Autumn 2024 Issue 44

Norton Canes Village News

Congratulations Josh



For the first time ever a Norton Canes resident has been elected as MP for Cannock Chase.

Josh Newbury won the Labour seat in the recent General Election.

Josh said he was 'honoured' by the win - 'particularly given that I am the first 'Nortoner' to go to Parliament!'

And Josh had a fun reveal about his new workplace in London: "When people say the Houses of Parliament are like Hogwarts, they aren't wrong!""Whether you voted for me or not, I am here to be your voice in Parliament, so please don't hesitate to get in touch," he said.

Josh has resigned from his role as a Norton Canes parish councilor to take up his new position.

He had been a councillor for Norton Canes ward since 2019 becoming deputy leader of the parish council until his resignation.

Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece said: "We wish him the greatest success in speaking up for our village in London." Josh will continue working as a Cannock Chase councillor.

He was previously a primary care communications manager at NHS Birmingham and Solihull.

His other roles included being communications and engagement lead at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust; a stakeholder engagement manager at Health Education England; and senior parliamentary officer at the Energy and Utilities Alliance.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer visited Norton Canes to promote Josh's campaign on July 2, shortly before the election.

Josh beat former Conservative MP Amanda Milling in the election winning 15,671 votes, with a majority of 3,215.

See page 5 for message from Josh.

Hi everyone - and welcome to the autumn edition of your newsletter.

First of all, congratulations to our new MP Josh Newbury (see articles in this edition).

Now that the newsletter only comes out twice a year, you will find that some of the event dates seem a long way off, so please keep the publication somewhere where you can refer to it every now and then.

Or, if you know anyone who has a connection to Norton Canes, please pass the newsletter on to them when you have finished with it.

I am often told that people who used to live in the village love to keep up with what's going on here – and they express surprise at how much activity takes place.

If you would like anything included, please do get in touch.

Any articles welcome: funny stories, historic stories, rants, details about your group activities, entertainers' upcoming performances, photos, etc.

Some of our volunteers are creaking under the strain of trying to get the newsletter delivered to every home in the village, so if you could offer to deliver to just one street or part of a street, please get in touch.

Until next time.
Loves
Jan

To avoid disappointment items for the Spring 2025 newsletter must be sent to Jan by the first week in February 2025
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk



Message from Norton Canes Parish Council Chairman



Hello everybody, and welcome to the autumn edition of Norton Canes Parish Newsletter.

We have had a very busy year so far - culminating in the very successful Party in the Park.

Thank you to everyone who came and made this one of the most well attended events so far.

It was great that Bloke could perform this year following the dreadful weather at last year's washout.

We have already begun making plans for Party in the Park '25, and we can confirm that it will take place on July 12 – again on Brownhills Road Recreation Ground, Norton Canes.

Keep your eyes peeled over the next year for more details.

We have had some parish councillor changes over the past few months. I extend my thanks to Paul Sanders and Julie Walker for their help and support as parish councillors over the past few years.

Paul has been particularly crucial in helping to the run parish council events such as Party in the Park, the Lantern Parade and Remembrance Day march.

I welcome Stuart Taylor and Anne Kirk to the parish council.
We have more events coming up this year that you are all invited to attend.

For Remembrance Sunday, the parish council has organised the Remembrance March from Jerome Primary School to St James' Church. St James' Church stained glass window is Norton Canes' war memorial. A service takes place there every year on Remembrance Sunday as part of our recognition of those who served and died for us in all wars.

The parish council has again organised the annual Lantern Parade for December 1.
It will follow the usual route around Norton Canes Community Centre.
Each year we seem to get more and more people attending.
It would be lovely to see you all there with little ones. We promise there will be a few familiar faces from the world of cartoons!
More information about this event are featured on page 6.

Have a wonderful autumn and winter, a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year.
Councillor John Preece

The People Partied



The annual Norton Canes Party in the Park has been hailed ‘a resounding success’.

Organised by Norton Canes Parish Council, the event took place at Brownhills Road playing fields on July 13.

The party, funded by the parish council, brought the local community together for a day of fun-filled activities and entertainment. A parish council spokesperson said the party ‘featured a vibrant array of entertainment for attendees of all ages to enjoy - from exhilarating bouncy castles to free popcorn and candy floss’.

“Guests were treated to a memorable day filled with laughter and excitement.

“There was also a vibrant market selling goods and refreshments which was enjoyed by all.” Performances by talented entertainers and bands also added to the atmosphere. These included: Stef, Pure Tina, The Trip, Hangover Pending and Bloke. Newly elected MP for Cannock Chase Josh Newbury, from Norton Canes, joined the festivities to connect with constituents and show his support for the local community.

Representatives from the fire brigade and local police were also in attendance – ‘further enhancing the sense of community spirit and collaboration’. Norton Canes Parish Council clerk Ginetta Adams said: “Heartfelt thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers whose hard work and commitment helped make Party in the Park a success.

“Their contributions were invaluable in creating a memorable experience for all attendees and fostering a sense of unity within the community.”

*For more details about Norton Canes Parish Council-organised future events/initiatives contact the parish clerk Ginetta on 01543 276812 or email clerk@nortoncanesparishcountil.gov.uk *See photos Page 36*

Message from Your New MP Josh Newbury



It is an honour to be writing my first article in our village newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who put their trust in me to represent our village in Westminster.

My first few weeks in London were a whirlwind, starting just 48 hours after the results were announced.

As you might expect, on the agenda was picking up my ID and IT equipment, filling in endless HR forms and training sessions on everything from setting up your office to the quirky rules and procedures of our ancient Parliament.

Without a doubt, the highlight of July was coming home and volunteering at our annual Party in the Park.

This brilliant event is getting bigger and better every year and showcases the community spirit that makes Norton Canes a special place to live.

Alongside hunting for a local office and recruiting a team of staff, I have been getting stuck into the issues that often came up during the campaign, like school places, GP capacity, hospital services and the Mineworkers Pension Scheme.



Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece (left) with local MP Josh Newbury at the village Party in the Park.

Not yet having staff to support me means that my response time is slower than I would like, but I am still working hard on queries and concerns, particularly if they are urgent.

Please get in touch using my email address:

josh.newbury.mp@parliament.uk and take a look at my Facebook page (Josh Newbury MP) for regular updates and details of my face-to-face local advice sessions.





Our organization is looking for dedicated individuals to join us in our mission to make a positive impact in our community.

If you want to make a meaningful difference in your community, we want to hear from you!

Contact us if you would like to help deliver the Village Newsletter, join our events team, or become part of our Speed Watch team..

EMAIL GINETTA ADAMS

clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Wishing You a Very Happy Retirement



Happy retirement to Maureen Hopley – who has worked as a volunteer at Norton Canes Community Centre for 25 years.

Maureen decided, at the grand old age of 89, that it was time to hang up her hat.

Over the years Maureen worked as secretary then as chairman of the Community Centre Committee, making sure everything ran smoothly.

She began volunteering at the old Community Centre (which was opposite where the present building has been situated since 2000).

More than anything, Maureen has enjoyed watching how the Community Centre has progressed.

“They do so much with different organisations. There is something on all day and every day,” she said.

Maureen, from Red Lion Crescent, Norton Canes, retired in May and received ‘a lovely bouquet’ from the committee.

“I have enjoyed it over the years and have worked with some lovely people,” Maureen added.

She has two sons and one grandson and is now looking forward to spending more family time.

Norton Canes Historical Society

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

The format for these meetings is usually a speaker for one hour - then while refreshments are served members can socialise and enjoy the afternoon.

The society does not meet in August.

The next meeting will be Tuesday September 10.

Admission is free. All welcome.

Mo Garbett
Secretary

Av a Laff – with Norton Canes funny lady Glynnis Briscoe

Well, what changes we have experienced lately!

I don't mean that some of the potholes or craters, as we call them, have been filled in - although some of them have.
I mean we have a new broom at Number 10.

One of the biggest worries according to certain journalists is whether Keir Starmer's cat, Jojo, will get along with long term feline resident, Larry. Never mind the economy…. it could be claws at dawn.



Seeing the funny side: Glynnis with husband Allan (a.k.a retired comedy duo Dandy).

Closer to home we would like to thank the Craddock family for the wonderful service they have provided to the village for so many years. We would also like to welcome the new shopkeepers of Norton Canes Local Convenience Store.

Well done to the lads but sadly, nothing is certain in this life. You can only go out and do your best - which they did. So much male bonding.

Those of us who do not embrace sport in any way have finally emerged from cellars and backrooms and sheds where we have skulked for what felt like months.
We occasionally put a head round the door to shout: "How much longer? Not ANOTHER penalty shootout!"

We now realise the menfolk have spent all the housekeeping on lagers and have put on two stone (old school) with snacking and stress eating.

Al was really grumpy. I didn't watch any of the matches but still managed to predict the final score.

So much psychic malarkey going down. There was a psychic cat, a psychic seagull and a mystic meerkat. Perhaps they should have been on the Pundit's Panel.

Now I once again have access to the telly we continue to stare at it and say "Nothing worth watching!"

We have to turn on subtitles a lot more these days. I'm going to get himself an ear trumpet! "They all mumble and talk too fast!"

That's because unlike us they don't have to search every crevice of the memory for the missing word and name!

Continued from page 8

Luckily bad language doesn't bother us that much - unless it's directed at us. Most programmes begin with a warning of strong language, scenes of a sexual nature and violence.

Apart from the sex scenes (God forbid) it sounds as if it has been filmed round at ours.

Getting lucky these days means finding our car in the multi storey.

Back in the day if anybody swore they would say 'Pardon my French!'

Imagine my first day at St Mary's on the Bonk in Wednesbury and the nun said: "Does anybody know any French words?"

Up went my hand and I followed through with a whole line of expletives care of my Uncle Ben.

Sister Godrick followed through with a slap around my head and a letter to my mother.

Lots of events on round and about this summer. We didn't manage to get back to the Motherland for Black Country Day.



Last time we went to take flowers for my mum's grave we had an incident. Poor man almost weeping over a grave close by saying:
"Why did yow atta die?"
I went over and said: "Sorry for your loss is this your wife?"
He said: "No, cock, it ay me wife…it's her fust husband!"

Weird weather has apparently caused strange behaviour in humans and animals alike.

Bizarre news items:

A dog has learned to turn a stove on (why?) and burned the house down….

A herd of sheep kicked off and were discovered to have munched through a small field of medicinal cannabis…

And a man was detained in an airport in China for smuggling 100 live snakes down his trousers….

There has to be an answer to that one but I shall refrain.

On a final note just to lift our spirits the UK is due for a white shark invasion.

Just when you thought it was safe to tuck your frock into your knickers and go for a paddle….

Have fun!

What's On at Norton Canes Library



The following groups meet at Norton Canes Library:

Monday: Little Chicks, 9.15am-10.15am (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.
Painting/Watercolour Art Group, 2pm-4pm. All are welcome. £3 per session includes all materials, cuppa and cake. (Suitable for absolute beginners and more experienced).

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 & Natter, 2pm-4pm.

Saturday: Join us for a free cup of tea/coffee, toast, biscuits and a natter, 10am-12.30pm.
Story time: 10.40am (20 minutes) for two to five-year-olds.

2nd Tuesday of the month: Norton Canes History Group, 2pm to 4pm.

Last Tuesday of the month: Air Britain 7.30pm.

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

2nd Saturday of the month: Creative Writing and Poetry Group meet from 11am-1pm. All welcome.

Would You Like to Volunteer at Your Local Library?

Norton Canes Community Library is looking for new volunteers.
If you can spare just a few hours a week you would be made most welcome.
Full training is provided - and you will also gain valuable work experience while supporting your local community.
A library spokesperson said: "We are always looking for new volunteers. Feel free to come in for a chat. Just a few hours a week can make a big difference."

Archer is a Medal Winner

Well done Archer Bell for being the first to complete Norton Canes Library's Summer Mini Reading Challenge.

Archer was presented with a medal and an embroidered bookmark (kindly provided by local councillor Jean Hill for library members who complete the challenge).



Archer is proudly wearing his medal and holding his bookmark.

Library Hosts Choir Performance

Norton Canes Primary Academy Choir performed at Norton Canes Library on July 8.

Including choir members, parents, relatives and library visitors almost 70 people attended.

Volunteer library co-ordinator Will Bird said the event was 'enjoyed by all'.

"A big thank you to the teachers, staff and pupils," Will said.

"We look forward to welcoming them back again later in the year."







Belated Happy Birthday Dorothy



Norton Canes resident Dorothy Hodges celebrated her 100th birthday in style.

A brass band turned up in her street to serenade Dorothy and play happy birthday – and neighbours came out of their houses to join in singing it to her.

Dorothy is the wife of the late/former parish and Cannock Chase councillor Ted Hodges.

She celebrated in April with family and friends with an 'open house' at home where visitors popped in for food – including birthday cake of course.

Girls: Come and Join Us



Girls' Brigade members meet at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, 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 Girls' Brigade ENGLAND & WALES

To avoid disappointment items for the Spring 2025 newsletter must be sent to Jan by the first week in February 2025

email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Norton Canes Craft Group Report

We are a group of ladies, mostly from Norton Canes, who enjoy getting together chatting and crafting - especially since COVID which not only changed the world but our lives too. Friendship is very important to us and we try to support each other in times of need.



Some of the members pictured learning their skills at the craft shop.

The group, which has been running for four years, has 13 members. We do a lot of fundraising for charity. At Christmas we raised over £1,000 for the Monthly Alzheimer's Support Evening (MASE).

Also instead of buying Christmas gifts, we send presents to the local food bank for people less fortunate than us. In July this year, when we received our parish grant, we decided to put it towards the hire of a mini bus for a day out to a craft shop in Evesham.

The staff were friendly, helpful and very knowledgeable. They taught us a few card making techniques, one was using glitter glue. Needless to say some of us got more on ourselves than on the card! After a very enjoyable day, we returned home full of new ideas and a new set of skills.



Group leader Pam Ratcliffe (front left) demonstrates a machine to Sheila Harding.
**The machine was bought with a Norton Canes Parish Council grant in 2022.*
It was used to produce 'Forget Me Not' cards - sold at Norton Canes fundraising events for the Alzheimer's Society.

Last year we bought much needed equipment with the parish grant.

Although our class is open to anyone, we do have a waiting list at the moment.

Members meet at Norton Canes Community Centre on Wednesdays, 11am-1pm.

For more details ring group member Pam Ratcliffe on 07803 061 871.

Norton Canes Flower Club

Here we are in autumn with its colourful trees and berries; and we can enjoy our gardens a while longer before winter comes.

In February we had a wonderful demonstration by Gill Mills called ‘Floral Gems’. Gill told us about her interesting and full life whilst producing stunning arrangements using colourful and beautiful flowers. It was a good afternoon enjoyed by all.

with lovely flowers.

In April we held a workshop, A Walk in the Woods, which was inspired by Emma's demonstration in March.

This was led by Chris and some beautiful arrangements were made by members - all of them different, as always with a learning workshop.

In May we were lucky to have Lynne Sharpes' demonstration ‘Car Boot Collection’ when she used items acquired from car boots. Lynne used bought and garden flowers and foliage in her arrangements. We enjoyed her enthusiasm and talent and had a delightful afternoon.





Beautiful flower arrangements from the May demonstration.

In June our original speaker was unable to attend so we had a short demonstration by Chris followed by a great strawberry tea. The event was much enjoyed.

Sharon Badger led the workshop in July. This was a most enjoyable afternoon for members, who created their own arrangements with help from Sharon and those watching.

In August, members are visiting Ashwood Nurseries and will tour John's Garden. We are all looking forward to it and hope the weather will be kind

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

Forthcoming 2024/25 programme:

September 18: demonstration by Louise Rigden called ‘Regal Flowers’.
October 16: workshop.
October 30: annual meeting.

November 20: demonstration by Linda Seaton called ‘Christmas’ - an open meeting when anyone can visit. It will be held at Norton Canes Community Centre, 1.30pm, pay on the door £7.

December: Christmas celebration.
January 15: a talk.
February 19: demonstration by Rebecca Morris called ‘Inspired by Nature’.
March 19: workshop called ‘With Easter in Mind’.



Meetings take place at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 1pm for 1.30pm start unless otherwise stated.

We would love to see you at these events. We warmly welcome new members and visitors.

For more details, ring 01543 277492 or 01543 278370.

Senior Exercise Group Grows Stronger



Silver Sneakers members would like to thank Norton Canes Parish Council for once again supporting the older generation.

We are now using kilo weights and resistance bands bought with the parish grant awarded to us this year.

We use them weekly and get so much enjoyment from them - as well as strengthening our bones, so a win win!

Membership is continuing to flourish with 29 on the books.

We always welcome new members, so come and give us a try. The first class is free so you can see if this is something you would enjoy.

We meet every Thursday at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 11.30am-12.30pm.

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

Crafty Sew and Sews

Busy group members spread themselves out when they meet at Norton Canes Community Centre.



Here they are working on their machine embroidery, creating one of their many charity projects.

The class meets on Thursdays from 10am-2.30pm.

Anyone interested in joining can ring Jean (pictured in the foreground) on 07412 191 439.

An Invitation from Norton Canes Watercolour Club

Members invite you visit the club's Art Exhibition which takes place on Saturday October 12.

The event will be held at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, from 10am -4pm.

Admission is free. Light refreshments will be available.

There will be a a raffle on the day. First prize is a framed original watercolour by professional artist Stephen Coates .



Raffle prize 'Almost Sunset' by Stephen Coates.

For more details ring Sheila on 07733 346 280 or Mo 07443 892 313.



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

Back to Back Keep Fit Sessions Were Worth It



Members of a Norton Canes keep fit class raised an amazing £1,352 for the British Heart Foundation by holding two back-to-back sessions.

Claire Roden, who runs the fitness group, said: “What an achievement from everyone involved.”

The Gentle Fit sessions for seniors, was held at Norton Canes Community Centre.

During the back to back sessions, members donated their class fees, made a donation or obtained sponsorship.

The session, run by Claire Roden, from Chase Terrace, took place in April.

Claire organised the event in support of her husband Andy’s friend John Bognar.

John is taking part in an ambitious 200km cycle ride in Hungary for the British Heart Foundation in August next year.

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

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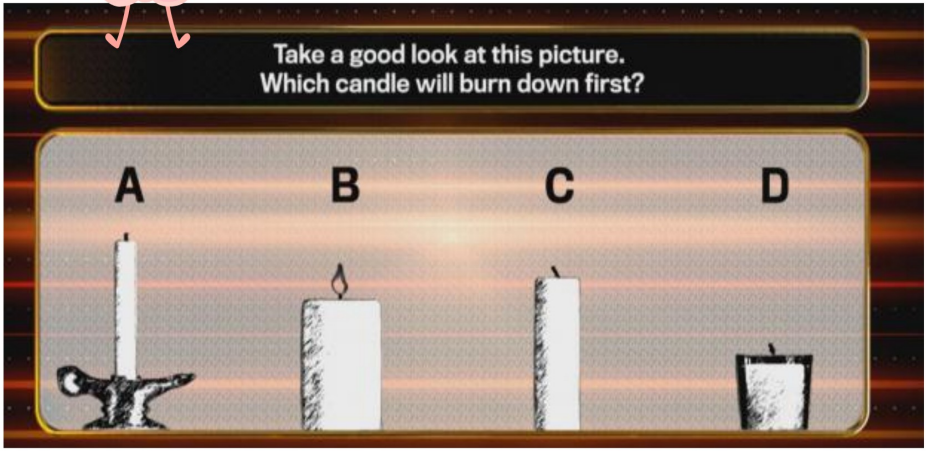
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Latest Addition to National Miners' Memorial

Visitors to the National Miners' Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum can now enhance their visit - by listening to the Story of the Plaques as they walk around the bronze plaques set into Derbyshire stone.

The stone resembles a drift mine and depicts men, women and children who worked in UK coal mines.

The film is available via a QR code which is fixed to the plinth at the entrance to the National Miners Memorial site, which is on Gifford Avenue at the Arboretum, close to the main entrance and Heroes Square.

It was produced by CHAPS member Lisa Shephard. The words were written by Len Prince and are read by the Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Ian Dudson, CBE, K St J; CHAPS members and former miners Len Prince and Alex Smith; historian Brian Elliott; Colonel Richard Hawkins from the Royal Engineers; and CHAPS president Mike Mellor. A second QR code takes you to the music Grounded in Gratitude and its accompanying film showing men and women at work in the coal mines. The music was written by Handre Potgeiter, a South African composer and friend of CHAPS. The film was edited by Matthew Farrell. Together, they create a beautiful, emotive piece. watching it is often accompanied by a tear or two.

For those not visiting the Arboretum in Alrewas - or for those who want to watch and listen again at their leisure, the films are available from the Projects page on CHAPS' updated website www.chaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk

Details of the National Miners' Memorial can also be found on the group's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpaces and we would love to hear what people think of them both either via Facebook or by email to info@chaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk



Plinth with QR codes

QR code for Story of the Plaques

QR code for Grounded in Gratitude

Norton Canes Health Centre – Dr Nilar & Dr Htike's Surgery

The doctors' surgery would like to share latest updates with patients. Alongside Dr Nilar and Dr Htike, we have two trainee doctors: Dr Moona and Dr Khan at our surgery.

With flu season beginning shortly, we will be offering vaccines to children and pregnant patients in September; at-risk patients and over 65s in October. We will be contacting patients' accordingly.

If you would like to book in advance, please contact us towards the end of August to secure an appointment.

Help keep yourself safe this autumn and winter
The NHS is releasing a new RSV respiratory vaccine which we will be offering at the surgery in September.

This vaccine will be available from September 1 to patients who are 75-79 years old on or before that date (date of birth on or after September 1, 1945 and before August 31, 1949). and pregnant women from 28 weeks of gestation.

Help protect yourselves and book at the surgery for your respiratory vaccine

Are you aware what we can offer in surgery?
We offer a variety of support at the surgery for patients who may not need a GP appointment.

We have a mental health practitioner, physiotherapist, dietician, social prescriber and care coordinator who can help you or your loved ones. For more details ring 01543 450222.

Got a sore throat, insect bite or shingles?
Pharmacy First is a new system where patients can be referred by surgery receptionists - or self-refer for support and medication without a GP appointment.

Chemists such as Nucare Pharmacy and Well Pharmacy offer this service.

For more details contact us or your local chemist to see if they offer this service and avoid queues and wait times.

You can refer yourself to Pharmacy First if you have a sore throat, acute sinusitis, impetigo, infected insect bites, acute ear infections (for those aged one to 18), shingles (18 years+), UTI (women aged 16-64 and not pregnant).

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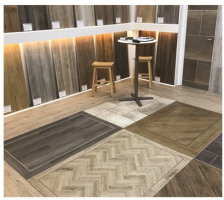
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Carpets Direct 2U is easily accessible to everyone in the area with retail premises in **Aldridge, Burntwood** and **Pelsall** and a huge warehouse in **Norton Canes** which is open to the public and has thousands of rolls in stock ready for customers 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**

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visit our website at www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk

Christmas at St James



Christmas Services at St James' Church, Norton Canes:

Carol Service: Sunday December 15 at 6pm followed by wine and mince pies.

December 24: Christingle & Crib Service for children at 4pm.

December 24: First Mass of Christmas, 7pm.



Christmas Day: Mass at 9am.

Weekly services:

Sunday: Mass at 10.30am. All welcome to join us for tea, coffee and cake afterwards.

Wednesdays: Mass, 11am.

Follow on Facebook: St James the Great Norton Canes

Where Do the Gardens Grow?

Here's a handy guide to explain exactly where Norton Canes Parish Council gardens are situated in the village. We hope this will be particularly useful for new residents.

Jubilee Garden: Crossroad at Brownhills Road and Burntwood Road, traditionally known as the Bridge. This garden also provides access to The Batter a footpath leading to Five Ways, Heath Hayes.

Millennium Garden: Junction of Walsall Road and Burntwood Road, traditionally known as the Square where the stone and Union Jack flag are located.

Centenary Garden: The community garden maintained by Norton Canes Guides and Brownies in Norton Green Lane where it meets Butts Lane.

The Rose Garden: Situated on the junction of Brownhills Road and Hednesford Road, is our latest addition. It features the 'Norton Stag' and is surrounded by a ring of roses and lavender. The planted area leads to the Coronation Bench - a peaceful place to sit and reflect.



Turns out, I'm not a very good bricklayer.
So I'm giving up and throwing in the trowel...

Happy Birthday RVS Darby & Joan Club

The Royal Voluntary Service Darby & Joan Club celebrated its 75th birthday on August 7 with a special afternoon tea party.

The event was held at Norton Canes Community Centre. Special guests were Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece and former parish councillor Sheila Harding.



Darby & Joan Club chairman Karen Ball addressed members. She said thanks were due to the committee for all their hard work especially over the last two years keeping the club going.

Members enjoyed party food, cakes and entertainment by 'Wyn' (who entertained the group last year and had members tappng their feet and joining in with the songs).

Members were presented with chocolate and an engraved pen to remember the day.

Over 75 years ago a group of ladies got together in Norton Canes and started the Darby & Joan Club for elderly people in the village. It was so successful it eventually reached over 100 members.

Maureen Hall took over as chairman from her mother-in-law - and only recently retired from her role in 2023.
Treasurer Karen Ball then combined her role with that of chairman.



Chairman/treasurer Karen Ball cuts the cake.

The club runs every Wednesday at Norton Canes Community Centre, 1.30pm-3.30pm.

The club has indoor activities, speakers, demonstrations and visits out to garden centres, shopping centres - and in previous years to the seaside.
Light refreshments are served. There is a game of bingo, free raffle and cash Lucky Dip.

Anyone over 55 who would like to join is invited to this friendly group. You would be made most welcome.

For more details ring Karen on 01543 897996 or 07977 995 408.

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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



I've just had someone at the door for 30 minutes telling me the benefits of brown bread...
It was a Hovis Witness.

Norton Canes Chess Club

The club hosted a chess phenomenon on July 20.
One of England's best Grandmasters/2023 World champion over 50, Michael Adams, played 44 members all at the same time!

The score, as you might guess, was 44-0 to Michael!

All members thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing such an esteemed, brilliant player (who is also a very fine gentleman and pleasant person to talk to).



The event took place at Norton Canes Primary Academy.

Our hearty thanks go to school staff for their help in making the event happen.



It was open to all clubs in the Cannock league - as it was the league's 25th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the English Chess Federation.

Norton Canes Chess Club had mixed success in the league last year.

We were joint winners of Division 3 and bottom of Division 4 - but all players gained a lot of experience to help them improve.

This year we have introduced a second team in Division 4 as more members are joining every week.

We welcome anyone who would like to join our very happy club.
Members meet at the Lido, Norton Canes, Tuesdays, at 7pm.



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

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1 Shaw Court, Brownhills Road, Norton Canes.
WS11 9TD

www.georgestaceyfuneralservices.co.uk
email: info@georgestaceyfuneralservices.co.uk

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.

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.

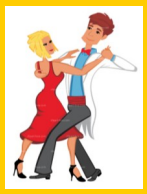
What's On At Norton Canes Community Centre

Day	Time	Event	Contact
Monday	10.30am - 3.30pm	X'Aquarians Line Dance	07495 473 519
	4.15pm - 6.15pm	L'Rythmix Dance Class	07821 774 456
	7pm	Kano Judo Club	07549 108 829
	TBA	Monday Friends Craft Group	07930 387167
Tuesday	11am - 12noon	White Lotus Tai Chi	07724 183 091
	1.30pm - 4pm	Jenny's Social Dance	01922 415 232
	4.45pm - 6.15pm	Rainbows and Brownies	07711 822 291
	7pm - 9pm	Indoor Bowling	07716 356 907
Wednesday	11am - 1pm	Norton Canes Craft Group	07803 061 871
	1.30pm - 3.30pm	RVS/Darby and Joan	07977 995 408
	1.30pm - 3pm	Living springs	07593 850 112
	5.45pm - 6.45pm	Zumba	07894 947 334
	7pm - 10pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07495 473 519
Thursday	10am - 2.30pm	Crafty Sew and Sews	07412 191 439
	10am - 12noon	Crafty Card	07570 452 948
	7pm - 9pm	Sugar Craft	07792 549 307
	Evening	Backstreet Theatre	
Friday	1.30pm - 3.30pm	Tea Dance	07845 678 003
	5.30pm	X'Aquarians line dance	07495 473 519
	10am - 12noon	Simply Crafting Card Class	07570 452 948
	11.30am - 12.30pm	Boogie Fit	07538 491 849
Saturday	10.30am - 1pm	L'Rythmix dance class	07821 774 456
	2.30pm - 5pm	2nd and 4th Saturday Nev's Line Dance	07894 947 334
	8pm - midnight	Doug & Angela Social Dance	07944 411 005
Sunday	9.30am - 10.30am	Weight Loss & Wellbeing	07742 336 815

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

Coming Soon to Norton Canes Community Centre

November 17: Craft Fair, 1pm-4pm.

December 13 and 14: panto Treasure Island.
For details ring the booking clerk on 07570 452 948 or email nccabookings@hotmail.com



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More truly terrible jokes from John Bernard!

People who hoard magazines have a lot of issues.

I phoned the Birmingham Sea Life Centre and they said my call would be recorded for training porpoises.



I got arrested for stealing a combine harvester
I'm out on bale.

Went to the local German store (Aldi). I bought some fruit bread.
On the way out someone asked me is that stolen?
I said no, I've paid for it.

Meet Your Norton Canes Parish Councillors



My name is John Bridgen. I am 83 years old.

I have been a Norton Canes parish councillor for 14 years, with a three year break in between.

I have lived all my life in Norton Canes. I have been a farmer until the tender age of 78.

I am currently helping with completion of the new parish graveyard at St James Church.

Hi, I'm William.Bird (Will).



I live in Norton Canes and I am pleased to serve as one of your parish councillors.

I believe it is important to be involved with the local community, to help provide services and community projects that benefit residents of Norton Canes.

I am also voluntary co-ordinator for Norton Canes Community Library and Information Hub, This valuable community resource is run on a day to day basis by a team of volunteers from the local community.

My hobbies are: walking, crown green bowls, and restoring 1960s record players.

If ever you want a chat you'll find me at the library most Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings.



My name is Ian Reeves and I have lived in the village all of my life.

I am a retired miner, primary school teacher and health and safety officer.
My interests include rugby and judo.

I used to play in the front row for Cannock Rugby Club and have run Kano Judo Club in the Norton Canes for 25 years.

My hobbies are now a bit less physical and I spend my spare time making military models, fishing and overseeing the judo club (now run by my three daughters).

I am also a volunteer/secretary at Norton Canes Community Centre.

I am honoured to have been selected as a parish council member and have found it interesting and thoroughly enjoyable so far.

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:*

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 Jean Hill	07412 191 439

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

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

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/

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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/

Norton Canes Parish Council follow us on Facebook

The Lantern parade route.



Photos from this year's Party in the Park
(see story on page 4).











Fantastic Bands including Stef, Pure Tina, The Trip, Hangover Pending and Bloke