

Happy 90th birthday to Marjorie Palin.

Easter at St James' Church

Easter is a time of sadness followed by great joy.
Our children's activity service on Good Friday was a fun, busy time making Easter gardens and drawing round their hands - each finger showing something the children had to thank God for.
These hands were then fixed to the big cross for all to see and think about.
We followed this by having a hot cross bun.
Our pictures show the children proudly displaying their work after the event and the hands on the cross. Well Done All.
Mary Carpenter





June
2017
Issue 18

Norton Canes Village News

Open Space Looking Pretty Good

An area of land in the village is being developed into a garden area.
Norton Canes Parish Council has entered into a lease agreement with Cannock Chase Council to develop the land at the corner of Butts Lane and Norton Green Lane.
A parish council spokesperson said local First Valley District Guides, Norton Canes Brownies and Rainbows have been 'very involved' in planning the site.
Work on the ambitious project has already begun. There is still more work to be done but the parish council has expressed thanks to the Brownie group for their 'vision, commitment and hard work' in making the project happen.
Brownie Group leader Helen Jenkinson said the project was also made possible thanks to the donation of a bench and paint from Homebase; and a Sainsbury's depot grant for plants and seeds. "We had a good turn out and I'm really grateful to all the volunteers who gave their time," Helen said. "The girls really enjoyed it and got stuck in. We look forward to how the garden develops."
A parish council spokesperson said: "A big thank you to Helen - whose enthusiasm for getting involved in a community project should be recognised.
"Brownie group members hope to use the area for some of their club activities from time to time."
A local resident welcomed the initiative.
"It is really good to see this area being brought alive thanks to the vision of those behind the scheme," she said. "The area is already starting to look really pretty and interesting."





Hello friends

Welcome to our fat Newsletter 18. Thank you to all the regular contributors and to those who have contributed articles for the first time. We really enjoy receiving your news. Please keep it coming.
To those of you who are still puzzling where the mysterious, angry looking tree is (featured in newsletter 17) it is glaring at you as you drive towards the first mini roundabout on exiting Norton Hall Lane travelling in the direction of Sainsbury's.
Now we have another area in the village to make us smile: the land currently being transformed in Norton Green Lane (corner of Butts Lane). Thank you to all who are involved.

If you would like to share any pictures of the village with readers please email them to cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk or drop them in at the parish office (rear of Co-op).

Much love
Jan
Editor



Newsletter Items for issue 19 - September 2017
to us by August 1 2017 *please.*

Smile for You

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.
I passed it round the corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled, I realised
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile, then realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick -
And get the world infected.

(The above poem was found on the village Community Centre notice board).

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2017 ~ 2018

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: Jonny McMahon 07584638356
Email: Johnny@localconservative.org.uk

Norton Canes Community Centre New Committee

Maureen Hopley chairperson 07814 184 587
John Beddows vice chair 07921 850 554
Ann Betts treasurer 01543 279185
Wendy Mcgreevy booking clerk 07845 678 003
Ian Reeves secretary 07549 108 829
Jenny Dunn funding 01922 415232
Lesley Hunwick 07939 514 009
Zaphne Stretton 07899 905 779
Jackie Earp 07570 452 948
Josh Mills
Alex Reeves 07765 151 973
Clive Preece 01543 899785
John Preece district representative



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.**

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.

News from Norton Canes Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on April 6 at Norton Canes Library.
It was a forum where electors of the village could attend and raise any questions they may have regarding community issues.
Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece presented cheques to community groups in support of their running costs as they play an important role in providing activities for residents of the village.

Cllr Preece also presented the annual awards for Youth Endeavour.
The award went to Jack Ryan for his work with young people at Norton Canes Football Club. The Community Award was presented to Dave Smith for his work with the Royal British Legion and for supporting community events.
Flowers and a certificate were awarded to Lesley Hunwick for her work at the Community Centre.
Parish councillors feel it is important to recognise the work of volunteers in the community.

Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting of the parish council took place on May 17 at Norton Canes Community Centre.
Nominations were put forward for the post of chairman and vice chairman for the ensuing year the results of which are as follows:
John Preese - Chairman
Clive Preece - Vice Chairman
The list of councillors serving on village committees will be displayed in the notice board outside the Co-op store.

Your New County Councillor

Following the recent county council elections your new councillor is: Johnny McMahon - elected County Councillor Conservative member for Cannock Villages. Cllr Mahon can be contacted on 07584 638 356 or email johnny@localconservatives.org.uk

Best Kept Village Competition

Parish councillors have been busy during April and May getting ready for the Best Kept Village competition. Judging takes place between May and June.
By the time this newsletter is delivered you should be able to see summer plants in our gardens plus hanging baskets.
We would ask residents if they are able to offer any help with litter picking around their own area.
This is a mammoth task to keep our village clear of litter. We will be organising a litter pick event with the British Legion some time in June.
The date will appear on Facebook, on the parish council website and parish notice board so please look out for the date.

Potholes

Whilst some temporary repair of Church Road has been undertaken, parish councillors will continue to work with the Highways Department and County Councillor Johnny McMahon to ensure areas in the village are given priority - particularly Brownhills Road/ Norton East Road and Norton Green Lane.

Bus Service

Parish councillors still view the lack of a bus service covering Church Road/Norton Green Lane 'loop' as a priority.
Cllrs Sheila Harding and Ann Bernard recently met with Arriva bosses to highlight the problem. They requested a service to enable residents living in that area to access the village centre be looked into.

Thank you for the Bulbs

Norton Canes Parish Council clerk Linda Florence wishes to thank Margaret Birch and Gerry Kean for the kind donation of bulbs for the village. Gerry also donated bulbs for the village last year.



Norton Canes Community Centre User Groups

Monday	watercolours	10am-1pm	01543 275013
	sewing group	2pm-4pm	
	Norton Canes Judo Club	6pm-8pm	
	1st Valley District Guides	7pm-8.30pm	07958 127 489
Tuesday	Rainbows	4pm-5pm	07958127 489
	Brownies	5pm-6.30pm	07958 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
	karate	5pm-6.30pm	
	line dance	7pm-10pm	07894 947 334
	parish meeting every 3rd Wednesday of the month		
Thursday	Jean's Sewing Group	10am-4pm	
	card class	10am-12 noon	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

1st & 3rd Saturday Jenny and Terry 's social dance 8pm till late 01922 415232
2nd & 4th Saturday Nev's Line Dance 8pm-12 midnight 07894 947 334

* zumba is no longer held at the community centre
for more details email: ncca@hotmail.co.uk

*This newsletter is published by
NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

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Be a Friend of Norton's Parks

Friends of Norton's Parks is an idea developed by local councillors and residents. The aim is to support and enhance the village's natural heritage, green spaces, parks and playgrounds.

For more than a decade Norton Canes Parish Council has been successful in taking small pockets of land (like the entrance to the Batter on the Bridge, and land on Norton Square now known as Millennium Garden) and turning them into pleasant green spaces that are now very visible features in the village.
Friends of Norton's Parks would like to support those efforts in ways that the parish council is unable to - like, for example bidding for certain grants.
Norton Canes has a long-established network of pathways and bridle routes, five parks, over a dozen designated green spaces and a rich patchwork of environmental and industrial heritage sites including canals, mineral routes, and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) along the canal located in the southern half of village.
We also have several playgrounds that residents are keen on upgrading and of course we have Chasewater on our doorstep.

We are looking for enthusiastic members of the community to join Councillor Sheila Harding, residents and myself in forming a Friends of Norton's Parks committee. We would like to hear your ideas of how we could improve our green spaces. We would in future also like to organise conservation events such as those that take place on Norton Bog, as well as litter picks and fundraising events.
Our group will have the following aims:
1. To promote our open spaces for the benefit of our health and wellbeing, our education, the preservation of our village heritage and pride and respect for our community.
2. To support residents, charities, leisure and sporting groups and local authorities in developing, enhancing and protecting our open spaces.
To actively seek out sources of funding and suggest projects to complement aims 1 and 2.
For more information please ring or email me: 01543 270789 or johnpreece77@hotmail.com
Thank you.
Cllr John Preece

Sneak into Trinity Methodist Church



If like me your joints are feeling a bit stiff and your balance is not as good as it used to be, I am confident you would benefit from joining us at Silver Sneakers exercise class.
Here, you can take part in gentle exercises that will ease your stiffness and improve your flexibility and balance.
In my own case I have noticed a vast improvement in movement and co-ordination. We enjoy a very friendly atmosphere and everyone would be assured of a warm welcome. Annette, our leader, is excellent both as an instructor and motivator. Come and give us a go and surprise yourself with what you can achieve.
Jackie Glover (an octogenarian)

There has been a huge amount of recent research into maintaining our health as we get older.
It has been found that moderate exercise not only helps to maintain and strengthen the body, but has a significant effect on improving the memory and the brain's ability to plan and organise.
The theory is that through exercise the brain receives a greater supply of blood and oxygen and nutrients that boost its health.
Moderate exercise does not include running round Norton Canes in lycra (imagine!) or lifting weights.
We mostly sit and carry out exercises to music.
Everyone works at their own pace and level of ability. If you haven't done any organised exercise recently it's never too late to start.
Our members range in age from mid 50s to mid 80s. We all enjoy the camaraderie and a happy atmosphere.
The group is led by a well-informed and knowledgeable teacher (she who must be obeyed!)
If you want to join us at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, on Thursdays at 12.30pm you will be very welcome.
There is plenty of parking space. Your first session is free; subsequent sessions £3.
Please wear loose comfortable clothing and suitable flat shoes.
Jan Koster (septuagenarian)

For more information ring Pam on 07884 979 665.

Norton Canes Practice
Partners in Life

NHS health checks This is a check-up for adults in England aged 40-74. It is designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia. As we get older we have a higher risk of developing one of these conditions. An NHS health check helps find ways to lower this risk. If you are in the 40-74 age group, without a pre-existing condition, you can expect to receive an invite from the GP for a free NHS Health Check every five years. If you have not received an invite, contact our reception who will see if you are eligible and will book your appointments. Your first appointment will be for a blood test followed up a week later with the health check.

Annual reviews Those of you who receive annual review check-ups, please don't forget to book your reviews around your birthday with the nurses. It is vitally important for patients with long term conditions to attend their review so we can monitor health to improve quality of care and safe prescribing of medicines.

Book appointments and order repeat prescriptions online Do you want the convenience of booking your appointments or ordering repeat prescriptions without having to phone or visit the surgery? With Patient Access you can now access your local GP services at home, work or on the move - wherever you can connect to the internet. Because Patient Access is a 24-hour online service you can do this in your own time. If you would like to be set up for this service please ask our receptionists

Health awareness sessions Our next health awareness session will be about Breast Cancer. The session will take place at Norton Canes Medical Centre on Tuesday June 20 at 5pm.The invitation is open to all members of the community so you do not have to be a patient at Norton Canes practice to attend.

Text reminders If we have your mobile phone number we will be able to send text reminders for your appointments with all our clinical staff. We can also send you reminders when your annual review is due. If you would like this service, please check with a receptionist that we have your correct mobile number.

Information for carers A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. Each carer's experience is unique to their own circumstances. The Carers Hub supports carers and provides useful information. Your local carers' support is: Carers Integrated HUB**,** SGI Offices/ Madford Retail Park, Foregate Street, Stafford ST16 2QY. Tel: 03301 231 937 or visit thecarershub.co.uk, email carershub@peopleplus.co.uk

Letter from Danni's nan

Hi to everyone. Thanks for doing a good job with the village news

I am Danni Preece's nanny. She comes to visit us over the holidays and she has written a few times to you about dog mess around our parks and lovely walkways.

How disgusting that this is **still** a very bad problem.

I would like to remind these bad, lazy dog walkers what they leaving behind. There are 23 million bacteria in a single gram of pet waste.

A toddler in a Manchester playing in a park fell, wiped her face with a hand that went in dog mess and may now become blind. Her mom could not get to her before she touched her face.

I hope this makes you bad dog walkers think.

Do you think it's fair for us to come out and move your mess or that people are walking in it?

All good dog owners are getting fed up of the few who give them a bad name.

Poo fairies don't exist. Pick up your mess so people can walk the streets and enjoy parks without this mess.

Thank you.

Danni's nan



TGI Friday Craft Group Invitation

Our lovely group started two years ago with a handful of people. Over time we have grown and now have over 15 attending our weekly session.

The sessions are planned and run by volunteers within the group but occasionally sessions are taken by volunteers from outside. We make a variety of mainly paper crafts including cards, home decor and novelty gifts.

We will make you feel very welcome and if you are a beginner we can provide you with everything you need to start crafting straight away.

Our group is a great way to meet others, have a cuppa and a chat and make something special to take home and keep for yourself or give as a gift to friends or family.

Recently we had a visit from Amanda Milling MP and soon got her crafting with us. A lovely morning was had by everyone.

Our group meets at Norton Canes Library from 10.30am-12.30pm every Friday. It's just £3 per week which includes refreshments and all the materials you need to complete your project.

Nigel

Have a Good Scout Around

Girls and boys are invited to join the 1st Norton Canes Scout Group.

The fun includes adventure, learning new skills, outdoor trips and making new friends.

All units meet at Norton Canes Primary Academy.

Beavers, aged six to eight, meet on Wednesdays from 6pm-7.15pm; Cubs, aged eight to 10 ½ meet on Tuesdays, 7pm-8.30pm; Scouts aged 10 ½ to 14 years, Mondays, 7pm-8.45pm.

All units meet in the Key Stage 2 Hall.

Units have recently enjoyed visits to Cannock Fire Station and a trip to Cosford Air Museum.

Volunteer parents/adults are urgently needed.

For more details ring Group Scout Leader Christine Benton on 01543 279106 or email chrisbenton@talktalk.net

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3 HAMILTON LEA, BROWNHILLS ROAD
NORTON CANES, WS11 9SY

Call us on 01543 279327

What's on at Norton Canes Community Centre

Saturday June 3 Beetle Drive and Afternoon Tea £5
Saturday July 29 Dandy Time. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £7.50
Sunday July 30 Village Summer Fair, 1pm-5pm. Lots of stalls, bouncy castle, displays. Stalls inside and outside. 'Belle' will be with us for meet and greet
Wednesday August 2 Afternoon Tea with 'Belle' 12noon till 2pm, £5 (includes afternoon tea, nail painting and face art). Booking essential email: ncca@hotmail.co.uk



Sunday September 10 Indoor Boot Sale 10am-1pm
Saturday September 30 Race Night
Sunday October 8 Art Exhibition and Sale, 10.30am-4.30pm
Saturday October 14 Antiques Fair, 3pm-6pm.
Sunday October 29 Halloween Disco, 4pm-6pm. £2 per child
Sunday December 3 Victorian Christmas Fair and Lantern Paraded and stalls 1pm-5pm. Lantern Parade leaves centre at 5pm
Santa will be in his grotto 2pm-4pm

Sunday December 10 Community Carol Service, 6pm

Saturday and Sunday December 16 and 17 Sleeping Beauty pantomime, 2pm and 7pm. Tickets £6. Email ncca@hotmail.co.uk to book

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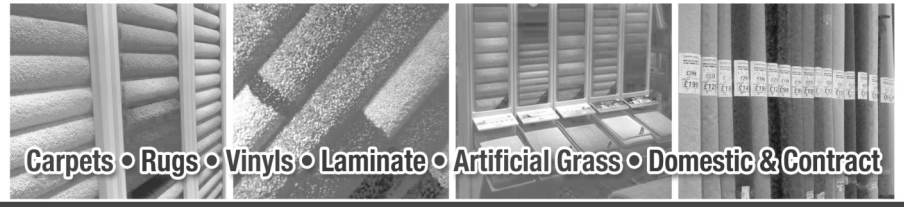
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CARPETS DIRECT 2U

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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.

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- Email: info@rugsdirect2u.co.uk



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

Message from your local Police Community Support Officer

For those who do not know me, I am the new PCSO for Norton Canes and Heath Hayes, having previously worked Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay. Neil has left to pursue a new career and Andy now works at our headquarters. We have had several reports of youths engaging in anti-social behaviour at the Sycamore Working Men's club. The youths have since been advised and the front entrance has been secured. We have also had several reports of off-road bikes being driven over Chasewater and at the back of the high school. May I remind off-road bikers that it is illegal to ride any motor bike in public open spaces such as parks, play areas or pavements. You may only ride an off-road bike legally on private land with the land owner's permission. The police will take action if I obtain evidence of the issue and I have already spoken to young people who they are already aware of. We have had a burglary reported in Elm Road. I advise that as you plan your holidays this summer, arrange for family or friends to check your property to ensure it is secure. Lock windows and remove keys from view. I would like to thank members of the community who swiftly brought to our attention racist comments made on the Norton Canes parish page. This incident is under investigation. It was clear that such comments are not tolerated by the community and Staffordshire Police do take action against 'keyboard warriors' of this kind. I encourage anybody who would like to volunteer for the Community Speed Watch scheme to put their names forward at the parish post so that we can arrange training. This is an important community initiative to support local policing. Megan McAndrew PCSO



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

Norton Canes Flower Club

The nights are getting lighter and we have lovely spring flowers in the gardens to cheer us up.

The club has held a mixture of practical evenings and demonstrations.

In February we had a practical evening led by Jude Jones, learning and practising leaf manipulation using aspidistra leaves. It's amazing what can be achieved once you know how.

In March Beverley Short demonstrated My Bargain Hunt with some lovely and different arrangements using items she had acquired over the years - some as gifts and others bargain buys. The flowers were lovely and the evening was greatly enjoyed by all.

In April there was a practical evening with the title Celebration Flowers which was very apt because we celebrated the 90th birthday of Marjorie Palin with a surprise party. *(see picture page 32)*

Marjorie is one of the founder club members and continues to provide support and advice. She also bakes lovely cakes each month for our meetings which are very much appreciated.

Jose Aulton told us about the early years of the club and Marjorie's involvement including flower festivals and competitions which she entered with considerable success achieving many firsts. Chris Flood spoke of Marjorie's continued involvement and thanked her for her many years of work and support for the club.

Marjorie was presented with a bouquet of flowers, a balloon with 90 on it and a cake. Along with members of her family we wished Marjorie a very happy birthday and toasted her with a glass of bubbly and a piece of cake. It was a super evening.

Also in April the club hosted an open evening at Norton Canes High School. National demonstrator Lee Berrill presented Nature's Song. The arrangements were stunning with beautiful flowers.

Future meetings: May 17: Diana Perry talking about the History of the English Rose; June 21: workshop evening; July 19: demonstration by Kerry Artiss entitled Oranges and Lemons

*No meeting in August as members will be going on an outing.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated. New members and visitors are most welcome. For more information please ring 01543 278370.

Trinity Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Christopher Parkes 01543 682277
Senior Steward Ian Straughan 01543 276695
Organist Mrs Pat Littler 01543 276371

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.





Norton Canes Watercolour Club



We are pleased to announce we will be holding our annual art exhibition on Friday and Saturday, August 18 and 19, 10am-4pm each day.

Trinity Methodist Church has invited us for the third year running.

Members are very busy painting new items for the event.

The excellent team at Trinity will again be providing refreshments.

We will be pleased to welcome you.

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



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Norton Canes Community Partnership - Local History Group

Norton Canes Historical Society

Meetings are held at Norton Canes Library on the second Tuesday of the month.
On Tuesday June 13 the speaker will be Ned Williams. His talk is entitled History with Dividends.
Meetings take place from 7pm-9pm.
There will be no meetings in July or August
Tea and coffee mornings are held at the library on the third Thursday of the month.
The next meetings will be Thursday June 15. There will be no meetings in July and August
The group welcomes members and non members. Admission is free and light refreshments are served.

A big thank you to Norton Canes Flower Club from the parish council. The arrangement featured was one they presented to the office as part of National Flower Week in May. Did you spot any other arrangements around the village?



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

Fond Memories



In this edition we remember a former Norton Canes Parish Council chairman who died in February.

Lily Jones, from Red Lion Crescent, was chairman from 1996-7 and 2000-01.

She passed away, aged 80, after a short illness at Walsall Manor Hospital. Lily has been buried at St James' churchyard with her husband Ken who passed away in 2003.

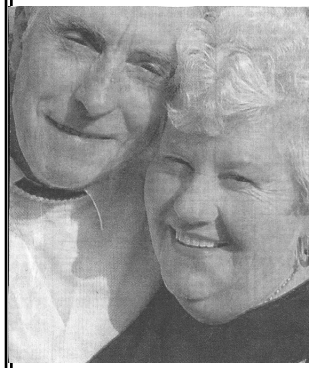
Lily was a parish councillor for about 20 years. She was also a Norton Canes High and Jerome Primary School governor.

Lily was a fierce campaigner on the committee against the Birmingham Northern Relief Road (M6 Toll). Many years ago she also campaigned for the return of a Harper school bus service in the village.

She was also a dedicated charity fundraiser, organising raffles for Walsall Manor for the Heart Foundation appeal. Lily also fundraised to buy two heart monitors for the village doctors' surgery and for defibrillators. She was a St James Church choir member for about 20 years. In her spare time she also knitted blankets for dog and cat rescues.

Lily was born in 'Three House Row' as it was known, on the site which was taken over by the former Dog Track in Norton Canes.

She worked at Swallow Coats, at the National Coal Board and for GEC where she met her husband, handing him his wages. They married in 1957.



The couple enjoyed holidaying in the caravan in North Wales.

They had a daughter Lynn, who lives in Red Lion Crescent, one grandson Gareth, one grand-daughter Kelly, a great grandson Jak and three great grand-daughters Chloe, Lottie and Rebecca.

Lily loved choir and organ music. She also enjoyed crocheting and playing piano and organ.

Her daughter Lynn said: "She was the most caring and loving special lady. She never thought of herself. If she could help anyone she would."

Ken and Lily Jones pictured around 2000

An Event Not to be Forgotten

Forget-Me-Not Day proved to be a real day to remember.

The day, which was part of Dementia Awareness Week, took place at Trinity Methodist Church, Norton Canes, on May 18. It was opened by Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece.

Norton Canes dementia champion/event organiser Councillor Sheila Harding and Cllr Clive Preece would like to thank everyone who attended. About 120 people turned up for the event which featured advice, information, entertainment and refreshments.

Cllr Harding said: "People were not only able to have a good sing a long courtesy of Janis and Peter Howard but also enjoyed a super buffet.

"Thank you to Sheila Leach and Pat Littler for organising the buffet. Special thanks to Sheila for her wonderful cakes and to my husband Alan for keeping me sane.

"I must also thank Morrisons at Cannock and Burntwood for donating sandwiches and Norton Co-op for the tea and coffee hamper they kindly provided.

"Most of all thank you to all the residents who came to seek advice and stayed to have a really super day."

Aston Manor Transport Museum provided a vintage bus to take visitors to Cannock Chase Museum as part of the nostalgia event.

The event was attended by prospective parliamentary candidates Amanda Milling and Paul Dadge who managed to fit in a visit during their campaign schedules.

DAA Cannock Chase Dementia Action Alliance

Cannock Chase Council

Staffordshire County Council

Working to become Dementia Friendly 2016-2017

Good Move: Join the Chess Club

Norton Canes Chess Club played its first ever league season this year.

This involved six matches of which Norton Canes won three and lost three.

Club spokesman Mike Hoare said: "Our new players deserve every credit. We need to give particular mention to Tom Travena, Eddie Dunne, Darren Whiston, Brian Jones and Barry Hanford - who all progressed fantastically in the year.

"We are still looking for new members of any ability and we are sure you can all enjoy this old war game even if you thought you never could before.

"Tuition is offered if required and I am sure you will all enjoy this wonderful game."

Members meet every Tuesday at The Lido, School Road, Norton Canes, 7.30pm. Young members need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Cards, Gifts, Pets. DIY, Household & Garden & so much more

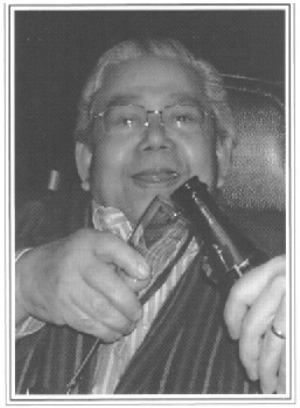
NSD -(Previously Load - z -Discount) is celebrating one year of trading on June 1st with the addition of its Website containing thousands of products which can be ordered online or in store

Chris would like to thank all customers for their kindness, help and support during the past year

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Fond Memories of Dr Sisir K Saha



Dr. Sisir K Saha
1ST FEBRUARY 1932 - 14TH APRIL 2017

The village's much-loved local doctor, Dr Sisir K Saha, passed away on April 14.
Dr Saha came to Norton Canes in 1968 and was an admired doctor at the Chapel Street practice until his retirement in 1993. His wife Marie described him as 'a fun-loving, gentle man who had time for everyone'. "Often on a Sunday the whole family would gather around the table for lunch. It was the highlight of his week. "He enjoyed his work and the people he met." And Barbara Slatcher, who worked at the practice for many years, added: "He did not have a bad word to say about anyone." Dr Saha was 85 years old.

Since retiring he took up photography and was a member of Cannock Photographic Society. He also loved art and was a member of Heath Hayes Arts Society producing some 'wonderful' paintings - one of which, his oil painting of The Scottish Widow, was displayed in a bank for some time. Norton Canes Watercolour Club will be including some of Dr Saha's work in its exhibition at Norton Canes Methodist Church in August. Dr Saha is pictured on his 80th birthday, when his sons Avi and Conal and Conal's Wife Louise, surprised him with a trip in a limousine.

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



Dancing @ Norton Canes Community Centre



FRIDAY TEA DANCE
1.30 pm to 3.30 pm
£2.50 inc's Tea/Coffee and Biscuits.

Sequence, Line, Ballroom and Party Dancing.

Come along and give it a try!

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Tribute to John Bentley continued from page 18

His father was well known locally as a poet and he passed this love of poetry to John, who could still recite many poems he had learnt at school. These passions have been passed on to his daughter and grandson.
In later years, when his health permitted, he liked to walk in the village and spend his time chatting to many people he knew. He was easily recognised by his trilby hat which he put on 'in case they're sacking the old 'uns' as he would say.
He always looked forward to social events at the chapel and would impress with his knowledge at quizzes and his bowling skill at skittles evenings.
His later years were dominated by ill health but he always claimed to have had a good life and that he was lucky to have been married to Maisie.
He was much respected in the village and will be missed.
Janet Bentley
Daughter

Sadly, since writing the tribute to her father, Maisie Bentley has also passed away.

Happy Anniversary Norton Canes WI

The Norton Canes branch celebrated its 25th anniversary in March, which was the focus of the monthly meeting.
It was a very enjoyable night, made all the better by guest speaker John Cooper discussing Catering at Sea - mainly set around cruising in the sixties.
Mr Cooper went on to discuss his humble beginnings cooking Sunday lunch for his parents' public house and how his mother encouraged him to take up an apprenticeship in catering. John's life on the waves saw him winning lots of awards for his culinary skills as well as experiencing a multitude of beautiful sites around the world.
WI president Christine Mason opened the April meeting and Margaret Shirley read minutes from the previous month's meeting.
The speaker for April was Trevor Bevan who gave a talk entitled Dickens of a Tale. Dressed in Dickensian regalia, Mr Bevan spoke about the life and times of Charles Dickens and mentioned how he was asked to join the Pickwick Cycling Club. He discussed details around the Pickwick Papers.
Dickens' classic A Tale of Two Cities has sold over 200 million copies. It depicts life in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution.
This and many other interesting facts were discussed before the evening came to a close with tea and biscuits.

Margaret Scothern

We Remember



The following touching tribute was written by the daughter of John Bentley, who passed away on February 19.

John Bentley was born in Norton Terrace in 1930 and lived in Norton Canes all his life. John was the youngest child of Ruth and James Bentley, the others being Kathleen, Edna and Ted.
James, or Jim as he was known, was well known in the village as a poet.
John went to school in the village where he received a wartime education and it was here that he met his future wife Maisie Bakewell.
He left school at the age of 14 to work at the Conduit Colliery, first as a blacksmith's striker then on the steam locomotives.
He was very fond of these and later enjoyed visits to the Severn Valley Railway and Chasewater Light Railway.
He became a miner, working at several pits on Cannock Chase coalfield. As mining declined locally he had several jobs mostly in metal foundries and property repairs, having worked in the village at Norton Aluminium and Brock Metal.
His bricklaying skills were put to good use helping to build Norton Canes Methodist Church extension in 1981/82.
He said one of the hardest things he ever had to do was to ask Mr Bakewell if he could 'walk out' with his daughter. He married Maisie in 1954 at the old 'tin tabernacle' Methodist Church.
They started married life with a brief spell in rented accommodation then made their home in Railway Street, Norton Canes, where Janet, their only child, was born. They enjoyed 62 years of married life together.
John was always interested in sport. When young he played cricket and football and boxed. Over the years, he enjoyed playing crib at the old Yew Tree, darts at the Sycamore WMC and snooker at the Chequers and Lido clubs. He won several club trophies for snooker, and avidly followed the game on TV, at one time being in the audience for a recording of *Pot Black.*
He liked music and would sing around the house and play harmonica. He enjoyed the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, his favourite being *The Pirates of Penzance.*
He was passionately fond of reading, especially novels by authors talented in portraying their characters. He loved Charles Dickens, especially *The Pickwick Papers* and and spoke animatedly about the works of Sir Terry Pratchett, an author whose books he re-read many times. He was a great supporter of the local library. He had a love of words and wordplay, taking great delight in puns and nonsense poetry, but this was only part of his great sense of humour.

Invitation from your Local Library

Welcome to Norton Canes Community Library.
Why not come and see what we have to offer? We have had a few changes to our groups and clubs.

Mondays: Norton Canes Music and Drama Group, 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Knit ‘n’ Knatter, 1pm-4pm.

Thursdays: Baby Stay and Play, 10am-11am.Coming soon - afternoon Card Group.

Fridays: Get Together, 10.30am-12.30pm.

1st Wednesday of the month: Women’s Institute, 7pm-10pm.

Last Thursday of the month: Afternoon Tea, 2pm-4pm.

Last Saturday of the month: Norton Canes Reading Group, 11am-12 noon.

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.

We still have room for more bookings if anyone is interested in hiring out our rooms. Please come and see us if you are interested. Are you interested in IT courses or would you like a bit of help with a CV? It’s always something we can look into.

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