Well done - Norton Canes 'Crafters'



Brenda Rose with her poppy display



Brenda's decorated window



Library window dislplay



Hand made VE Day bunting on Jerome School fence

Norton Canes Children's pictures in support of the NHS Displayed in the Medical Centre



June
2020
Issue 30

Norton Canes Village News

Good News – Bus Service Saved!

Norton Canes Community Bus has been saved.

In our last edition of the newsletter we appealed for volunteer drivers to come forward – without which the community bus would no longer be able to operate.

And half a dozen gentlemen kindly responded to the appeal.

Although the bus is not able to operate at the moment due to coronavirus lockdown, organisers are delighted they now have enough volunteers to drive the bus when restrictions are lifted.

The Mercedes 15-seater bus transports pensioners to the village's Over 60s and Darby and Joan clubs – a lifeline for the elderly.

It also takes the pensioners to shop at Sainsbury's, Orbital Centre, on Thursdays.

The service has been operating since the 1990s, but faced closure when volunteer drivers dwindled to just two.

Community Bus chairperson Beryl Hall is delighted the service has been saved.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," she said to the new volunteers.

"I am very pleased with the response," she added. "We now have enough drivers to do a rota and we will be able to have trips out. I feel very good."

Beryl, aged 75, said an added bonus is some of the new volunteers have offered to sort out 'a few bangs and bumps' which the bus sustained after some minor scrapes.

Beryl will be getting back in touch with the new volunteers as soon as lockdown ends.



Commemorative Planter

A new decorative planter has been installed in High Street, Norton Canes, to commemorate 75 years since the end of World War Two.

A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said: "Thank you to Ken Emery for allowing the planter to be installed on the Victoria Club car park."

Hi everyone

Welcome to edition 30 of your newsletter
In the last edition of our newsletter, all I had to grumble about was the windy weather, traffic and the closure of The Voujon restaurant. How shallow that seems now.
The newsletter was delivered in March – the month our lives changed – and life became like living in some far-fetched disaster movie.

Usually our newsletter is full of details about busy clubs and societies enjoying life. But you will see from their reports that members have definitely not been forgotten, some have managed to continue in innovative ways – and everyone is just waiting for the green light to reopen safely.

With the current situation in mind we have tried to provide some uplifting articles for you to read.

Writing the newsletter has kept me busy – so now it's done I'll go back to my colouring book.

Oh – and good news – the Voujon has reopened for take-outs. Yay!

Extra special loves and hugs
Jan
Editor

Stay Safe Until We Meet Again

Norton Canes Historical Society May and June meetings have been cancelled due to coronavirus.

There are no meetings taking place in July and August.
Society secretary Maureen Garbett said: "With restrictions in place the speakers for May and June have been cancelled.

"Please everyone stay safe and well. When safe to do so, meetings will resume - but until then we send best wishes to all."

Parish Council Adapts During Lockdown

Norton Canes Parish Council's office has been closed during the coronavirus lockdown.
And council meetings have been cancelled - in line with Government advice via the National Association of Local Councils - to ensure councils are operating correctly.
But a parish council spokesperson said: "It has generally been business as usual - apart from face to face contact with the general public.
"We have put in place a Delegated Powers document that enables us to make decisions on issues that arise.
"The annual meeting would have taken place in May when nominations for chairman and vice chairman would have been dealt with.

"Following guidance, a decision was taken that the annual meeting of the council will now take place in April 2021, which means the presiding chairman and vice chairman will continue in their roles until that date.
"We will follow Government advice as to when it is safe to resume meetings again."

The parish council clerk Linda Florence is working from home to ensure the running of the council continues.
Linda said: "Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help during these unprecedented times."
Linda can be contacted on 01543 329788 or email: nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

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 or 01543 329788 *during lock-down.*

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2019 ~ 2020

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr J. Beddows (Vice Chairman)	01543 279991
Cllr Mrs Z. Stretton MBE	01543 276959
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr Mrs S. Harding	01543 275013
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279475
Cllr M. Stretton	01543 276959
Cllr J. Newbury	07884 111382
Cllr Mrs D. Todd	01543 278778
Cllr R. Wilkinson	07956 994199
Cllr K. Fereday	01543 317967
Cllr D. Bilbie	07514 786146

Clerk to the Parish Council Mrs L Florence
01543 276812 (between 10am-2pm)

Useful Contacts for District, County and Other Matters

Residents may wish to keep a note of local councillors' and MP contact numbers if they have any Cannock Chase district or Staffordshire County Council matters to discuss.

The district councillors are:

Cllr Mrs Zaphne Stretton	01543 276959
Cllr Josh Newbury	07884 111282
Cllr John Preece	01543 270789

County councillor: Johnny McMahon 07584 638 356
Email: johnny.mcmahon@staffordshire.gov.uk

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

This newsletter is put together by just two people:
Editor Janet Lee
Sub editor Sheila Harding
It is published by Norton Canes Parish Council
www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

Keep Your Spirits Up

To say that it's been a difficult few months would be the understatement of the century - but I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well.

I had hoped to be writing to you in happier times, but unfortunately we find ourselves still faced with the challenges of fighting coronavirus globally, nationally and in our communities.

This should have been a year in which we would have cheered on England to reach the Euro final in London and Team GB in the Tokyo Olympics (and possibly witnessed Liverpool lifting the premiership title for the first time, although feelings would have been mixed on that score).

Instead we've been watching daily updates on an unseen threat, and the tragedies it has left in its wake. Our daily lives have been disrupted in ways we could never have imagined and we are left longing for the day we can see our friends and family again.

But there is hope in all of this, and I am overwhelmingly proud of how we, as a community, have adapted.

I have seen so many examples of neighbours helping neighbours, of volunteers giving their time to help strangers and of those picking up the phone just so someone can hear a friendly voice. You are all a credit to Norton Canes and you should be proud.

I would also like to convey my thanks and appreciation to all key workers who work and live in Norton Canes. I do so on behalf of the village, but the noise that envelopes us across the village on Thursday nights gives far better justice than I can.

Finally can I thank everyone who decorated their homes and gardens for VE day weekend. The pictures and videos were wonderful and colourful, and really helped lift our spirits. An honourable mention goes to the 'interesting' costumes on display on Cherry Tree Road. Well done lads - giving Queen a run for their money- it's all for a good cause.

Times won't always be like this. These days will pass and things will get better. We'll soon be with our friends and family again and our wonderful clubs and societies will reopen. We'll get there.

Take care and be safe.

Cllr John Preece
Chairman Norton Canes Parish Council.

Cemetery Extension Update

Norton Canes Parish Council has continued working on a new cemetery project – adjacent to St James' churchyard - during the lockdown.
A council spokesperson said: "We have been working on this project for some time. "Despite many barriers, we are now in a position to move forward following planning permission that was granted on March 4.
"This is one project that we are working on during the lockdown to avoid further delays."
Anyone who has any queries about the project can ring the parish council clerk on 01543 329788 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Community Speedwatch

The local Community Speedwatch initiative has not been able to be deployed during lockdown.
But a Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said: "It will resume as soon as it is safe.
"The police have advised that from May 25 a speed awareness and enforcement campaign will commence across the county.
"As the roads have been quieter, there have been many reports of vehicles speeding, which the police are keen to stop."

Royal British Legion Branch Faces Closure

An appeal to save Norton Canes Royal British Legion Branch looks to have failed.
In our last newsletter we issued a desperate appeal for volunteers to come forward and run the committee, but sadly no-one came forward to fill the vacant roles.
Branch secretary David Smith said the most likely scenario is now that the branch will be in name only. In reality it will be run by Stafford with a Norton Canes 'chapter'.
Mr Smith said members will still meet at the village Lido club and he will still act as standard bearer if required.
But the branch will no longer exist in its own right.
Due to coronavirus no-one is able to meet at the moment anyway. But once meetings start again, Mr Smith sees Norton Canes becoming a subsidiary of Stafford.

Norton Canes Flower Club

Firstly at this difficult time we all hope that everyone is well and coping with the present situation.

The club has not been able to meet since February when we enjoyed a lovely evening with Simone Squire and at the moment sadly, we do not know when we shall be able to gather together again.
As soon as the club is in a position to be able to provide information then it will be done.

However here we are in Spring, with the gardens beginning to grow again, so lots of things to be done.
And we have been fortunate with the weather so far. We can still enjoy the flowers in the gardens around us even from a distance (when out on your walk) if you do not have a garden of your own.

This was to have been a celebratory year with a special programme for the fiftieth year of the club's existence.
But even if we cannot do it this year then there is always next year when we can continue to celebrate.

Stay safe, carry on flower arranging and keep looking forward to when we are able to meet again.

Best Kept Village Competition Cancelled

This year's Best Kept Village competition has been cancelled due to coronavirus.
But work continues on presentation of Norton Canes.
A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said: "Hopefully, soon you will see a lovely show of summer plants and hanging baskets thanks to the hard work of our lengthsman John Lee.
"Our litter-picking in areas has not been as regular as we would have liked -and unfortunately there has been an increase in fly-tipping in some areas due to the closure of recycling plants.

"Any help residents can give in keeping the areas where they live tidy would be really appreciated."

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

Photo Society Via Skype

Cannock Photographic Society is currently closed due to COVID-19 and is likely to remain closed for the rest of the season.
In order to keep the club's spirit alive and keep members in touch with each other (which is so important in this troubled time) the club has been having weekly Skype meetings.
These meetings follow the lines of our normal club meetings in so much as we have lecturers giving talks and showing their photographs, and also club competitions.
We had an interclub battle with Great Barr camera club which I am glad to announce Cannock won.

Norton Canes Practice

Norton Canes Practice
Partners in Life

Doctors and staff from Norton Canes Practice would like to thank our staff for their understanding and patience during these difficult times.

Dr B K Singh

Since the pandemic started we have been taking prescriptions over the phone and been carrying out phone consultations. This has meant that the phones are busier and it takes longer to get through. But we are open normal hours and calls will be answered as soon as we can.

Don't forget we are open for any patients who need urgent care, so please don't be afraid to contact us. We are there for you.
The Carers Association (CASS) continues to offer support to unpaid family carers during this time via the helpline 01785 606675, email ingo@carersinformation.org.uk or visit www.carersinformation.org.uk for more information, advice and emotional support.

We look forward to a time when the virus is a thing of the past and we can visit our friends and relatives. Until then stay safe, keep a safe distance and remember to wash your hands more often.

Take a Look at Displays Around the Village

Norton Canes children and local residents have created amazing artwork which can be seen around the village..
There are painted pictures in support of Nightingale staff - which have been placed on display at the village Medical Centre. And coloured stones left around the village in support of the NHS.
Local fundraiser Brenda Rose created poppy decorations which she has placed in her window and door. Brenda knitted three colours of poppies: red for remembrance, white for peace and purple for animals lost in wartime.
And Norton Canes Library window is displaying pictures by local children.
Library volunteer Val Brabazon invited children to send poppy pictures via the library's Facebook page.
The pictures are displayed alongside a beautiful embroidery by local resident Jean Hill.
See pictures on page 28

Rainbows, Rainbows Everywhere

Well done to all the children and adults in the village who have taken the challenge to 'paint a rainbow' to cheer us all up in these troubled times.

The rainbow is a symbol of peace and hope - as they often appear when the sun follows heavy rain.

These colourful pictures in people's houses make us smile when we are out on our daily walk.

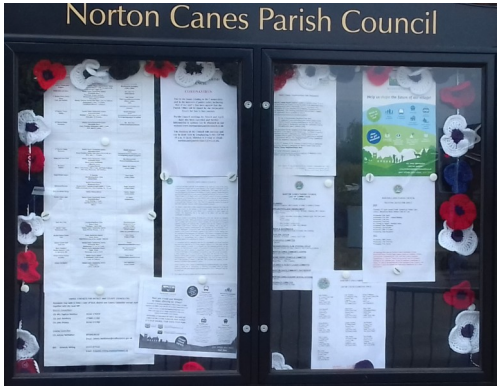
It was lovely to see this wonderful display in Norton Canes Medical Centre, dedicated to NHS staff who are on the frontline doing such a splendid job helping to fight the coronavirus.

see picture on page 28

The Cema

Because of the current situation plans have been put on hold for upgrading the Cema park on Church Road/Chapel Street.
Children were to be asked to put forward their ideas for the play area. As this cannot be done in school at the moment it is intended to ask parents and children to work on an on-line project.
We still want your ideas and the council will be working with schools to set up this event.
The footpath construction will go ahead as soon as it is safe to start work.
Councillor Sheila Harding

Norton Canes Remembers and Celebrates



Parish notice board on The Bridge Crossroads with crochet poppies by Cllr Sheila Harding



Notice board at the Co-op entrance



Norton Canes Community Centre notice board with embroidery by Jean Hill



Parish Office with flags and knitted squares by parish council clerk Linda Florence and Cllr Sheila Harding



Bunting on Guides and Brownies' garden in Norton Green Lane.



Remember:
Norton Canes British Legion poppies with embroidered banner by Jean Hill, in display case outside the Co-op



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 DIRECT 2U®

Rugs

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

Customer Satisfaction

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

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

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

OFFICIAL The Most Loved Carpets & Rugs Business in the UK
thebestofwalsall
thebestof.co.uk/walsall
6yearsrunning
Official - The Most Loved Carpets and Rugs Business in the UK

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

CARPETS DIRECT® 2U
your local family run discount carpet store
OFFICIAL The Most Loved Carpets & Rugs Business in the UK
thebestofwalsall
thebestof.co.uk/walsall
6yearsrunning
Visit your local Carpets Direct 2U stores at 5 convenient locations
1000's of room sized carpets & vinyls up to 50% off
Free measuring service, no obligation, professional fitting service
This is what customers say...
"Fantastic carpet shop" – Louise R
"Great quality carpet" – Clare S
"Excellent service, excellent fitting, friendly staff" – Suzanne W ★★★★★
RUGS DIRECT 2U®
Walsall's premier rug stockist!
Visit our 24 hour online store
www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk
Visit the huge showroom at our Pelsall store for a vast selection of rugs
email enquiries: info@rugsdirect2u.co.uk
VISIT OUR NEW STORE
324/326 CRANKHALL LANE, WEDNESBURY WS10 0DX
OPEN 6 DAYS / MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
TEL: 0121 502 1444
ALDRIDGE BRANCH
1 ANCHOR ROAD, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL WS9 8PT
OPEN 7 DAYS
MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
SUN 10AM - 4PM
TEL: 01922 456457
PELSALL BRANCH
29 HIGH STREET, PELSALL, WALSALL WS3 4LX
OPEN 6 DAYS
MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
TEL: 01922 691555
BURNTWOOD BRANCH
10 CANNOCK ROAD BURNTWOOD WS7 0BJ
OPEN 6 DAYS
MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
TEL: 01543 672025
NORTONCANES WAREHOUSE
UNITS 1+2 NORTON CANES BUSINESS PARK, NORTON GREEN LANE WS11 9SS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MON-SAT
TEL: 01543 277775
"Let us help you design your perfect floor"
New Luxury Vinyl Tile Showroom now open at Carpets Direct 2U
thebestof BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2016 TOP 100 UK BUSINESS
Carpets
Rugs
Vinyls
Laminate
Artificial Grass
Domestic & Contract
SUPPORTING OUR FORCES
LEALTA
countdown
Quidco
10 Cannock Road, Burntwood, WS7 0BJ
01543 672025
Call in for a no obligation quote
Free measuring & quotation service available
Ranges from Karndean, Polyflor, Luvanto and Universal
twitter.com/carpetsdirect2u
www.facebook.com/carpetsdirect2u
www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk

VE Day Celebrations

Local resident, retired head teacher Betty Fearns gives the victory sign – showing her approval for the red, white and blue bunting created by the village's Knit and Natter group.
Betty also approves of something else very important.
She was out with her daughter Trudy when they noticed the Bridge Chippy was open for business for the first time since lockdown.
She was pictured holding on tight to her chips and looking forward to tucking in.
Hooray!



V for Victory and Cheers to the Chippy



Tree on Guides and Brownies garden in Norton Green Lane wrapped in knitted squares by parish clerk Linda Florence





RAF Cadet Sergeant Sian Howes observing the two minutes' silence on VE Day and later leading social distancing VE Day party, Pinfold Lane and Church Vale



Car park poppies courtesy of Norton Canes British Legion branch



Painted poppies on the Co-op fence by Norton Canes Watecolour Club members.

Time to Smile

In these difficult times it's great to be able to smile. Here, Glynnis Briscoe (one half of Norton Canes comedy duo Dandy) gives her take on life under lockdown.



Glynnis on one of her scenic walks.

To quote Mr Dickens "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times!" Certainly it has been the strangest of times. It has brought us great tragedies, heroic deeds and the re-evaluation of our lives and those who share them.

Some of us have found an inner strength and some of us have discovered a weakness we didn't know we had. Chocolate, red wine and Antonio Banderas!

We are sharing the same fears as people in different countries all around the world. Suddenly we are without families, without friends, without social contract. Cast adrift on unchartered waters.

I have no wish to offend anyone or make light of these terrible events but a sense of humour has always seen us Brits through our darkest times.
We all have experienced the downside. The online shopping delivery slot from any of the supermarkets has become like the search for the Holy Grail. Apparently to get a slot you need to go online at 4am and your middle name must be Mary.



Dandy: Glynnis and Allan.

You must also be prepared for a delivery where a fresh chicken has been substituted by a plastic bucket.

The television has been such a downer if, like us, you are techno -phobic.
We have a basic TV, no roof aerial just rabbit ears we have to twist.
Allan has been known to stand in the hall on one leg holding it just to get a picture.
The choices have included every kind of death and destruction film, post apocalypse, sci-fi/horror they could dredge up: Contagion, Outbreak, They Came From Outer Space and so on. Jolly stuff.

The essential big shop differs from store to store.
Clad in plastic gloves, trying not to breathe as suspicious eyes glare at you from above a home made face mask that is pants.
I mean in some cases, literally 'pants'!
I scurry around apologising for existing then make an Olympic dash for the last bag of flour. I sold my soul for a bag of SR flour and made an upside down cake. Well, it was going to be a Victoria Sponge until I tripped over the rug…….

VE Day 75

by Sheila Harding

After seventy five years of moderate peace
We planned to celebrate with parties and feasts
But along came a virus like we've never known
And our troops have been needed to protect us at home

Building Nightingale Hospitals, delivering food to our door
Our armed forces are needed as never before
They support doctors and nurses in our NHS
Who put their lives on the line
And still cope with the stress
Of this pandemic virus called COVID-19
We must follow advice and keep our hands clean

We must all stay alert and a time will come
When we can join with our friends for parties and fun
We'll give thanks to the people who kept us all well
And hope for peace that will last and no virus to quell

The Unknown Soldier

By C F Barnes

Through the grey mist of dawn came a tattered old soul
The ghost of the unknown soldier.
Whose drab battledress was all tattered and torn
Whose life ripped to shreds was all over.
His blank vacant eyes were just staring ahead
Seeing nothing but heartache and sorrow.
Searching in vain for a place for him to call home
Somewhere to go when this lot was all over.
But try as he might he was drawn to this place
To this field of smashed limbs and lost comrades.
To the mass mad heroics of Flanders and Somme
To an upturned tin hat on a war grave.
But in the place where he worked his name is engraved
On a concreted slabbed roll honour.
But he's remembered no more. He's just a name on a wall
Just a name with a rank and a number.

A practical photography group for all levels and abilities



A new practical photography group at Norton Canes Library has had to close for the moment due to coronavirus.
But Sally Arnott, her husband and Naomi Howe, who run the group on Wednesday evenings, aim to re-start when they can.
In the meantime Sally can be contacted on mel64uk@yahoo.co.uk or 07508 237 004.
The group is also continuing on Facebook.
Sally said: "We are posting projects, tutorials for people to follow for free during the restrictions and running little competitions until we can get back to normal.
"If people require any other photographic services after restrictions they can contact us on the email address or number above - or browse our website www.lesarnottphotography.co.uk."

Forget-Me-Not

The Forget-Me-Not event at Norton Canes Library has been postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis.
The event was due to take place on May 16.

Norton Canes parish councillor Sheila Harding said: "We are still working towards making Norton Canes an official Dementia Friendly Community.

"With this in mind the Forget-Me-Not event will go ahead as soon as it is safe for us all to come together for advice, fun and food.
"I look forward to seeing friends old and new at future Alzheimer's and Dementia Friends events."

Continued from page 8:

The bank is a whole different ballgame. Some have been very helpful - some not so. I watched someone with a clipboard walk up and down the self distancing queue at one bank interrogating them.
"That is NOT essential banking! Go home and do it online!"
"I haven't got a computer."
"Well - go home and build one! NEXT!!"
Understandably they are not keen to have us inside wearing masks. They've seen too many films.
"What did the man look like?"
"Well, he had grey eyes and was wearing some pants over his face!"
We just have to remember we are all frightened and trying to play our part in an unscripted production with no predictable end.





We have taken our daily exercise down the lanes behind the church and up to the Orbital. Met many friendly people en route. Some we didn't realise we already knew. We just all look different with no haircuts, no diets, no hair colours, no shaving. Allan says my beard is coming on a treat!
It's all a bit "Pyjamas Rock" regime.
Allan found a pack of pants at the back of the wardrobe with days of the week on them. Unfortunately he has to drop his jeans for me to check what day it is. I think I prefer to remain ignorant.
We haven't resorted to over-cleaning - rather resorting to the 'Well, nobody is going to see it anytime soon' theory. Although we have found a pair of glasses Allan lost three years ago behind the sofa.

Some weird happenings. A catholic priest in Dublin has been hearing confessions on the church car park - chairs at shouting distance.
There will be a few divorces in the offing over there.
Saw one of our neighbours down the street sitting outside the front of the house. I shouted to him "Taking the sun?"
"Not really. The wife is in the house singing. I'm sitting here so people don't think I'm hitting her!"

Bit fed up so we got out a map of the world and some darts. Stuck it on the wall and said wherever the dart lands we will go there when this is over.
Looks like we will be spending two weeks down the back of the fridge.

Hold on to your Happy.

Message from County Councillor Johnny McMahon



I am afraid that due to the pandemic, I have been unable to hold my usual Saturday surgeries at Norton Canes Library.

This is a very worrying time for all as we face a national crisis that effects everyone in the village.

It is clear that the community spirit in Norton Canes has come to the fore in helping and looking out for each other. For that you deserve a heartfelt thanks.

If, whilst surgeries are not possible, you need your county councillor to help, I can be contacted on Johnny.mcmahon@staffordshire.gov.uk

Message from Friday Tea Dancers

Friday Tea Dance celebrations take place at Norton Canes Community Centre in ‘normal times’.



But due to the coronavirus, members’ 75th VE Day street party was cancelled.

Tea Dance spokesman Mort Bakewell described the cancellation as ‘a big disappointment’
“We had it all planned out for our Forties Street Party - with flags, bunting, wartime CDs, singing and dancing to 40s Music - but alas, as with everybody else, all cancelled,” he said.

"We’ll meet again, don’t know where, don’t know when, but we will meet again.

“We wish everyone in the village a healthy return to a normal environment. Keep safe. Keep well.”

To avoid disappointment items for the September 2020 newsletter must be sent to Jan by August 1.
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Message from Silver Sneakers



We are all having to stay apart and we miss our weekly exercise class.

However we must stay positive and continue to phone each other for daily support.

Since our last newsletter we have sadly lost a valued member, Gwenda, who was a member from the beginning. We all lit a candle on the day of her funeral in her memory. She will be sadly missed.

We also gained a new member, Peter, who has been attending weekly. A gentleman at last!

Our gentle exercise class normally meets on Thursdays at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 12.30pm. We will start to meet again when restrictions have been lifted and it is safe to do so.

If you are interested in joining please ring Pam on 01543 899367 or Jan 01543 495796. If you leave your name and number we can ring you when we start again. Hopefully it will not be too many months away. In the meantime please do some daily exercise at home and stay positive.

Pam and Jan

Norton Canes Judo Club



We hope you are all safe and well and keeping up your daily exercise. As soon as we have any information when we are able to start training we will put it on our Facebook page.

For anyone looking for something judo-related to fill their time there are some activities for kids on the British Judo Association website.
We look forward to seeing you all again. Keep your distance and keep safe.

We WILL Meet Again



Norton Canes Lido Club secretary has promised members they will meet again.

Like many others across the country, the club is closed due to coronavirus.
But club secretary David Smith said: “We will be reopening as soon as safety allows.”

Mr Smith is looking forward to welcoming groups such as the Chess Club and Over 60s back.
“But safety comes first,” he added. “We will all be together.”
Mr Smith said he would also like to thank everyone for the efforts they made for VE Day.

“I saw all the bunting and it made me feel very proud,” he said.



Message from your MP Amanda Milling



Over the past two months we’ve all had to make huge changes to our everyday lives.

We’ve been working from home, practising social distancing, only going out for exercise or trips to the supermarket and some of you have been teaching from the kitchen table.

I want to thank all of you for the huge changes you’ve made because it’s these efforts that have helped protect our NHS and save lives.
Despite us being apart, our community has continued to thrive. An army of volunteers and community groups continue to get vital supplies to the vulnerable.
Each Thursday our clapping for all the NHS and health care heroes echoes louder and louder from streets across Norton Canes.
We even marked the 75th anniversary of VE day by flying flags from our homes to remember the courage and sacrifice of men and women in the Second World War.

Everyone has a role to play in continuing to control the virus.

You can return to work if it’s not possible for you to work from home.
If not we must stay at home as much as possible and work from home if we can, limit contact with others, keep our distance when we go out, wash our hands and self-isolate if we, or if someone in our household, has symptoms. We can control the virus if we all stay alert.

By doing this we can keep the rate of infection and the number of new cases down. If we stay alert and follow the rules, in the coming weeks, we will slowly be able to start getting life back on track.

In the meantime I will continue working with the NHS Trust, police, Staffordshire County Council and Cannock Chase Council to ensure that new changes are implemented and any issues you raise with me are tackled.

As always, if you need to contact me for help with any issues or concerns please do get in touch on amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or visit www.amandamilling.com/contact

Chase Coronavirus Support Network: a Volunteer's Story

My wife and I were volunteering for Catherine Care, a local day centre for adults with learning disabilities, prior to the lockdown. The operation of the centre ceased when the coronavirus pandemic took hold in the UK.
I also had my latest business project stopped by the pandemic. Having lived in Norton Canes for 43 years I was keen to help residents in any way I could. We had signed up for the NHS volunteers and the Good Samaritans, which are both nationally organised, but had not received any instructions or tasks with these organisations. So when I received the card detailing what the Chase Coronavirus Support Network (CCSN) was proposing, I immediately registered myself and my wife as volunteers.
Using Whatsapp to organise communication to the group has proved to be very successful and having a number of local co-ordinators and a local communications centre and IT hub is also a very good idea. Credit should go to the individuals who have set up and are running CCSN across the Cannock Chase area. Those who very early on set up the network, who have remained pretty much anonymous, are to be congratulated for their foresight, vision and hard work.
They have provided support to the local community in a detailed and caring and timely manner, which the government and more formal organisations have not been able to do. I feel that the government should make use of the various local organisations to implement future support packages i.e. testing and contact tracing, as our local organisations have proven to be a powerful tool in implementing support for our local community.

For both my wife and myself, the voluntary work we have done over the last eight weeks has been rewarding. This has included: fetching medication and shopping for those in isolation and shielding loved ones; dog walking; talking to those in isolation; and more recently helping with the manufacture of face shields and disposable hospital gowns. Talking to members of the local community, it has become apparent that some thought the card was some sort of scam, which we have been at pains to correct. There have also been a number of people who did not want to bother anyone and it is clear that many people feel that by asking or accepting help and support they have somehow failed.

Nothing could be further from the truth. We volunteers have been happy to help and maybe we need to do more in the future to foster the 'community' spirit of the village to create an integrated, village support network.
CCSN has been able to mobilise a fantastic group of caring individuals in our local community, which has given support to local people, care homes and hospitals - and it has been a pleasure and privilege to be part of it.
Please keep up the good work and let us use this bad experience to build something much better for our community

Richard and Sue Davies

St James the Great Church

As with everyone else, lockdown is making a great difference to the way we work.

We are pleased to say that daily Mass services have been celebrated from the rectory and streamed on our Facebook page. This has enabled us all to keep in touch whilst the church building had to be closed to all.

One breakthrough on May 11, Father Neil was allowed to celebrate a private Mass from church with members of his household.
It was a pleasure to see the inside of the building again and join Fr Neil and Sue in the celebration.

Due to social distancing it may be a long time yet before we can meet as a congregation. We look forward to getting back to normal again and welcoming everyone back especially those for whom weddings and baptisms have had to be postponed.

We pray for all those adversely affected by COVID-19 and give thanks for the work of the NHS and other key services.
Mass is streamed daily at 10am Monday to Saturday and 10.30am on a Sunday - and available on video after the event so please join us.

Hopefully by the time the next newsletter is produced we will be getting back to some kind of normality.
Have faith and keep safe.

More inspiration from our local poet Brenda Benton

Spring's Promise was the first poem she ever wrote



Spring's Promise

Thank you Father
for the promise of spring.
For the birds and the flowers
and the joy that they bring.

Off with the old life
and on with the new.
Think of the pleasures
God has in store for you.



Brownies and Guides Busy in Lockdown

The 2nd Norton Canes Brownies and Guides are unable to meet at the moment due to government guidelines.

But in the meantime the girls are able to access meeting ideas, activities and festivals online at girlguiding.org.uk

Their leader Helen Jenkinson said: “We will resume at a later date when guidance changes.”

The girls usually meet at Trinity Methodist Church on Tuesdays during term time: Brownies from 5pm-6.15pm; Guides 6.40pm-8pm.

Message from Trinity Methodist Church



Although our church building is closed due to COVID-19 our church certainly isn’t.

We are sending/taking out ‘Worship at Home’ to everyone every week and we have well attended Zoom Worship every Sunday at 10.30am.
We keep in touch with each other by phone, text and email to keep each other’s spirits up.

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

If you need prayer phone, contact Ian on 01543 276695 and we will mobilise our prayer warriors.

Meanwhile, stay safe, be kind to each other.
God bless.

Chris and Ian Straughan
*The church is in Poplar Street, Norton Canes

We usually carry information about dance nights at Norton Canes Community Centre. But like many other events, they are not taking place for now.
Instead of sending us her usual information, dance organiser Jenny has written this poem of lament.

Ode to Dance Nights



We miss our Friday nights at the dance.
7.15 - all turn up looking great,
Meeting mates.
All aglow
Ready to go.



Dance and sing, let it ring.
The ladies spin, the dresses flow,
The shoes sparkle - watch them go.

The music is loud, the bingo is fun
The Xmas Carol? Are they mad in the sun?
The drinks are flowing by the end of the night
(Andy's face is glowing).

Love you all
Jenny xxxx

Can Chase Coronavirus Support Network Help You?

Our volunteers have helped over 2,000 people to buy shopping, collect prescriptions and walk dogs during the COVID-19 crisis.
We've also got a team of ‘chatters’, because we know how the days can drag when you can't get out and about and need a friendly voice to hear from.

You don't need to have received a letter from the NHS. We will help anyone who hasn't got friends or family who are able to support them.

We are currently helping over 100 people every day and can help more - especially people in Norton Canes. Just call 01543 220124, leave a message and one of our friendly volunteers will call you back. Chase Coronavirus Support Network www.CCSN.org.uk

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,

Having a fixed price menu means you know exactly what you will pay when it comes to collecting your car.!

We Promise to NEVER apply any hidden charges, Any surcharges will be discussed upon booking, Rest assured if we notice anything we think you will benefit from doing while your car is with us, we will always contact you and let you have the choice.

Something you don't understand? No problem let our experts explain exactly what's wrong, how it can be fixed and we can even show you old parts to prove what we have done.

Fancy Something Extra?

If your car has a large engine the oil capacity is usually large so we have to cover our costs for the addition oil and as such there is a surcharge of £26 likewise if your car or you request a specialist type of oil we need to charge you for that too but everything will be explained upon booking.


Diagnostic £35


Brakes


Dash Cams


MOT £37.50


Air Fresheners & Mini Valets


Consumables/Essentials


Tyres


Wipers


Exhausts

"Just by Norton Aluminium!"

Open As Usual

During The Coronavirus Outbreak

Protecting Customers & Colleagues With Additional Hygiene Procedures
- Designated Key Drop & Social Distancing Measures

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 - All Makes & Models

10% OFF Any ... Service MOT Or Labour

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

GB 0% Finance

*We offer a **0%** Interest Free & Fee Free Payment Plan*

No Credit Check Required*

As recommended on thebestofcannock

thebestof BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2019 WINNER IN CATEGORY

Google Reviews 5.0 ★★★★★

TRUSTPILOT ★★★★★

* up to invoice value of £1000