternoon tea and a quiz - a pleasant end to a difficult year.

January 15 was the first meeting of the New Year, which hopefully will be better than the last. Members enjoyed a practical afternoon led by Chris, who showed us different ways to arrange flowers without the use of floral foam.

At the February 15 meeting we will be shown how to produce a decorated bottle which can be used in a variety of ways.

On March 16 Linda Seabrook will be demonstrating ‘Highway Man’, an intriguing title.

In April the club is hoping to visit the Dorothy Clive Garden.

On May 18 there will be a demonstration by Dean Sharpe entitled ‘May Madness’. This is the second time that Dean will have visited the club and we all look forward to his arrangements.

June 15 is a first for the club when there will be an open event held in the afternoon at Norton Canes Community Centre with Lorena Dyer and her ‘Lipstick, Powder and Paint’. More details nearer the event.

*Meetings are held at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on the third Wednesday of the month, 1pm for 1.30pm start. New members and visitors are most welcome. Ring 01543 278370 or 01543 277492 for more information.

Join a Session at Norton Canes Community Centre

Monday
L'rythmix Dance Academy (children's dance class).
Ring Leela 07821 774 456
Kano Judo, Ian 07549 108 829
Wellbeing in Mind
Xaquarians
Simply Crafting, Jackie 07570 452 948



Tuesday
Jenny's Social Dance Afternoon
The little group of sewers
Tai Chi with Richard
Rainbows. Email Girlguiding.org
Indoor bowls

Wednesday
RVS, Maureen 01543 279751
Zumba
Xaquarians Line Dancing, Jane 07515 931 389

Thursday
Crafty Cards Group, Jackie 07570 452 948
Crafty Sew and Sews, Jean 07412 191 439
Sugar Craft, Sandra 07792 549 307 Cannock Photography Society
www.cannockps.co.uk

Friday
Tots O'Clock Toddler Group. See Facebook @totsoclock
Tea dance
Xaquarians, Jane 07515 931 389

Dig Out Your Dancing Shoes



The Friday Tea Dance is back up and running at Norton Canes Community Centre.

The events, which run from 1.30pm-3.30pm, feature sequence, ballroom, line dance and party dances.

The invitation message is: "All welcome. Come and meet old friends and make new ones."

Admission £2.50 includes tea/coffee and biscuit.

Coming Soon to Norton Canes Community Centre

March 6: Table Top Sale. To book a table ring Jackie on 07845 678 003.

March 13: (thereafter the second Sunday of each month).
Family quiz. Bring your own food and drink.
Maximum six per team, £1 per person.
Doors open 7pm for a 7.30 start.



April 30: comedy duo Dandy, tickets £7. Bring own food and drink. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm

June 3: Platinum Jubilee Cabaret - an afternoon of music, dance and afternoon tea. Tickets £10.



Event details below to be confirmed:
July 30: A Night at the Dogs

September 11: Craft Fair

October 29: Barn Dance

December 4: Story time with Santa, Lantern Parade, Family Christmas Concert

December 10 and 11: Panto Aladdin

*Please note dates are provisional and will depend on Covid regulations at the time. For details email nccabookings@hotmail.com or ring 07845 678 003.

Quotations

Do you have a favourite quotation? I like the following which I think is very apt at the moment;
'The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time' – Abraham Lincoln

When I ran Norton Canes Saturday Drama I used:
'The only place that success comes before work is in the dictionary' – Vince Lombardi

Now I am a parish councillor I try to remember this one:
'God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom know the difference' - The Serenity Prayer

Send us your special quotation to share with others through the village Newsletter. email Jan cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk by the first week in May for inclusion in the June newsletter.

Sheila Harding

Norton Canes Chess Club

Norton Canes chess players have turned a corner in the league.

After a fairly poor start of the season they finished off the first part of league with a win - which meant they finished just under half way up the Division .

In the first match of this half of the season members started with another win against Bushbury.

Members meet every Tuesday at the Lido Club, School Road, Norton Canes at 7.30pm.

New players are always welcome.

Club spokesman Mike Hoare said: “We are thinking of starting a second team if enough people come forward.”
For more details ring Mike on 01543 279989.



Help: Volunteer Litter Pickers Needed

Could you spare an hour a week for litter picking duties in the village? Norton Canes Parish Council is looking at compiling a rota of volunteers to ease the burden on the hard-pressed village lengthsman who spends most of his time keeping the village litter-free.

The council already tries to address the issue of litter/rubbish in the village by having regular community litter picks which residents are encouraged to support.

Parish council clerk Linda Florence said: “We are grateful to residents who do litter picking on their own initiative by looking after areas where they live or where they walk.
“The parish council provides litter pickers and bags and this has proved very helpful in trying to keep the village tidy.
“But this is a continuing uphill battle which impacts on the time the lengthsman can carry out other duties around the village.
“We need to look at a different way to deal with the problem and free up his time to enable him to do his regular tasks.”



Keep it tidy - so kids don't have to clear up after you.

Could you volunteer an hour a week to cover the areas the parish council is responsible for? If so, please email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk or ring the clerk on 01543 276812.

Lantern Parade



Norton Canes annual Lantern Parade kicked off the festive season in the village on December 5.

The successful 2021 event was supported by the 1 st Norton Canes Scouts, Girl Guides/ Brownies, Rainbows, Jerome Primary and Norton Canes Academy pupils, Raynet (a safety group using radios to help with road closure management for events), Cannock Rotary Club, the Vic Biker Group (from Victoria Club, Norton Canes) and volunteer marshals.

This year's parade also included The Elf Set (paid adult performers via an events company). They are a group of people who play music at local Christmas events. They were joined by a second group of 'elves' from Cannock Dance Academy who danced along the route. The dance academy group received a donation for their attendance.

The Elf Set attended thanks to funding from the Welcome Back Fund - a Government initiative, administered by Cannock Chase Council, to get the feel-good factor back into communities following Covid. Norton Canes Parish Council put in a successful bid for funding to expand the lantern parade. (This funding will also be supporting an upcoming Family Fun Day in the village).

During the parade a collection was taken for NHS Charities Together which raised £140.25.

Parish council clerk Linda Florence said: "Thank you to Jon and Natalie Vale for providing the 101 Land Rover type vehicle which served as a float, decked out with lanterns with a PA system playing Christmas music.

"Thank you to all the families who turned out on the day. We hope you enjoyed it.

"Thank you to all those who supported the charity collection.

"We are always looking at ways to improve the parade so if you have ideas we would like to hear from you."

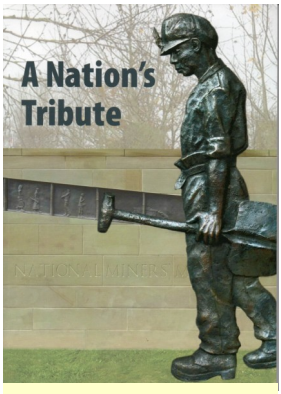
Quiz Answers
(see page 24)
1) Red Lion (Lane, Crescent, Avenue) **2)** Harrier (Way)
3) Hawthorn (Drive) **4)** Chequers (Court) **5)** Lakeside (Drive)
6) Newmarket (Road) **7)** (The) Hamlet **8)** Jackson (Close)
9) Silver Birch (Road) **10)** Breeze (Avenue)

Thank You From The Gnome Lady

In a recent edition of the Newsletter we highlighted local lady Maureen Ansell who undertakes gnome painting.

Maureen received quite a few enquiries as a result of her article so she has kindly donated £40 to pay for four commemorative books produced to raise funds for the Miners' Memorial at The National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas.

The books, produced by Chase Art in Public Spaces (CHAPS), have been donated to Norton Canes organisations: the Historical Society, Darby and Joan Club, Knit and Natter and Flower Club.



(book front page):
A Nation's Tribute

The commemorative books, called A Nation's Tribute, are still available from Sheila Harding on 07733 346 280 priced £10.

The money goes towards development of the miners' memorial site.

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.

July will be a special month with a party feel to all the dances acknowledging HM Queen Elizabeth II, Platinum Jubilee.

Book your tickets early from Jenny 01922 415232 to avoid disappointment.

Norton Canes Dementia Friendly Community



‘Forget-Me-Not’ Day 2022

at

Norton Canes Community Centre
Brownhills Road



Wednesday May 17, 2022 11.30am-1.30pm
Organisers will join RVS Darby & Joan Club
for
Fun, Food and Entertainment

Tombola in aid of MASE (Monthly Alzheimer's Support Evenings)

Advice and information from dementia organizations and support from the Alzheimer’s Society

For details contact Sheila Harding 07733 346 280

Fed up?

If you are feeling lonely would you like to help run the village Darby and Joan Club for the over 50s?

Volunteers are required to work two hours a week at club meetings held at Norton Canes Community Centre.

The Wednesday sessions, from 1.30pm-3.30pm, include bingo, occasional speakers, tea and biscuits and a natter.

Or if you are over 50 and don’t wish to volunteer you could join the club and make new friends.

For more details ring Maureen on 01543 279751.

Norton Canes Parish Council

The notice boards outside the Co-op and on The Bridge crossroads contain 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

Cannock Photographic Society

(Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Midland Counties Photographic Federation)

Zoom In For Photo Society

Cannock Photographic Society continues to have weekly meetings on Thursday evenings.

But a society spokesperson said: "Because of recent high levels of Covid cases due to Omicron we have reverted to having weekly meetings via Zoom to protect our members."



Learning to Illuminate by Angie Tucker

Members enjoy a varied programme including lecturers from top photographers and club competitions (judged by experienced photographic judges who give their assessment of the images along with suggestions of how to improve).



Holly in Doorway by Dave Tucker

The club recently held its annual Three On A Theme competition where three images are placed together to be judged on quality and how they work on the theme. (See photos by two of the award winners).

*Members usually meet at Norton Canes Community Centre.

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 nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Council and Committee Meetings

Norton Canes Parish Council holds monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

The meetings take place in the small meeting room at Norton Canes Community Centre, Brownhills Road, 7pm.

There is a public participation section at the meetings so residents can attend and raise any issues.

The following are committees of the council to which members of the public can also attend:

Planning where planning applications are discussed

Audit & Governance where all financial matters relating to the council together with policies and staffing are discussed

Projects Committee where discussions take place relating to projects, ideas and ongoing initiatives (for example entry in the annual Best Kept Village competition).

A list of scheduled dates for these meetings is posted on the parish council website www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk and on the parish council notice board in the centre of the village.

Details are also available from parish council clerk Linda Florence on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

*It may be necessary at times to change dates for full council and committee meetings for operational purposes. It you wish to attend it is advisable to check the meeting is taking place. Any changes to meeting dates are advertised.

Norton Canes Community Food Table

Norton Canes Community Food Table is a service offered by a small team of volunteers for those struggling to make ends meet.
On a Friday night volunteers collect food from supermarkets that would otherwise be thrown away - and then offer it free of charge the morning after.
Organiser John Preece said: “The food is still good quality and would only have been thrown away because of the date on the packet.”
John said anyone can come along to the Food Table.
“We do not ask questions, and we do not judge,” he added.
The food table is open on Saturday mornings, 10am-11.30am (depending how much food is left) on Victoria Club car park, Norton East Road.
One bag per household is allowed. There is no charge.
John is appealing for volunteers to help with setting up and manning tables, and collecting food.
For more details email John in confidence johnpreece77@hotmail.com

With our thoughts turning to spring, here's an inspirational poem from local poet Brenda Benton.



The Beautiful Garden

A garden is not made up of one type of plant ~
It is an abundance of Life ~
It is the Variety ~Texture ~ Colour ~
That makes it beautiful ~ unique!

Each plant is different ~
Each one with its own needs ~
Some live happily together ~
Some do not ~ The Gardener knows.

Some will smother other plants ~
So need to be cut back ~ regularly ~
Some need dead heading ~ this takes time ~ commitment ~
The reward is great ~ an abundance of Flowers.

Vegetables ~ Fruit ~ Flowers ~
All a Gift from our Lord ~
A feast for our Eyes ~ our Body ~ our Spirit ~
It all began in The Garden ~

The Perfect Garden ~ Paradise ~
May our world return to The Gardener ~
Do you see the connection? See the Plants ~ see the People ~
Plants and people are one and the same!

Luke 23 v 43

Explore Local History

Norton Canes Historical Society meets at the Burntwood Road Library on the second Tuesday of the month, 7pm-9pm.

The start date for 2022 is April 12. Subject to availability of speakers there should be a program in place for this date and the following months.

To avoid disappointment items for the June newsletter must be sent to Jan by May 4, 2022.
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Spring Forward



With the coming of spring and the prospect of longer days at the end of March, this always seems a time of hope.

Especially after the last two years, everyone is looking forward to a return of some sort of normal life.

In church particularly we observe the season of Lent, which is a preparation for the great festival of Easter, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus – a sign of hope and new life for us all.

We shall be celebrating this time in church, where you will be welcome to join us for any service, as announced on our facebook page https://www.facebook.com/stjamesnortoncanes

Please be assured that we continue to pray for all who live and work in our village.



With every kind wish,

Father Neil Hibbins
St James' Church,
Norton Canes

Welcome to Trinity Methodist Church

Poplar Street, Norton Canes



Worship every Sunday at 11am. All welcome.
Watch the church notice board for regular services.
Reverend Margaret Eales can be contacted on 01543 682277.

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

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.



Look out for our June Newsletter which will be a special souvenir edition to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of

HM Queen Elizabeth II

Events will be organised by Norton Canes Parish Council and many other organisations.

They will take place at the following village venues:

Norton Canes Community Centre;
St James Church, Trinity Methodist Church;
Norton Canes Library,
local schools,
The Lido Club, Victoria Club, Railway Tavern,
The Turf (Toby Inn) pub and Yew Tree pub.

If you, your organisation or the street where you live will be holding an event to celebrate this momentous occasion, please send any information to our editor Jan at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk by Wednesday May 4 latest to ensure inclusion in the special Newsletter Edition.

The newsletter will be delivered to every house in the village before the end of May.

Dog Fouling: Ongoing Problems

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

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



Local residents are asked to report anyone allowing their dog to foul the area.

Dispensers with bags inside are at the Cema park, Chapel Street; at the entrance to Chasewater from Norton East Road; and on the Jubilee Gardens (the old mineral line known as the 'Batter'). These are checked every week to ensure they have bags in them.

If anyone notices bags missing ring the clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Anyone reporting dog fouling to Cannock Chase Council 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.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Norton Canes parish councillors continue to work on the Neighbourhood Plan.

It will shape the village's future and enable the council to have more influence following policies included in the Plan.

Work of the Plan is very complex and is required to link into Cannock Chase Council's Local Plan.

For more details about the Neighbourhood Plan visit

nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk or email the clerk Linda Florence on nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Thank You to Village Champions Mike and Zaphne



Councillors Mike and Zaphne Stretton

Local councillors have paid tribute to longstanding local councillors Mike and Zaphne Stretton who have stepped down from Norton Canes Parish Council.

Councillors say they were 'surprised and saddened' when the resignation was announced at December's council meeting.

Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece said: "Mike and Zaphne have been a huge presence on the council since its inception in late 1989. "Zaphne has been instrumental in getting the parish council to consider building a new cemetery at the back of the churchyard, and we are progressing with this project.

"Mike more recently has been the parish council's lead councillor looking at highways issues to take to Staffordshire County Council."

Cllr Preece said "parish councillors are 'grateful' for their input over the years. "Their passion for the village will be an inspiration for many," he added. "They will be incredibly missed. "They have been strong champions for Norton Canes, and their knowledge of and commitment to village issues is immense.

"They should be extremely proud of their work on the parish council, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for all the years they have devoted to our community. We wish them well in all their future plans."

Reluctant to accept thanks, Zaphne said she and Mike had loved their time on the parish council but now intend to enjoy their retirement with days out and holidays.

"We still like to do things for people in the community," she added.
"I still get phone calls.
"But I think it is time for like-minded younger people to join the parish. It's an important job. You are giving something back to your community.

"Mike and I were born in the village. It was an exciting time in 1983 when the parish council was formed.

"I remember being at the count in Cannock and wondered if people would bother voting – but it was such a resounding victory and we have enjoyed seeing it all the way through.

"We have loved our time on the parish council.

"We did it for Norton."

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2021 ~ 2022

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr J. Bernard (Vice Chairman)	01543 274427
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr Mrs S. Harding	07733 346280
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279475
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
email samantha.thompson@staffordshire.gov.uk

Amanda Milling MP on 01543 877142 or email
amanda.milling.mp@parliament.com

This newsletter is put together by just two people:
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www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk



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