September 2023 Issue 42

Norton Canes Village News

Village Improvements Forge Ahead

Two exciting new projects are underway in Norton Canes – and there are more to come.

Motorists could be forgiven for doing a 'double take' as they drive past the newly installed stag on the Hednesford Road/Brownhills Road junction.



The beautiful stag already attracting attention

The lifelike, beautiful bronze stag was purchased for the village from the annually awarded UK Shared Prosperity Fund - intended for village enhancements.

Work has also begun on a rose garden at the same site where David Austin roses have been planted. And there are plans for more enhancements.



Parish council lengthsman (front) John Lee works on the new rose garden assisted by Councillor Will Bird.

Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece said: "We have placed a beautiful bronze stag. We feel this is in keeping with our village and the deer that live here.

"We have a Coronation bench waiting to be placed in the garden and are hoping the rose garden will be a delightful and peaceful place for residents to sit and relax."

The rose garden is in memory of the late Brenda Rose who lived opposite the site.

Brenda worked tirelessly for village Guides and devoted time to pupils of Norton Canes Primary Academy (formerly known as 'the wooden school').

Updates about even more village improvements will be released in the next newsletter.

Continued on page 3

Hello. Long time no see!

Now that we have two newsletters a year instead of three we have a lot of news to find space for.

In this edition we have tried to find a balance between some particularly sad announcements – and lots of positive news to celebrate.

There are so many people who work hard for the love of this village so it is appropriate that we remember those people who had Norton Canes in their hearts.

I hope, like me, you are pleased to see the delightful stag on the approach to our village from Heath Hayes island.

And I hope you can take pride in the many gradual improvements taking shape, including floral displays and monuments to our history.

It seems whichever direction residents and visitors approach the village there are special features offering a pleasant welcome.

Thanks as ever to the very patient sub editor Sheila Harding for putting up with my barrage of emails and tweaks.

If your organisation is not represented in this newsletter please send me details in time for the next edition.
Loves
Jan
(Positively bursting with pride editor)



Terrible jokes dotted throughout this newsletter are courtesy of John Bernard. Thank you for making us groan and smile.

I've trained my dog to bring me a glass of wine....
it's a Bordeaux Collie



Library Success: Yay!



Norton Canes Library is fast becoming a community hub with extended opening hours and numerous activities.

The new extended opening hours are: Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-5pm; Tuesdays and Saturdays 10am-1pm; (Wednesdays open for Rhythm Time baby/toddler sessions only); Sunday closed.

Library co-ordinator/parish councillor Will Bird said: "Library volunteers are pleased it is being used a lot more for all sorts of activities/meetings.

"We hope to increase opening hours to include Tuesday afternoons, continuing to provide a service at this central hub for the local community.

"Thank you to all volunteers prepared to give up their time. It is down to their efforts and community spirit that we are able to keep this valuable village community resource going."

Continued from page 1

"We are starting to make plans for other locations in the village to create small garden areas and improve on existing spaces," Cllr Preece added.

"Unfortunately with limited resources this does take time, so please bear with us.

"Future areas of improvement will include Betty's Lane, the village square, The Bridge and parts of the Trees Estate."

*If you would like to see improvements anywhere in the village (with the land owner's consent) email clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk



Parish chairman Cllr John Preece

To avoid disappointment items for the March 2024 newsletter must be sent to Jan by the first week in February 2024
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk



Remembrance Parade

This year's Remembrance Parade will take place on Sunday November 12.

The parade will leave Jerome Primary School at 10am and proceed to St James Church via Chapel Street, Church Road and Pinfold lane.

The service will be held at St James Church at 11am.

A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said planning is in the early stages, but a bugler has already been booked.



St James Church, Norton Canes

Watch St James Church and Norton Canes Parish Council Facebook pages for details.



1st Norton Canes brigades assembling at Jerome School 2022



The Parade, Pinfold Lane 2022

Party in the Park 2023



Crowds turn out for this year's Party in the Park.

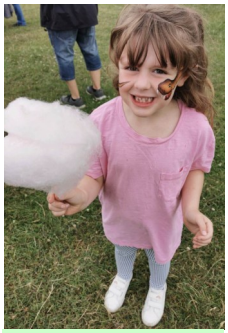
Our Party in the Park was held at Norton Community Centre on July 8.

We were so pleased with the turnout considering the forecast for rain. We were very lucky we did have some wonderful sunny spells.

Norton Canes Parish Council made the most of the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund to put on as much free entertainment as possible. This included three bouncy castles, a bungy run and a rodeo bull.
There was also free popcorn and candyfloss for everyone to enjoy.

We had a special marquee set up supplied by the 1st Norton Scouts where there was face painting, glitter tattoos and balloon modelling - all free of charge.

For younger children we had a play bus which incorporated a ball pit amongst other activities which was a great hit.



Kourtney Baker enjoys free candy floss. What's not to like?

We also had the North Birmingham Car Club come along with a selection of classic cars.

This year we were able to book a stage for the event for our live bands which really added to the atmosphere.

Music started with ABBA Gems, followed by Andy does UB40, then Hangover Pending (a great hit).

Unfortunately our last band Bloke had to be cancelled due to torrential rain.

But the good news is - they are already booked for next year.

Next year's Party in the Park will be on July 13 from 1.30pm-9pm.

It will include many of the free items from this year along with some surprises.

Please save the date as we look forward to seeing you there.
Norton Canes parish councillors.

Neighbourhood Plan

Work continues on the Neighbourhood Plan - although not as quickly as we would like.

The main reason is the delay in publishing the next version of Cannock Chase Council's new Local Plan.

Our Plan for the parish must fit in with the district council's planning strategy for Cannock Chase district.

We have been waiting for the next version of their Local Plan to be published since last autumn.

We can move forward on the next draft of the Neighbourhood Plan once we have more details from the district council.

In the meantime, a number of task groups have been set up.

The aim of these is to look at what the Neighbourhood Plan might say and do on some of the important planning issues in the parish once it is clear what the district council is proposing.

For example, how should our Plan respond to the district's proposals for housing and employment land in the parish?
Can we achieve a specialist housing scheme for the elderly?
Can we do anything to improve the number of primary school places in the village?
Can we promote a new ecology and biodiversity strategy for the parish?
Can we convince the district council to back a new heritage and leisure project for the old Grove Colliery site off Lime lane?
Can we do anything about the unauthorised gypsy and traveller encampments in the parish?
Can the Plan help to deliver a new multi-purpose sport and recreation extension at Norton Canes Community Centre?

There is a group looking at how we can better communicate with our community.

First on this list is updating the Neighbourhood Plan's website. We will let you know when this is done so you can see what your community has said on the Plan's ideas and make more comments if you wish.

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to get involved and make comments. It really is a great help. The Neighbourhood Plan belongs to the local community.

Please get involved with consultations and help shape the village for the future. We will keep you informed.

For more details ring the parish clerk on 01543 276812 or email clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

NORTON CANES
Neighbourhood Plan

‘Ave a Laff with Local Comedy Duo Dandy

I think the world needs Dandy more than ever right now. Thank you to Allan and Glynnis Briscoe, from Norton Canes, for making us smile.



Glynnis and Allan in action on stage

Hello Everybody. I hope you are having a good year. Life at Dandy Towers continues with the usual disasters and grumbles:

“One day in a lifetime you decide to use the garden snips to cut ONE LEAF and you’ve managed to cut through my new lights! Plonker!”

Sometimes I think it’s a man trick so they won’t be asked to do anything ever again.

His summer ‘get out’ was the new craze for re-wilding. This involves not getting the lawn mower out and saying you are saving the bees!



Allan with his 'Excuse the Weeds' sign!

I had a few health issues earlier in the year so Allan has had to be introduced to the kitchen. He was left traumatised.

It has been strange for us not going backwards and forwards to our caravan in North Wales. We were told because of great age we would have to be off the site by January. Not sure if they meant us or the van. I have turned my shed into a SHE SHED where I can hide.



Glynnis's 'she shed'.

Hoping to do a few days out. We had a great time at the Black Country Museum. So many new/old attractions have been added. Love the guides. When we got on the big, old double decker bus (what a bone shaker!), Al asked the driver how far it went.

“Let’s pur it this way, mate - it wow be leavin’ the grounds!”

Yow know yow’m in the Black Country when yow ask fer sum pork scratchins and they pass yow a pig an’ a grater!

Continued from page 8:

My bad back prompted me to lose some weight last year so I joined a proper slimming group and apparently carrot cake is not seen as a vegetable - nor can it count as one of your five a day. Who knew?
I knew when my talking scales said: "One at a time please."

If I wear any less for the weekly weigh in I shall be up for indecency.
Funny how our lifestyles change with age. When we moved here from Wednesbury we had loads of friends for meals. None of us can be bothered now.

Not many visitors due to Allan's skills or lack of as a host. Last visitor we had asked: "Why does your dog keep staring at me?"

Allan's reply: "'Cause you're eating off his plate!"

I heard him tell someone recently: "Yes, I gave up smoking. I heard most people like a cigarette after good food. So I have my wife to thank for that!"

Some changes round Norton Canes. Some potholes filled in, some not. Passengers are now used to shouting: "Swerve!"

Norton Aluminium chimney has gone. We live opposite and hadn't noticed until we read it in a news sheet.

This explains why we hadn't noticed when rain was coming through the bedroom ceiling a while back. They say comedians are good observer. Not in our house!

All awaiting the new Aldi opening up the road. Get a move on lads.

Lots of people eating out these days. New restaurant in Lichfield called KARMA. No menus. They just bring you what you deserve.

Life has become so complicated. You need an app for everything or you need to sign in with a password. We had a phone call the other day saying: "I've hacked into your account and have all of your passwords."
"I said:"That's useful, hang on a minute while I get a pencil."

Lots of people our age (old) struggle with all the tech. More tech and fewer people to help or serve. For some people that is their only human contact.

A.I. or Artificial Intelligence is taking over the world. I sometimes wonder if Allan is a robot - then I remember the Intelligence bit and know he's definitely not.



Allan the robot?

Proof we are dumbing down:

Gameshow question: "Name a flightless bird from Iceland."

Answer: "A frozen chicken."

Farewell to a Popular Village Character

There aren't many older folk in Norton Canes who did not know Gerald Beere.



Much loved: Gerald Beere.

As well as serving as post master at the village Post Office for a number of years, Gerald was known for treading the boards in local shows.

Gerald met his future wife Marie at church when they were children.

Even as a child, he would walk Marie and her mother home after the service, like the true gentleman he was.

It was at the village Post Office, at the age of 15, that he walked in and told Marie (whose father was post master at the time) that he wanted to marry her.

She replied: "Get out!"

But he was persistent – and the couple married in 1954. Gerald subsequently took over the reins from Marie's father to become post master.

The couple were married for almost 69 years.

They had four children: Andy, Mark, Dave and Judy; eight grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

Gerald was born in Norton Canes in 1932, the only child of George, a miner, and Edith. (Gerald was the only child to have scored 100% in the school certificate maths exam).

He did three years National Service in the RAF, mainly posted to the Middle East but was moved to RAF Hednesford on compassionate grounds.

After National Service, Gerald was an audit clerk at Walsall Town Hall for a brief spell.

Gerald's passion has always been operatic music and singing.
He sang with the school choir at the age of 14 (which was often broadcast on radio as there was no TV in those days).

Gerald then joined St James' Church Choir.

He was a member of Walsall Operatic Society and The Irene Pedley Singers.

Gerald formed Norton Canes PTA Music and Drama Society.
He had been actively singing for 76 years.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

Following retirement, Gerald and Marie were able to travel more, particularly to Spain and Tenerife where Gerald soon found a choir to sing with.

To help Marie's health they lived in Mallorca for 17 years where they were active members of the local Christian Fellowship before returning home and joining their local choir at Christchurch in Lichfield with their son Mark.

Gerald was a staunch Wolves Football and Edgbaston Cricket supporter, having season tickets for both.

Gerald's son Andy said his dad was 'a canny husband'.

He would ask Marie which anniversary/birthday card she liked, let her read it, and then put it back in the Post Office shop for sale.

"She never actually ever got a card!" Andy said.

"Dad lived a good and happy life. He gave his time freely to help others whenever he could.

"The family home has never been empty or quiet.

"He has left all of us with many fond memories."

Farewell to a Wonderful Lady

Norton Canes parish councillors were saddened to hear about the passing of Sheila Holder in May.

Sheila was chair and governor of Norton Canes Primary Academy (many know it as 'the wooden school') and a governor of Jerome Primary School.

She was a much loved and respected member of both teams.

Sheila loved playing and reading with the children. When she retired last year, after 40 years as governor of Jerome Primary, the school created an annual Sheila Holder Award in her honour.

The first award was presented in July - a fitting legacy of her love and dedication to the school and community she had lived in for over 50 years.

Parish council members are thinking of Sheila's husband Councillor Mike Holder; their son and daughter Ian and Helen; and the wider family.

A parish council spokesperson said: "Everyone who knew her shares love and pride for such a wonderful lady."



Sheila Holder

In Memory of Norton Canes Headteacher Betty

Former Norton Canes Primary headteacher Florence Betty Fearns (known as Betty) passed away at the age of 95.



Florence Betty Ferns 'Betty'

Born in Norton Canes in 1928, Betty was the only child of Les and May Callier.

She attended Norton Canes Junior and Infants School and won a scholarship to Lichfield Grammar.

Betty trained as a teacher at a college in Derby and began working locally.

She quickly advanced to be a headteacher and worked at a number of schools throughout her career.

Before retiring she was headteacher at Norton Canes Junior and Infants, (known locally as 'the wooden school'.

Betty met the love of her life Jack, who was also a teacher, when she was at college. They married at St James's Church, Norton Canes, in 1950.

The couple had four children: David, Bob, Trudi and Nicola; eleven grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

Betty loved Christmas - a time for the family to get together. She loved watching her favourite Christmas film, the Wizard of Oz.

Her children have fond memories of Christmas parties and Boxing Day game nights.

In the 1960s Betty and Jack moved to Great Wyrley where they lived for 40 years. They moved back to Norton Canes, (which she considered her true home), in 2002.

When the children were younger, the family enjoyed caravan holidays around the UK and a memorable trip to France.

The couple's daughter Nicola studied in Australia so Betty, Jack and daughter Trudi took the opportunity to visit her.

Betty and Jack loved to travel, especially on cruises which included the Norwegian Fjords, Alaska, and around the Med'.

With friends Gwen and John, they also toured Canada and the Rocky Mountains.

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Betty loved going for walks and was proud of her garden. She enjoyed sewing - and socialising with friends including Margaret, Gwen and Betty (who all worked at the wooden school and were known as 'the Golden Girls').

Betty's family described her as 'an intelligent lady' who enjoyed watching TV's University Challenge or Countdown. She also liked watching snooker.

"She was family orientated, intelligent, career driven and loved to be busy with a project," her family said.

"She had a long, happy life with a loving family and many friends. She lived life to the full."

**At Betty's funeral a collection was made in aid of the village Chapel, Community Centre and community mini-bus.*

Flood Works: Thanks for your Patience

Drainage/flood work is progressing outside Norton Canes Community Library.

Library co-ordinator/ parish councillor Will Bird said lots of large, special water-absorbent blocks have been buried underground in ditches; new drainage channels have been installed; and, at the time of going to press, there was still more work to be done.



Extensive work being carried out near Norton Canes Library

The aim of the work is to ease flooding problems that the area has suffered for years.

"Thank you to our clients and visitors for coming to see us whilst access was a bit awkward," Will said. "It will be worth it in the end.

"Apologies for delays due to the temporary four- way traffic light system at the crossroads. Thanks everyone for being patient."

Message From Your MP Amanda Milling



As ever, I have had a very busy few months visiting local businesses, community groups, schools, and colleges.

Being well into the school holidays, with exam results coming up and a new school year on the horizon, I thought I would focus on education in this edition.

Schools and colleges are essential to ensuring that our young people get the skills to get on in life.

It was a real pleasure to visit Norton Canes High School and Cannock College recently.

I met with the head teacher and chair of governors at Norton Canes High School. This was a great opportunity to get an update about the school since my last visit, hear about the school's plans as well as the challenges they, and other local schools, face.

As ever, it was clear to me just how passionate the staff and governors are about their pupils' education and futures.

I'd like to thank the entire team at Norton Canes High School for all their hard work and commitment. To all of those awaiting exam results… Good luck!

And to everyone at the school, including new joiners, all the best for the new school year!

I also recently visited Cannock College for a tour of its facilities.

The Cannock campus is undergoing significant investment which will see new courses being taught there from autumn.

It has been great to see how the team at the college has been taken from strength to strength over recent years, with really excellent facilities.

I look forward to seeing the new facilities when they are completed in autumn.

As always, if you require my help with anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or ring 01543 877142.

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.

email clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Could You Drive a Minibus?



Calling all volunteer drivers.

Norton Canes Community Partnership needs drivers for its mini bus.

The organisation is on the lookout for volunteers with a few hours to spare.

The minibus is used to help older people in the village: taking them for weekly shopping; to Norton Canes Community Centre for social afternoons; or for short day trips.

The organisation also needs new committee members and fundraisers to keep the bus roadworthy.

If you can help in any way, ring Beryl on 07974 569 482.

Goodbye Dear Friend

I am sorry to announce the passing of Pat Simpson - our 'make-up lady'.

Kathleen Simpson (known as Pat) was a member of Norton Canes PTFA Music and Drama Society and founder member of Norton Canes Saturday Drama.

She became a friend and advisor in all things theatre-related having worked at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the BBC.

Pat, who was 93, was widowed in her early 30s.

She raised her only son Christopher who now lives in Cumbria with his wife Angie.

When Pat retired, her nephew Roger Lane and his wife Janet and family invited her to come and live in Norton Canes in 1996 - where she lived happily since.

She passed away on May 15. I will miss her.

Sheila Harding
Close friend



Friend and make-up lady Pat

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Come and Join Us?

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The following groups meet at Norton Canes Library.
Monday: Little Chicks, 10.30am-11.45am, (parent and toddler group for children aged six months to five years).
Tuesday: Craft Group, 10am-12 noon.
Wednesday: Rhythm Time, 9.30am for babies; 10.30am toddlers. (See www.nortoncanescommunitylibrary.co.uk or pop in during normal opening hours and ask volunteers for details).
Thursday: Card Craft, 10am-12 noon.
Friday: Let's Get Together Craft Group, 10am-12 noon.
'Open Arms', 11am-1pm. Pop in if you fancy a natter and tea/coffee. All welcome.
Knit & Knatter, 1pm-4pm.
Saturday: Join us for a free cup of tea/coffee, toast, biscuits and a natter, 10am-12.30.
Story time, 10.40am (for 20 minutes) for two to five-year-olds.
1st Wednesday of the month: League of Ladies, 7pm-9pm.
2nd Tuesday of the month: Norton Canes History Group, 2pm to 4pm.

Silver Sneakers Are Going Strong

There's not much that keeps Norton Canes Silver Sneakers down.

Even after one of the fitness group members suffered a stroke – she was back in class a week later.



Still going: Silver Sneakers

Class trainer Carol is celebrating teaching her members for five years.

Member Pamela Louies said: "We are very happy to have her. She is a very good trainer and helps us to get fitter every week.

"This class was the first activity I joined when I moved to Norton Canes "It has changed venue, trainer and members since then - but I come every week and invite others to join."

Members are also celebrating another member joining their class – a man. "We welcomed Brian in April and he has since been a regular member," Pamela added.

New members are always welcome.

Silver Sneakers meet at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on Thursdays from 12.30pm-1.30pm.

But see what the members have to say about their class:

Get fitter, meet new and old friends - and have a laugh (Jan).

Good for wellbeing, meeting people, helps having conversation with like-minded people and the exercises are suitable for all ages. Carol is fab. (Maureen).

I enjoy coming and it keeps me fit. (Hazel).

Love every minute of this class. Carol is great. (Jean).

Keeping mobile and having a chat with friends. Can't be bad. (Jackie).

I come to meet new friends and get fitter. (Brian)

I needed the exercise and a friend encouraged me to come.(Eileen).

*For more details ring Pam on 01543 899367.



I just read a book called How to Swim the English Channel by Francis Near

Norton Canes Historical Society

Society members meet at Norton Canes Library on the second Tuesday of the month, 2pm-4pm.

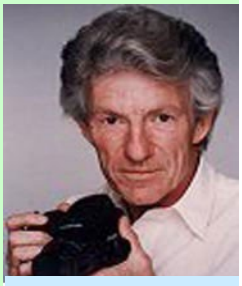
The speaker for September 12 is Judith Hubble who will give a talk on 'The Life and Times of Patrick Lichfield'.

Admission is free.

We welcome members and non members.

A programme of future talks will be available at this meeting.

Mo Garbett
Secretary



Patrick Earl of Lichfield

Well Done Young Readers

Many children signed up for Norton Canes Community Library's Summer Reading Challenge.

Several children managed to complete the challenge during the summer holidays and many were reading their way towards their target.

A library spokesperson said: "Congratulations to those who completed the Summer Reading Challenge."

On completion, the children received certificates, medals and special bookmarks which were created by library volunteer Jean Hill.



Delightful bookmarks created by library volunteer Jean Hill



Well done also to Finn and Lauren



Siblings Lacy-Mae, Isla and Keaton (3) completed the challenge. Isla (left) loves reading and often reads over 15 books a week!

Welcome to Busy Trinity Bourne

Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Norton Canes, offers a warm welcome.

The autumn social calendar includes: afternoon tea in September, skittles night in October and an Art Exhibition by Norton Canes Watercolour Club in November.



Coffee mornings are held on Saturdays.

Sunday worship takes place at 11am.

Watch our notice boards for event dates, times and prices.



Rev Chris Ambler

The church is in Poplar Street, Norton Canes
The minister is the Reverend Chris Ambler who can be contacted on 01543 876610.

Senior steward is Ian (01543 276695).

For more details about the church's social events, see Norton Canes Methodist Church on Facebook.

*Bourne church in Heath Hayes closed at the end of August due to extensive repair needs.

Girls: Come and Join Us

Girls' Brigade returns to Trinity Bourne Methodist Church on September 7.

New girls will be made very welcome.

The Brigade welcomes girls over the age of four.

A Brigade spokesperson said: "The company celebrates 40 years in Norton Canes this year and we would love more girls to join us."

Members meet at the Poplar Street church on Thursdays during term time.

Girls aged four to 10 meet from 6pm-7pm; girls aged 11 plus meet from 7.30pm-8.30pm.

The cost is £2 per week.

Recycle!

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Lauren - Norton Canes

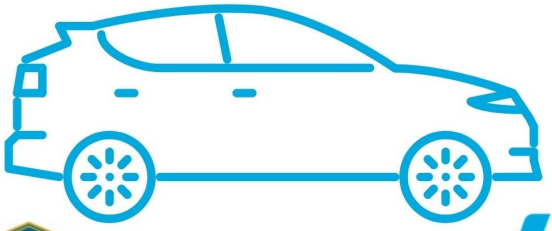


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Fridays 11.30am

Norton Canes Community Centre, Brownhills Road, WS11 9SF.

Gentle-Fit is a keep fit class designed for older adults and is also suitable for anyone wanting gentle, low impact exercise.

This fun and friendly class will teach you a series of moves to popular music that you'll soon learn off by heart.

Helping to improve mobility, tone the body, lower blood pressure and improve your overall fitness, this class is suitable for all levels and abilities.

The National Miners' Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, is becoming one of the most visited memorials on the site. During the two years since its unveiling by the Duke of Gloucester, voluntary group Chase Arts for Public Spaces [CHAPS] has continued to work to enhance aspects of the memorial and the site.



from left, Mike Mellor, Jackie Prince and Trish Mellor with the time capsule and some of the items to be included in it.

CHAPS members have been working on elements to be included in it the time capsule - which will be housed inside the memorial over coming weeks.

The capsule will contain paper and digital evidence of all aspects of design, planning, fundraising, building, unveiling and dedication of the memorial - with information about the pandemic we were living through at the time.

There will also be a mug sold to raise funds, a pin badge made to commemorate the memorial, a National Union of Miners card and a mines rescue pin badge.

Also to be put into the memorial – visible to all – will be a Davy Lamp, that iconic emblem of coal miners, and some miners' pit checks – handed in before going 'down the pit' and collected on the miner's safe return above ground.

The Davy Lamp, thanks to modern technology, will have its light always shining.

Details of the National Miners' Memorial can be found on the group's Facebook page www.facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpaces or the website www.chaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk







I see the county of Yorkshire has introduced its own online shopping service - Eeh - Bay - Gum.

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your local family run discount carpet store



This is what customers say...

"Fantastic carpet shop" – Louise R

★★★★★

"Great quality carpet" – Clare S

★★★★★

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

★★★★★

Visit your local Carpets Direct 2U stores at 4 convenient locations

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NORTON GREEN LANE
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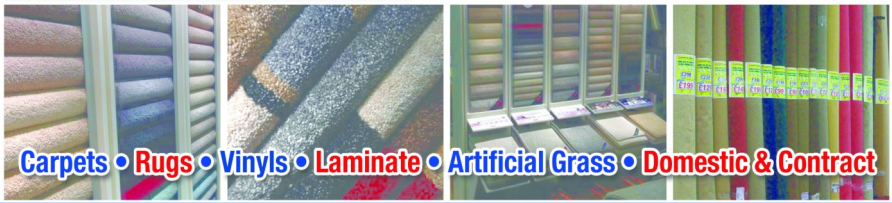
RUGS DIRECT 2U®

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



twitter.com/carpetsdirect2u www.facebook.com/carpetsdirect2u



CARPETS DIRECT 2U®

Your Local Discount Carpet Store

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

Carpets Direct 2U is easily accessible to everyone in the area with retail premises in **Aldridge, Burntwood** and **Pelsall** and a huge warehouse in **Norton Canes** which is open to the public and has thousands of rolls in stock ready for customers to take away. Most recently, **Carpets Direct 2U** is proud to have opened a new retail store at **324/326 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury** where the family look forward to serving both existing and new customers in **Wednesbury** and the surrounding areas. **Carpets Direct 2U** has established a reputation for providing customers with good service and quality floor coverings, priced to suit everyone's pocket.

Great Value, Great Quality

So how do they do it? Generally, when buying a carpet to fit your room, this price will include other costs such as storage and distribution by the stockist.

Carpets Direct 2U buy and sell in a different way. In simple terms they buy full rolls of carpet in bulk direct from the supplier, then cut them into standard room sizes and hold the stock themselves at their warehouse in **Norton Canes**. The savings they make are then passed **Direct 2U**. Discounts apply to all ranges. In addition to the vast range of stock they hold, they have hundreds of pattern and sample books to browse through in their showrooms or, you can take away samples to check and match against your individual colour scheme in the comfort of your own home.

Vinyls

The vinyl selection is endless at prices to suit everyone. In the store they stock remnants of all sizes: **2,3** and **4** metre widths with discounts of up to **75% off** normal cut length prices. Any time of the day, every day you can go to **Carpets Direct 2U** and buy a cut-price piece of vinyl, 2m x 2m for **£25**.

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

Fitting Service

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

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

Measuring Service

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

Rugs

RUGS DIRECT 2U®

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

Customer Satisfaction

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

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

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

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

Baby Loss Awareness Week

Baby Loss Awareness Week is in its 21st year.

October 9-15 gives an opportunity to come together as a community and give anyone touched by pregnancy and baby loss a safe and supportive space to share their experiences and feel they are not alone.

As part of this, we will be organising a ribbon display again this year outside Norton Canes Community Centre.

We would like to invite anyone affected by baby loss to join us in this time of remembrance.

You can bring a blue, pink or white ribbon for display during October 9-15.

Ribbons will be available from Norton Canes Library during normal opening hours. Special messages can be written on them before placing them on display.



Norton Canes Community Centre

Chocolate Treasures in Heath Hayes will also be having a display again this year during normal opening hours and will have ribbons available to write a baby's name on.

The shop will also have a donation tin for Sands - which works to save babies' lives and supports anyone affected by the death of a baby for as long as they need.

If you wish to use a ribbon of your own, please do – but be mindful of its suitability for all weather conditions.

The displays will remain until the morning of October 16.

The annual wave of light will take place on October 15 at 7pm. All are invited to join at home by lighting a candle and leaving it lit for at least one hour in memory of babies gone too soon. You can follow our Facebook page Norton Canes & Heath Hayes Baby Loss Awareness Week | Facebook



Chocolate Treasures

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You can message the page to ask any questions and share it with anyone you think may be interested.

Cannock Chase Crematorium will be holding a special evening remembrance service on October 12.

There will be an opportunity to place a tribute to your precious baby on the memorial tree during the service and throughout Baby Loss Awareness Week.

Everyone is welcome.

For more details ring the team on 01543 212988 or email info@cannockcrematorium.co.uk

Thank you to everyone in the community who supports this important time of remembrance.

Sarah & Rosie.

Library Cash Boost

Norton Canes Library has been awarded £500 in a scheme run by Asda. Store customers voted for the library in the last round of the green token scheme run by Asda Foundation.

The aim was to benefit worthy causes in the Cannock area.



From left: library co-ordinator/parish councillor Will Bird; Asda Cannock community colleague Sue Westmancott; library volunteers Margaret Plavenieks, Khembi Maynard and Stephen Hill.

A library spokesperson said: "We are proud to be the winners. Thanks to all our supporters who voted for us over a four month period.

"Your assistance ensured we were awarded the top grant."

The money was used towards creating the library's new community garden.

Norton Canes Flower Club

Here we are in Autumn and looking forward to Christmas and the New Year. This year so far, club members have had a varied programme - a bit like the weather - but with no nasty surprises only good things.

In March we had a workshop with ideas for Easter arrangements, so there were lots of chicks (not real) and eggs to add to the flowers.

There was a visit to Middleton Hall, Tamworth, arranged for April but unfortunately this had to be postponed and rearranged for August. Instead we had a tea party to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.





King's Coronation flowers.

In May a talk was held by Hillside Hardy Plants which was appreciated by the members. It was another opportunity for us all to learn.

A few of us joined with Streetly Flower Club members in June to visit Floral Media in Newark. It was a delightful day out in lovely weather and a very nice lunch included.

June saw Elaine Stoner come along to demonstrate 'Bee Kind to the Planet' with her ideas on how to cut down on the use of floral foam in arranging. She had some ingenious ways of doing so from the use of water retaining beads to using the head of a hydrangea to provide support for the flowers.



A beautiful arrangement - without the use of foam.

It made members think about how to reduce the use of foam when arranging.

In July we had a workshop led by Chris to try putting some of Elaine's ideas into practice which produced some lovely arrangements.

In August some members of the club visited Middleton Hall (rearranged from April).

Forthcoming Events

September 20: workshop.
October 18: demonstration by Beverley Short 'A Touch of Autumn.
October 25: annual meeting.
November 15: Jo Davis demonstrates 'I'll be Home for Christmas'.
December: Christmas Party.

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2024

January 17: a talk by Jo Davis 'Still Life'.
February 21: demonstration by Gill Mills 'Floral Gems'.
March 20: demonstration by Emma Remmington 'As We Go Down to the Woods'.
Meetings are held at Trinity Bourne Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on the third Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise stated), 1pm for a 1.30pm start. We look forward to seeing you at these events. New members and visitors are most welcome. For details ring 01543 277492 or 01543 278370.

In Tribute to Marjorie Palin

It is with great sadness we have to report the passing of Marjorie Palin who lived all of her married life in Norton Canes.



Marjorie, pictured with the flowers she loved.

Marjorie supported village activities, in particular with regards to Norton Canes Flower Club.

Marjorie, with others, started the Flower Club in 1970 and was a member of the original committee.

She covered most of the positions on the committee. She will be remembered for selling tickets for the open events - she had a great talent for persuading people to come along to these.

Marjorie entered many competitions as a participant at national and local level and was very successful. She later judged some local shows.

Her first entry in a competition was at Walsall Arboretum, when she won first prize in the first year of the club. This sparked her enthusiasm for flower arranging for over 50 years.

Marjorie took part in many local church festivals including, in particular, the floor to ceiling arrangement at the front of St James' Church in Norton Canes.

As a senior member of the club she generously gave her time and shared her knowledge with many, having taught at night school.

She dabbled in floristry for a time and loved her garden. However she will be fondly remembered at the club for her cakes and other delicacies at refreshment time. They were always delicious.

Marjorie was a talented, artistic flower arranger, one of the best, who believed in the basic rules and principels of the art of flower arranging.

She will be long remembered and will be sadly missed

Your Community Pub



Railway Tavern
Norton Green Lane

The Railway Tavern pub is focussing on holding community events.

In addition to hosting pub space for the community, the Tavern provides: Wednesday poker nights (8pm start); Thursday quiz nights (8.30pm start); karaoke on the last Friday of the month; and Saturday entertainment.

Sunday lunches are also now served from 1pm-5.30pm (booking needed).

The Railway Tavern offers bar snacks from 12 noon-7:30pm Monday-Saturday.

If you have an idea for a community event, please speak to Sophie at the pub.



The spacious beer garden



Sunday lunch

Can you Help?

As you can see in this newsletter there are many community events due to take place in the village this year.

Would you like to help?

The parish council is trying to build up a register of volunteers to help man the events.

Anyone over 18 years is invited to come forward.

For more details email the parish council clerk at

clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jenny and Terry's Dances

Norton Canes Community Centre
Brownhills Road
WS11 9SF





Saturday Dances have moved to a New Time

2.30pm - 5pm 1st and 3rd Saturday every month.
Jenny's Music - All Dances - Sequence, Modern Ballroom, Line Dancing
£4 on the Door (No Raffle)
Hope to see old friends and new.
Many thanks for all your support over the years

1st Tuesday in the month Charity 'Light Bite' Lunch Social,
Fun Bingo, Dance a bit - Talk a lot. 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

The notice boards outside the Co-op and on The Bridge crossroads contain information which is updated regularly on parish matters.
For more information visit
https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/
or see our Facebook page

What's On At Norton Canes Community Centre

Day	Time	Event	Contact
Monday	10.30am to 3.30pm	X'Aquarians Line Dance	07459 473 519
	4.15pm to 6.15pm	L'Rythmix Dance Class	07821 774 456
	7pm	Kano Judo Club	07549 108 829
Tuesday	9.30am to 3.30pm	Little Group of Sewers	07958 484 271
	11am to 12noon	Tai Chi	07724 183 091
	1.30pm to 4pm	Jenny's Social Dance	01543 415 232
	4.45pm to 6.15pm	Rainbows and Brownies	07711 822 291
	7pm to 8pm	Poundshedders	01543 278 534
	7pm to 9pm	Indoor Bowling	07716 356 907
Wednesday	11am to 1pm	Norton Canes Card Class	07803 061 871
	1.30pm to 3.30pm	RVS/Darby and Joan	07977 995 408
	1.30pm to 3pm	Living springs community church bible study group	07593 850 112
	5.45pm to 6.45pm	Zumba	07894 947 334
	7pm to 10pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07459 473 519
Thursday	9am to 4pm	Crafty Sew and Sews	07412 191 439
	10am to 12noon	Crafty Card	07845 678 003
	10am to 12noon	Gentle Fit	07538 491 849
	7pm to 9pm	Sugar Craft	07792 549 307
Friday	1.30pm to 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	07716 356 907
	5.30pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07459 473 519
	10am to 12noon	Simply Crafting Card Class	07570 452 948
Saturday	10.30am to 1pm	L'Rythmix dance class	07821 774 456
	2.30pm to 5pm	1st and 3rd Saturday each month - Jenny's dance 2nd and 4th Saturday Nev's Line Dance	07980 327 325
	8pm to midnight	Doug & Angela Social Dance	07769 038 680
Sunday	9.30am - 10.30am	Weight Loss and Wellbeing Group	07742 336 815
	6pm - 7.30pm	Church of Living Springs	07593 851 112

KANO JUDO CLUB

Norton Canes

Kano Judo Club is a friendly, family orientated club which caters for all ages from five years old to adults of any age.

We run sessions at Norton Canes Community Centre on Mondays, 7pm, for younger children and 8pm for older children and adults.

We charge £3 per session with discounts for family members.

All our coaches are qualified instructors with the relevant insurance and are DBS checked.

We are a totally not for profit organisation and none of our instructors or other officers receive any payment or help with any expenses they incur as part of the club.

If you, or someone you know, would like more information about what we do or think you would like to give judo a try then come along on a Monday evening.

If you are under 18 please bring a responsible adult along with you.

For more details ring 07549 108 829.

What's On at Norton Canes Community Centre

November 19: Craft Fair. Stalls still available. Open 11.45am for sellers; 1pm for buyers.





December 16 and 17: panto Snow White. Tickets £7/£25 family ticket for four.

For details on any of the above ring the booking clerk on 07845 678 003 or email nccabookings@hotmail.com

*The centre will be closed from December 18-January 2.

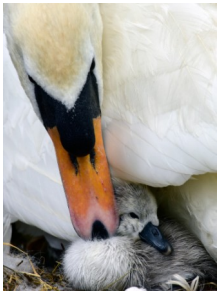
Swagman's Tales by Dr Bob Whorton

It's been a period of highs and lows with regards to our local wildlife during the first half of the year.

A lot of the lateness can be put down to another long and tedious transition from spring to summer, which has affected flora and fauna, but especially water birds.

The ongoing effects of bird flu are still with us and continue to have a noticeable effect on breeding pairs.

Very few pairs have bred successfully again, but surprisingly our swans 'Mr M' and his 'Trinity' managed to mate successfully and lay five eggs - against the odds, about seven weeks later than normal.



Many new red deer are in the area thanks to an ever-growing healthy population.

Mr M and Trinity After an 18-month partnership, they finally gained a family from a successful, late mating, moving to the earlier disinfected and prepared nest adding their own few touches - although Feng Shui has never been one of Mr M's strong points.

Five eggs were laid by Trinity. Lots of fingers were crossed.

My major concern was local mink, but thankfully there was no sign during daybreak checks.



Too cute!

Due to higher temperatures, eggs matured quickly to the lower averages of incubation requirements arriving on July 29..

Trinity was worn out, and kept nodding off, only to wake herself up again.

It was great to see the interaction between mom and dad, as she literally told him on returning from his trip around the lake (using throat and body language) that he was a dad again!

His face lit up and the feathers behind his eyes stood out. However, egg four chick didn't appear at the expected time and was apparently born dead (we discovered body inside shell later).

The 5th egg was undeveloped and eventually ejected from the nest.

Local resident Cliff and I witnessed Trinity trying to sink it into the water.

Trinity took the three remaining cygnets on the water which I was able to video.

The first trip saw them way out in the middle of the Swag at Norton East Road, feasting on the abundance of food on a mound that rises very close to the surface. It looked like they were having a great time.

Sadly, it didn't all go well as a rogue lesser black backed gull stormed into a family of coots taking one of their chicks and swallowing it after killing it.

Continued from page 32

Nature can be harsh, but gulls are a decimator of inland bird stocks since migrating from the coast).



Aaaaahhhh

The next day the cygnets were out twice and even further afield which shows how strong and fit they are on a natural upbringing.

The following day I found one of the cygnets had been taken. I was gutted.

The remaining pair survived and have grown surprisingly fast.

There is a strict Staffordshire County Council no feeding policy.

Signs have been produced and mounted around the area including the Swag. These are also available in braille.

It is important that we support rewilding of our decimated water bird stocks as a matter of urgency.

Rewilding allows birds to be totally dependent on their environment for food (which is in abundance in all our local waterways, pools and lakes).

Anyone who tells you that water birds in Staffordshire (or anywhere) are starving is not telling the truth.

Natural numbers are controlled by resources. The birds will eat locally or travel to feeding areas which keeps them fit and flight ready.

Rewilding ensures stronger birds, more independent and wild birds, ensuring strong stock and genetics for the future.

Feeding birds by the bridge which runs under Norton East Road attracts pike which are a predator of cygnets and smaller chicks.

It is against the law (1981 Wildlife Act) to tamper with an active nest in any way so no-one is allowed over the wooden fence alongside the Swag without permission.

We have a Rural and Wildlife Crimes officer who has been made aware of such instances, recently.

If you see anyone, please photo or video them.

Bird Flu (AI) The AI virus is controlled or governed by temperature.

During higher rates of evaporation during warmer months AI cannot exist outside a host body for long.

This gives the impression that AI is over or has gone. But it has not. It remains in carrier birds.

Any virus passed by carriers as wet loose dropping is dried out in minutes and less likely to affect another bird or animal (N.B. less likely, not unlikely).

Message from County Councillor Samantha Thompson



Councillor Samantha Thompson

If residents would like to report any potholes, please report them via the mystaffs app or Staffordshire County Council website in the first instance.

Residents can email me with any other concerns on samantha.thompson@staffordshire.gov.uk or ring 07817 265 435.

**The app can be downloaded free on IOS and Android devices and from the App Store or Google Play.*

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



To avoid disappointment items for the March newsletter must be sent to Jan by the first week in February 2024
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk



I love my new indoor shoes made of banana skins - so easy to slip on

---

I saw a nun dressed up in a chicken outfit today. She must be in some sort of pecking order



NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2023 ~ 2024

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	07929 558 885
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279 475
Cllr J. Newbury	07884 111 382
Cllr R. Wilkinson	07956 994 199
Cllr K. Fereday	01543 317 967
Cllr D. Bilbie	07784 740 969
Cllr P. Sanders	07866 749 390
Cllr W. Bird	07400 932 929
Cllr. A. Bilbie	alan.bilbie@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr. J. Walker	julia.walker@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr. I. Reeves	ian.reeves@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr. J. Bridgen	john.bridgen@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr. D. Pickin	dylan.pickin@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: Ginetta Adams

Parish Council Office: 01543 276812
Between 10am-2pm Monday to Thursday
If the office is unattended please leave a message and someone will get back to you.
https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/

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 111 382
Cllr John Preece	07929 558 885
Cllr Mike Hoare	01543 279 989

County councillor: Cllr Samantha Louise Thompson 07817 265 438
email samantha.thompson@staffordshire.gov.uk

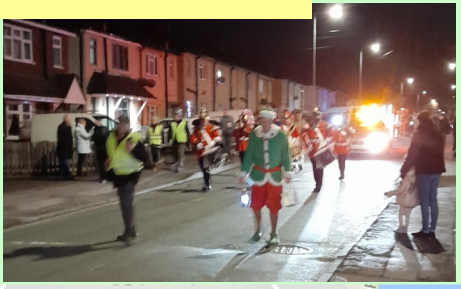
This newsletter is put together by just two people:
Editor Janet Lee
Sub editor Sheila Harding
It is published by Norton Canes Parish Council
https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/

Love and Light in Norton Canes



Scenes from previous year's parades



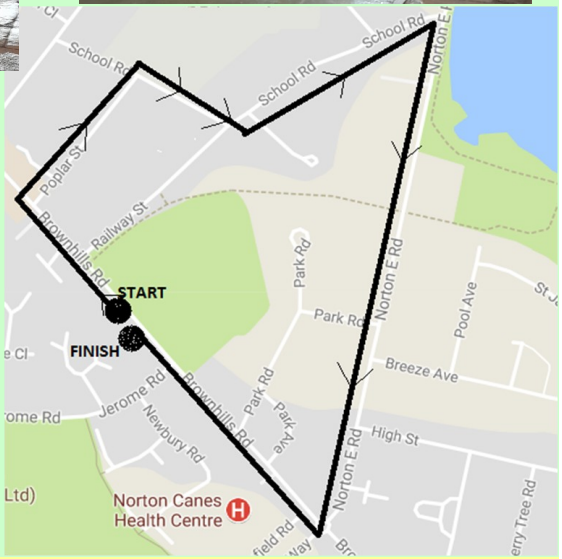


This year's lantern parade will take place on
Sunday December 3.

It will set off from Norton Canes Community Centre at 5pm and will follow the same route as last year.

Lanterns will be made at local schools but everyone is welcome to bring their own if they wish.

A marching band will accompany the parade.



The parade route.