Spring
2025
Issue 45

Norton Canes Village News

Oh - Deer!

Keep your eyes peeled over the next few weeks.
Six magnificent deer and stag statues will be gracing the village at four locations.
Three of the bronze-effect statues will be positioned on the Memorial Garden opposite Norton Canes Library; one on the Millennium Garden (junction of Walsall Road/Burntwood Road); one in the parish office garden (rear of the Co-op); and one on the Rose Garden (Brownhills Road/Hednesford Road junction).
All of the above are parish council maintained gardens.
Villagers have had the pleasure of seeing real deer and stags strolling in and around the village recently.
Soon we will have permanent deer structures in place as soon as the bases have been prepared.
Norton Canes Parish Council was able to buy the deer statues thanks to the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which backs village enhancement projects.
The deer statues are in residence at Norton Canes Library until the bases are ready. Residents are welcome to pop in and see them.



Library co-ordinator Will Bird and village PCSO Suki Mander are pictured with one of the magnificent statues.

Library co-ordinator/parish councillor Will Bird said: "The deer have been on display in the library for a few weeks. Members of the public love them. They think they are a great addition to our village.

"The parish council is working hard to enhance Norton Canes."

Hello villagers old and new.

Spring forward everyone. I think we're all glad to see the back of that dismal winter.
I hope you enjoy this packed edition of Village News. If you would like to contribute an article please do so. The magazine is published twice a year.
The next edition may have a new look as we are losing a really valued member of our team of two.
(Drum roll……..) Our sub editor Sheila Harding is retiring (see page 13).
I would like to offer my personal thanks to Sheila for her extraordinary patience and humour whilst putting this newsletter together. Sheila has simply been exemplary.
I hope we can share many a cake and coffee together in the future.
Thank you Sheila x
Loves
Jan

Editor *Send articles to me cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

New Village Cemetery

Progress is being made on the new Norton Canes Cemetery next to St James Churchyard.
Preliminary work such as provision of new pathways has already taken place. After some delays due to weather conditions, work is expected to restart shortly.
The Edwardian boundary wall has been removed and the bricks are being stored. Some of these will be used to construct a miners' memorial.
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece said: "Parish councillors are very excited about developments. One of our most significant projects is the extension of St James' Cemetery.
"We're pleased with progress and looking forward to the site opening.
"It will offer a peaceful and respectful place for future generations to remember loved ones."



The new pathway at St James Churchyard.

Parish Council Chairman Announcements

Tribute to Chris Straughan and Tony Carpenter: It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Chris Straughan and Tony Carpenter, both long-time residents and dedicated volunteers in the village. It was an honour to know them. They made an immeasurable contribution to Norton Canes community, serving in various roles, always willing to lend a hand when needed. Their dedication and sense of community will be missed by all who knew them. Parish councillors extend deepest condolences to their families and friends during this difficult time.



Cllr John Preece

Exciting Upcoming Events: Norton Canes has a lot to look forward to. The village will be commemorating VE Day on May 8 marking an important moment in history. There will be various events throughout the day to honour those who contributed to the end of World War II. More details available soon. Residents are encouraged to participate and show their support.
The highly anticipated Party in the Park will take place on July 12. This family-friendly event promises fun activities, entertainment and a great opportunity for locals to come together and celebrate summer.

Thank You Sheila Harding: I would like to extend a special thank you to Sheila Harding whose dedication to the community has been invaluable. Sheila's hard work on the village newsletter has kept residents up to date with what is going on. Her tireless efforts are greatly appreciated. We are grateful for her continued commitment to keeping Norton Canes a vibrant and well-informed community.

*With so many exciting events and developments, there's never been a better time to be part of Norton Canes community. Parish councillors look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events and invite residents to continue their engagement in making the village an even better place to live.
Councillor John Preece.

Happy 100th Birthday Percy



A Norton Canes resident will be celebrating his 100th birthday on May 8.

Percy Stanley, from Butts Lane, left school at 14 and worked as an errand boy; then repaired WWII bomb damage in Birmingham. He remembers repairing a roof when rafters gave way. He fell through the ceiling and landed on a bed so was OK – but shocked the occupier who was still in bed!

At 16 years old Percy worked at Fischer Bearings in Hednesford. At 18, he applied to the Royal Air Force but was turned down because of his 'essential works' manufacturing military supplies.

He remembers VE Day (his 20th birthday). Percy and his workmates celebrated in Cannock. They pushed a piano from the Crown pub (where Hannah's cafe is now) into the street.

Many people were partying in the town centre, some on rooftops, including Percy on the roof of the old Co-op.

His next job was at Fischer Bearings (later Fafnir Bearings) where he met Joan Meacham from Norton Canes and they began dating.

Percy, originally from Hednesford, said it was a culture shock visiting Joan in 'the back of beyond'! He would get the bus to Norton Bridge and walk down Chapel Street in complete darkness.

Joan's family lived in a big house on the corner of Butts Lane/Norton Green Lane, (where the Guides garden is now). The family pumped water from a well and had two earth toilets down the garden.

Percy and Joan married in 1950, sharing a happy 71 years until Joan passed away in 2021.

When they married, Joan's family moved from their big house which was damaged by mining subsidence. They moved to a modern house in Park Road where Percy and Joan joined them for a few months.

Joan wanted to return to Butts Lane so in 1951 the couple bought their 'basic' cottage where Percy lives today. Their mortgage was £80! Percy remembers a snowdrift inside the house one morning. Snow had blown though the enormous keyhole!

Early in their marriage Joan became ill with tuberculosis of the spine. She spent two years in hospital on an induction frame after pioneering surgery. The couple eventually started a family.

Joan, youngest of 13 children, was happy to have many siblings living in the village. Her parents moved to Butts Lane and lived next door for many years - followed by her brother, Joan and Percy's daughter and grandson.

Percy retired as an engineer at 65, then worked even harder completing house/DIY projects (still climbing on roofs in his 80s!) and tinkering with cars.

Percy now enjoys a slower pace: catching the bus to Cannock three times a week, walking round the shops and enjoying a pot of tea and bacon bap at his favourite café. He attributes his long life to support of a loving family and keeping busy.

POST CARD

VE Day 2025 Invite
Thursday 8th May
7pm to 9.40pm

ADDRESS

To: Norton Canes Residents

From: Norton Canes Parish Council

Date: 8th May 2025

VE DAY 2025 CELEBRATION

CORRESPONDENCE

Come celebrate VE Day with us at Norton Canes Community Centre, there will be refreshments and a portion of fish and chips for everyone, places are free but limited, to obtain a ticket please visit the Norton Canes Community Centre or Norton Canes Library.

Fish & Chips





Due to the fact that Fish and Chips - Britain's favourite dish, was not rationed by Prime Minister Churchill during the whole of WWII, we also want to use this occasion to continue paying tribute to the brave fishermen who fished the seas and the farmers and land girls who toiled in the fields, by encouraging the eating of Fish and Chips throughout the day, as part of these VE Day 80 celebrations on 8th May 2025.



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

CHAPS Celebrate Prestigious Award

In November 2024 it was announced that Chase Arts for Public Spaces [CHAPS] would receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) - the highest award given to voluntary groups in the UK and the equivalent of an MBE.

The citation for the award reads: *Celebrating the heritage of Cannock Chase, including its coal mining past, by promoting public art.*

The presentation, which included a framed certificate signed by King Charles III, took place in January at Beau Desert Golf Club (a perfect setting to reflect public art on show in the Chase area). Everyone was treated to something special on arrival and greeted by Staffordshire Regiment mascot Watchman with his handler, Greg.

KCVO CBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire Sir Ian Dudson presented the award with his wife Lady Jane Dudson and two cadets. Also attending was the High Sheriff of Staffordshire Julia Mitchell; Staffordshire County Council chairman Councillor Phil Hewitt; and Cannock Chase Council chairman Councillor Steve Thornley.



KCVO CBE Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire Sir Ian Dudson, Lady Jane Dudson, Greg & Watchman, Mike Mellor BEM President of CHAPS.

Guests included CHAPS past committee members; artists the group worked with over the last 22 years; and businesses and individuals who supported CHAPS work.
Chair Alderwoman Pat Ansell received the certificate from Sir Ian Dudson. Vice chairman Craig Watts received the beautiful crystal award on behalf of the committee. Proud committee members were presented with a KAVS badge each.

MC for the afternoon was committee member Trish Mellor. She said between them, the committee has 160 years of volunteering - with years given by past committee members added, the total was 277!

CHAPS President Michael Mellor BEM said group members could never have imagined gaining such an award.

One of the award nominators Shaun Middleton volunteers as a Hednesford Lions member and Bridgtown Concert Show band leader. Shaun commended the group for increasing/impacting Cannock Chase sense of community and heritage.

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CHAPS secretary Jackie Prince spoke of her reasons for volunteering, remembering how she always offered to 'help' at school. She went on to volunteer in a number of ways including 'particularly fulfilling' work with CHAPS. She gave an Elizabeth Andrew quote: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart".

Sir Ian Dudson spoke about the award process from nomination, to assessment by county Deputy Lieutenant, to recommendation to the national KAVS board, to award granted. He commended CHAPS members for making a difference to people and the area.



Our Sub Editor and CHAPS volunteer Sheila Harding receiving her award from Sir Ian Dudson.

Members, past and present, feel so proud to have received this award. We already have plans for more works of public art to celebrate Cannock Chase heritage.
See www.facebook.com/ChaseArtsForPublicSpaces
www.chaseartsforpublicspaces.co.uk

Meet Your New Parish Councillor Ben Farbrother



As a former Norton Canes High School student with deep roots in our community, I'm honoured to serve on Norton Canes Parish Council.

My professional journey has taken me from teaching physics to working in marketing, finance, and technology, including roles at Amazon Web Services and now running my own business.

With experience in data analysis, project management, and education, I hope to contribute practical skills to council initiatives while prioritising community engagement.

I'm passionate about ensuring our parish thrives while preserving its unique character.

I look forward to meeting more residents and hearing your ideas about how we can work together to enhance our community.

Kind Regards,
Ben

Onwards and Upwards 2025

your regular dose of laughter from Norton Canes funny lady Glynnis Briscoe

Just got over the first lap of 2025. January is always the longest, fattest and hardest to get through.

Find myself still hunting in the pantry in the wee small hours for out of date Christmas chocolates. This is when we even tackle coffee cream and the hard toffee ones we've already tried and put back complete with teethmarks.

The wee small hours are a pensioner's busy time. At our great age the body clock goes haywire and allows you to sleep through all the almost watchable TV during the evening and then sit up in bed at 3-4 o'clock wide awake with nothing to do except scrub the kitchen floor.



Out in the cold: Glynnis gets some fresh air in Lichfield's Beacon Park.

Any possibility of amorous activity has long gone. You can live without that but not without your glasses.

That sort of thing has been replaced by food in our lives, so much so that we have had a mirror put on the dining room ceiling.

Al has changed his wake up ringtone to the Hokey Cokey. It's taking him longer than ever to get up now. Each morning sees us sleep deprived and evil as we stagger downstairs and mumble 'I'll just have a sit down before I get started'! As if…

Grumpy doesn't cover it. I said to Al the other day: "When we got married you promised you'd spend your life trying to make me happy."
His answer was: "I didn't think we'd live this long!"
Can't understand why they don't include in the wedding vows: "Do you promise to always help him find the stuff that is right in front of him?"

Mustn't grumble. But we enjoy it so much.

It's been cold enough to warrant sitting in blankets and a hat and scarf to avoid the big bills.

We look as if we're setting off on a trip to Antarctica. Can't believe we wore mini skirts back in the day - well, one of us did.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

I sat in a garden centre last week talking to a woman whose lips had gone blue. Everybody's trying to save on heating costs.

Incidentally, be warned - garden centres are like catnip to us wrinklies.
Some old dear totalled six cars last week on her first adventure trying to park her automatic - all for the love of a scone and a nice pot of tea.

The world is becoming a scarier place by the day - and I don't just mean the outfits on the red carpet (or in the case of Mrs Kanye West the total lack of one).

They've updated some of the nursery rhymes to relate to present day:

It's raining, it's pouring, it's global warming!

By now we've all ditched the New Year resolutions: drink more water, do some exercise/walking, cut down on alcohol, embrace mindfulness, join a club, be kind.

We have regressed to slouching on the sofa in a tracksuit, hugging a cushion, and stuffing our faces with crisps and choc's while watching Channel Stupid - describing it as 'my guilty pleasure'.

If you have avoided 'the cough' (or as we say in the Black Country, 'The Cuff') then you have done well.

Being in most places over the past few months has sounded like the soundtrack from Battersea Dogs Home: Bark! Bark! Bark!

Medicine, like everything, has changed so much. There was a time when the only magical miracle medicine was mom spit.

She would spit on her hankie and clean every trace of dirt from your face before you went to visit posh Auntie Nancy.

If you fell down and scrazed your knee she would spit on the hankie, clean off the blood and grit and blow on it. All better! Instant recovery!



Allan and Glynnis Briscoe aka Dandy

Have a good spring and summer.

**Glynnis is half of former Norton Canes comedy duo Dandy with husband Allan.*

Did you know Jan your editor is a published author?
Her books are in the Library just ask for books by Janet Lee.
I have read them and can confirm that they are a fun, thought provoking read.
Sheila (Sub editor)

Thank You So Much Ladies

The group leader of a local knitting club wishes to thank members for their charity work.
The friendly group, which has been running for over 10 years, create useful items for good causes.
Apart from one member, the others are in their 70s-90s.
Group leader Pauline Stabler said the only young member, Samantha Bullock, 'reacts so well with the older ones'.
Twenty four members meet at Norton Canes Library on Fridays from 2pm-4pm.
They are currently knitting poppies which will be used to decorate the village for VE Day.
Pauline said: "I would like to thank members for their hard work for good causes.
"We support St Giles Hospice each year. Our project last year for St Giles was knitting elephants for their fundraising stall at the 'March of the Elephants' summer event in Lichfield. Our members were invited to the 'farewell parade' to mark the end of the event in Lichfield's Beacon Park.



St Giles' Hospice stall at Lichfield's March of the Elephants weekend.

Pauline is grateful for help she receives for various projects from member Janice Freeburn.
Members provide knitted items for a charity which puts together shoe boxes full of gifts for those in need in Eastern Europe.



Elephants on the march!

Last year members supplied knitted items to the charity for children and adults including hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers, toys, dolls and purses. They will be supporting the shoe box charity again this year and will also be knitting 'Izzie dolls' for the boxes.
Last year they also knitted remembrance poppies to decorate the village – which members will be adding to again this year.



Hats for the shoe box charity

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Donations for local hospitals

A box of items was recently donated to Walsall Manor Hospital Premature Baby Unit which included knitted hearts for mums who had lost their babies.
Members also knit premature baby blankets, bonding squares, hats, mittens and teddies for local hospitals.
Members apply for a Norton Canes Parish Council grant each year to help with their work for NHS charities.
"We are always in need of wool," Pauline added. "We buy special baby wool for items made for local hospitals.
Pauline said her members show so much enthusiasm. "I'm so proud of them and so are the organisations," she said. "I have received the most heart-warming thank you emails.
"We have started this year's programme. It really does look like a busy year ahead."
"If anyone can donate wool, call into the library on Friday afternoons during the Knit and Natter sessions or ring Pauline on 01543 270502.

Could You Volunteer at Your Local Library?

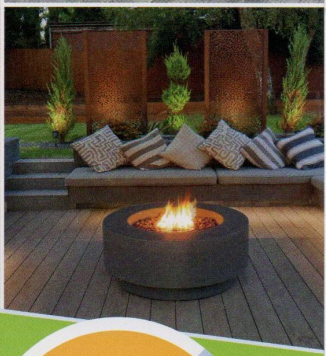
Norton Canes Community Library is looking for new volunteers. If you can spare just a few hours a week you would be made most welcome.
Full training is provided - and you will also gain valuable work experience while supporting your local community.



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.
"We would love to hear from anyone interested in assisting with maintenance of the gardens surrounding the library.
"Do you have time to spare and a love of gardening? Pop in and have a chat to the other volunteers. They will tell you how satisfying it is to be part of this Community Hub.
"Do you home school? Have you thought about setting up a group of likeminded parents to share experiences and give support and socialising opportunities for your children? We have space available."
For more information contact Will on 07400 932 929.





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Thank You Sheila – It Was a Pleasure

Former Norton Canes parish councillor Sheila Harding is retiring as sub-editor of this magazine.

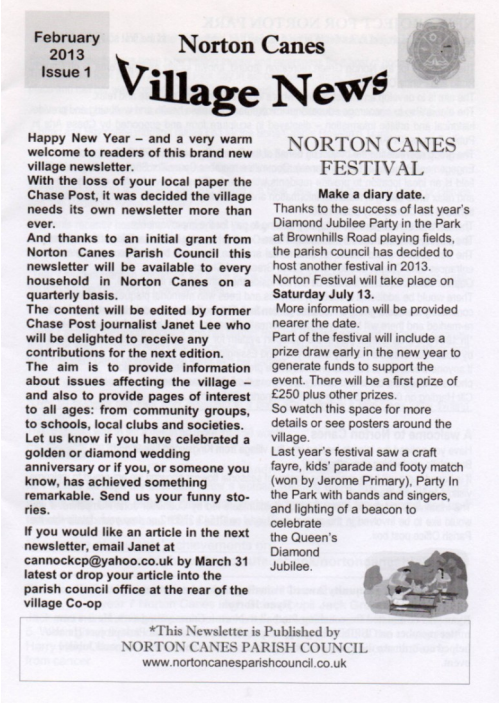
It's the end of an era - 12 years since this newsletter first came into being.

Sheila has gone above and beyond to present the publication in her unique style.

Sheila said: "I would like to thank all who have contributed to this magazine. It has kept my 'grey matter' functioning while I laid out pages, looked for suitable clip art and badgered people for photos.

"All those years ago I approached editor Janet Lee and asked her to help me launch Norton Canes Village News. I am happy to say she agreed."

Working with Norton Canes Parish Council, contact was made with local groups and individuals for information and details about forthcoming events in the village.



February 2013 Issue 1

Norton Canes Village News

Happy New Year – and a very warm welcome to readers of this brand new village newsletter.
With the loss of your local paper the Chase Post, it was decided the village needs its own newsletter more than ever.
And thanks to an initial grant from Norton Canes Parish Council this newsletter will be available to every household in Norton Canes on a quarterly basis.
The content will be edited by former Chase Post journalist Janet Lee who will be delighted to receive any contributions for the next edition.
The aim is to provide information about issues affecting the village – and also to provide pages of interest to all ages: from community groups, to schools, local clubs and societies.
Let us know if you have celebrated a golden or diamond wedding anniversary or if you, or someone you know, has achieved something remarkable. Send us your funny stories.

If you would like an article in the next newsletter, email Janet at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk by March 31 latest or drop your article into the parish council office at the rear of the village Co-op

NORTON CANES FESTIVAL

Make a diary date.
Thanks to the success of last year's Diamond Jubilee Party in the Park at Brownhills Road playing fields, the parish council has decided to host another festival in 2013.
Norton Festival will take place on Saturday July 13.
More information will be provided nearer the date.
Part of the festival will include a prize draw early in the new year to generate funds to support the event. There will be a first prize of £250 plus other prizes.
So watch this space for more details or see posters around the village.
Last year's festival saw a craft fayre, kids' parade and footy match (won by Jerome Primary), Party In the Park with bands and singers, and lighting of a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

*This Newsletter is Published by NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

The first ever newsletter - which Sheila worked on 12 years ago.

An army of volunteers was formed to deliver the newsletter in their area.

"There were so many newsletters in the parish office when they arrived from the printer that it was difficult to move around!" Sheila added.

"I look forward to reading future editions and seeing how the magazine evolves using new technology and a new sub-editor."

*The newsletters are now delivered to Norton Canes Library for sorting.



Former parish councillor/sub editor Sheila Harding

Norton Canes Flower Cub

We are looking forward to lighter nights and warmer days, being in the garden and getting out in the countryside again.

It's nice to have the darker nights and cold behind us, but good to have different seasons.

It has been a good autumn and winter at the flower club with a mixture of events, workshops, demonstrations, a strawberry tea and an open afternoon at Norton Canes Community Centre.

In August a group of members visited Ashwood Nurseries and we enjoyed a tour of John's Garden with the head gardener.

This was very interesting with lots of tips and advice for growing some of the plants seen in the garden which would be suitable for a smaller area.

The tour was followed by lunch and an opportunity to look around the nursery and buy plants.

In September there was a demonstration by Louisa Rigden called 'Regal Flowers' - an enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

There was a workshop led by Chris in October. Following a short demonstration by Chris, members were able to do their own arrangements with help and guidance from more experienced members.

The annual meeting was held in October and club officers appointed for 2025.

On November 20 there was an afternoon open event at Norton Canes Community Centre when all were welcome.

Linda Seabrook was the demonstrator with her title 'Christmas'. She produced stunning arrangements to represent Christmas using various beautiful flowers.

This was a successful and most enjoyable afternoon for members and visitors.



From Christmas demonstrations by Linda Seabrook.



Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

In December members went out for Christmas lunch in Lichfield – a lovely afternoon, nice food and a good way to celebrate Christmas with friends.



Demonstration by Jose Aulton

2025 started with a demonstration and talk on January 15 by Jose, one of the club's founder members. Her talk and mini demonstration was entitled 'Keep it Simple'.

She gave a delightful talk about how her love of flowers (which started in her childhood spending time with her father in their garden) led to learning about flower arranging. She interspersed the talk with three small arrangements. The afternoon was greatly enjoyed by all.

In February there was a demonstration by Rebecca Morris entitled 'Inspired by Nature'. (More about this in the next edition).

Forthcoming Meetings:
March 19: visit to Birmingham Botanical Gardens.
April 16: demonstration by Jackie Page entitled 'Connections'.
May 21: workshop with Chris called 'Do It Your Way'.
June 18: demonstration entitled 'Inspired by Nature' with Ruth Mahon.
July 16: workshop with Chris.
August 20: visit to Flora Media.
September 17: demonstration by Minh Lane called 'East meets West'.

*Members meet on the third Wednesday of the month unless otherwise stated at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, WS11 9SG at 1.30pm.

New members and visitors most welcome. For details ring 01543 277492 or 01543 278270.



My mom always smells of mint. Perhaps it was because of her always wearing polo jumpers.

Booking a holiday for this year, or having a weekend away? Come and view our facilities or enquire for further information.

We have always owned dogs within our family of all different breeds and are excited to extend our love of dogs further by giving you the confidence that your dog is going to receive the best care whilst you are away. We are fully insured and registered.

We believe that whilst you are away that your dog should be enjoying a holiday too!

We are a luxury boarding kennels situated at our home in Norton Canes, Cannock. We have electric and heating installed, 24 hour CCTV in operation and owners living on site for your added peace of mind. We have someone with the dogs for the majority of the day either on frequent walks or just spending time interacting and having cuddles!

How do we provide a quality service at a competitive price? The facilities are built on the grounds of our family home which helps us keep costs down! Our owner went on maternity leave a few years ago and now her two boys have started school, she has the commitment and experience building the business up to be able to offer a 5 star experience for your dogs, dedicating her hours as a full time job.



Ad

Norton Canes Chess Club



Our club's two teams in Division 4 excelled themselves.

They finished 4th and 6th out of eight teams - so are in a much better position than last year.

We are proud of our new members who have all made great improvements.

In Division 3 we came 7th out of 11 teams. (Last year we were equal on points with the champions).

We are really pleased to report that in the last week of February we had 22 members.

All members have fun - one of our prime objectives.

For more details visit nortoncaneschessclub.co.uk or ring Mike on 07927 721 858.
Mike Hoare

Message from Darby and Joan

Hi everyone. We are a small friendly group of over 50s who meet at Norton Canes Community Centre.

We meet up with old friends and new - and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

We welcome new members to enjoy activities such as board games, bingo, craft demonstrations, visiting speakers, cash lucky dip and free raffle.

Members have a varied schedule of visits to garden centres, shopping centres, markets and meals out beginning February/March depending on the weather.

Don't sit alone at home. Join us for the afternoon. You will be most welcome.

If you don't have transport and live in Norton Canes the community mini bus can pick you up for a small fee.

Members meet every Wednesday from 1.30pm-3.30pm.
For more details ring Karen Ball on 01543 897996 or 07977 995 408.



Ad

Local Man Tells Car ‘He Loves It’—Boot Opens Instantly

In a bizarre turn of events at a Cannock-based garage, a faulty car boot was seemingly “fixed” with three little words: I love you.

Chris (not his real name) arrived at Car Friend frustrated.

His boot button worked sporadically, refusing to open at the worst times. Demonstrating the issue to the team, he pressed the button—nothing. Tried again—still nothing.



Mechanics suspected a faulty switch, but before diving into diagnostics, one jokingly asked,

“When was the last time you told your car you loved it?”

The team grinned. Chris played along, sighing before muttering, “I love you.”

To everyone’s shock, the boot popped open instantly.
Laughter filled the workshop. Chris, stunned, accused the team of orchestrating the trick. “If I had that kind of power over cars, I’d be working for Ferrari,” one mechanic joked.

The real issue? A faulty boot switch, which was promptly replaced. But ever since, Chris hasn’t taken any chances—each visit, he pats the car and says, “Love you, darling.”

Coincidence? Maybe. But Car Friend insists: “If your car’s acting up, bring it in—no love declarations required... probably.”

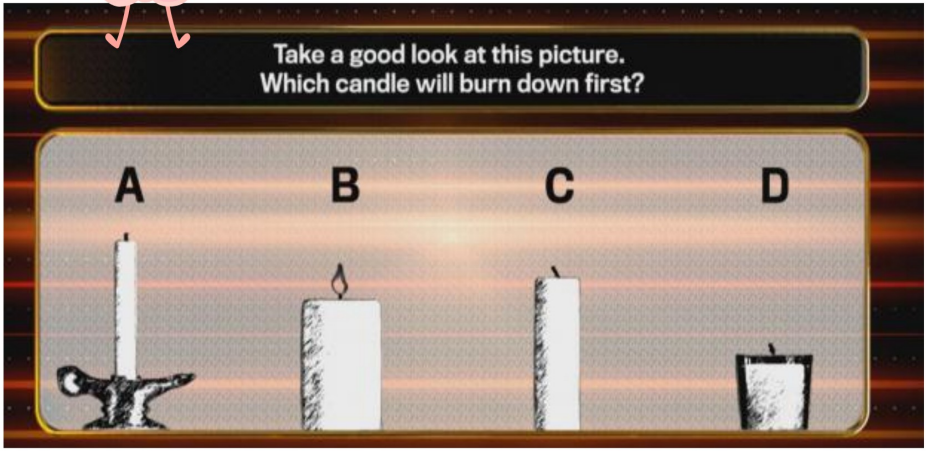
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Ad

Gently Does It



Silver Sneakers gentle exercise class is a lovely group of older people who meet every Thursday.

We use weights and resistance bands while sitting. Last year we learned about the benefits these bring and we enjoy using them.

If you have ever considered doing some gentle exercise come and join us.

The first week is free then a weekly subscription of £4.

The one-hour class takes place at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes at 11.30am.

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

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

EVENTS 2025

Thursday 8th May	VE Day Celebration	Norton Canes Community Centre
Saturday 12th July	Party in the Park	Norton Canes Playing Field
Friday 15th August	VJ Day Celebration	Norton Canes Library
Sunday 9th November	Remembrance Parade	Jerome School to St James Church
Sunday 7th December	Lantern Parade	Norton Canes Community Centre

For more information on any of these events please contact:
Ginetta Adams - Clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.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

CARPETS DIRECT® 2U

your local family run discount carpet store

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

COVID SECURE

1000's of room sized carpets & vinyls up to 50% off

Free measuring service, no obligation, professional fitting service

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

This is what customers say...

"Fantastic carpet shop" – **Louise R**

"Great quality carpet" – **Clare S**

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

★★★★★

RUGS DIRECT 2U®

Walsall's premier rug stockist!

Visit our 24 hour online store
www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk

Visit the huge showroom at our Pelsall store for a vast selection of rugs




email enquiries: **info@rugsdirect2u.co.uk**

ALDRIDGE BRANCH
1 ANCHOR ROAD,
ALDRIDGE, WALSALL
WS9 8PT
OPEN 7 DAYS
MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
SUN 10AM - 4PM
TEL: 01922 456457

PELSALL BRANCH
29 HIGH STREET,
PELSALL, WALSALL
WS3 4LX
OPEN 6 DAYS
MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM
TEL: 01922 691555

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

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,
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Call in for a no obligation quote





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

Ad



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

NORTON CANES LIBRARY
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

YOUR LIBRARY

Monday

Little Chicks Stay & Play
9:15 - 10:15

Baby & Toddler Bounce and Rhyme (free session)
11:45 - 12:15

Tuesday

Sewing / Craft Group
10:00 - 12:00

Wednesday

Rhythm Time
(pre-booking req.)

Toddlers
9:30

Babies
10:30

Thursday

Card Craft (FULL)
10:00 - 12:00

Art / Painting Group
2:00 - 4:00

Friday

"Let's Get Together" Card Craft Group
10:00 - 12:00

"Open Arms" Drop in chat group
11:00 - 1:00

"Knit & Natter"
2:00 - 4:00

Saturday

Place of Welcome
Free hot / cold drinks, biscuits and toast
10:30 - 12:30

Toddler Storytime
10:40

MONTHLY GROUPS

League of Ladies

First Wednesday of the Month
7pm

Norton Canes Historical Society

Second Tuesday of the Month
2pm - 4pm

Creative Writing & Poetry Group

Second Saturday of the Month
11am

Air Britain, West Midlands Branch

Last Tuesday of the Month
7:30pm

Library Reading Group / Book Club

Last Saturday of the Month
11am

For more information about our groups, scan the QR code and see more details on our website:

SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE

YOUR LIBRARY

Free Refreshments

Later Life Matters

Free Drop-in Event

Have you thought about planning for difficult later and end-of-life situations?

To help support these challenging conversations, we are holding a free drop-in event to share services available for those difficult times.

Join us on Tuesday 29th April
10am to 4pm
Norton Canes Library

Information Advice and Guidance Available on:

Staying Well for Longer, Advance Planning, Financial Planning, Local Support Services, Funeral Planning, Hospice Support plus much more...

Norton Canes Community Library
Burntwood Road, WS11 9RF

Tuesday 29th April
10am to 4pm

Staffordshire County Council

NHS Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust



Ad

HEY GUESS WHAT!?!

Last week was SO BAD because our car BROKED DOWN after KARATE!



Mummy had to call Daddy, but he was at work and COULDN'T COME!

Mummy was SUPER ANGRY and said naughty words!
I was cross too because it was PIZZA NIGHT and we got STUCK! NOOOOOOO!

Then Daddy found this really really cool garage called Car Friend, and they were SO SO NICE!
They made Mummy happy again! And guess what? We got to borrow a car while they fixed ours!

And because it was SO SO LATE, Mummy said we could get a drive-thru on the way home instead! It was WAY BETTER than pizza because I got nuggets AND a milkshake!!
Best. Night. Ever.



When we went back to Car Friend, my mum was SMILEY because they FIXED OUR CAR! They put a NEW THINGY in it (I dunno what, but it was IMPORTANT!)

AND GUESS WHAT ELSE? The nice lady told me they fix SUPER FAST RACE CARS!!! I SAW THEM WITH MY OWN EYES! One was BLUE, which is MY FAVOURITE COLOUR!

There was a RED ONE and a GREEN ONE too! I wanted to drive one, but Mummy said I am too little. (Not fair!)

Oh oh oh! And they said I have to tell EVERYONE that they have a SPECIAL SECRET CODE!! It's "JIMMY!" And if you say it, you get 15% OFF! I told Mummy and Daddy we have to go back VERY SOON...
but NOT ON THURSDAY...
because that's PIZZA NIGHT!!!



www.carfriend.co.uk

From Charlie

P.S. I drew a race car!
It is BLUE and SUPER FAST!!

Ad

Services at St James' Church, Norton Canes



We are a friendly congregation worshipping every Sunday at 10.30am.

There is also Sunday School for children.

Easter Sunday this year falls on April 20.



Father Neil Hibbins

Our Easter services are:
Maundy Thursday (April 17) at 7pm;
Good Friday (April 18) 7pm;
Easter Eve (April 19) 7pm;
Easter Sunday (April 20) 10.30am.

You will be sure of a warm welcome.
Father Neil Hibbins

Norton Canes Community Library

SENSORY ROOM HIRE



Available to hire for 50 minute sessions.

Our room contains a range of multi-sensory equipment to provide fun and sensory stimulation for young children.

How much is it to hire?
Hire costs start at £5 for a 50-minute session. Due to the size of the room,
we recommend a maximum of 6 people (a mix of adults and children) or 4 adults.

Booking & Availability
The room is available to book during library hours.

Safety Guidelines
Children must be supervised at all times.
Please refrain from bringing food or drink into the room.
If you have any specific needs or requests, let us know ahead of time.

For more information or to book, please contact the reception desk on **01543 279592**

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Don't leave your loved ones the worry

More and more people are choosing to prearrange their funeral. Our funeral plans reduce the emotional worry and anxiety for loved ones. If you would like more information simply give us a call.

Please contact us to be assured of our best service and attention on:

Hednesford Branch: 01543 422524
30 Greenheath Road, Hednesford.
WS12 4AR

Norton Canes Branch: 01543 222422
1 Shaw Court, Brownhills Road, Norton Canes.
WS11 9TD

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

Ad

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.

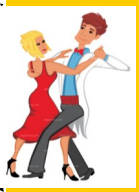
What's On At Norton Canes Community Centre

Day	Time	Event	Contact
Monday	10.30am - 3.30pm	X'Aquarians Line Dance	07495 473 519
	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
	6pm - 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 Jennys' Music



Social, Sequence, Line Dances

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

Saturday March 29, 2025
Charity Social Dance 7.30pm - 10.30pm
£5 per ticket Phone: 01922 415232
Bring you own Food And Drink and Dance to Jennys' Music

Ad

Upcoming Events at Norton Canes Community Centre



May 31: murder mystery

June 8: craft fair

November 23: craft fair

For more details ring the booking clerk on 07845 678003 or email nccabookings@hotmail.com

Call or email for no obligation quote

Call 07498 299 083

TGs

No Lawn Too Small

Tom's Garden Services

email: pauliohopkins@gmail.com

Specialising in lawn care and treatment; Weeding; Pruning; Planting; Hedge Cutting and Jet Washing Drives and Patios.

Ad

Introducing David

My name is David Bates. I took early retirement and have been working as a groundsman for Norton Canes Parish Council since last year.
My role includes removing last season's bedding plants and planting 4,500 bulbs around the village.
Together with head groundsman John Lee we mow lawns, trim hedges and litter- pick.
My grandparents were born in the village and I have lived in Norton Canes all my life.
I attended the 'wooden school' as it was then known (now Norton Canes Primary Academy) then the Comprehensive school in the village when it was newly built (now Norton Canes High School).
I enjoy being an active member of the parish council team keeping Norton Canes neat and tidy.



David Bates hard at work.

Hello from John



John Lee

Hi everyone. My name is John Lee. I am head groundsman for the village employed by Norton Canes Parish Council.
I am 68 and have lived in Norton Canes all my life.
I have worked for the parish for seven years and take pride in my job and the village.
My team is responsible for managing four gardens in the village. We prepare hanging baskets, bedding plants and thousands of bulbs to ensure continued displays throughout the year.
We are also always busy mowing, hedge trimming and litter picking.
My wife is from Norton Canes. We have three sons and 10 grandchildren.
I worked in the motor trade for four years as a vehicle mechanic then as after sales director with Ford.
My hobbies include football, snooker, fishing and gardening. I enjoy visiting local pub, the Railway Tavern.
I love Norton Canes - and love life.
*A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said John and his team ‘do a fantastic job and are so valued’.

To avoid disappointment items for the

Autumn 2025 newsletter must be

sent to Jan by the first week in August 2025

email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk



I got a taxi home tonight. The driver said: “That’s £10.50 please.”
I said: “I’ve only got £10. Can you reverse a bit?”

Message from County 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.



Councillor Samantha Thompson

Residents can email me with any other concerns on samantha.thompson@staffordshire.gov.uk or ring 07817 265 438

**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

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
07817265438 email samantha.thompson@staffordshire.gov.uk

Josh Newbury MP
email josh.newbury.mp@parliament.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/

Norton Canes Parish Councillors 2024 - 2025

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Tony Wilson
tony.wilson@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/

Norton Canes Parish Council follow us on Facebook

PARTY

In The Park

Gather your loved ones, pack your favorite treats, and escape to the great outdoors for a day of fun, laughter, and music.

Brought to you by Norton Canes Parish Council.

Live Music
Bouncy Castles
Market Stalls
Food and Drink
Free Face Painting
and much more



Saturday 12th July

1pm till 9pm

Norton Canes Park

Contact Us!

Email Ginetta Adams
clerk@nortoncaneparishcouncil.gov.uk