Happy 100 to Phyllis Jones

Phyllis, who lives in Burntwood Road, is pictured receiving many cards and gifts at her party held at Trinity Methodist Church in January.





Congratulations to
Mr and Mrs Nevell
Who celebrated their
60th Wedding Anniversary
In December.

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March 2017 Issue 17

Norton Canes Village News

Academy Pledge to Raise Standards

Norton Canes Primary Academy has been graded as 'requires improvement'. But despite the disappointing OFSTED grade, headteacher Karen Amos said she is pleased the report also recognised the school's good points.

The grade is an improvement on the previous OFSTED inspection which placed the school in special measures.

And Mrs Amos is keen to point out the former Norton Canes Primary School has 'improved a great deal' since joining REAch2 Academy Trust.

Mrs Amos said she recognises 'there is more work to be done'. But she took heart that the school was rated 'good' in early years provision and personal development, behaviour and welfare.



"This is no small feat, thanks to staff, pupils, parents and governors," she said. "The report highlights our nurturing ethos, the richness of the curriculum and the strength of leadership."

Mrs Amos said staff appreciate the support and 'overwhelmingly positive' comments which parents gave to OFSTED during the inspection. She described the Academy as 'a nurturing school' in a 'close-knit, caring community'.

Parish Council Precept – Going **Down**

Norton Canes parish councillors have considered the 2017/18 precept – and it is going DOWN by 13 per cent.

Councillors believe they can continue funding developments in the village and hopefully still be in a position to pay for Christmas lights.

A parish council spokesperson said: "We are facing challenges this financial year due to the government grant being cut by Cannock Chase Council and also the loss of funding for Christmas lights.

"But the parish council is pleased to report we have been able to set the 2017/18 precept achieving a 13% **decrease**."

Details of the precept are available on www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk or ring the clerk Linda Florence on 01543 276812.

Hi everyone and welcome to edition 17 – yes 17!
I can hardly get to the laptop for the pile of Valentine cards as I write this (dreamworld).
Hope you are all thawing out nicely. The bulbs are making a cautious peek through the soil. What do they think they are doing? Are they mad? And speaking of mad, have you spotted this crazy tree in our village? How funny does it look? I won't tell you where it is. See if you can find it.
It makes me smile every time I drive past it. It seems to be saying: "WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT!"
Anyone else got any funny pictures of barmy village trees – or anything else that makes you smile? I'd like the newsletter to be fun as well as informative.
Please send your happy pictures to cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk for inclusion in the next newsletter.





Diamond Duo



Congratulations to Jim and Margaret Nevell who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in December.
The couple met at a dance at Walsall Town Hall – and are still dancing the nights away together to this day.
When they met, Jim was in the RAF undergoing national service and was stationed in Hednesford.
Romance blossomed and they married at St John's Church, Walsall.
Nowadays Jim, aged 82, and Margaret (79), enjoy sequence dancing several evenings a week and frequent dancing holidays. They also enjoy going out for romantic meals.
They are behind one of the most established shops in the village - Nevells at Burntwood Road. The shop, which has been open for over 40 years, is a main stockist of Sirdar wools. It also sells haberdashery, craft aid, ribbons and buttons; plus ladies', babies', children's and men's wear; and is an agent for dry cleaning, alterations and shoe repairs
The couple have three children, all in their fifties, and four grandchildren aged 19-27.
They will be holding a special celebration party at the Aquarius Ballroom in Hednesford in June – a joint celebration to mark their diamond anniversary and Margaret's 80th birthday.
And what is the secret of their long and happy marriage?
According to their daughter Sandra: "Dad has a sense of humour and just says 'yes dear'."
(see picture - page 32)

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2015 ~ 2016

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr J. Beddows (Vice Chairman)	01543 279991
Cllr Mrs Zaphne Stretton MBE	01543 276959
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bridgen	01543 271679
Cllr Mrs M. Hopley	01543 274396
Cllr Mrs S. Harding	01543 275013
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279475
Cllr M. Stretton	01543 276959
Cllr C. Cox	01543 459477
Cllr C. Preece	01543 899785
Cllr J. Hampshire	01543 279850

Clerk to the Parish Council Mrs L Florence 01543 276812
(between 10am-2pm)

Useful contacts for district and county and other matters

Residents may wish to keep a note of local councillors' contact numbers if they have any Cannock Chase District or Staffordshire County Council matters to discuss.

The district councillors are:

Cllr Mrs Zaphne Stretton on	01543 276959
Cllr Mike Hoare on	01543 279989
Cllr John Preece on	01543 270789

County councillor: Diane Todd on 01543 278778

Member of Parliament: amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk

Who You Gonna Call?

In the event of a power cut there is a new 'Call 105' service.
The 105 service is a free number to ring in case of a power cut across England, Scotland and Wales.
For more details go to http://www.powercut105.com/

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2017

Norton Canes Parish Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month (apart from August when there is a summer recess).
A list of dates is available from nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk or see the parish notice board in the centre of the village near the Co-op store.

Stay Safe and Well

Did you know you can find out about chimney safety? Have you had your chimney cleaned?
Visit www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/2333.asp for more information.
The website also has a number of tips about winter safety, staying well and electrical safety. It's well worth a look.

Potholes

To report potholes ring 0300 111 8000 or visit
http://2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault
(See story page 3)



ST JAMES THE GREAT NORTON CANES
ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES LEADING TO EASTER

Passion Sunday	**April 2**	8am	Mass
		10.30am	Solemn Mass
		12 noon	Annual Church Meeting of Parishioners
Palm Sunday	**April 9**	8am	Mass
		10.30am	Palm Procession and Solemn Mass
Monday	**April 10**	7pm	Mass
Tuesday	**April 11**	7pm	Mass
Wednesday	**April 12**	11am and 7pm	Mass
Maundy Thursday	**April 13**	7pm	Solemn Mass of the Last Supper
Good Friday	**April 14**	**10.30am**	**Children's Activity with short Service To include distribution of Hot Cross Buns**
		12 noon	Stations of the Cross
		1pm	Lent Lunch in aid of Christian Aid ALL WELCOME
		7pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
Holy Saturday	**April 15**	8pm	The Easter Vigil and the First Mass of Easter
Easter Sunday	**April 16**	8am	Mass
		10.30am	Solemn Mass of Easter

Potholes: Let Battle Commence

Residents frustrated by the number of potholes in the village can be assured – the parish council is working on the issue.
Norton Canes Parish Council has been liaising with county councillor Diane Todd about the problem. She has spoken with the cabinet portfolio leader in an attempt to get the worst 15 potholes in the village prioritised.
This work has still not been undertaken. But councillors John Preece and Zaphne Stretton have recently undertaken a 'pothole strategy' for the village and will be reporting back to the county council.
The parish council has also contacted MP Amanda Milling who is undertaking a pothole campaign. The MP has been invited to the village to look at the issue and to ensure Norton Canes receives funding for potholes from the extra £1.5million that has been allocated to Staffordshire by the government.
A parish council spokesperson said: "We are aware of the frustration of residents with regard to the significant number of potholes in the village - and which appear not to be addressed.
"The parish council is concerned about the issue and has been working with the Highways Team at Staffordshire County Council for a number of years.
"We have a schedule of works that includes all the potholes and this schedule is regularly discussed at our meetings.
"The liaison officer from the Department also undertakes site visits in the village to look at issues."
"Be assured we are continually working to address the issues of potholes in the village. "Residents are encouraged to log their own concerns to the county council which will only provide pressure in trying to get some action taken."
To register a complaint about potholes ring the Highways Department at Staffordshire County Council on 0300 111 8000 or visit http://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault
For more information visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council

*The criteria for potholes being repaired are in three categories: CAT1 defects are the most urgent and are responded to in the same day/within 24 hrs; CAT 2 defects are also urgent and are generally responded to within a week; CAT 3 defects make up the majority of outstanding defects in Staffordshire and these are classed as a lower priority. These potholes can take 90 days or longer.

Letter from a Little Reader

You recently put my picture in your village news about my posters about dog mess in and around the park.

My name is Danni Preece. I come and visit my nan and grandad over the holidays. My last visit at Christmas I was so disappointed in the mess all over the park left by bad dog owners.

Could I please ask if anyone sees dog owners leaving mess - please report them?

Let's all stick together and get this mess sorted. My nan and grandad are cleaning up other mess that bad dog owners leave so we don't tread on it while playing.

It makes me sad that a few dog owners think this acceptable to do with the infections you can get from dog mess.

My nan and grandad have a dog and would never leave their dog mess for anyone to walk in. Their neighbours have all had dog mess outside their house which they have stepped in. Not nice.

The mess is getting worse. Please let's not let a few bad dog walks ruin our walks and park.

Thank you

Editor: Thank you Danni for writing to us. Any more youngsters out there who would like to write to us, send us a photo or draw us a picture of somewhere in our village?
Email cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Deadlines – Cut out and Keep

The Village News is published every quarter. And due to its popularity there are a growing number of contributors.

Please note the newsletter has a staff of just two busy volunteers so we are not in a position to 'chase' contributors for every edition. We do remind people as and when we can – but cannot be responsible for notifying everyone.

Please cut out and keep the following deadlines. We do not want to hear 'you didn't remind me!'

Please email any articles to the editor Janet Lee cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk or place them in the parish letterbox at the parish office (rear of village Co-op).

Articles will need to be submitted by: February 1 for March edition; May 1 for June edition; August 1 for September edition; November 1 for December edition.

Thank you

Your frazzled staff Sheila Harding and Jan. XX

Norton Canes Community Centre User Groups

Monday	Watercolours	10am-1pm	01543 275013
	Sewing Group	2pm-4pm	
	Norton Canes Judo Club	6pm-8pm	
Tuesday	Rainbows	4pm-5pm	07958 127 489
	Brownies	5pm-6.30pm	07957 127 489
	Poundshedders	7pm-8pm	01543 278534
	Indoor bowls	7.30pm-9.30pm	01543 279185
Wednesday	Phyllis Cards	11am-1pm	
	RVS	1.30pm-3.30pm	01543 276959
	Zumba	7pm-8pm	07894 947 334
	Line dance	8pm-10pm	07894 947 334
Thursday	Jean's Sewing Group	10am-4pm	
	Card class	10am-12pm	07570 452 948
	Norton Canes Judo Club	6pm-7pm	
	Sugar Craft	7pm-9pm	
Friday	Tea dance	1.30pm-3.30pm	
	Karate	5pm-6.30pm	
	Jenny's Social	7.30pm-10.30pm	01922 415232
Saturday	L'Rhythmix	10.45am-12.45pm	07821 774 456

Norton Canes Parish Council meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

The 1st and 3rd Saturday is Jenny and Terry's, 8pm till late. 01922 415232

The 2nd and 4th Saturday is Nev's Line Dance, 8pm-midnight. 07894 947 334

For more details email ncca@hotmail.co.uk

We are always looking for people to help deliver this newsletter. If you could deliver in your road or near please contact the parish council clerk Linda on 01543 276812 (10am-2pm) or email her nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

What's on at Norton Canes Community Centre

Saturday February 11 Afternoon Tea and Bingo £5 per ticket (includes food and 6 games of bingo) starts 2pm.

Saturday April 8 Easter Fair and Easter Egg Hunt 3pm– 6pm. Free Easter crafting for the children.

Saturday May 27 Afternoon Tea and bingo. £5 per ticket (includes food and six games of bingo). Starts 2pm.

Saturday July 29 Dandy Time. Ticket prices to be arranged.

Sunday October 8 Art Exhibition and Afternoon Tea, 10.30am– 4.30pm. Exhibition from 10.30am Afternoon tea from 2pm.

Saturday October 14 Antiques Fair, 3pm– 6pm.

Sunday October 29 Halloween Disco 4pm- 6pm, £2 per child.

Norton Canes Community Centre Availability

From January 2017 the hall will be available on:
Mondays, 8am-4pm;
Tuesdays, 8am-3pm;
Wednesdays 8am-1pm;
Thursdays, 7.30pm,
Fridays, 8am-1pm.



For more information
email: ncca@hotmail.co.uk



Newsletter Items for issue 18 - June 2017 to us by May 1 2017 *please.*
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Community Payback



The community payback team has been working in the village undertaking various clean-up tasks.
The parish council has been liaising with the Probation Service, who provided the team, for some time.
Tasks undertaken have included litter picking, clearing of pathways, garden areas - and anything the team is asked to undertake.
A parish council spokesperson said: "This is free resource that provides us with the opportunity to work on the presentation of the village.
"They have recently undertaken a large project clearing the path on Lime Lane as this was becoming impassable for pedestrians and disabled motor scooters because of the overgrowth.
"The team is supervised by Brian Marshall who is always very helpful. We have passed on our appreciation to the team manager."

Parish Assembly Invitation

The Parish Assembly will be held at Norton Canes Library on Thursday April 6.
This is an annual forum where electors of the parish can attend and raise any concerns or issues.
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman will provide a report detailing activities of the council during the last year - and will outline challenges that will be faced for 2017 and beyond.
Local community groups will also be presented with Section 137 funding.
There will be tea/coffee and light refreshments after the meeting which starts at 7pm.
No business of the council will be dealt with at this meeting.

Thank God It's Friday

The TGIF (Thank God it's Friday) Get Together group meets at Norton Canes Library.
The fun and friendly sessions are for all members of the community.
A variety of arts and crafts activities are available each week, all levels catered for.
This includes card making, glass painting, flower arranging and more - something for everyone.
The invitation is: come along, make new friends, have fun.
The group meets every Friday morning, 10.30am-12.30pm.The charge is £3.
For more information ring Donna on 01543 500404 or email cannock.enquiries@supportstaffordshire.org.uk
The meetings are funded by Staffordshire County Council Social Care and Health and delivered by Support Staffordshire. The group provides residents of Cannock Chase with an opportunity to get together and socialise, 'preventing isolation and promoting independence for adult'.
*The library was given over to the community after a six month trial period. A launch day was arranged and the certificate presented shows the library is now run entirely by volunteers.
See nortoncaneslibrary@staffordshire.gov.uk



Norton Canes Parish Council chairman John Preece is pictured with volunteers: (from left) Jessica Bullock, Val Brabazon, Roy Garbett, and Tony Harper.

Norton Canes Flower Club Report

A super evening was had at the Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock, in November at our Christmas Open Event with a demonstration by Nick Grounds entitled 'Bah Humbug'.
In December we had our Christmas party and a good time was had by all.
Here we are in a New Year and with the nights getting lighter again spring is hopefully not too long away. A varied programme has been arranged for this year - something for everyone to enjoy.
In January at the first meeting of 2017 we had a demonstration by Jose Aulton entitled '1-2-3'. This was using only one, two or three flowers in an arrangement. The flowers were lovely and we were all amazed with the delightful arrangements that Jose produced.
February 15 was a practical evening with Jude Jones showing members leaf manipulation.
On March 15 Beverley Short is our demonstrator with a 'My Bargain Hunt' theme. We are looking forward to the evening.



On April 19 there will be a practical session entitled 'Celebration Designs'.
On April 26 there will be an Open Demonstration at Norton Canes High School. Everyone is welcome to come along. The demonstrator is Lee Berrill and he is presenting 'Nature's Song'.
For tickets, (£6), ring 01543 279133 or pay at the door on the night.
On May 17 there will be a talk by Diana Perry entitled 'History of the English Rose'.
Members meet on the third Wednesday of the month (except in August when we enjoy an outing). Meetings are held at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, at 7.30pm. New members and visitors are most welcome. For more details ring 01543 278370.

****

Norton Canes Practice
Partners in Life

For information on
Dr Singh's practice see
website: www.drbksingh.co.uk
NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk

Bus Passes: Are You Eligible?

Free travel is available in Staffordshire County Council area (excluding Stoke-on-Trent) any time.

The pass also allows free travel in the rest of England (including Stoke-on-Trent) between 9.30am-11pm Monday to Friday and all day Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

To apply, renew or replace a pass online you will need an email address (can be a friend or family); a webcam or digital camera or existing digital image; proof of identity (passport or driving licence with photo); proof of residency in Staffordshire (utility bill less than three months old, bank or building society statement, benefit statement, pension statement, council tax bill etc); proof of disability if necessary; your old bus pass if you need a renewal.

You can apply in person at Burntwood, Lichfield or Cannock libraries. Library staff will take your photo, process your application and post your pass to you. The pass will take seven-10 working days to process.

To apply in person you will need: proof of identity (eg passport) or driving licence with photo; proof of residency in Staffordshire (as above); your current or expired pass if you need a renewal; proof of your disability if applying for a disabled pass; proof of your age if applying for an older person's pass.

To see if you qualify for a bus pass check your qualifying date by ringing 0300 111 8000 or email buspassrenewals@staffordshire.gov.uk

You may also qualify for a bus pass if you have a disability in various categories.

Passes are only valid on **buses.**

Special Awards for Special People

Awards will be presented to local people who have made a difference in the community. Norton Canes Parish Council has considered nominations for its Community Award and Young People's Endeavour Award.

The criteria for the awards are that they are given to someone who contributes to the community.

The Young People's Endeavour award goes to 16-year-old **Jack Ryan**, from Norton Football Club. Jack coaches the Under7s team.

A parish council spokesperson said: "Jack is an excellent role model for young people and they have developed under his guidance. He commits several hours each week, all voluntarily, and is an asset to the club.

The Community Award goes to **Dave Smith** for his work with the Royal British Legion. Dave represents the Legion locally and at external events.

Dave is also a voluntary driver for the community mini bus. In addition, he supports the parish council in the Best Kept Village competition.

The awards will be presented during the Parish Council Assembly at Norton Canes Library on April 6 at 7 p.m.

An Invitation for You



Norton Canes Community Library invites you to an afternoon tea on the last Thursday of the month.

There will be tea, coffee, cakes and scones (a small charge is payable).

The afternoon tea, at the Burntwood Road library, is held from 2pm-4pm.

Invitation from your Local Library

Welcome to Norton Canes Community Library. Why not come and see what we have to offer? We have clubs and groups galore:

Tuesdays, 10am-11am, Grow Up Great
Tuesdays, 1pm-4pm, Knit n Natter
Tuesdays, 7pm-9pm, Partnership Card Class
Thursdays, 10am-11am, Baby Stay and Play
Fridays, 10.30am-12.30pm, Get Together
1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm-10pm, Women's Institute
Last Thursday of the month, 2pm-4pm, Afternoon Tea
Last Saturday of the month, 11am-12 noon, Norton Canes Reading Group
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm-9pm; and **3rd Thursday** of the month, 10am-12 noon, Norton Canes Community Partnership Local History Group.

For bereavement support, ask for Val.

If you have a group that you would like to start up yourself, come and talk to us. We love hearing new ideas. Do you need somewhere for a party? Come and take a look at our Community Room. Our Community Room, Meeting Room and IT Suite are available for hire.

We do have books as well!

Invitation from Norton Aluminium Liaison Committee Chairman

Norton Aluminium has been a feature of the local area for many years and is likely to be so for more to come, providing employment for local residents.

Like many industrial concerns operating close to residential areas, it has not been without its environmental problems. Complaints ranging from noise, odour and dust have been received by Cannock Chase Council.

In 2013 a new company was established which, whilst operating under the same trading name, has adopted a more positive approach to environmental issues. Improvements in processes and practices have been implemented, which along with work on the structure of the buildings, have resulted in a significant fall in the number of complaints.

Norton Aluminium Liaison Committee has been established for 12 months. It offers local residents the opportunity to hear about the work the company is doing to improve its environmental performance and reduce any impact on the local community; to raise any concerns or queries you may have about its activities; and to find out how your council is involved in regulating the site.

Only small numbers of residents have attended recent meetings. As chairman of this committee I would encourage you to come along and take part in the next meeting. It will be held at Norton Aluminium, Norton Green Lane, on **March 9, 6pm-8pm.** Your views are important. The meetings are held twice annually.

If you wish to speak to someone about the work of the committee ring 01543 462621 and ask for the environmental protection team or email environmentalhealth@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Copies of the agendas and minutes from previous meetings are available at: http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/residents/environmental-health/environmental-protection/environmental-public-consultations

John Bernard

If you could host a fundraiser to help towards printing costs of this magazine please contact the parish council clerk
Linda on 01543 276812 or email her nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

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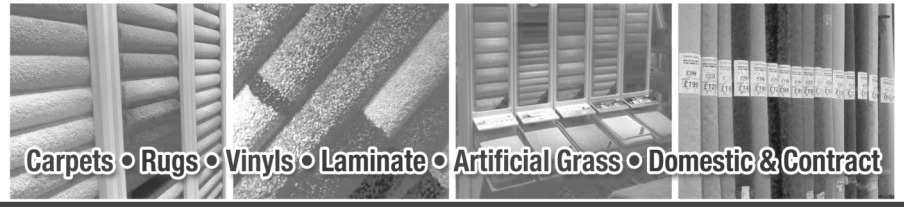
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CARPETS DIRECT 2U

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** and **Pelsall** and a huge warehouse in **Norton Canes** which is open to the public and has thousands of rolls in stock ready for customers to take away. Most recently, **Carpets Direct 2U** is proud to have opened a new retail store at **10 Cannock Road, Swan Island, Burntwood** where the family look forward to serving both existing and new customers in **Burntwood** and the surrounding areas. **Carpets Direct 2U** has established a reputation for providing customers with good service and quality floor coverings, priced to suit everyone's pocket.

Great Value, Great Quality

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

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

Vinyls

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

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

Fitting Service

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

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

Measuring Service

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

Rugs

RUGS DIRECT 2U

Whilst you can find a great selection of rugs in store, you can also shop online at **www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk** or order over the telephone on **08454 501221**.

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 the fifth year 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



visit our website at **www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk**

Best Kept Village – Please Play Your Part

Norton Canes will be entering the Best Kept Village Competition (BKV) again.

In the last two years the village exceeded all expectations and gained Highly Commended and a third place.

Judging will take place between May and the end of June. Judges may approach villagers to ask them if they are aware of BKV. Some residents in the past said they were not aware – so parish councillors are urging local people to familiarise themselves with the term.

Councillors will be working with local schools and the Brownie groups so the youngsters can enter the children's poster competition. The Brownie group will also be involved with working on some of the village garden areas.



They will also be co-ordinating ideas with village pubs and clubs.

A parish council spokesperson said: "A big thank you to residents who kindly donated bulbs and flowers for our garden areas. We are sure there will be a nice display around the village this year. We are also looking at developing other areas around the village.

"We are aiming to continue the success again this year and would encourage residents to get involved."

If you would like more information about becoming involved, ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

*A parish council spokesperson added: "Information provided in the last newsletter included part of the judges' 2016 report which referred to the area around the Railway Tavern being untidy.

The parish council has met with the Tavern manager as she felt the comments did not give the pub a good name. We are mindful that we had not worked with the pubs/clubs re last year's entry. We cannot apologise enough for the embarrassment this may have caused."

Dog Control: New Orders on the Way?

Dog owners – be aware.
Local authorities, the police and other agencies could have new powers to deal with dog-related anti social behaviour.
Cannock Chase Council is reviewing the need to convert the existing Dog Control Orders to a Public Space Protection Order.
The existing Orders dealt with dog fouling and dogs off lead close to roads which could cause an accident.
The council is now consulting with individuals and organisations to collect evidence of the extent of dog-related anti social behaviour in the area. If sufficient evidence is found, the council will propose a Public Space Protection Order is adopted. Public participation will take place to discuss the matter.
The council may also consider adopting additional measures which would require owners to pick up dog faeces immediately and dispose of the mess 'in a suitable receptacle'.
Included in the measures which could be adopted is that dogs could be banned from areas such as children's playgrounds and required to be on a lead within three metres of a road.
Cannock Chase Council intends to apply dog fouling restrictions to all open air land in the district that the public has access to. Exemptions apply for assistance dogs.
Dog owners who fail to comply may be prosecuted and fined (currently £100) and if convicted be liable to a fine of up to £1,000.

Local Plan – Have Your Say

You are invited to help Cannock Chase Council decide where different types of development should go in Norton Canes and across the district.
The council is looking to meet the needs of the district now and in the future.
The Local Plan Part (2) is a technical document which sets our policies on how much, and where, housing and business development will take place over the next 15-20 years.
There is a plan for Norton Canes with suggested sites. The consultation process is open until March 27, so residents have the opportunity to comment and be involved.
Drop-in events across the district, for residents to attend and receive more information, will take place at Cannock Library, February 24, 10am-1pm; and Heath Hayes Library, March 2, 3.30pm-6.30pm.
Or you can ring the Policy team at the district council on 01543 462621 or visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy. The parish office also has documentation.
If you wish to respond to the Plan, comment forms are available from the parish office .



Trinity Methodist Church
Minister: Rev Christopher Parkes
01543 682277
Senior Steward Ian Straughan 01543 276695
Organist Mrs Pat Littler 01543276371

Girls Brigade Thursdays
Juniors: 6pm to 7.30pm
Seniors & Brigaders: 7.30pm-9pm
Contact: Chris Straughan 276695

Accordion Group Saturdays 8.30am
Contact: Peter Howard 01543 270627

Morning Coffee Saturdays 10am-12 noon

Periodical social events include Quiz Night, Barn Dance, Skittles Evenings.

Other activities: Wood Turning,
Trinity Toddlers, Keep Fit, Flower Club.

Methodist Church: come and join us

The next skittles evening at Trinity Methodist Church, Norton Canes, will be on Friday March 17 at 7.30pm. The cost is £7 which includes fish and chips.

The church will host a quiz evening on April 7 at 7.30pm. The cost is £3. All welcome.

The Easter Sunday service will be on April 16 at 11am.

May 18 is 'Forget-Me-Not Day' from 11am-4pm. There will be an afternoon tea and sing-a-long from 2pm-4pm. The free event is to mark Dementia Awareness Week. See poster on page 13.

Keep this newsletter to hand – so you won't forget any dates!

Report from Norton Canes WI

The year finished off with a Christmas party in December. Proceedings went very well with Christine Mason opening the meeting and Margaret Shirley reading the minutes, keeping it brief. The night began with the excellent Louise Roberts (Lou) providing us with music and singing and she even managed to get us up dancing. Everyone enjoyed themselves - and afterwards there was more enjoyment when we tucked into our party food. The night was an all round success and we all had a very nice time.
With Christmas now behind us and into the New Year, we're hoping to have another great 12 months.
The January meeting was very well supported, despite it being a cold and bitter evening, so plenty of woolly hats and gloves were garnished. We also held a social evening with stories and jokes as told by Kath Dutton, followed by a quiz and a good natter. The night went well and finished off with the usual tea and biscuits. Let's hope the good times continue throughout the year.

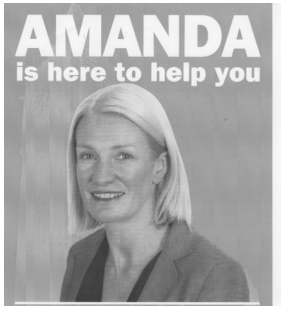


If any ladies are interested in joining, or curious to find out more, meetings are held of the first Wednesday of each month at Norton Canes Library from 7pm.
Interested parties are allowed to attend three times at a cost of £2.50 before joining.
It's not all about making cakes and jam and we have some very interesting speakers arranged for the rest of 2017, along with meals out and field trips.
Margaret Scothern

Norton Canes RVS (Darby and Joan)
This fun club meets at Norton Canes Community Centre every Wednesday.
There is room for more male or female members (no upper or lower age limit).
Members enjoy trips, celebrations and birthday parties throughout the year.
They meet from 1.30pm-3.30pm. You are invited to join the fun.
For more details, ring **Zaphne or Mike on 01543 276959.**

Message from your MP Amanda Milling

As you can imagine, with the all the debates and votes on Article 50, Parliament has been a very busy place these last few weeks. The House of Commons has approved a Bill that will allow the Government to trigger Article 50, which I wholeheartedly supported.
The Bill has been passed to the House of Lords for scrutiny and will return to the Commons in a few weeks time. I must say that I have felt like I have been on a human hamster wheel during many of the votes, one evening there were 10 consecutive votes.
Closer to home it has been just as busy. In recent weeks I have attended a ground breaking ceremony at a new supported housing site, joined Finning's apprentices at their graduation and held numerous surgeries to help local people with their problems.
I have launched my 'Pothole Patrol' campaign. I am asking everyone to get in touch with me and let me have the details of any potholes on local roads and I will report them to Staffordshire County Council.



I am aware there are some particularly bad roads in Norton Canes which I have reported on many occasions in the last two years. Please email me details at amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or call 01543 877142.
As always if you need help with any other issue please get in touch.

The parish notice board outside the Co-op contains information which is updated regularly on parish matters. You can also find information on the parish council website
www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk
***This newsletter is published by**
NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

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 Linda on 01543 276812 (10am-2pm) or email her nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Norton Canes Hidden Past

Most people would have walked past the Lido and not given this unassuming building a second glance.

But it has a lot more to it than meets the eye. From our deeds and records a very interesting past can be revealed:

Common Land Purchased 13th June 1870 Parcel of land adjacent to Norton Heath Road including access to Jeffery's Swag (Norton Pool) awarded to the Lords of the Manor by the philanthropic society 'The Guardians of the poor of the Cannock Union' to give 'aid & Succour' to Norton Canes Workhouse.

December 3 1889 The original building is constructed for the Pool Master and family. The address was Pool View House, 49 Workhouse Lane, Norton Canes. That's why School road is a funny shape! Workhouse Lane has too many historical overtones.

Passing through a number of local owners after the workhouses were demolished, it was bought by Frank Myatt Ltd for £500 and renamed Pool View Club in August 1927.

September 27 1946 Bought by the Trustees: Alf Hall, Tom Westwood and Bill Millerchip with a £700 mortgage and re-named the LIDO WMC & Institute. Accepted into the Clubs & Institute Union (CIU) in 1952.

After quite a few additions over the following decades to the main building, the club, like many similar institutes, was struggling with rising prices and falling revenue. This led to the members agreeing to the sale in **2012** of most of the car park with the money raised being spent on a major update and refurbishment of the club.

And what does the future hold for this proud little club? The Committee and current members would like to welcome you to play a part in it, and come and join us.

Chess Mates

Norton Canes Chess Club meets at the Lido, School Road, Norton Canes on Tuesdays at 7.30pm.

New members welcome. Younger members need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The Royal British Legion Norton Canes branch meets on the second Tuesday of every other month. Anyone with military service or family in the military is welcome.

Details from Lido Working Men's Club secretary at the Lido, School Road, Norton Canes.

The Over 60s club meets every Tuesday at the Lido from noon until 2.30pm for a chat, bingo and lunch. Monthly trips to new places arranged. Transport is available. For details ring 01543 275714.





Norton Canes Community Partnership Local History Group

Members meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Norton Canes Library, 7pm-9pm.
A speaker gives a talk, which is followed by general chat, light refreshments and a raffle.
Admission is free and we welcome members and non members.
Informal coffee mornings are also held at the library on the third Thursday of the month, 10am-12 noon.

Dates for your diary:
March 14, Mary Bodfish: Merry Monarchs Part I.
April 11, Keith Cattell: The Cathedral Builders.
May 9, Ian Bott: Haunted Black Country.
June 13, Ned Williams: History with Dividends.
Coffee mornings will be on: February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15.
No Meetings are held during July and August.

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ring: 01543 279256

Forget-Me-Not Day

Thursday May 18.

11am - 4pm
Trinity Methodist Church,
Poplar Street,
Norton Canes.

It's Free

Afternoon Tea and Sing-a-long
2pm - 4pm



Video and pictures of Norton Canes Past and present. Bring your memories to share.

This is Dementia awareness week. There will be lots of information and advice for you and your friends.

The 'Forget-me-not' Is the emblem of the Dementia Friends. There are many 'Friends' in the village. Look out for the badge.

Tai Chi and Silver Sneakers meet as usual. Why not join them?

Maureen's Well-Earned Medal



The longest-serving member of the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) in Norton Canes has been awarded a medal.

Maureen Hall has given 40 years of service to the community. The medal was presented to her by David McCullough, chief executive of the RVS, at the Hanley office, Stoke-on-Trent.

Maureen was thanked for her work over the years. A special tea was laid on for award winners, their friends and supporters.

Maureen joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS as it was then known) in 1976 after her mother-in-law, who had been a founder member, passed away. Mrs Sarah Hall helped to start the club in 1949 for the over 60s in the village (now for over 50s). They called it the WRVS Darby and Joan Club.

Maureen recalls her first duty for the WRVS was helping Mrs Catherine Bhageerutty to deliver meals on wheels. They were delivered every week around Norton Canes, Heath Hayes and Wimblebury.

"That was an experience," Maureen said. "I loved it. For 25 years I delivered to Cannock, Hednesford and Pye Green and finished when WRVS lost the contract. We all had certificates presented to us for doing over 10 years.

"I also worked for 10 years on a rota system at Featherstone Prison on the tea bar for families of prisoners, some who had come a long way.

"I did training sessions for emergency services for 15 years. The first emergency was when there was a suspected gas leak from a lorry parked in Jerome Road. The elderly and those living around the area were evacuated by ambulance and taken to the village dog racing track.

"Mrs Bhageerutty rang me at 2am and said: "Get up and grab a loaf or some milk and tea.

"We went to the Brownhills Road race track (houses are there now). We made tea and coffee for about 100 people and tried to make them comfortable until it was declared safe to return. I went to bed about 6am that day!"

Another emergency was when Cannock Chase was on fire. Maureen collected four ladies and took them to the location of the fire to make tea and coffee for police and firemen.

Come and Join the Fun

Boys and girls are invited to join Norton Canes Scout Group.

Members meet at Norton Canes Primary Academy.

Scouts, for youngsters aged 10 and a half to 14, meet in Key stage 2 hall on Tuesdays, 7pm-8.45pm.

Cubs, aged eight to 10 and a half, meet in Key stage 2 hall on Wednesdays, 7pm-8.30pm.

Beavers, six to eight-year-olds, meet on Wednesdays in Key stage 1 hall, 6pm-7.15pm.

Group Scout leader Christine Benton said: "Scouting is all about having fun while making new friends and learning new skills."

For more details ring Christine on 01543 279106 or email chrisbenton@talktalk.net

Festive Window Congratulations

The annual parish council festive window competition was judged during the week commencing December 5.

The council would like to thank all those businesses who took part.



The results were: first place-Norton Canes Library; second-Sprinkles; third-CK Hairdressers. Winners were presented with their trophies at the parish council meeting in January.

Norton Canes Parish Council chairman John Preece (right) is pictured presenting the trophy to library volunteers (from left) Pat Hurley, Tony Harper, Audene Cowley (Dee) and Val Brabazon.

Be a Silver Sneaker



While many people are joining gyms after Christmas and New Year festivities there is a reminder that the older generation need exercise too.

For the last few years, 'Silver Sneakers' have been meeting at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, for gentle exercise.

And members all agree: gentle exercise keeps up their mobility and helps to prevent falls.

Four new members recently joined the Sneakers – but there is still room for more.

Organisers say they want to see more people feel the benefits of a little exercise.

A group spokesperson said: "We are a friendly group of mostly women but now with two men. Laughter is the best medicine - so please come and laugh and exercise with us. The first week is free. Hope to see you soon."

Members meet on Thursdays at 12.30pm. The charge is £3 per session.

Just wear loose, comfortable clothing and suitable flat shoes.

For information telephone Pam 07884 979 665 / 01543 899307



Ladies and Gentlemen - Contact Audra

07445671221 or 01543276973

Treat yourself to a 'great hair day'

Continued from page 14

"There was a fire at a bungalow on Brownhills Road, Norton Canes," Maureen said. "I think it used to be a bakery at one time. A team of ladies made drinks at the Community Centre for those evacuated from nearby houses, including Railway Street and Poplar Street, and for the firemen. Everywhere was soon made safe."

Maureen remembers taking a coach-load of members to Paignton in Devon – where two ladies, Mrs Wiggin and Mrs Mary Slatcher, got lost!

"We looked everywhere for them and they arrived back at the hotel in a police car. They had fallen asleep on the pier!" she said.

Maureen also remembers a Christmas party where the committee sang and entertained on stage, some in fancy dress.

Maureen was happy to help as secretary at the club. After a while she took over from Mrs Maud Watson as leader when Maud gave up for health reasons. It was a successful club, with 60-70 members attending weekly. They met on Wednesday afternoons for bingo, whist or draughts and quizzes etc. The afternoon finished with sandwiches and cakes served by the committee or perhaps strawberries in summer, freshly picked by some committee ladies, including Maureen - and Margaret Edwards who is still a member today.

Margaret is the next longest serving member of the RVS having been on the committee for about 36 years. She is retired but attends weekly when well enough.

Maureen added: "Although for family health reasons I had to give up leadership I am still on the committee and very much involved."

Anyone who is over 50 and lonely is welcome to join on Wednesdays, 1.30pm-3.30pm, at Norton Canes Community Centre. For those having difficulty getting there, there is a mini bus that will pick up for a small charge.

If you would like to volunteer for the RVS, ring Maureen on 01543 279751 for more details.

We love to receive your contributions for this newsletter.
Send your stories/memories/pictures to the editor Jan at
cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk
Or drop them into the parish office
at the rear of the village Co-op.

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Major	**£249**	*A fully comprehensive and extended service, Everything the annual service offers with the addition of Cabin filter, Fuel Filter, Spark plugs, Gear oil & Brake fluid. Recommended annually for high mileage & every 2 years for average use vehicles.*
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We Promise to NEVER apply any hidden charges. Any surcharges will be discussed upon booking. Rest assured if we notice anything we think you will benefit from doing while your car is with us, we will always contact you and let you have the choice.

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