March 2024 Issue 43

Norton Canes Village News

Take a Seat and Relax

Norton Canes residents and visitors can sit and enjoy our village Rose Garden – thanks to a new 'Coronation Bench'.

Norton Canes parish councillors said they are 'deeply grateful' to Persimmon Homes for their 'generous support' in installing the bench - situated on the junction of Hednesford Road/Brownhills Road.

There is also a beautiful statue of a stag at the site.

A parish council spokesperson said: "The tranquil and picturesque Rose Garden, lovingly planted and maintained by the parish council, is a cherished retreat.

"With the addition of the bench, the garden will be an even more comfortable place to relax and enjoy the natural, beautiful surroundings."



Lengsthman John Lee, who maintains the village, is pictured with the Coronation bench.

The parish council thanks Persimmon Homes for its commitment to the local community by providing a workforce to create the base and install the bench.

The bench was bought from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund ('Levelling Up' fund) allocated by Cannock Chase Council.

The parish council contacted Persimmon Homes' head office to ask for help installing the concrete pad and they agreed.

Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece said: "We are extremely thankful to Persimmon Homes. Their generosity has helped us create a more welcoming and enjoyable space for our community. We look forward to continue working together for the betterment of our village."

Persimmon Homes West Midlands managing director Daniel Hassall said: "What we do is much more than building quality homes. It's also ensuring we leave a positive legacy in the communities in which we build.

"We're always keen to lend a hand to good community causes. We're pleased to see the memorial garden taking shape."

For more information about the Rose Garden and other community initiatives email clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

*See picture of stag on page 33.

A big hello!

Thank you to all the contributors in this edition.

If you are reading this for the first time, you have an open invitation to send any articles or photos you wish to share with readers: anything funny, quirky, historic, sad – anything you think readers may find amusing or interesting.

Maybe you are a performer or artist or member of some organisation. All we ask is that it has some relevance to Norton Canes.

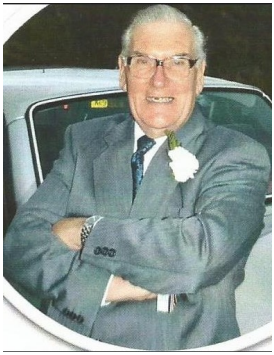
My first view of our village was when I was driving along the A5 in the direction of Brownhills. I turned into a narrow, tree-lined country lane called Norton Hall Lane opposite the Fleur de Lys pub/restaurant. That tiny lane and the Fleur de Lys are no more.

But I loved my first view of Norton Canes over 50 years ago and I love it now.

I would like to mention the loss of a dear neighbour, Alec Harlow, who passed away in January. Alec, a true gentleman, from Butts Way, was 92. My condolences to his lovely family.

Love to all readers old and new.

Jan
Editor



Alec Harlow

Vacancies

At their recent meeting, Norton Canes parish councillors agreed to recruit a second part time groundsman and administrator.

Anyone interested in the part time positions is invited to express an interest to the parish clerk by emailing Ginetta Adams at clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

*An official advert will be released once details have been finalised.

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

Message from Norton Canes Parish Council Chairman Councillor John Preece



The past six months have been very hectic for Norton Canes Parish Council - including planning the Remembrance Parade in November and the Lantern Parade in the first week of December.

A lot of behind the scenes work began months before the events to make sure everything ran smoothly on the day. Even after several years of planning there are always new things we learn each year.

I thank everyone for turning out to the events over the winter months.

Even though it's only in its second year, the Remembrance Parade from Jerome Primary School to St James's Church was extremely well attended.

We were also blessed with the attendance of several uniformed groups. I thank the Girl Guides, and Scouts for their attendance and the WRVS for bringing their Standard to the event too.

The Lantern Parade has developed into a very big draw for the community over the past decade and last year was no exception. We welcomed Santa to the parade again as he kindly lent us some time from his very busy schedule to take position of honour in the line-up.

Thank you to the hundreds of children and adults who joined us in the spectacle.

Winter 2023 also saw the winner of our first competition to design a Christmas light.

The winning entry, designed by Lydia Bate, featured an illuminated snowman. We displayed the snowman outside the parish office during the festive season and are delighted to announce we will be running the competition again for Christmas 2024. Details of the competition can be found in this newsletter.

In summer we will be hosting another Party in the Park at Brownhills Road Playing Fields on July 13.

There will be a line-up of great acts; food and market stalls; and bouncy castles.

We are delighted to announce that singing duo Bloke will be making a return. Please cross your fingers for no rain this year!

Thank you to all our residents for attending everything that goes on in our village. Without you we would not be able to run these events



Send Us Your Pics!

This beautiful photo of a float was kindly loaned to us by Mavis Clarke.

It shows one of the Norton Canes Methodist Church Carnival entries in 1976.

Over the years there have been many carnivals, parades and events in the village.

Do you have any photos or memories you would like to share with us? If so, please send your pics/memories to Jan at cannockcp.co.uk or drop them into the parish office at the rear of the Co-op.

Thank you!



Crowds turn out for Party in the Park 2023
See you all on July 13, 2024 ***See back page for details***

Creative Kids Sparkle in Festive Light Competition



Winner of the Christmas lights competition Lydia Bate is pictured with Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece and her delightful snowman design.

A children's competition to design Christmas lights was so successful that the parish council will be running it again in 2024.

Children were challenged to use their imagination to design Christmas lights - with the promise that winning designs would be transformed into full-sized illuminated displays for the community to enjoy.

Parish councillors were delighted with the 'overwhelming response and success'of the competition.

The winners of the competition, who all attended Jerome Primary School at the time of entering, are:

1st prize: Lydia Bate, year 6, with her enchanting snowman design.

2nd prize: Tate Hughes, year 3, for a delightful Christmas tree design.

3rd prize: Evelyn Haines, year 7, with a creative and festive train design. Evelyn now attends Chase Terrace Academy.

The children's designs were brought to life as stunning Christmas lights which were on display at Norton Canes Parish Council office (rear of the Co-op).

A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said: "The competition received an overwhelming response from young Norton Canes residents.

"The creativity and talent displayed in the entries made the judging process a delightful challenge. The winning designs truly captured the magic and joy of the holiday season."

Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece added: "We are thrilled to see the incredible talent and creativity displayed by Norton Canes children.

"The Children's Christmas Light Competition has been a resounding success, and we were delighted to see the community come together to celebrate the festive season in such a unique and heart-warming way."

Parents and children interested in participating in the 2024 competition are encouraged to contact the parish council Clerk Ginetta Adams at clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk to request an application form or download the form: https://nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Compentition-Entry-form.pdf

The competition is aimed at primary school children. As the 2023 winner was a snowman, the council would be looking for a different design for 2024.

Entry forms are available early in the year due to the timescale required for the light to be manufactured. Designs will be needed by the end of July.

Smile with Norton Canes Funny Lady

Glynnis Briscoe gives us her quirky take on life. Glynnis is half of comedy duo Dandy.



Thank you Allan and Glynnis for all the years of laughs and entertainment.

A New Year and for us a new beginning - and to prove it we've pushed the boat out and bought a new rug for the kitchen.

'Cold is striking up!' as my mom used to say. Certainly been a lot of that about. Talk about extreme weather.

Flood, freezing conditions and violent storms. I'm expecting a plague of locusts or frogs next and a visit from the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Apparently a trio of agencies apply to name the storms…and I thought we were sad!

Two of the recent names were Gerrit and Henk. Really! What's the matter with Storm Gladys or Storm Neville? They sound less frightening.

Hard to enthuse about winter. Most of us trying to cut down on fuel bills by sitting in our jimjams, dressing gown and a woolly hat huddled round one bar of the electric fire.

We are doing this while binge watching another crime series while we shout things like 'He's using a burner! What's the Intel? Was he D.O.A.?'

Most of us could go down the local cop shop and get a job right off.

While we sit shivering counting our sandbags in case Chasewater bursts its banks what do we watch? …….After the Flood!

Dirty dealings by Post Office officials. I've done a car sticker…'Toby Jones for P.M.' We haven't been so indignant as a nation since they took Crossroads off our screens.

They tried to take our mind off it all by bringing back Gladiators and the promise of a few Woolworths stores being returned. We'll all think we've gone into a time slip!

We've managed a few walks on the new estate Norton Meadow. All looks very smart but we need a Satnav or a very long ball of string to negotiate it. This is because Al and I are from Planet Stupid and have no sense of direction. Allan wants to request more benches wherever we go.

Continued from page 6

Start of a new era for us as Dandy. We did our last gig just before Christmas and Al has hung up his sequins.

Hard decision. We have been working in comedy entertainment for 45 years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to see us, booked us or supported us in any way during that time.

We have met some great folk and helped raise a lot of money for charity. We have worked at some beautiful theatres as Dandy and as part of the Black Country Night Out Theatre Tour including The Grand and Birmingham Town Hall.

We have also worked at places where I thought if I drop anything on the floor I'm going to have to burn it. Trying to clamber into a posh frock in a freezing cold toilet without putting an unprotected foot on a possible wee wet floor is quite a challenge!

Our audiences were usually perfect for us, being like ourselves, of an older generation.

They always clapped more to keep the circulation going. They usually didn't go out much and reacted favourably after alcohol. Perfect!

We are trying to adjust. Allan, as some of you know, is not keen on movement…of any kind. I have enrolled us both for Tai Chi which he can't remember so he tells people it's King Fu.

People are backing away from him even more than normal. It is actually more Qi Gong that we're doing. So we are balancing our chakras which sounds painful and like something we may need a licence for.

Come summer we will apparently be doing it in Beacon Park which means at the first opportunity he will slope off to get a bacon butty from the Lakeside Bistro.

Hopefully we will retain our sense of humour. It's is Allan's birthday this week of writing. He's feeling his age. The Doctor says his blood group's been discontinued!

Allan said: "It's okay to talk to yourself?"…"Yes."

"And it's okay to answer yourself"…"Yes!"

"But just lately I've had to repeat myself 'cause I wasn't listening."

Get out there and do it!
x



National Triumph for TTR Garage Services & Car Friend at 10th National Entrepreneurs' Award



A Norton Canes car repair garage was announced as winner of the Best Customer Service in front of a packed audience of hundreds of fellow entrepreneurs at a prestigious awards ceremony.

The ceremony took place at Birmingham ICC in October.

The event is the highlight of the annual 'getting & keeping customers convention' run by business growth specialists Entrepreneurs Circle. It attracts over 1,000 visitors every year, with hundreds of exhibitors dedicated to helping ambitious business owners.

TTR Garage Services - also known as Car Friend are a small family run car repair garage offering everything from MOT, servicing and repairs to car owners in and around the local area.

Gemma Friend, business owner at Car Friend said: "It was an absolute honour and we were overwhelmed to be nominated.

"Huge congratulations to the other finalists in all categories. As a company in a notoriously difficult sector it has always been part of our core values to ensure customers get the respect, information and service they deserve.

"I couldn't have won this award on my own. I have a fantastic team who support everything we stand for along with some amazingly loyal customers who took the time to leave us fantastic reviews.

Car Friend's triumph came alongside recognition for the entrepreneurs in seven other categories, Entrepreneur of The Year, Best Marketing Campaign, Best Family Business, Most impressive Growth, Best Business Enabler, Most Inspiring Business Person & Implementer of the Year.

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Nigel Botterill, Founder of Entrepreneurs Circle/creator of 10 different £1m+ businesses, said: "As entrepreneurs we're always focused on 'what's next?'

"We're notoriously bad at recognising and celebrating what we've achieved and how far we've come. I'm delighted for TTR Garage Services/Car Friend and all winners and finalists.

"The great work they do often goes unnoticed which is why, 10 years ago, we created the National Entrepreneur Awards. We're on a mission to recognise and reward business owners and businesses like Car Friend that have achieved great things over this last year.



From left: speaker for the evening Hugh Dennis; winner of Customer Service award 2022 Mark Turnbull; winner of award 2023 Gemma Friend; and Matt Dolphin from the Entrepreneur Circle (a.k.a. 'Matt The Butler').

"We want to shine a spotlight on the amazing things entrepreneurs all over the UK are doing to build their businesses, put something back into their local communities and give the country's economy a much-needed shot in the arm."

What Fun!

Upcoming events at Norton Canes Community Centre, Brownhills Road, include:



June 29: Murder Mystery.

June 30: Craft Fayre.

November 17: Craft Fayre.

*For more details ring 07845 678 003; follow us on Facebook nccabookings@hotmail.com; or email nccabookings@hotmail.com

What's On at Norton Canes Library



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-12.30pm.
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.

Last Tuesday of the month Air Britain 7.30pm.

See What's New at the Library on page 11

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libraryvolunteers@mpft.uk

Norton Canes Historical Society

Meetings are held at Norton Canes Library on the second Tuesday of the month.

The format: a speaker gives a talk for approximately one hour. There will then be time for questions and/or chat while refreshments are served.

Doors open at 2pm, meetings finish at 4pm.

All welcome. Admission is free.

Mo Garbett

What's New at the Library?

Norton Canes Library is offering two brand new groups for you to enjoy.

The Burntwood Road library is starting an Air Britain - West Midlands Branch for anyone interested in aircraft and aviation.

Meetings will take place on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. There will be talks, trips to airfields and other interesting events for members.

In complete contrast, a new Poetry Group will meet on the first Saturday of the month from March 2.

Group members will meet from 11am-12.30pm. Organisers say they will 'see how this goes - then hopefully it will continue'.



And there is more good news: in late 2023 the library received grants from county councillor Samantha Thompson's Community Fund and the Postcode Lottery.

The grants are being used to create a sensory room and to improve the library's rear garden and patio areas.

Truly terrible jokes in this newsletter are courtesy of John Bernard!

Girls: Come and Join Us



Girls' Brigade members meet at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes.

A Brigade spokesperson said: "Girls, over the age of four, will be made very welcome. 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.



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

Norton Canes Chess Club



Norton Chess Club welcomes everyone at the Lido club, School Road, Norton Canes.

Members meet every Tuesday at 7pm.

Club spokesman Mike Hoare said: “We thank all the new members who have joined and trust we all enjoy the very friendly social chess and improvements that can be made.”

Mike is encouraging new members to join ‘even if you think it is too difficult’.

He said there is plenty of encouragement and members will explain the complexities of the game.

“It is good for the mind!” he added.

The club has two teams who play in the Cannock league.

“Our Division 3 side are doing very well, being 1st equals with Lichfield - even though we have played one extra game with one to go,” Mike said. “Our Division 4 side unfortunately has 0 points after half the season played but we are getting better with last match only lost 1.5-2.5.”

For more information visit nortoncaneschessclub.co.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.



Just had a sales person at the door selling hills. Curious, I asked the price. Turns out they are too steep.

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Norton Canes Flower Club

Members are looking forward to spring and summer now that the trials and tribulations of winter - and storms with names - are behind us.

In September last year we had a workshop which members enjoyed and learned from as usual. It was led by Chris and members brought along their ideas.

There was a variety of arrangements produced for all to admire.

In October we had a demonstration by Jackie Page who very kindly stepped in when Beverley Short was unable to attend.

Jackie's demonstration, 'The Flower Arranger', was enjoyed by everyone. There were lovely flowers and arrangements - particularly a topical one, an arrangement in a pumpkin.

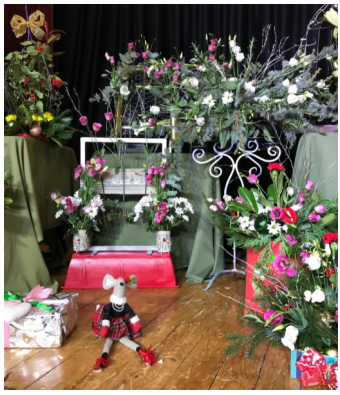
Also in October the annual meeting was held and new officers elected. In November Jo Davis demonstrated 'I'll be home for Christmas' - an open event held at Norton Canes Community Centre. *Continued on page 15*

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This was a lovely afternoon for members and many visitors who came along to enjoy the arrangements and lovely flowers. It was a good start to the festive season.

In December we also had a celebration including a delightful demonstration/workshop by one of our members Sybil. The meeting was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

January saw a visit by Jo Davis who gave a talk and demonstration entitled 'Still Life'. This was a most interesting meeting. Jo explained how the concept of still life developed over centuries to what we know today and illustrated the talk with arrangements and pictures.



Arrangement created for the December meeting

Programme for 2024:

March 20: Emma Rimmington with her demonstration 'As we go down to the Woods'.

April 17: workshop with the theme 'A Walk in the Woods', a landscape design.

May 3: is National Flower Arranging Day - so you may see a surprise around the village.

May 15: Lynne Sharpe will be presenting her 'Car Boot Collection' demonstration.

June 19: to be confirmed.

J**uly 17:** workshop with Sharon Badger.

August: there will an outing during the month.

September 18: demonstration entitled 'Regal Flowers' by Louisa Rigden.



Still Life - from the January demonstration

*Meetings are held on the third Wednesday (unless otherwise stated) at Trinity Bourne Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 1pm for a 1.30pm start.

New members and visitors are most welcome.

For more details, ring 01543 277492 or 01543 278370.



Gently Does It

Feel like you need something just for you?
Enjoy music and a bit of a boogie?
Then come along to a gentle keep fit class near you.
45 minutes of great exercise, fab music and lovely people.
Come on your own or bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.
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.
Gentle-Fit will help you to improve mobility, tone the body, lower blood pressure and improve your overall fitness.

For more details ring Claire on 07538 491849.

Phew: Back to Back Keep Fit Charity Sessions

Members of a Norton Canes keep fit class will be doubling up on their exercise routine to raise cash for the British Heart Foundation.

The Gentle Fit sessions for seniors, held at Norton Canes Community Centre, will see members take part in two back to back sessions to raise the money.
They will be donating their class fees, making a donation or obtaining sponsorship for their efforts.
The session, run by Claire Roden, from Chase Terrace, will take part on April 19.
Her husband Andy's friend, John Bognar, will be taking part in an ambitious cycle ride in Hungary in August next year.

Andy will be driving a motorhome to Hungary to help his friend's charity challenge.
John, aged 50, from Doncaster, will be taking part in a 200km ride around Lake Balaton in Hungary with four friends.

His fundraiser is to mark what would have been his late brother George's 50th birthday.
But he needs to raise £9,000 to cover costs: the motorhome hire, fuel, Eurotunnel, road tolls, accommodation for six people and tyres for the bikes.

John's younger brother, George, passed away in April last year aged 48 after suffering a cardiac arrest at work.

John, who is diabetic and has autism, said: "Hungary is a special place for us. It's where our parents came from. Dad was a refugee from the 1956 Hungarian Uprising who found a new life in England. Mum joined him in 1970 and they married.

"Every summer we would go to Hungary to visit family. As children we often visited Lake Balaton - a 7km freshwater lake in the heart of Hungary.

"I plan to ride around the lake in five days."
In return for a donation to his GoFundMe page, John is offering to display company logos on the fundraiser event shirts and promote companies through social media.
"I am looking at putting on fundraising events where the company logo will appear in the run up to the challenge," John said.

In training, he aims to complete 40-50km a day.

John has set up JustGiving, Facebook and Instagram pages where you can follow his progress.
If you would like to help in any way, visit https://gofund.me/91676bca and https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555255316379
If you would like to take part in the one and a half hour double keep fit session contact Claire on 07849 491 849.

*If for any reason the bike ride doesn't go ahead, all money raised towards the costs will go directly to the charity.

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Lauren - Norton Canes

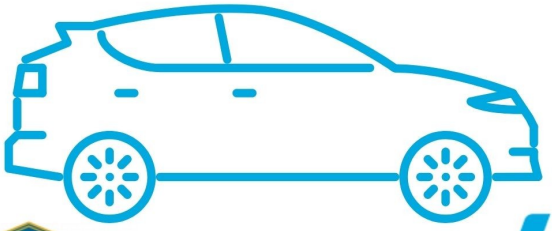


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Message from your MP Amanda Milling



Can I start by wishing the residents of Norton Canes the very best for 2024.

The beginning of the year got off to a very cold start.

I appreciate the cold weather can be a worry for many who are concerned about the cost of heating, so I wanted to urge anyone on a low income to check if they are eligible for a £150 rebate on their energy bills.

The help is available to over 3 million UK households that are most at risk of fuel poverty, with many receiving the discount automatically.

However, some households have been sent a letter asking them to confirm their details by calling the Warm Home Discount Helpline so they can check their eligibility and get the rebate. If you have received this letter you need to call the Helpline by February 29.

For the vast majority of these customers, the discount is automatically applied to bills between October 2023 and March 2024. For those with pre-payment meters a top-up voucher is available.

This scheme is just one of many measures that the government has implemented to keep costs down for families.

More broadly, we have seen some good progress on the economy which has seen inflation falling from 11.1% at its peak to 4%. Wages are rising and mortgage rates are starting to come down. Because of this progress, the Chancellor was able to announce some tax cuts in the Autumn Statement, as well as increases to the state pension and working age benefits.

To find out more about the Warm Home Discount, visit www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme or call the helpline on 0800 030 9322. I hope that everyone who is eligible signs up.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries on this, or any other matter, please get in touch by emailing amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or ring 01543 877142.

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

Silver Sneakers Class of 2024

The Silver Sneakers group meets every Thursday for gentle, (mainly seated) exercise.

The class now meets from 11.30-12.30 - an hour earlier than before.

A class spokesperson said: “We find this earlier time is much more suitable for everyone.

“We now have a good membership with the first class FREE for those thinking of joining us.”

The venue remains at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, where there is ample parking.

At the beginning of December members enjoyed a festive meal at The Rag pub ‘with good company and a beautiful meal’.





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

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★★★★★

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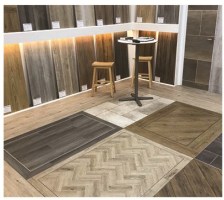
BURNTWOOD BRANCH
10 CANNOCK ROAD
BURNTWOOD
WS7 0BJ
OPEN 6 DAYS
MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
TEL: 01543 672025

NORTON CANES WAREHOUSE
UNITS 1+2 NORTON CANES
BUSINESS PARK,
NORTON GREEN LANE
NORTON CANES
WS11 9SS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MON-SAT
TEL: 01543 277775

"Let us help you design your perfect floor"

New Luxury Vinyl Tile Showroom now open at Carpets Direct 2U

thebest BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2019 TOP 100 UK BUSINESS



10 Cannock Road,
Burntwood,
WS7 0BJ
01543 672025
Call in for a no obligation quote





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BritishForcesDiscounts.co.uk

LEALTA

countdown

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Free measuring & quotation service available

Ranges from Karndean, Polyflor, Luvanto and Universal

twitter.com/carpetsdirect2u
www.facebook.com/carpetsdirect2u
www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk



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.

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 from **£25**.
If you want a particular range or you don't see what you're looking for, you can order just what you want from a number of sample books and normally get it delivered the very next day.

Fitting Service

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

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

Measuring Service

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

RUGS DIRECT 2U®

Rugs

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

Customer Satisfaction

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

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

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

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

visit our website at www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk



TUITION MADE FUN

Confidence Boosting Maths & English

Primary Tuition in Norton Canes



01543 713090 halliwelltuition.co.uk

Maple House, Norton Canes

SCAN ME

Your Parish Church St James the Great, Norton Canes

Church Road, Norton Canes, Cannock WS11 9PQ

Weekly services



Sunday: Mass at 10.30am. All welcome. Tea, coffee and cake afterwards.

Wednesdays: Mass, 10.30am.

Other services as announced.

Holy Week & Easter at St. James'.

Palm Sunday March 24, 2024: Solemn Mass 10.30am.

Monday, Tuesday, Mass 7pm.

Wednesday Mass 11am.

Maundy Thursday, Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm.

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, 12noon.

Lent Lunch, 12.30pm. Liturgy of the Passion, 7pm.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, 7pm.

Easter Sunday Solemn Mass, 10.30am.

Spanish Tutoring



Personalised Spanish lessons for all ages and abilities.
Lessons tailored to your needs and schedule either face to face or online

- Qualified Spanish Teacher
- 5 years experience
- GCSE and A – Level tutoring available

Contact Regan:

07395 066 626

reganbarry@hotmail.co.uk

Would you like to advertise your business in this newsletter and reach every home in the village?

A half page ad' costs just £25,

full page £50,

double page spread £100.

For details ring the parish council clerk

01543 276812 (10am-2pm) or email

clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk



The lights were too bright at this new Chinese restaurant -
so I asked the manager to dim sum!

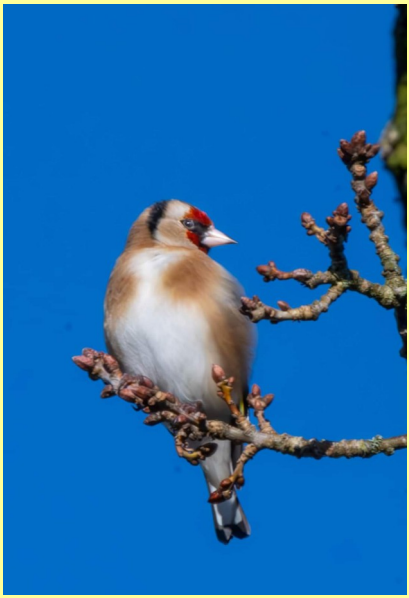


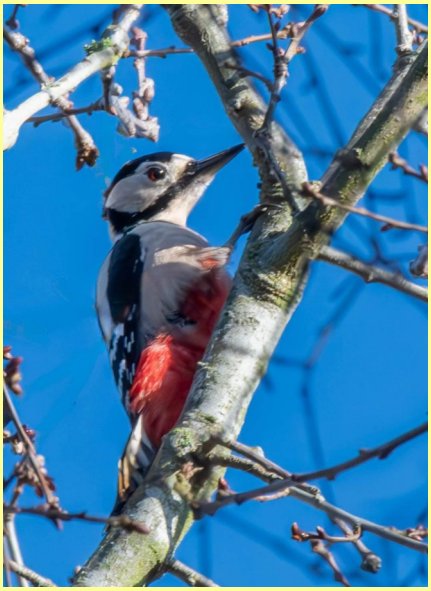


How lucky are we to live in an area where we can spot such beautiful wildlife?

These stunning pictures, courtesy of Fred Bayliss, were taken at Chasewater and The Swag, Norton East Road.

If you are a keen photographer and take any interesting pictures on your walkabout, please share them with readers. Send pictures to cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk stating where the photos were taken.







Norton Canes Practice

Partners in Life

We are raising money for

Cancer Research UK

£1 per raffle strip for a chance to win a beautiful Easter Hamper contributed to by all our staff!

Please purchase or enquire at reception



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.

Can you Help?

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



My friend told me a joke about a TV controller.
It wasn't remotely funny.

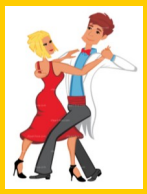
What's On At Norton Canes Community Centre

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
	TBA	Monday Friends Craft Group	07930387167
Tuesday	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 9pm	Indoor Bowling	07716 356 907
Wednesday	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
	9.45am to 11am	Kiddibobs Music Class	kiddiebops.class4kids.co.uk
Thursday	9am to 4pm	Crafty Sew and Sews	07412 191 439
	10am to 12noon	Crafty Card	07845 678 003
	7pm to 9pm	Sugar Craft	07792 549 307
	Evening	Backstreet Theatre	
Friday	1.30pm to 3.30pm	Tea Dance	07716 356 907
	5.30pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07459 473 519
	10am to 12noon	Simply Crafting Card Class	07570 452 948
	11.30am to 12.30pm	Boogie Fit	07538 491 849
Saturday	10.30am to 1pm	L'Rythmix dance class	07821 774 456
	2.30pm to 5pm	2nd and 4th Saturday Nev's Line Dance	07894 947 334
	8pm to midnight	Doug & Angela Social Dance	07944 411 005
Sunday	9.30am - 10.30am	Weight Loss & Wellbeing	07742 336 815
	6pm - 7.30pm	Church of Living Springs	07593 851 112

What are you doing Tuesday Afternoon?

Come and join us at

Norton Canes Community Centre
Brownhills Road, WS11 9SF



Dance to Jenny's Music



Social, Sequence, Line Dances

£4 On the door... 1.30pm - 4pm every Tuesday
Bring your own Food and Drink

We are sure all current and ex dancers who have enjoyed Jenny and Terry's Saturday events at Norton Canes Community Centre would like to join us in thanking them for the years of entertainment they have given us.
We wish Jenny every success in her Tuesday afternoon socials at the centre.
We also thank Jenny for continuing to support this newsletter.

Jan and Sheila
Editor and sub editor

Your Councils: Who Does What?

Staffordshire County Council

Road and pathway issues: maintenance – also known as Staffs Highways (potholes; traffic lights and crossings; double yellow installation and parking; speed limits; dangerous junctions; dropped kerbs; H markings).

Chasewater: (maintenance, general use, and access).

Flooding authority: (means they investigate flood problems but aren't necessarily responsible for fixing it. This will depend on who owns the land e.g. road flooding).

Schools and Education: (education funding, school placements - although academy schools run themselves).

Social Services and Social Care.

Fireworks (only relates to the sale and licensing of fireworks through Trading Standards. They have no oversight of the use of fireworks).

Recycling Centres (Poplars tip recycling centre run on their behalf by Biffa)

Cannock Chase Council

Council housing and council estate land, council garages, homelessness issues.

Parks, playgrounds, trees, open spaces (only those that it owns). Not all open spaces in Norton Canes are owned by Cannock Chase Council.

Planning (grants planning permissions depending on the advice of relevant authorities including Staffordshire Highways, Staffordshire Police and Fire Service, Natural England etc. Also must develop a Local Plan every 10-15 years where it's statutorily obliged to identify where extra housing and business development land can be built).

Environmental Health: (noise nuisance, fly tipping in public places, ongoing litter issues, smoke pollution, vermin).

Continued on Page 33

Continued from page 32

Household bin collection of statutory items (general waste, paper, cardboard, glass, tins, plastic packaging).

Household bin collection of optional items (garden waste – residents have option of putting this in their green general waste bin).

Co-op Car Park (only the car park beyond the yellow barrier and the road entrance to it).

Highways England

A5: (roadworks, traffic lights, verges, and island maintenance).

Norton Canes Parish Council

Millennium Garden, Jubilee Garden, Rose Garden, Norton Green Lane Garden (in conjunction with the Girl Guides); parish council office; hanging baskets in public areas; flower displays at Norton East Road/ Burntwood Road junction and on green spaces in High Street.

Traffic island displays on Norton Hall Lane/Blakeney Way junction and Brownhills Road; village Newsletter; lantern parade; Party in the Park; Remembrance parade; Christmas lamppost lights.

Neighbourhood Plan development; all other events in Norton Canes; community grants; new cemetery (in progress).

The Rose Garden

The Coronation Bench is there to be enjoyed by all who wish to take a break and admire the latest work on the new Rose Garden.



The stag stands proudly in the Rose Garden at the Brownhills Road/ Hednesford Road junction

Message from County Councillor Samantha Thompson

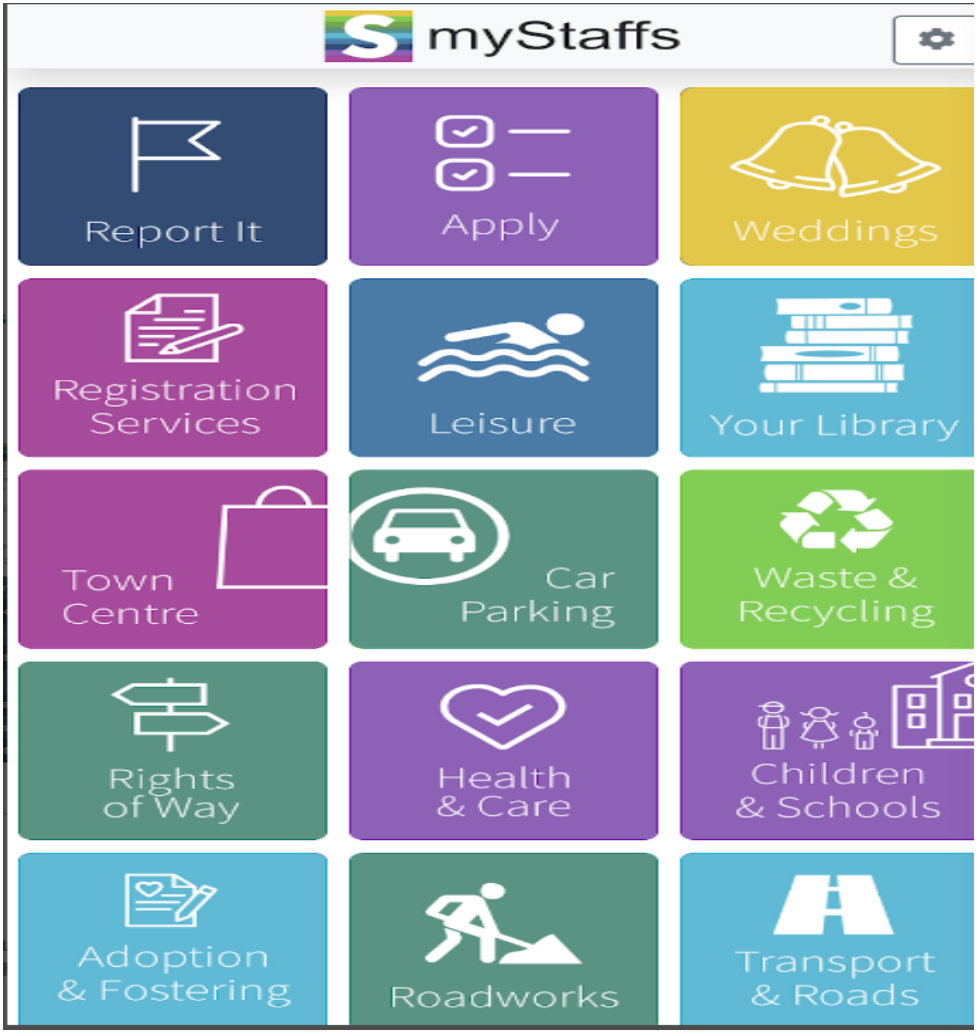


Councillor Samantha Thompson

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
07817265438

**The MyStaffs app can be downloaded free on IOS and Android devices and from the App Store or Google Play. You can access information on any of the following:*



NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2023 ~ 2024

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	07929 558 885
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279 475
Cllr J. Newbury (Vice Chairman)	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/


Saturday July 13, 2024
Party in the Park
1.30pm - 9pm
Free Event
At the Brownhills Road Playing Fields
for details email
clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Live Bands
Don't forget your chair or blanket
Bring your own food and drink