Issue 47 • Spring 2026

Norton Canes VILLAGE NEWS

Your Community Magazine



Our New Cemetery

Story on Page 3

Inside: Village Events • Local Stories • Latest News • Plus More!

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Welcome from our editor...

Hello and a very warm 'spring-into-summer' welcome to the 47th edition of our village newsletter.

Whether you are new to the village, have lived here for decades or anything in between, the newsletter is for you. We hope you find the articles interesting and informative.

If matters close to your heart have not yet been included then please email me prior to the next edition. Or, you can drop your details/photos into the parish office at the rear of the Co-op.

There is so much going on in the village at the moment (not just the annoying roadworks). Please take time to read about the events happening locally and perhaps consider joining in with one of the many projects taking place.

If you know anyone who used to live in the village please pass the newsletter on to them when you have finished with it.

As ever – loves.

Jan

Parish Newsletter Editor

This newsletter is put together by a small team:

Editor: Janet Lee | **Designer:** Ben Farbrother

Content: Ginetta Adams

It is published by Norton Canes Parish Council

www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

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A new and thoughtful addition is taking shape within the new cemetery at Norton Canes - a dedicated contemplation area designed to offer peace, reflection and quiet connection with both nature and memory.

This newly constructed pathway, adjacent to St James churchyard, will gently guide visitors toward a commemorative wall and thoughtfully placed benches, creating a natural flow through the space and encouraging moments of pause and remembrance.

What makes this project especially meaningful is the spirit in which it has been delivered.



The commemorative wall

The parish council groundsmen, who already work tirelessly to maintain the cemetery and surrounding areas, have taken time out of their usual schedules to bring this vision to life.

Their dedication and craftsmanship are evident in every stage of the work, reflecting a deep respect for the purpose of the space.

They have been supported and ▶

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guided throughout by parish council vice chairman Councillor Dylan Pickin, whose commitment has truly gone above and beyond. Volunteering his own annual leave from his professional role in construction, Cllr Pickin has worked long hours on site, helping to project manage and deliver the installation.

His expertise, leadership, and willingness to give his personal time exemplify the very best of community service.

This project stands as another strong example of how our councillors dedicate themselves beyond their official duties - working hand in hand with officers and groundsmen to turn ideas into reality for the benefit of Norton Canes.

Once completed, the contemplation area will offer a serene and carefully designed environment.

Structural planting, including magnolia and acer trees, will provide seasonal beauty and a sense of permanence.

Elegant archways adorned with climbing roses and wisteria will frame the space, while a flower bed rich with roses and symbolic planting such as angel wings will add softness and meaning.

Every element has been chosen to create a tranquil setting where visitors can reflect, remember and find comfort.



A job well done, thanks to the hard work of the team

Set against the backdrop of the surrounding countryside, the area will also offer a place simply to sit, breathe and take in the views - a reminder of continuity, nature, and peace.

This is more than just a new feature within the cemetery; it is a testament to community spirit, care, and shared commitment to creating spaces that matter.

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George Stacey

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Art at the Bus Stop

You may have noticed something rather special appearing at our village bus shelters recently - a stunning series of murals by artist Sian Storey, transforming everyday waiting spots into vibrant celebrations of the natural world.

Each panel bursts with colour and life, featuring wildlife and countryside scenes that feel entirely at home in Norton Canes. From a fox resting among woodland fungi and autumn leaves, to a majestic stag in a sea of greenery, a pair of horses surrounded by songbirds, pheasants and wildflowers, and a peaceful waterscape complete with swan, kingfisher, and mallard. Together they make a beautiful and uplifting addition to the village, and we hope they bring a smile to residents and visitors alike.



The murals were funded through CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) contributions - money that comes back to the parish from local development and is ring-fenced for community benefit, so no additional cost to residents.



Of course, great public art deserves to be looked after, and that's where local resident Carl comes in. Carl runs Aquaman-UK, a Norton Canes based exterior cleaning business, and has generously helped keep our bus shelters spotless and graffiti-free, as well as tackling other village signage including the Brownies & Guides sign. The before-and-after difference speaks for itself. A huge thank you to Carl for taking such pride in keeping Norton Canes looking its best.

If you'd like to see more of Sian's work, you can find her at Sian Storey Art online: www.sianstoreyart.com.

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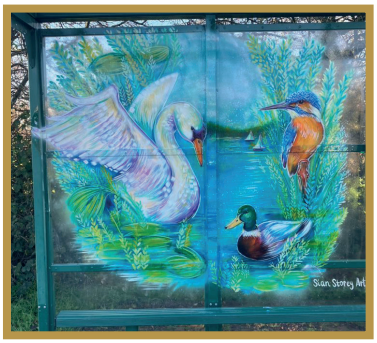
Bus Shelter - Before



Bus Shelter - After







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Norton Canes Parish Council Chairman Report



This will be my tenth, and last, year as being Chairman of Norton Canes Parish Council.

Those years have seen some big developments for the council, including expanding the number of green spaces we maintain such as the Millennium Garden, the Jubilee Garden, the Rose Garden, and the land off Norton Green Lane.

We have seen the crowds increase tremendously at the lantern parade. We are proud to have reinstated the Remembrance March from Jerome Primary School to the war memorial at St James Church. We have also enjoyed some amazing bands and singers perform at the Party in the Park.

Probably the biggest achievement we have had is the completion of the Parish Council's cemetery at the back of St James Churchyard. The project has faced several challenges since its initial suggestion, but we are pleased to announce the official opening will be on 26th September later this year.

These cannot have happened without the amazing work carried out by our clerk, lengthsmen, councillors, and volunteers past and present. They, like our village groups, have been a credit to our community and I would like to personally thank them and you, the community, for all the support you have given over the years.

I must also pay tribute to those councillors and friends of the council and community who have passed away. Their memory lives on, and our remembrance stone is dedicated to people like them.

"Norton Canes Remembers Those Who Had Norton Canes in Their Hearts"

And finally, may I wish every success and support to the new chairman.

Cllr John Preece

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What Parish Councillors do for Norton Canes

Parish Councillors in Norton Canes are dedicated volunteers who give their time freely to support and improve our village. They do not receive a salary, and all their efforts are entirely voluntary, yet they make a tangible difference in the life of the community.

Councillors attend monthly meetings where they make decisions that benefit everyone in Norton Canes. One of their responsibilities is setting the annual budget, which funds community grants and projects such as the maintenance of garden spaces, planters around the village, and supports community events including Party in the Park, Remembrance Day, and the Lantern Parade. They also oversee the production of the village newsletter, keeping residents informed and connected. These meetings are open to all residents - if you have a local issue or idea you'd like to raise, you're welcome to come along and have your say. The dates of upcoming meetings can be found on page 34 of this newsletter.

Beyond meetings, Councillors are hands-on in the community. They help marshal events, manage road closures, take part in litter-picking initiatives, and assist residents with queries - either by taking these to the County Council or advising on the appropriate contacts. They award community grants to local groups, helping cover costs such as rent and supplies. These grants ensure that valuable local services and activities can continue, benefiting many people across the village.

Councillors also attend committee meetings and dedicate many additional hours to tasks that can often go unnoticed. Their voluntary work helps create a more enjoyable living environment, with our village gardens and green spaces standing out as a source of pride and beauty for everyone.

Through their commitment and countless hours of service, Parish Councillors play a vital role in making Norton Canes a welcoming, vibrant, and beautiful place to live. If you'd like to be part of that, whether you have a few hours to spare or a passion for your community, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact the clerk to find out more about becoming a councillor or volunteering time to help your community - details are on the page opposite.

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Meet Your Councillors

Parish



John Preece
Chairman



Dylan Pickin
Vice Chairman



John Bridgen



Michael Holder



Sam Thompson



Robert Wilkinson



Ben Farbrother



Ann Kirk



Tony Wilson



Jean Hill



Ken Fereday



Claire Bickley

Contact:
clerk@nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk
or
01543 276812
www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk



Dale Bilbie

District



Jean Hill



John Preece



Sam Thompson

County



Daniel Cecil

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Message from your MP Josh Newbury

Working for Norton Canes



It has been a busy time since the last newsletter, something that never really changes in this role.

As always, I've been visiting fantastic local businesses, schools and charities to make sure what I say and do in Westminster reflects our priorities in Cannock Chase and Norton Canes.

Speaking to residents about the issues that matter most is a key part of that work. Safety on our roads remains a major concern, particularly after the freezing January we had left many in a terrible condition.

In Norton especially, areas like Red Lion Lane have been badly affected. I continue to press for urgent action on problem areas with Staffordshire County Council. Please continue to report potholes (you'd be surprised how many are still unreported) and to contact me about any that are not being addressed.

Bus services are another issue that comes up time and again. In Westminster, I was part of a small group of MPs that scrutinised the Bus Services Act which gives councils the power to take control of routes, fares and timetables, as well as the ability to once again set up council-owned bus companies.

As we debated the Act, I highlighted the lack of service in our villages, like in Norton East which still has no bus route, despite many residents in that area relying on public transport. This is something I will continue to push hard on at county and national levels.

The number 3 is an important service for many of us. It was reinstated following a campaign I ran alongside Councillor John Preece, using £500,000 from the former landowners of the Norton Hall Meadow estate.

However, just a single bus provides an hourly service which only goes as far as Cannock and Brownhills. As the service enters its fourth year, funding will need to be secured beyond 2027. I will be working with the county council and Chaserider to ensure this vital route continues.

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Finally, I continue to support the campaign for a sports hall extension to Norton Canes Community Centre. I know the parish council and centre trustees are supportive and whilst Cannock Chase Council initially said it did not have capacity to deliver the project, plans are now progressing to develop the area around the centre into a 'destination park'.

I believe an indoor sports facility should be central to those plans, and as they develop further, if necessary I will be on hand to push for government funding.

As always, if there is something you would like to raise, please do get in touch with my team through the usual channels. I am proud to live in Norton Canes and to represent our village in Parliament, and I will continue working hard on your behalf.



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Scouts
1st Norton Canes

ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!



TRY NEW THINGS.
MAKE FRIENDS.
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JOIN 1ST NORTON CANES SCOUTS!

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4 - 6 YEARS	6 - 8 YEARS	6 - 8 YEARS	8 - 10 YEARS	10½ - 14 YEARS	14 - 18 YEARS
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY	MONDAY
17:00 - 18:00	17:00 - 18:15	18:00 - 19:15	18:30 - 20:00	19:00 - 20:45	19:00 - 20:45

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#SkillsForLife

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Village News & Notices

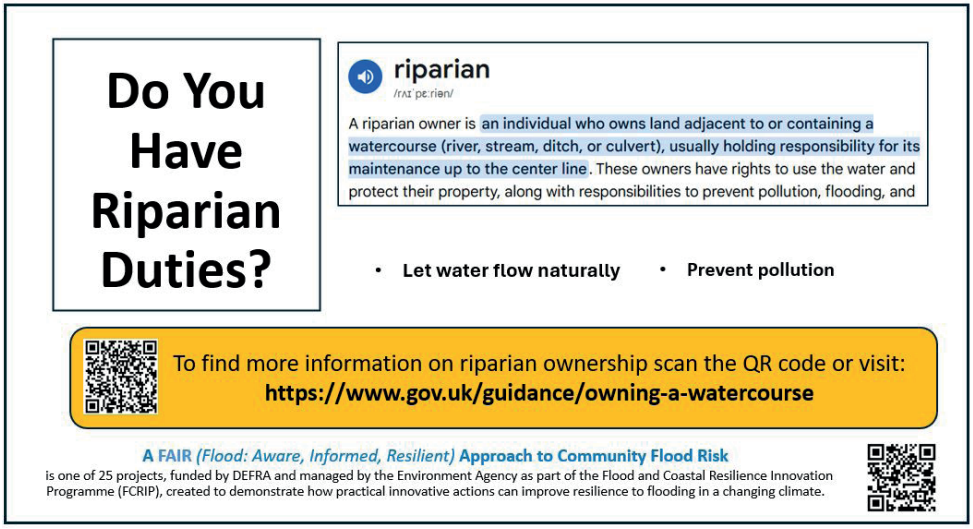
Protecting Norton Canes from Flooding

Works by FAIR, a project led by Staffordshire County Council, are underway to make the community surrounding the Norton Brook more resilient to flooding.

In a collaborative effort involving the Environment Agency's Fisheries Team, the Chasewater Country Park team, Staffordshire County and Cannock Chase District Councillors, and Cannock Chase District Council, a range of measures are being taken to address flood issues raised by local residents. These include the installation of an improved debris screen on the Norton Brook, alongside a CCTV camera to identify blockages that previously caused flooding in the area in 2020, clearance works in the wooded area adjacent to Norton East Road, and a reduction in water levels at Chasewater Reservoir.



Further works are also proposed for the grounds of Norton Primary Academy in Summer 2026, supporting both community resilience and environmental education.



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Thank You For Caring

A fundraiser in aid of St Giles Hospice raised almost £176.

The coffee morning event, held on March 7, took place at Norton Canes Library and Information Hub.

A spokesperson for St Giles and the library said: *"Thank you to everyone who came or donated goodies for our coffee morning.*

"We enjoyed some wonderful cake and the usual good company. It was also nice to welcome new friends who came to support the charity."



Waiting for the rush of customers: Mary Carpenter (left) and Mo Garbett.

A Message from Grace Christian Church

Grace Christian Church has been running from Norton Canes Community Centre for about a year now.

A church spokesperson said thanks are due to those who work in the Community Centre and to Norton Canes Parish Council *'for their warm welcome, encouragement, and support'*.

"God has given us great joy and peace because of His grace and forgiveness. We'd love to share this with anyone who is seeking after answers or hope," the spokesperson added.

Sunday services take place at 11.30am; bible study Tuesdays, 7pm, (subject to occasional change if events at the Community Centre). All welcome. Members also run a Parent and Toddler Group, After School Club and weekly prayer meeting.

For details on any of the above ring **07542 534 657**, visit **www.gracechristianchurch.co.uk** or see YouTube **@Gracechristianchurchuk**

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THE LIDO WORKING MENS CLUB

58 School Road, Norton Canes,
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Free House - Great Bar Prices
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Regular events such as spiritual mediums, BBQs, family fun days & charity events.

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Tuesday Club - Where good times never get old!
Looking for something fun & friendly? Join us every other Tuesday, starting 21st April. Specially for our older community to relax, connect and enjoy great company. Whether you fancy a game, singalong or just a good natter over a drink, there's something for everyone!

GARRY PEASE IS ROD STEWART - Saturday 9th May
BIG RAFFLE - Saturday 16th May
PSYCHIC SPECIAL - Thursday 21st May
SEVERN MARTYRS DUO - Saturday 1st August
COMEDY HYPNOTIST - Saturday 12th September
SPENCE JORDAN IS BUDDY HOLLY - Saturday 3rd October
MOONSHINERS DUO - Saturday 24th October
RUBY DOO & HALLOWEEN DISCO - Saturday 31st October
TONY GOLD IS TOM JONES - Saturday 21st November
BRIGHTSIDE PARTY BAND - Saturday 5th December
RUBY DOO CHILDRENS PARTY - Sunday 20th December
DUNCAN EDWARDS DISCO - New Years Eve

Opening Hours:
Monday 4pm - 11:30pm
Tuesday 4pm - 11:30pm
Wednesday 4pm - 11:30pm
Thursday 4pm - 11:30pm
Friday 3pm - 12:30am
Saturday 12pm - 12:30am
Sunday 12pm - 12:30am

Smithlidosecretary@gmail.com

Lantern Parade Joy



Norton Canes Parish Council Lantern Parade was a wonderful success, bringing the community together for a magical evening of festive celebration.

This much-loved annual event, mainly funded by the parish council, took place on Sunday December 7.

It was free for all to attend and continues to be a highlight for families in the village.

In the weeks leading up to the parade, children from local schools had the opportunity to create their own beautiful handmade lanterns.

Council officers Deb Morgan and Glenis Turner visited schools with supplies and worked alongside the children, helping them design and build their lanterns, adding a personal and creative touch to the event.

On the evening itself, excitement filled the air as families gathered, with children proudly carrying their glowing creations.

Council officers were on hand to distribute chocolates, sweets and lights to ensure every lantern shone brightly throughout the parade.

Safety was a top priority, with councillors and dedicated volunteers carefully marshalling road closures.

This allowed everyone to enjoy the procession in a secure and welcoming environment.

The parade was led by a lively brass band, setting a festive tone as it wound through the village. Adding to the magic were light-up fairies, beloved Disney characters and even Father Christmas himself - who delighted attendees as he rode in his sleigh.

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The evening concluded at Norton Canes Community Centre, where participants were warmly welcomed with hot drinks and mince pies.

These refreshments were generously donated by local businesses, including Norton Local, Co-op, and Sainsbury's, whose support helped make the event even more special.

Overall, the Lantern Parade was a resounding success, filled with joy, creativity, and community spirit - an event that truly captured the magic of the festive season.









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New Village Food Bank Almost Ready to Roll



A brand new Food Bank will be opening in Norton Canes Community Centre car park soon.

The Food Bank, which has been in the planning stage for about six months, is the brainchild of Grace Christian Church members, who began meeting at the Community Centre about a year ago.

In March, church members' dreams took their first step towards realisation when a shipping container was delivered and manoeuvred into place in the car park – much to the delight of fascinated onlookers.

The 'Bridge to Life Food Bank' will operate from the container in conjunction with Cannock and District Food Bank. Church spokesperson Sarah Brown said the project is finally taking shape 'after much prayer, planning, preparation, meetings, and phone calls'.

Church members, who funded the shipping container, worked in collaboration with Cannock Chase Council, Norton Canes Parish Council and the Community Centre committee. The Food Bank will be run by church members but anyone wishing to volunteer will be made welcome. *"Bridge to Life Food Bank is a way for Grace Christian Church to share with the community"* Sarah added.

The aim is to offer food parcels to those in receipt of a food voucher - and also have food available for anyone in the community in need of support. Part of that support will include helping people to find long term solutions to their circumstances.

Sarah said thanks are due to: Community Centre committee members for 'enthusiasm and support'; Foster Haulage for delivering the container free of charge; and container company 3J Services Ltd for providing a purchase discount.



If anyone has queries about donating food, volunteering or using the Food Bank, ring Sarah on **07542 534 657**.

*This new Food Bank is in addition to the one that opens outside the Victoria Club, Norton Canes, on Saturday mornings.

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Village Club News

Norton Canes Watercolour Club

At their March meeting members welcomed professional artist Claire Leggett. Claire demonstrated the art of watercolour techniques.



Claire Leggett

A club spokesperson said: "*We can't wait to try out some of the techniques Claire introduced us to. Even though we have been going for over 20 years there is always something new to learn.*"

Members meet on Mondays during term time at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, from 10.30am-12.30pm.

They will be staging their annual exhibition of artwork at the church on September 19.

Members create a piece of individual artwork.

New members are welcome. No experience is necessary and the first session is free.

The cost thereafter is £30, which includes materials, for a ten-week term.

For more information ring Sheila on **07733 346 280**.



The group enjoying the demonstration

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Norton Canes Flower Club

Club members enjoyed another six months with a variety of events. With Spring and Summer on the horizon, hopefully better weather will be here for the coming programme.

In September, members met for a demonstration by Minh Lane who entertained us with 'East Meets West' - a lovely afternoon with arrangements reflecting the topic, using plant materials in unusual ways.

In October there was a workshop led by Chris. Members used different containers for arrangements, with advice on hand if needed. This produced some different styles and gave us ideas for future use.

In November there was a special lunch for members. The club celebrated 55 years since it was founded (the 'Emerald Anniversary') and there was a celebratory cake to mark the occasion.



The Emerald Anniversary cake with club chairperson Chris Flood (left) and club president Jose Aulton



The beautiful arrangement created at the February demonstration

The club has been in Norton Canes at various locations all these years and has had many members over that time who have had a lot of fun, friendship and pleasure from meeting together. We hope this continues for many more years.

The Christmas demonstration was also in November. Claire Bond was demonstrator on this lovely occasion. We were joined by visitors, a great start to Christmas. This was followed in December by the Christmas party.

In January we had a mini demonstration by Chris who used spring flowers - cheering to the spirits as tulips and daffodils herald Spring.

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In February Jo Davis came along with her demonstration entitled 'Blooming Women'. This was a most interesting afternoon because as well as producing super arrangements Jo talked about women who were involved with plants and flowers.

We learnt about Jeanne Barret, a botanist and plant hunter, who had to dress as a man some of the time because the French Navy didn't permit women on the ship at that time. She was the first woman to circumnavigate the world in stages.

Also: Ellen Willmot, who built gardens here and in France and Italy; Marjorie Fish with her cottage garden; Jo Thompson a designer; and Sarah Raven. It was an afternoon enjoyed by all.

Future events:

May 20: card craft demonstration by Susan Crew.

June 17: workshop 'Summer Table Arrangement'.

July 15: demonstration by Leena Patel 'Holiday Fun and the Hot Sun'.

August: no meeting but members go on a visit to a place of interest.

September 16: Sue Davies demonstrating 'A Little of What you Fancy'.

The club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at Trinity Bourne Methodist Chapel, Norton Canes, WS11 9SG, 1.30pm unless otherwise stated. New members welcome. For more details, ring **01543 277492** or **01543 279370**.

Silver Sneakers

A Norton Canes based gentle exercise group.

Members meet at Trinity Bourne Methodist Church, Poplar Street, on Thursdays, 11.30am-12.30pm.

Member Pamela Louies said: *"We enjoy an hour of mainly seated exercise using various pieces of equipment. We have weights, resistance bands and soft balls which help us improve balance and muscle strength as we age."*

Anyone who would like to attend the Silver Sneakers class can turn up any Thursday and will be made welcome.

The first week is free (£4 weekly thereafter).

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

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Norton Canes Historical Society

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

Usually there is a speaker giving a talk for about an hour.

There is also a raffle and refreshments.

Admission is free. All welcome.

Yew & Me

Are you looking for a friendly social group in the evening, where you can relax after work, chat and create?

There is a new group called 'Yew & Me'.

Members meet at the Yew Tree pub, Norton Canes, on the last Tuesday of the month from 7.15pm. Free tea and coffee is provided.

A group spokesperson said: *"We try a different craft each month, trying to keep costs low by just paying for materials, unless an artist comes in to work with us.*

"It's a space for people to share their skills and hobbies, join in with as much as they want to, or just sit and chat."

The basic cost is £3-£5.

So far members have tried weaving, jewellery making and batik to name a few.

Anyone interested in more information can contact the group on their Yew and Me Facebook page or drop in on one of their sessions at the Yew Tree pub.







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YEW & ME

Monthly craft and chat session, last Tuesday of the month, 7.15pm. Free tea & coffee.





Tuesday 26th May

Paint a figure with In2Colour Arts & Crafts, prices from just £1.50.

Yew Tree Pub, Jerome Road, Norton Canes, WS11 9TL

Next month 30th June, needle felted gnomes.
Follow us on Facebook.

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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

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YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

WEEKLY Activity Calendar

AT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Connect Participate Belong ♡

Something for everyone, every day!

MONDAY

- Kano Judo - Martial Arts Group
- X'Aquarians - Line Dance
- Monday Friends - Craft Group

TUESDAY

- White Lotus - Tai Chi
- Jenny's Dance - Social Dance
- Rainbows / Brownies - Youth Group
- Indoor Bowls - Short Mat Bowls
- Grace Church - Christian Church Group

WEDNESDAY

- Norton Canes Craft Group - Card Making
- Wednesday Social Group
- X'Aquarians - Line Dance

THURSDAY

- Sew Far So Good - Sewing Group
- Crafty Cards - Card Making
- Sugar Craft
- Backstreet - Theatre Group

FRIDAY

- Simply Crafting - Card Making
- Boogie Fit - Gentle Exercise
- Tea Dance - Social Dance
- X'Aquarians - Line Dance
- Little Angels - After School Club

SATURDAY

- L'Rythmix - Children's Dance Class
- Social Dance - Week 1 & 3
- Line Dance - Week 2 & 4

SUNDAY

- Shining Stars - Wellbeing Group

Get involved, make new friends and be part of our community!

All Welcome! ♡



CONNECT • PARTICIPATE • BELONG

We look forward to seeing you! ♡

Parish Newsletter - H1 2026 - Edition 47.indd 27 30/04/2026 16:18:44

Introducing Local Author Paul

An intriguing new book is now on sale on Amazon UK - and it's written by a Norton Canes author.

This is the first book by Paul Brown, aged 53, from Hamilton Lea. He tells the fictitious story of middle aged, dull abbatoir worker Dave whose life is going nowhere - until he wins a million on a scratch card.

Dave, a member of a metal detecting club, decides to use some of the cash to set up a treasure hunt. He invites six of the 13 members to solve clues and hunt for their buried metal box - with the chance of finding £10,000 or zero. There are various sub plots in the story.

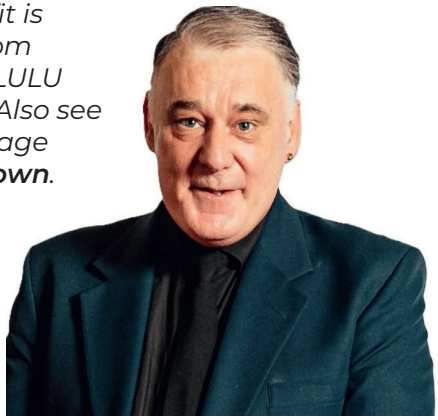
The author explained that the book, called DET_{13} Sic Infit, features a club which originally had 13 members (the number 13 being lucky for some, unlucky for others). Sic Infit is a Latin term meaning 'let the journey begin'.

The author, a fork lift driver in real life, started writing his book in 2023. He has always been a keen metal detectorist and loves solving puzzles - hence the subject matter of his book. Paul is a member of the National Council of Metal Detecting (NCMD) and holds an international qualification in metal detecting. Members meet at various locations across England.



His best find so far was in April last year when he found a 1962 green tractor. *"It cleaned up nice, but a wheel was missing!"* Paul said.

DET_{13} Sic Infit is available from Amazon or LULU Book store. Also see Facebook page ***Det.PaulBrown***.



Are there any more authors in the village? Let us know if you would like your book featured.

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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:

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MyStaffs App

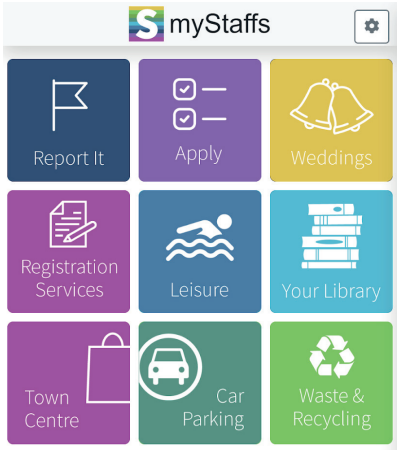
Did you know that Staffordshire County Council has a free app that puts local council services right at your fingertips?

The MyStaffs app brings together services from both Staffordshire County Council and your local district or borough council in one handy place - whether you need to report an issue, find information, or access council services, it's all just a tap away.

The app is free to download and available on both iPhone and Android devices - simply search for MyStaffs in the App Store or Google Play.

If there's a service you'd like to see added, or you feel something needs more information, the app includes a feedback form and the team are actively reviewing it to make improvements.

It's also easy to share - if you know a neighbour, friend, or family member who might find it useful, you can send them a link to the app directly.



Download on Apple

Download on Android

Don't Miss Out on Autumn 2026!



Get your stories, photos, and announcements into our next issue of Village News!

Deadline: First Week of September 2026

Don't leave it to the last minute! Send your contributions to Jan as early as possible for inclusion.

Email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

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Men at Work - Our Local Groundsmen

The grounds maintenance team at Norton Canes Parish Council play a vital and often unsung role in shaping the village into the welcoming and attractive place it is today.

John Lee, Dave Bates and Gary Westwood work in all seasons and weather. They consistently demonstrate dedication, pride and a genuine care for their community.

Their responsibilities span far more than routine maintenance. They carefully tend to all garden areas throughout the village, ensuring planting schemes are thoughtfully maintained and continue to flourish year-round. Alongside this, regular litter picking and general upkeep, including cutting back hedging and maintaining green spaces, help keep Norton Canes clean, safe, and inviting.





What truly sets them apart is their willingness to go above and beyond. The team has been instrumental in installing new features that enhance the village, including solar lighting, benches, the Jubilee beacon, and the much-admired deer statues, all contributing to the character and charm of Norton Canes.



Their support extends into community life as well. Whether it's assisting with local events by putting out road closure signs, helping with marshalling duties or transforming the village with festive decorations at Christmas, they are always ready to lend a hand wherever needed

Through their hard work and tireless commitment, the Grounds Maintenance team help ensure that Norton Canes remains a beautiful village to live in and their contribution is deeply valued by everyone who calls it home.





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Neighbourhood Plan Update

Readers of the newsletter will recall that the parish council has commissioned a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Norton Canes. A team of local volunteers and parish councillors has been active in keeping it going while waiting for the delayed Cannock Chase Local Plan, which was finally adopted in March this year. This means the Neighbourhood Plan can now progress to its Draft Plan stage.

Over the next few months, we will be inviting you to look at the draft policies and proposals and, most importantly, let us have your comments. We will be rebuilding the Neighbourhood Plan pages on the Parish Council website to explain the draft policies, and we will arrange an event where you can come along and see what is proposed and talk to us. Please look out for information on this.

The aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to establish local policies for the development and use of land in the parish, in line with the strategic planning policies in Cannock Chase Council's Local Plan - which, for example, identifies where large new housing and employment developments will go.

Nevertheless, the Neighbourhood Plan will be an important statement of what the local community wants. We would like it to allocate land for developments the parish wants, such as specialist elderly housing and an extension to the community centre. To propose new footpath and cycle routes and a crossing of the A5 to better connect the village with surrounding countryside, employment, education, and shopping. To protect and improve community facilities, open spaces, and the ecology of the parish countryside. To protect local heritage and regenerate the former Grove Colliery site. To address the unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments on parish bridleways. We also want the plan to provide an opportunity to raise matters outside its formal scope but important to residents, such as school places, transport, and medical services, which we have called a 'List of Asks.'

Despite the delays, the work so far has gathered valuable information. Data has been collected on footpaths, open spaces, local shops, and heritage buildings, and your comments from the 2021 consultation have been captured and used to inform the draft policies.

Please get involved again this year. Your support is vital.

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Norton Canes Parish Council

Meeting Dates

Full Council meetings on Wednesdays at 7pm:

May 20, 2026 - Parish Assembly
Meeting Starts at 6pm

June 17, 2026

July 15, 2026

September 16, 2026

October 21, 2026

November 18, 2026

December 16, 2026

All meetings are held at Norton Canes Library.

www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Staffordshire Police Smart Alert

You can have free, localised crime alerts and community safety advice via the Staffordshire Smart Alert app.

The information is compatible for Apple and Android devices.

You can also receive email alerts via

www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk

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Capture Norton Canes: Your Photos, Our Cover!

Help us showcase the beauty of our village! We're looking for fantastic photos of Norton Canes to feature on future covers of the village newsletter.

We want beautiful Norton Canes moments:

- Community events and celebrations
- Local wildlife and landscapes
- Families enjoying our parks
- Village life in action

Email your photos to **cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk** or drop them into the parish council office, including your name, where/when it was taken and a brief description.



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Party
in the
Park
SATURDAY, 11TH JULY 2026
1pm to 8.30pm Norton Canes Park
Free Face Painting - Bouncy Castles
Live Music
Market Stalls - Food Vendors - Bar
Bring your family and friends, pack a picnic basket, to enjoy a day of outdoor fun and relaxation and making unforgettable memories.
For more information contact
The Parish Clerk - Ginetta Adams
Email:clerk@nortoncaneparishcouncil.gov.uk