September 2022 Issue 39

Norton Canes Village News

Vandals Ruin Cema Park Progress



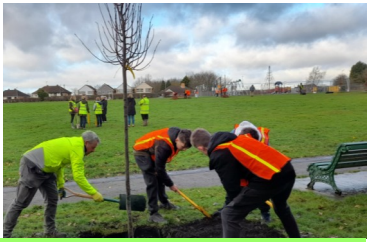
The Cema park, Chapel Street, Norton Canes.

Local councillors and residents are in despair about mindless vandalism at the Cema park and at the village's flower display areas.

The parish council invested time and money into those areas but much of the improvements are being lost due to the behaviour of a minority.

Local councillor Josh Newbury said: "Many residents, particularly our youngsters, have been enjoying the new and improved Cema park in Chapel Street since it reopened earlier in the year.

"But in recent months, enjoyment of the Cema has been ruined. Residents have reported seeing young people stripping the new trees - before they have had a chance to grow properly.



Councillor John Preece planting trees with pupils from Norton Canes High School in February.

"Small shrubs have been ripped out for use in 'sword fights' or for throwing at dogs. We are now seeing mature trees targeted and flowers have been taken from decorative garden areas elsewhere in the village."

Cllr Newbury said antisocial behaviour is also a concern.

"Teenagers have been gathering at the park benches in the evening and disturbing nearby residents by screaming and swearing," he said. "Local police have been made aware of this and are including the park in their patrols."

Please turn to page 3

A big hello.
Happy September – and welcome to the 39th edition of your newsletter.

In this edition we have much to celebrate, much to inform you about (and a few things to moan about). But we hope you also find things to smile about. The aim of the newsletter is to be informative and upbeat.

So please, if you have anything you would like to share, email me in time for the next edition.

We hope newcomers to the village are finding Norton Canes a welcoming environment. There are many clubs and societies offering a welcome if you wish to join.

We have been through some trying times and it looks like more difficulties are on the horizon for all of us due to the cost of living. But there is friendship and help on hand for those who need it. (See details of the many organisations in this newsletter). If your club or organisation has not received a mention in the newsletter yet, please email me. If you don't contact me I don't know you're there!

We have included photos of some of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations – when many villagers enjoyed getting together. Let's keep that community spirit going……..

Much love Jan
Editor

New Cemetery Update

Plans for the new cemetery adjacent to St James' Church, Norton Canes, are moving forward at last.

The parish council is now entering the legal process to buy the land.
A parish council spokesperson explained: the delay has been due to lengthy negotiations about the access pathway to the new cemetery site from the existing churchyard.

"But this has now been resolved with the Diocese," the spokesperson said.

"As part of the planning permission the internal wall in the churchyard will be demolished and a new feature installed.

"We are hopeful that this project can now move forward in a more timely way."
For more details ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Continued from front page.
Cannock Chase Council owns the park and has invested substantially in the upgrade whilst the parish council and many residents contributed ideas and local knowledge. Cllr Newbury said the village can be ‘rightfully proud’ of all the much needed improvements.

Norton Canes Parish Council clerk Linda Florence said: "So many fantastic improvements have been made to the Cema and other green spaces in the village. But at the moment a tiny minority of youngsters are spoiling it for everyone else - including for many their own age."

A local resident added: “Every time my husband goes to litter pick at the park he notices that yet another tree has died. We know it's been a difficult time weather wise but a lot of it is down to vandalism.”

Another local resident witnessed three adults lifting their children over the Cema fence then climbing over it themselves, trampling a hedge which was already struggling to grow in the heat. The resident is calling for the fence to be made higher.

Visitors to the park are asked to use the three entrances: two in Chapel Street, one in Pennycress Green.

There are also problems with visitors to the Cema leaving their cars opposite residents’ houses in Chapel Street.

They struggle to get out of their drives and parked cars cause ‘mayhem’ for traffic going through the chicane, a local resident said.

There were some teething issues with the Cema upgrade. Many residents noticed the lack of grass cutting in May and June - because contractors ordered the wrong size for a new gate on Pennycress Green so the council's cutters could not fit through. The gate has since been replaced at the contractor's expense.

On the plus side - wildflowers have been added as well as new sections of footpath to create a circular running route.

The outdoor gym equipment is also due to be replaced towards the end of October (at no cost to the taxpayer) due to it being substandard.



Councillor Steve Loundes

**If you would like to do something positive for the community, local councillor Steve Loundes is forming a litter-picking group. He has already had some response from a recent appeal in this newsletter but would welcome more volunteers. For more information ring Steve on 07859 361 849.*

A Fond Farewell to Linda

Norton Canes parish councillors experienced an emotional August as they said goodbye to retiring parish clerk Linda Florence.



Linda (front left), pictured with councillors at her last parish council meeting.

Linda has been with the parish council for over a decade.

Many community events, village features, and projects bear her mark.

We can say without doubt if it wasn't for Linda the community gardens, lantern parade, parties in the park, flower displays, decorative islands, village memorial stone, flag pole at The Square and Christmas trees would not be here to enjoy.



Farewell and happy retirement to our clerk Linda Florence, pictured outside the parish office.

A parish council represents the lowest rung of local government - not responsible for statutory services like roads and schools (Staffordshire County Council's responsibility), nor parks and council housing (which Cannock Chase Council maintains). A parish council is there to develop community events and enhance village features.

As our clerk, Linda has ensured that Norton Canes Parish Council slowly but surely, has developed many of its green spaces and public areas.
She has ensured that we have more projects in the pipeline with areas on Betty's Lane, Hednesford Road and High Street earmarked for improvement.

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Many village children know her from when she visited schools to help design and build their lanterns for the lantern parade.

The Jubilee Party in the Park was one of the best days out in recent years. This wouldn't have been possible without Linda.

Even in darker times during Covid, Linda was there for the community, carrying out her clerking duties as best she could whilst in isolation.

Linda lives in Norton Canes with her husband Chris. I am sure when retired she will fully embrace her role of doting, loveable grandmother.



Norton Canes beacon lights up the sky.

At the beacon-lighting event earlier in summer I was going to be lighting the beacon. Not a chance! There was only one person who deserved the honour that night.

As parish councillors, we were proud and delighted to see Linda represent our community at such a prestigious national event.

I hope you have a long and happy retirement Linda. We will miss you immensely and look forward to seeing you at future parish council events.

John Preece
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman

We Are Here For You

A big thank you is due to companies that regularly donate items for the Saturday morning food bank in Norton Canes.



Fresh food every Saturday

Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece tells me 35 people attended the food bank at Victoria Working Men's Club, Norton East Road, on Saturday August 20.

Each person was able to leave with a bag of much appreciated food.

Anyone needing a top-up in these difficult times can drop by on Saturdays, 10am-11.30am–or until the food runs out.

Councillor Sheila Harding

Norton Canes Neighbourhood Plan: Update and Next Stages

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the consultation we held in summer and autumn 2021.

The results have been collated and will be put on the parish council website in the next couple of months.

We can now prepare a draft plan (more details in October and November) then we hand our final plan to Cannock Chase Council who will take it forward to independent examination and a referendum.

Parish councillors and volunteers have made great progress. Data has been collected on footpaths, local open spaces and shops, and buildings of local heritage interest.

We are now writing policies and proposals to go into the draft plan considering the views expressed by the local community last year.

The topics we are working on are: healthy living; sustainable travel; protecting and improving the biodiversity of the countryside; protecting the historic environment including the former Grove Colliery site; protecting and improving open spaces in the village; improving local shopping and other local services; community facilities; education; the local economy; housing and identifying a list of 'asks'.



Grove Colliery

We are hoping to use Neighbourhood Development Orders – the equivalent to outline planning permissions.

The Neighbourhood Plan will allow you to have a say in Norton Canes' future.

We do have to fit in with Cannock Chase Local Plan. We can have a say in housing, employment, and transport matters but we don't make final decisions.

To protect our green belt as best we can we have developed a list of asks: investing in Grove footpath/cycle network; improving biodiversity across the parish;

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resolving unauthorized gypsy and traveller encampments which impact on the environment of footpath and bridleways in the parish; identifying a site for specialist housing for the elderly; supporting policies to deliver small bungalows; providing a safe crossing of the A5 by Cannock Extension Canal; an extension to the Community Centre; helping to deliver good quality small business units for new and expanding local businesses; supporting initiatives to train/ employ local people; supporting expansion of health services.



Please get involved whatever your age as the Plan can influence your future.

**Follow links in this newsletter or visit www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk*

Recycle!

Need a second bag for your paper and cardboard recycling? You can order another blue bag by ringing 01543 462621 - or visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/do-it-online/request-it/lost-bin-new-bin-request

Norton Canes Historical Society

Members meet at Norton Canes Library on the second Tuesday of the month.

The programme of events is as follows:



September 13: speaker Cliff Kirby Tibbits on History of Walsall and the Leather Industry.

October 11: speaker Nick Corder - Partial History of the Comic Song.

November 8: speakers David Bardell and Mick Byrne - Crimson Fields.

December 13: social evening.

Doors open at 7pm. Admission is free.

Visitors welcome.

Mo Garbett

You can tell this article is written by one half of Norton Canes comedy duo Dandy. Glynnis always makes us smile. Enjoy her down to earth take on life. The humour is certainly welcome nowadays.



Getting away from it all: Allan and Glynnis a.k.a. Dandy

Great to see people out attending events and getting on with life.

Lots of celebrations.
The Queen's Jubilee was a big success.
The jury is still out on Rod Stewart's 'Sweet Caroline' but I think he just put his own stamp on it. Diana Ross, despite calls of lip sync' did the full big hair, big frock, glam performance.
Sir Paul McCartney smashed it at Glasto and Mick Jagger gave his all and then some.
Something to be said for these golden oldies. Combined ages 313.
Keith Richards, who was photographed with his two young daughters, said: "When these die...I'll inherit everything!"

It takes me all my time to get out of bed these days.
Does anybody else find it hard to motivate themselves? If one of us drops something on the floor we spend the whole day pretending we haven't seen it until the other one picks it up.

Allan feels things went wrong back to when we first met. He said I told him I was 'interesting'! What I actually said was: "I am into resting!"

I constantly blame my inactivity on my great age, lockdown or being married to Allan.
My list of TO DO things increases by the hour. As I write this I am currently blaming the heatwave.

Apparently we have not experienced one before although I seem to remember - we used to call it summer, grab an ice loll and get on with it.

It brought to mind a memory. First sign of sun mum would say: "Not cooking today - salad!"
Then she would present us with a plate of limp lettuce, two tomatoes, a radish, a boiled egg and three pickled onions!

Every week I say: "The diet begins with the big shop!" All the healthy things I bought last big shop have withered and rotted - and each time I open the fridge or the cupboard they stare at me in an accusing manner. What to do with a dead melon?

All the recipes require doing 'things' in the kitchen. I am microwave compatible. My signature dish is a fish finger sandwich.

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Continued from page 8

I have hidden a lot of clothes in a 'come back to' box. I shall fetch them back out when I have lost two stone and three chins.

Did my parents feel this old when I was growing up in the sixties?

So many things I can't be doing with these days. They make me want to hit somebody with a shovel!

Just read an article 'How to raise your vibration to improve your aura'. It seems after a global crisis we should be fine-tuning our lives to counter negativity. Apparently this has meant an increase in people searching online for a floral ceiling!

You can get vegan paint now: 'white - with a hint of smugness!'

Somebody's having a laugh. Allan insists he has taken up meditation. From what I can gather this involves going to sleep and snoring while burning a joss stick and wearing a baggy shirt. Not sure how the lager contributed.

We are told to embrace 'mindful eating'. So much is plant based. Everything seems to come with leaves, sticks or seeds. I'm not a vegetarian but I eat animals that are - so it's nearly the same.

Allan had a wobble recently when they asked him if he wanted a shared plate. We're from the Black Country. We don't share food! We guard it like a wolf with its kill……..

More political shenanigans to look forward to. An unnamed MP said: "The only reason I'm not running for PM is I'm afraid no-one will come forward and say I've slept with them." Apparently this time last year Boris's only concern was his dog, Dilwyn becoming over romantic with visitors. This year he has been forced to resign with immediate effect - in three months time.

So, in 2020 we couldn't visit the shops - and this year we can't afford to.

The Bank of England has reminded the public to spend any paper £50 notes before September 30 as it will no longer be enough to buy anything.



Old woman behind me in Black Country supermarket: "One time yow cud cum in 'ere an' get 5lb of spuds, six eggs, a pack of Lur-pac and a joint of beef
I commiserated: "Rising prices!"
"No, all these blinkin' security cameras!" she said.

Keep smiling.

Glynnis Briscoe

Dandy

Lantern Parade

Norton Canes parish councillors are already planning the annual lantern parade to start the festive season.



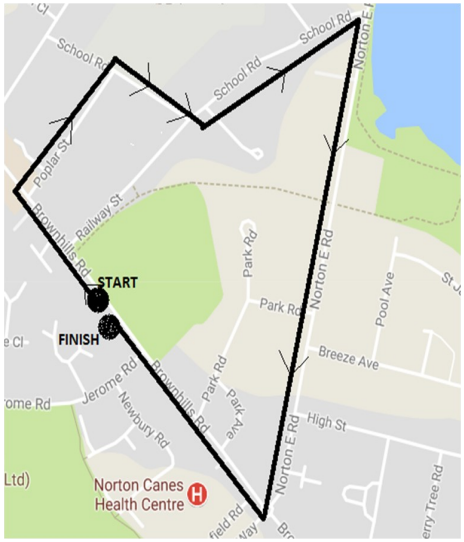
A scene from last year's parade.

The parade, which is always very popular, will take place on Sunday December 4 at 4pm, setting off from the Community Centre, Brownhills Road.

A parish council spokesperson said: "We have this year taken into account the World Cup which will probably involve England playing on that date - so for all you football fans we have decided to commence the parade earlier at 4pm. Please make a note in your diaries.

"We hope you will come along and take part in the parade."

The parade route will be the same as previous years. It will be led by a marching band, Santa on his sleigh, elves and characters – accompanied by festive music.



The parade route.

Lantern workshops will take place at village schools and uniformed groups. Lights will be provided for children taking part in the workshops.
If your child is not part of any of those then please come along with your own lanterns.

For more details see Facebook, the parish council website, village notice boards; ring the parish office on 01543 276812 or email: nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Well Done Our Two Maureens



Maureen Garbett

The work of two Norton Canes volunteers was recognised at a prestigious awards ceremony organised by Support Staffordshire.



Maureen Hall

Maureen Garbett was honoured in the over 65s support category for her work with Norton Canes Watercolour Club, Norton Canes Historical Society and Norton Canes Library craft groups which she organises.

Maureen Hall was commended for her continued work with the Royal Voluntary Service Darby and Joan Club whose members meet at Norton Canes Community Centre on Wednesday afternoons.
Norton Canes councillor Sheila Harding said: “It was lovely to see two Norton Canes stalwarts recognised at the Support Staffordshire Volunteer Star Awards.”

The awards are ‘to recognise the work of outstanding individuals and businesses who have given their time freely during what has been the most challenging of years’.
Described as ‘our own Pride of Britain awards’, the ceremony was to recognise those who ‘go the extra mile to support communities’.
Maureen Garbett was presented with a glass trophy. Both ladies were presented with certificates.
The Cannock Chase District event was held at Beau Desert Golf Club, Hazelslade, Cannock, on June 14.There were 10 awards presented during the evening.
**Support Staffordshire is the service for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. It is the largest independent voice for the community and voluntary sector - helping organisations develop and grow, find and support volunteers, secure sustainable income, and train staff and volunteers.*

Letter to the Editor

Unfortunately I came across this example of fly tipping in woodland behind St James' Church, near Washbrook Lane in Norton Canes.



STOP DUMPING STUFF.

Why offload unwanted items onto beautiful natural habitat, when charity shops accept such things for people to purchase - and in turn help others who would appreciate such donations?

The mind boggles!

Fuming Norton Canes resident.

**If you would like to send a letter to be included in our next quarterly edition please email Jan at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk or drop your letter into the parish office at the rear of the Co-op.*

Love Where You Live

While some people are intent on dumping rubbish – others dedicate themselves to making our village a brighter place.

Look at these areas where efforts have been made to enhance Norton Canes.

Thank you to all those who strive to make our village an attractive place to live.

Editor







Photos of Norton Canes by John Kraujalis

New Chess Season: Come and Play

I am pleased to announce that our chess club is growing well.

Due to this very healthy situation we have entered another team in the Cannock League so we now have two squads: one in Div3 and one in Div 4.

Last year we finished third out of seven in Div 3.

Now there is more scope for differing levels and we can accommodate all abilities.

Everyone can enjoy this game and improve if you give it a go.

We have a very friendly club and can cater for adults and children (as long as youngsters are accompanied by a parent or guardian).



Members meet at The Lido Club, School Road, Norton Canes, Tuesdays at 7.15pm.

If you are unsure please give me a ring on 01543 279989 or pop along and see for yourself.

Mike Hoare

Enjoy Afternoon Tea and help raise money for

'BREAST CANCER NOW'

The research & care charity

Where: The Marquee on Car Park to the rear of

Ann's Café

Walsall Road, Norton Canes

When: Sunday September 11, 2022

Time: 1.00pm for 1.30pm Sit Down

Tickets: £10 per seat. *Must be booked and paid for by Friday September 2, 2022*

In aid of BREAST CANCER NOW The research & care charity

Raising Money to Support People affected by Breast Cancer

Breast Cancer Now is a charity registered in England and Wales (1160558), Scotland (SC045584) and the Isle of Man (1200).

Church Re-Bourne



A Norton Canes church has merged with its counterpart in Heath Hayes.

Trinity Methodist Church in Poplar Street, Norton Canes, has merged with Bourne Methodist Church, Heath Hayes.

The Norton Canes church will now be known officially as Trinity Bourne Methodist Church.

Church spokesperson Chris Straughan said: “We are keeping both buildings, but Bourne will now have services on the first Sunday in the month at 3pm.

“Services at Trinity continue as always with a bigger fellowship.



Rev Margaret Eagles

“We are losing our minister Rev Margaret Eagles at the end of August as she is retiring.

“Our New minister will be the Reverend Chris Ambler (01543 876610).”



Rev Chris Ambler

‘We will remember them’



Remembrance Sunday services will be held at St James’ Church and Trinity Bourne Methodist Church on November 13, 2022. Details are yet to be finalised.

For more information visit their websites and Facebook pages nearer the time:
www.stjamesnortoncanes.org.uk and
www.cannockchasemethodists.org.uk

**Norton Canes Parish Council will be co-ordinating a Remembrance parade this year. Please keep an eye on social media and the village notice boards for details nearer the time.*

Message from your MP Amanda Milling



It was so exciting to see the Queen's baton passing through Cannock Chase.

The day of celebration was something to remember and shows what a warm welcome the mountain biking competition can expect when they come to Cannock Chase as part of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

There was an incredible turnout from the community along the route of the baton relay, and at the stopping points in Rugeley, Hednesford and Cannock. Be it people cheering on the baton-bearers, community celebrations at the stopping points or the many smiles on people faces, it was a magical day.

Cannock Chase hosting the mountain biking is a huge honour for us and truly puts the Chase on the map internationally. I hope that this is something we can long build on to ensure that the Chase remains an important visitor attraction in the area.

As ever, please do not hesitate to raise any issues with me by phone on 01543 877142, via e-mail at amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or in writing to 11a Market Street, Hednesford, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS12 1AY

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
01543 276812 (10am-2pm) or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

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

Norton Canes Library: Something for Everyone



Groups using the library weekly are:

Little Chicks on Mondays 10.30am-11.45am (parent and toddler group aged six months to five years).

Craft Group on Tuesdays, 10am-12 noon.

Card Craft on Thursdays, 10am-12 noon.

Let's Get Together Craft Group on Fridays 10am-12 noon.

'Open Arms' (simply pop in if you fancy a bit of a natter and tea or coffee). All welcome on Fridays 11am-1pm.

Knit & Knatter on Fridays, 1pm-4pm.



Why not join us for a cup of tea/coffee/natter on Saturday morning 10am-12.30? There will be local councillors there to give advice and answer questions you have about our village.

Groups using the centre monthly are:

1st Wednesday: League of Ladies, 7pm-9pm.

2nd Tuesday: Norton Canes History Group, 7pm-9pm.



A library spokesperson said: "We are always looking for new volunteers.
Feel free to come in for a chat."

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Library information continued from page 16

Good news! Norton Canes Library is now open all day on Mondays.

Revised opening hours are:

Mondays, 10am-5pm;

Tuesdays, 10am-1pm;

Wednesdays, main library closed but a Rhythm Time Class starts on Wednesday September 14 (for details visit www.nortoncanescommunitylibrary.co.uk);

Thursdays, 10am-1pm;

Fridays,10am-5pm;

Saturdays,10am-1pm (with free tea/coffee until 12.30pm).

Did you know?



Norton Canes Community Library offers a free home reading service for the elderly, vulnerable and less mobile members.

The service, run by volunteers, is available to residents who are perhaps homebound or unable to visit the library due to mobility issues.



Volunteers work on a particular set day (decided by the library) on a fortnightly basis during daytime only. No timed service can be offered.

The delivery/collection service is not generally available to all library members and is offered at the discretion of the library. Users must meet certain criteria.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this service ring the library on 01543 279592 for more details.

I'm looking for someone to brush my teeth with me.



I just found out that nine out of 10 dentists say brushing alone won't reduce cavities.

**Thank you Cllr John Bernard.*

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

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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 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**

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visit our website at www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk

Try being a Sneaker



Silver Sneakers gentle exercise group members continue to meet weekly - except in extreme weather conditions.

In that instance as long as we have some contact details we will always let you know if a class isn't going ahead.

We regularly get a good attendance and now, for those who wish to stay, we are socialising with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit for half an hour after class.

With the exercise and the cuppa afterwards it's also helping our wellbeing.

Please come along if you get chance.

We meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on Thursdays, 12.30pm- 1.30pm. The first week is free.

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

Forget Me Not event 2022

I would like to say a big thank you to Norton Canes Darby and Joan Club for letting me hold this year's 'Forget Me Not' event during their Wednesday afternoon meeting.

It was a very successful afternoon. Although we don't set out to raise money, it is primarily a social occasion offering advice where needed to people living with dementia in the family.

Thanks to the generosity of Norton Canes residents Jean Hill, Maureen Ansell and Pam Ratcliff we raised £177.70 for the Alzheimer's Society. The ladies in Pam's Wednesday Card and Craft Group made beautiful greetings cards and Jean Hill donated a lovely embroidered cushion for the raffle.

Unfortunately this was my last event as a 'dementia champion' for Norton Canes. I am pleased to say that Councillor Diane Todd will be taking over. Diane is very experienced and has been involved with dementia support in Heath Hayes for a number of years.

My special thanks go to Jenny Woodman, Gemma Cannon, Rayna Allen and Nancy Cooper for helping me on the day.

Sheila Harding

Fun Tots in the Great Outdoors

If you see tiny tots out and about in Norton Canes – chances are they are helping to improve our environment.



Youngsters in the great outdoors - watching deer near Leanne's house.

Youngsters up to the age of five, who attend Leanne's Learn and Explore childminding service, spend much of their time outdoors to learn about nature.

They enjoy activities such as planting, creating bird boxes and making bird food.

Leanne Cope, aged 34, said: "We experience seasons, weathers and nature first-hand. We hope that with their outdoor experiences and knowledge they will continue to care for and respect the environment as they grow."

Leanne, who has been a childminder for three years, also encourages youngsters to 'give back to our community'.

The children have taken part in 'random act of kindness day' by handing out flowers, litter picking, donating to a local food bank and saying 'thank you' to people who help them.

"We use 'natural treasure' from nature in our play and try to recycle what we can," Leanne added.

"I want the next generation to be resourceful and respectful," Leanne added. "I have always loved children and teaching. I have a passion for Early Years and the outdoors - so being able to combine the two is just so special.

"We love Norton Canes and feel very lucky to have what we have on our doorstep. "Children all have access to the environment and the community – and a lot of activities on our doorstep are free."



Creating a masterpiece in the rain - using washable powder paints

Leanne, who has three children of her own, runs her childminding service from home.

Her next projects involve: land by Chasewater Grange (belonging to Wyrley Estates); completing Hygge accreditation (training for early years educators to help them create a homely and calming practice) by the end of the year; and involving youngsters in a summer reading challenge.

**Check out Leanne's Learn and Explore Childminding Service on Facebook or ring 07403 368 431.*

Village Volunteer at Royal Concert

A Norton Canes lady who has devoted years of her life to running the village Darby and Joan Club was rewarded with tickets for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee concert.



Maureen Hall l(eft) and Pam Hopley at the Queen's Jubilee celebration concert

Maureen Hall, aged 86, received the tickets from The Royal Voluntary Service (RVS). She attended the concert at Buckingham Palace on June 4. Maureen's daughter Pam Hopley said: "This was something that she will remember forever.

"Mum is passionate about Norton Canes Darby and Joan Club which was started by the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) in August 1949. She lives for the club."

Maureen's mother-in-law Sarah Hall, was a founder member of the Darby and Joan Club.

Maureen started volunteering with the WVS in 1976, became leader of the Darby and Joan Club and still holds that position 46 years later, only missing a few years for family health reasons.

Club secretary is Eve Bartle, aged 90.

As well as the RVS Buckingham Palace treat, Maureen was also presented with a Staffordshire Volunteers Achievement award this year.
Norton Canes Darby and Joan Club was formed after the war to alleviate loneliness for older people.



Eve Bartle l(eft) and Maureen Hall at RVS 70th birthday celebrations

Members enjoy refreshments, bingo, speakers, holidays and outings. They celebrate special birthdays and Christmas.
This year members were treated to a summer outing to Llandudno to celebrate the club's 73rd birthday.

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Anyone over 50 and feeling lonely is welcome to join the friendly group.

Members meet at Norton Canes Community Centre, Brownhills Road, Wednesdays, 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Anyone interested in joining or volunteering can just turn up. New volunteers, of any age, would be most welcome.

For more details about joining the club or volunteering ring Maureen on 01543 279751.

** The WVS gained the Royal Seal of approval and became Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS). Today it has many male volunteers so is called the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS).*

Jenny and Terry's Dances

Norton Canes Community Centre
Brownhills Road
WS11 9SF

1st and 3rd Saturday each month Terry and Jenny's Social Dances

Dancing to *Jenny's Music*

***Halloween Dance Saturday October 29, 2022 ***

8pm-11pm, £5 pay on the door

1st Tuesday in the month Charity Fish & Chips Lunch Social, Fun Bingo, Dance 1.30pm-4pm, £8.50 includes food, bring your own drink. A Lovely Afternoon

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

Book your tickets early from Jenny 01922 415232 to avoid disappointment

Crafty People Wanted



A Norton Canes Craft and Card Group is looking for new members.

The 'small, friendly group' meets at Norton Canes Library on Friday mornings, 10am-12 noon.

Members enjoy craft and card making.



The £3 'pay as you attend' charge includes all materials, tuition and a cuppa.

Members also enjoy a good old chat.

Anyone who would like to join is invited to turn up on the morning.

For more details ring Lynn on 07375 916 865.

What's Happening Nearby?

Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Gardening Club

Friendly members of Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Gardening Club invite you to join them for their autumn series of events.

The following talks (with time for a chat and cup of tea or coffee) are lined up:

September 13: Howard Drury will be giving a talk 'The Men Who Inspired Me' as a counterpart to his previous beautifully illustrated talk 'My Famous Women Gardeners'.

October 11: A talk by jovial speakers Stan and Vicki of Craig House Cactus. The 'cactus couple' are multiple RHS Gold award winners.

November 8: Head gardener at Ashwood Nurseries Nigel Hopes will guide members through 'A Year in John's Garden' - one of the finest private gardens in the UK.

Members meet at the Village Hall, Buds Road, (WS15 4NB), 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Visitors are very welcome (£4 including refreshments). Annual membership is £20 (up to 10 talks for the price of 5). For more details/to view the photo gallery visit www.cwggc.co.uk

Norton Canes Flower Club

It's summer with light nights, some hot weather (very hot just recently) and the pleasure of being outdoors - even if one has to water the plants sometimes.
Members are looking forward to Autumn with leaves turning lovely colours and a good programme of events at the flower club.



Floral arrangement created during a practical session.

The demonstration in May with Dean Sharpe was very different with lots of new ideas and modern arrangements. An afternoon enjoyed by us all.

On June 15 the club held its first afternoon open event. It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all who attended. Lorena Dyer the demonstrator produced some beautiful arrangements using an assortment of superb flowers - and along with her repartee the audience were treated to a really enjoyable time.



Beautiful creation from the Lorena Dyer open demonstration.

July 20 was a practical afternoon led by Chris Flood when members learned to make a ring with an arrangement positioned in the middle which could be used indoors or as an outdoor decoration at for example a barbecue. It was a very relaxing meeting with members producing some lovely arrangements, all slightly different.

There will be no meeting in August. However, some members are visiting Winterbourne House and Gardens on August 17.
September 21 is the next meeting when there will be a demonstration by Jo Davis entitled 'Blooms and Tunes'. We are all looking forward to seeing Jo.
October 19 will be a 'Paper Flowers' workshop with Teresa Smith which should be very interesting.
October 26 is our annual meeting.
November 16 – subject of the meeting has yet to be confirmed. More news later.
December 14 Christmas celebration. More details to follow.

**Monthly meeting are held at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on the third Wednesday of the month, 1.30pm, unless otherwise stated.*
We look forward to seeing you. New members and visitors are most welcome.

For more details ring 01543 277492 or 01543 278370.

Fungi Inspired Art Exhibition



Natalya Griffin

Local artist Natalya Griffin held an inspired exhibition called Entangled
at Norton Canes Library.

Natalya, aged 42, from Chapel Street, Norton Canes, is currently finishing her BA Hons Painting Degree with the Open College of the Arts.

The exhibition was for her degree show. It featured a collection of large-scale canvas paintings, works on paper, sculptural 3D elements, photos, text, pyrography, and a fungi themed stamp collection. Here she explains the inspiration behind the event:
"Work for the show was created during the last two and a half years while I was working on my essay: Mycelium as a Method. It was inspired by fungi and mushrooms.
"I discovered many facts about their importance and about mushroom worship (called mycolatry). Cults that worshipped mushrooms date back to the ancient Maya, Aztec and Egyptian eras.
"My interest was reignited during the first outbreak of Covid-19. During lockdown it was impossible to visit galleries and museums, so in search of inspiration for my essay and body of work I began to walk more and re-establish my connection with nature.
"I began noticing the plants, fungi, a myriad of paths across Cannock Chase. I discovered facts about mycelium (the root system of fungi) and it resonated with me Using the subject metaphorically I interpret it as a net that connects all around us. "Combined with the network of paths we walk throughout our life, I used the imagery to create my Net Paintings and 3d Elements, where each step is represented as a segment (a hyphae) that connects all."



Natalya had work exhibited in London in February this year - some shown online as part of a Virtual Flux Summer exhibition.
She was awarded the Patricia Farrah Award for Painting in 2021.

Some of her works are inspired by fungi themed postage stamps. Each specimen is drawn freehand then transferred onto wood. Natalya uses a pyrography set to burn the image on. Natalya aims to work on a set of all stamps to create her own collection of 'pyroshrooms'.
She also recycles old canvassess, makes her own tools and uses 'found materials' - metaphorically using them to create mushroom work, giving new life to old things.
"I am grateful to Norton Canes Library for letting me host the exhibition in their premises," Natalya added. "I would like to express my gratitude to local residents for their support before and during the event."

**The exhibition ran from July 11-16. To view a short video visit https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cf4hWucFs0w/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link A summary of Natalya's artist statement is on https://www.natalyagriffin.co.uk/artist-bio*
Commissions are welcome

Portraits with the Cuteness Factor



What a wealth of talent we have in Norton Canes.
Local artist Katia Holmes, has just experienced her first exhibition at the Museum of Cannock Chase, Hednesford.

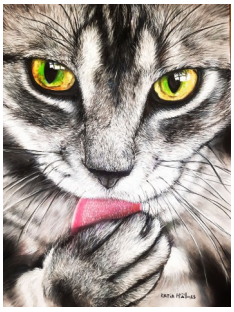
Katia, aged 40, specialises in 'photo-realistic' art. She paints highly detailed portraits of pets, horses, wildlife, children and people from photos. Katia said: "I have always loved animals and had a passion for art but in 2018 we rescued a little dog called Teddy. I couldn't resist trying to paint him."



"Once I'd finished, my husband said I should do this for a living - hence Pets Pawtraits by Katia. "I send my paintings worldwide but I am so grateful to local customers from Cannock and the surrounding areas who keep supporting me as an artist."

Katia works in collaboration with local photographers Bob Whorton, Suzie Bradbury, and Ann Wright who kindly let her use their fantastic wildlife photos as references for her artwork.

Katia will host a stall at Hednesford Park on August 13 where the dog show 'Scrufts' will be held.









**Katia works on a commission basis. See www.pawtraitsbykatia.com and www.facebook.com/pawtraitsbykatia*

What's On At Norton Canes Community Centre.

Day	Time	Event	Contact
Monday	10am.to 12 noon	Well being in mind	07563516121
	10.30am to 3.30 pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07459473519
	4.15 to 6.15	L'Rythmix dance class	07821774456
	7pm to 9pm	Simply crafting	07570452948
	7pm	Kano Judo Club	07549108829
Tuesday	9.30 to 3.30	Little group of sewers	0795848427
	11am to 12 noon	Tai Chi	07724183091
	4.45pm to 6.15pm	Rainbows and brownies	07711822291
	7pm to 8pm	Poundshedders	01543 278534
	7pm to 9pm	Indoor Bowling	07716356907
Wednesday	11am to 1pm	Norton Canes Craft Group	07968291694
	1.30pm to3.30pm	RVS/Darby and Joan	01543279751
	1.30pm to 3pm	Living springs community church – bible study group	07593850112
	5.45 to 6.45	Zumba	07894947334
	7pm to 10pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07459473519
Thursday	9am to 4pm	Crafty Sew and Sews	07412191439
	10am to 12 noon	Crafty Card	07845678003
	7pm to 9pm	Sugar Craft	07792549307
	8pm to 10pm	Cannock Photography Society	Cannockps.co.uk
Friday	10am to 12 noon	Tot's O'Clock	Janliv18@yahoo.co.uk
	1.30pm to 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	07716356907
	5.30pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07459473519
Saturday	10.30pm to 1pm	L'Rythmix dance class	07821774456
	8pm until late	1st and 3rd Saturday each month - Jenny's dance	07980327325
	8pm to midnight	2nd and 4th Saturday each month – Nev's Line Dance	
Sunday	Shining Stars	Weight loss and well being group	07742336815

What's on Later in the year at Norton Canes Community Centre



October 29, Barn Dance

November 20, Autumn Fair

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

December 10 and 11, Panto, Aladdin by Backstreet Theatre Company, 1pm and 5.30pm.
Tickets £7 (Family ticked for four £25) from



Swagman's Tales

Hilarious. Norton Canes made national headlines recently when a beaver ambled into the Yew Tree pub, then calmly sat on the decking outside under a chair. Yes, really! Dr Bob Whorton gives him a mention at the start of his wildlife tales……



'Just-in Beaver'

'Just-in Beaver' made an unexpected appearance in Norton Canes last week - appearing at venues in Norton Green, Conduit Road - and at the Yew Tree pub. Fortunately for him none of the local roads proved fatal as with several badgers and a fox last month. Happily, Gareth Jones popped over and took him to Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary for a short vacation, before being returned to the concert that he was supposed to be starring in…..a 'pet project' I'm told.

Our wildlife has been looking after itself well over the last couple of months. All the birds continue to shine, feeding themselves and there was even a new family appearing rather unexpectedly, after most of the area's breeding couples failed to lay or failed to hatch their broods.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) vets are working towards figuring out the full extent of avian influenza (AI) and the long-term effects it had on wildfowl including swans. Canada and Barnacle geese remain the main carriers. Most parts of Staffordshire reported deaths from avian Influenza last month including the popular JCB lakes outside Uttoxeter.

Contractors on the canals feeding Brownhills, Cannock and Black Country areas reported collecting over 30 dead wildfowl and gulls from the water - indicating that AI is still a threat.

Late to appear by normal standards, the family with four youngsters at Chasewater has done incredibly well and the cygnets now feed totally independently of mom and dad's help. Any worry we initially had about whether they would be ready in time for winter has lessened. The family had its life turned upside down at the 9' small overflow pool (near dam wall by pier 52) one evening when youths terrorised them into returning to the sailing club area.

Thankfully they have recovered from this idiocy and have returned to their favourite feeding grounds at the end of the dam.

Local police have attended on two occasions to break up illegal gatherings on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) property.

There has been a significant increase in Canada Geese around Chasewater and Pelsall Junction due to people feeding birds after rangers had gone home.
Our couple of swans at the Swag in Norton Canes have been doing well - apart from three instances when I had to remove hooks from Trinity's mouth, line trapping Mr M's leg on his back, then later the same week another hook

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Rangers have been actively discouraging fishing near Norton East Road bridge and areas frequented by the birds.

The Swag had several other rarer visitors last month, including little grebe and a shiny pair of egrets which have moved over to the adjacent Norton Bog.

The endangered water vole has been sighted again for the third year running. With the list of predators growing too there is no easy life for these cute critters which are distinguishable from the local rat population by a blunter nose.

The smaller bank vole can be seen regularly around The Swag, too. It's a treat to watch either species performing their tasks. The majority of their time is spent feeding among reeds and grasses. Like swans, these animals require to eat 75 per cent of their body weight daily.



Bank vole

If you see any mink in the local area in pools, lakes or canals please notify rangers as soon as possible. Mink are a dangerous invasive species - an indiscriminate killer of ground-nesting birds and mammals - and will even attack geese and swans, as we saw earlier in the year. Their agility in trees is equal to squirrels and they will often use the extra height to look for prey.
Incidentally, the affected swan is now fully recovered, thanks to a bit of TLC from Linjoy.

Since the loss last year of our mating pair on the Brownhills Road pools in Norton Canes no others have claimed the space for themselves.
With a reduced number of bonded birds there has been little requirement for extra nesting options outside of Chasewater.



'Family outing'

A big thanks to the Canal and River Trust for continuing to do an affective job on our remaining canal system, and even what is left of the original Cannock extension. Further work has been planned for repairs to four bridges along this section, especially Grove Bridge which is in daily use. The new small family of swans that successfully nested and reared five cygnets are now down to four, sadly.

The remainder are growing up fast and are frequenting the extension and the Fingerpost areas.

I would like to mention our wildlife and domestic animal rescue centres which are in constant need of funding. Norton Canes and Heath Hayes Facebook sites have contact details for all of them.

Backing Grass Roots Football



Director of football Ryan Horton with club shirt.

The founder of Norton Canes Football Club is showing his support years later by providing sponsorship.
Local businessman Wayne Adams founded the club with Neil Reid in 2001.
Wayne, who is now company director of Adams Enclosures decided to provide sponsorship – even though he is no longer part of the club.
The football club provides sporting opportunities for junior, youth and adults age four to 40+.
The club, run by Director of Football Ryan Horton, has an academy for ages four to six years; several junior and youth teams; and a senior men's and ladies' team.
It is one of the largest organisations in the local area, but like many grassroots clubs, has struggled financially since Covid to secure sponsorship and grants.
Adams Enclosures executive assistant Hannah Adams supported Ryan to secure the two-year sponsorship deal.
This will provide the club with huge financial security as it continues to grow and add further teams - in particular junior sides developing from the academy set-up; and the ladies' section (following a huge surge of interest due to the success of the ladies' national team in the summer).
Ryan said: "We are extremely grateful for the support of Wayne and his team. "The partnership brings back many years of memories."
When Wayne created the club all those years ago, he was Ryan's team manager along with his two sons (Tom and Jay) and their school friends.
The club went from strength to strength in size and reputation over the years.
Ryan has now followed in his previous manager's footsteps - supporting the general running of the club alongside a team of committee members.
Club members look forward to another season; and while proud of the club's history are also looking to the future.
For more information about the club ring 07926 270 993 or email info@nortoncanesfc.co.uk
*Adams Enclosures is a sheet metal design and manufacturing business that supports the UK's control panel industry.
The company specialises in the design and manufacture of bespoke control and switchboard enclosures.

Special Event and Invite

A hundred people witnessed the incredible portrayal of Peggy Knight, Special Operations executive in WW2 – created by Tutbury Castle historian/curator Lesley Smith.

The event, organised by Chase Arts for Public Spaces (CHAPS), was to raise funds to further enhance the National Miners' Memorial site at the National Memorial Arboretum. Lesley continues to generously support the Alrewas project.

Lesley became 'Peggy' – telling he story of her early childhood in Paris. Peggy was the daughter of a Polish woman and English soldier who stayed in France after WW1.

She moved to the East End of London, trained as a shorthand typist and worked for the Electricity Board. Because she spoke fluent French, she was asked: "Do you want to serve your country?" Her answer was "Yes."

She was sworn to secrecy, trained - and after one month, aged 24, was parachuted behind enemy lines in France to work with the French Resistance.



From left: Jackie Prince from CHAPS, Lesley Smith as Peggy Knight and Trish Mellor from CHAPS

At the end of the war back in Britain she married, had children and rarely spoke of her wartime exploits. Peggy died in 2004. On her gravestone are the words 'Love Conquers All'.

Lesley has now invited everyone to a Tutbury Castle fun day on September 10 this year - as a gift to all who supported the Miners' Memorial and in recognition of those who worked in the UK coal industry.

During the afternoon Lesley will give presentations - accompanied by pictures, based on her research into the lives of coal miners, women and children.

CHAPS will be arranging market stalls and entertainment including Lea Hall Brass Band and Ellise Locke Dance Group.

Admission is free but numbers are limited.

Anyone wishing to attend should email info@chaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk or ring 07813 003 236 to book a place and reserve a ticket. You can visit www.facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpaces for information

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

Councillors and a Cuppa



Councillor John Preece



Councillor Josh Newbury

District Councillors John Preece and Josh Newbury continue to pick up local issues raised by residents.

They are out and about in the village for their regular street surgeries – 'coming to you so you don't have to come to them'.

The councillors would also like to remind villagers that Norton Canes Library is holding a free coffee morning every Saturday from 10.30am. John and Josh try to attend as many of these as possible. Their message is: "These are a great opportunity to get out of the house and meet people. Who doesn't like a free cuppa?"

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

Councillor Surgery



Cllr Mike Hoare

District councillor Mike Hoare will be holding a 'political surgery' at The Lido Club, School Road, Norton Canes, on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Any resident who would like help with a problem can attend.

"I will always listen and do my best to help," Mike said. "If you prefer, please ring me on 01543 279989."

A man knocked on my door this evening. When I answered he said: "Dr Barnardo's home!"
I replied: "Oh, I didn't know he had been away."

**Thank you Cllr John Bernard.*



NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2022 ~ 2023

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
Cllr P. Sanders	07866 749390
Cllr W. Bird	07400 932929
Cllr S. Loundes	07859 361849

Parish Council Office: 01543 276812
(between 10am-2pm)
If the office is unattended please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

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

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

Norton Canes Celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of

HM Queen Elizabeth II





Cake, donated by the parish council, enjoyed at the Community Centre Jubilee event.



Saying it with flowers



70 flowers for 70 years



Darby and Joan Club



Display of Royal history by Roger Knowles



Trinity Methodist Church



Railway Tavern prepares to party