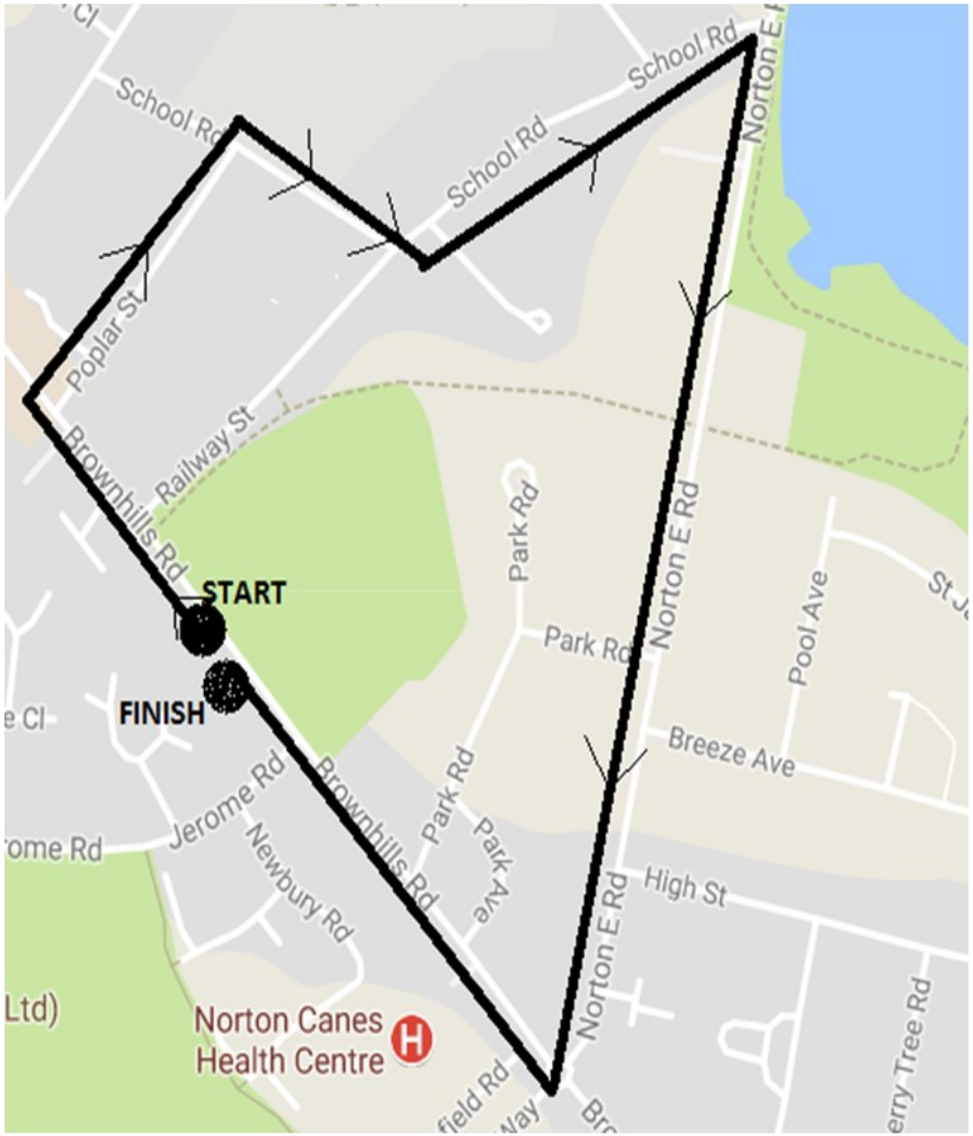
Norton Canes' annual lantern parade

Sunday December 3.

Leaves the village Community Centre at 5pm.



*This newsletter is published by
NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

December
2017
Issue 20

Norton Canes Village News

Norton Canes WI Crisis Call

Norton Canes Women's Institute faces closure after being run in the village for 25 years.

The branch has only until January to find a new President and committee members – or it will close for good.

Branch spokeswoman Margaret Scothern said: "Our October meeting highlighted the current state of our WI. The usual August trip and the National Arboretum visit had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

"The current committee members would like to step down; and with no replacements forthcoming, it is with regret that we are likely to close.

"On behalf of members I would like to thank the committee for their contribution and dedication to Norton Canes WI over the last 25 years, especially past presidents Norma Jenvey (a founder member) and Gillian Crutchley. Thanks also to current President Christine Mason, secretary Margaret Shirley and treasurer Kath Dutton."

Founder member Norma Jenvey added: "Over the years we have all been so friendly and lots of people have made lots of friends in the village. Thank you to all the people who helped including founder members Shirley Steele, Cath Swaffield and Gill Allen." If anyone would like to come forward to save the branch email normajenvey@talktalk.net or ring Norma on 01543 279935.

See the Light

Norton Canes' annual lantern parade takes place on Sunday December 3. The popular parade leaves the village Community Centre at 5pm.

Parish councillors invite residents to come along and enjoy the festive event. A parish council spokesperson said: "Unfortunately we can't extend the route to cover other areas of the village; so if you would like to see the parade please find a place on the route from where you can see it."

***See back page for the lantern parade route**

Hi everyone. Welcome to our 20th edition of the newsletter. Yes, 20th! It seems we have the best of both worlds in our village. There are always plenty of activities to join in if you wish and the general appearance is improving all the time. I had the privilege of attending the impressive firework display at the Tavern pub. Thank you to those who are behind putting on such a professional display every year. How good it is to have some humour in this edition. I hope you enjoy the contribution from our local comedy duo Dandy. That reminds me – I was walking through the village the other day when some bloke lobbed a huge chunk of cheese of me. I told him, 'That wasn't very mature'…



Lots of loves and hugs
Janet Lee
Editor email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

TV Stars at Norton Canes Pub Event

The last Yew Tree car show event of the year took place on October 29 with celebrity guests from TV's popular Car S.O.S programme attending. Fuzz Townshend and 'Workshop' Phil Palmer attended the Norton Canes event which is organised by Carl Harrison from the Yew Tree And North Birmingham Car Club. The event attracted more than 80 classic, custom and American vehicles. There were prizes for best vehicle in various categories. A grand raffle, held in aid of St Giles' Hospice, raised £414. A Yew Tree spokesman said:

"The general public and car enthusiasts made the day. It was a really good turnout of cars, custom cars, classic cars, bikes, trucks - and even a tractor." The event takes place on the second Wednesday of the month from March until October.



NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2017 ~ 2018

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr C. Preece (Vice Chairman)	01543 899785
Cllr J. Beddows	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 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' and MP 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

Amanda Milling MP on 01543 877142 or email amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk

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.**

Norton Canes Football Club: Game On

The club has 23 teams with members aged from four to 40 plus.
There are junior, youth and adult teams, plus two disability teams.
Members meet every weekday 6pm-9pm and all day Saturday and Sunday.
The club, the largest organisation in the village, needs players for all age groups.
For details ring 07950 593 082.

Any questions?



If you have any questions or concerns relating to Norton Canes you can take them directly to your county councillor.

Councillor Johnny McMahon, who is county councillor for Cannock Chase Villages will be holding a surgery at Norton Canes Library on the 4th Saturday of every month,

10.30am-11.30am.

Welcome Home Gerald and Marie

Norton Canes residents will be delighted to hear that former village Post Master
Gerald Beere and his wife Marie have returned to the village.
Gerald and Marie kept the village Post Office in Walsall Road for many years.
The couple moved to Palma Nova, Majorca, more than 15 years ago and have enjoyed a very happy life there.
They now feel the time is right to return permanently to England and would love to hear from old friends.
If anyone would like to make contact with Gerald and Marie, please ring Ann Perry on 01543 448748.
Ann is in touch with the couple's daughter-in-law and will pass on your name.

Food Bank Plea – Please Help

The local Food Bank urgently needs your help.
More food is going out than is coming in.
An appeal has been launched inviting residents to donate food items regularly in the special collection trolleys at local supermarkets. Alternatively, please donate at Trinity Methodist, Poplar Street; or at St James' Church, Church Road, Norton Canes.
The Food Bank particularly needs: cereals, tea, coffee, sugar, long life milk, tinned soup, baked beans, vegetables, potatoes, rice, pasta, cook in sauces, squash, juice, biscuits and toiletries.
A spokesperson for the Norton Canes branch said, "All donations are gratefully received, no matter how small. Thank you."
Norton Canes Food Bank (part of Cannock and District Food Bank) operates every Saturday from 10am-12 noon at Trinity Methodist Church, Norton Canes.

Keep this newsletter to hand – so you won't forget any dates!
Items for March 2018 Newsletter to the editor by February 1 at the latest.
cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council: Latest Announcements

Potholes
We are pleased to report that a full resurface of Church Road started on November 6 for 16 weeks. The parish council has been instrumental in working with the Highways Department to ensure this road remained a priority for work to be completed.

Bus Service
The parish council has been trying to liaise with Arriva regarding the new bus route 3C covering Norton Green Lane and Church Road. Councillors feel that this is an inadequate service and does not meet the needs of residents. We will try to arrange a meeting to put our concerns forward and will keep you updated in future newsletters.

Christmas Lights
The Christmas lights will be switched on December 1. We hope you will notice additional lights that we have been able to provide in the centre of the village. We will continue providing more lights to enhance the village during the festive season in the future. We would like to express our appreciation to Chisholm Wallace of Wyrley Estates who has kindly donated £500 towards the first-year costs of providing the lights.

Lantern Parade
The annual parade takes place on Sunday December 3 at 5 pm setting off from the Community Centre. *See back page for rout.*

Community Litter picks
Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece is keen to arrange regular litter picks in the village. Details will be on his Facebook page and on the parish council website. If you have any spare time and could support community litter picks in any way please get in touch. Some residents have asked for a litter picker to use when they are walking their dog. Contact the clerk on 01543 276812 (Monday to Friday, 10am-2pm) or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

St James Church Christmas Services

December 10
Community Carol Service at Norton Canes Community Centre, 6pm.
December 17 Carol Service at St James, 6pm. Please join us.
December 24, Christmas Eve: Mass at 8am; Sung Eucharist 10.30am; Christingle 4pm; First Mass of Christmas 9.30pm.
Christmas Day: Mass at 9am.



St James Church normal services

(weekly services are on the church notice board).
Sunday Mass at 8am.
Sung Eucharist 10.30am (Sunday School held during this service).
Weekday Holy Communion: Wednesday 11am and Thursday 7pm.
Rector Fr Neil Hibbins 01543 278969, email neil_hibbins@lycos.co.uk
Church clerk Mary Carpenter 01543 275296, email maryofnorton@talktalk.net
Church warden Ann Eden 01543 278737.

In Memory of Chris



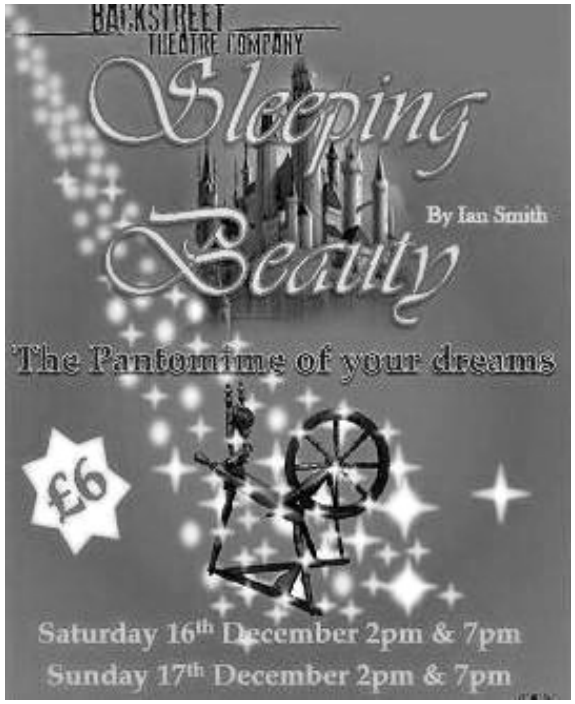
Popular local resident Christine Benton passed away on October 23. Chris and her late Husband John were known by many for their dedicated work to encourage Cub and Scout groups in the village. A ‘service in celebration’ of her life took place at St James’ Church, Norton Canes, on November 9. We will be featuring a tribute to Chris in the next newsletter due out in March 2018. If you have any comments you would like included please send them to Jan at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk or drop a line into the parish office (rear of Norton Canes Co-op).

Norton Canes Community Centre - Forthcoming Events

Sunday December 3: Victorian Christmas Fair and Lantern Parade. Stalls from 1pm-5pm. Santa will be in his grotto from 2pm. Lantern parade leaves Centre at 5pm.

Sunday December 10: Community Carol Service starts 6pm.

Saturday and Sunday December 16 and 17: Sleeping Beauty panto. Performances 2pm and 7pm both days. Tickets £6 each. The panto has always sold out in the past so early booking and purchase of tickets is essential. To reserve tickets/arrange payment contact the centre via nccabookings@hotmail.co.uk



Wednesday December 27: Charity Dance and afternoon tea in aid of St Giles Hospice and Breast Cancer Fund. £7.50 a ticket. 1.30pm start. Tea and coffee will be supplied. Bring own alcohol/soft drinks.

Thursday December 28: Christmas left overs quiz. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. £2 per person. Maximum six people per team. Bring own food and drink. Prize for winning team.

Sunday December 31: New year's Eve party night, 8pm till late. Admission by ticket £10. Proceeds to Centre building fund. Bring own food and drink. See Jenny Dunn for tickets.

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

Christmas and New Year Message

It has been an eventful year for Norton Canes and our parish council. As many of you are aware, over the past few years we have taken part in the Community Council of Staffordshire's Best Kept Village (BKV) competition. Two years ago we received a commendation and last year we were placed third in the Cannock/ Lichfield category. This year we were delighted to have been awarded first place - testament to the dedication of residents and volunteers proud to call our village 'home'. I received a few comments from residents sceptical about the award. They point problem spots in the village and ask how we could have come first. My answer is: every village and town has its 'grotspots' - even in the most beautiful parts of Staffordshire. I look at the Bridge where the Miner's Cart is and remember how barren it used to be. I look at the Square opposite Neville's and remember that was an empty space full of buried bricks and nothing much else. I look at the progress made in Norton Canes and know there is a village wanting to get better. BKV judges come from all over Staffordshire and visit more than 50 towns and villages for this competition. They have seen something in Norton that we can be proud of. It is this positive endorsement from judges that we should take into the New Year. In this spirit, Norton Canes Parish Council is beginning the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The parish council will involve you from the very beginning right up until its completion. There will be opportunities to improve our village in 2018. Guides, Brownies and Rainbows have risen to the challenge and done an amazing job in Norton Green Lane. They have more plans and we look forward to seeing what designs they come up with. There are other areas needing improvement in the village. Parks and playgrounds need attention. Norton Canes is blessed with green spaces, pathways and bridleways as well as being on the shoreline of Chasewater and the Cannock Extension Canal (a Special Area of Conservation). Through partnership with local groups; the parish, district and county councils; as well as a formidable team of volunteers our village can become greener, cleaner and our community stronger. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece.

Neighbourhood Plan – Have Your Say

Would you like to help shape the future of Norton Canes?
Norton Canes Parish Council invites residents to give their views on the latest Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan is a 'community-led policy framework for guiding future development, regeneration and conservation' of the area.
It will focus on the use of land and may contain 'a vision, aims and objectives, planning policies and proposals' for improving the area.
Local residents are invited to be part of the two-year process before the Plan is completed.

In that time there will be consultation events for residents to attend and receive information. There will also be a local referendum.
A parish council spokesperson said: "One of the advantages of having a Plan for the village is that any future housing developments enable the parish council to receive 25 per cent financial contribution of the Community Levy Infrastructure to look at enhancements for the village.
"If there was no Neighbourhood Plan the parish council would only receive 15 per cent.
"The parish council has explored the advantages and disadvantages and has decided to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. We have served notice on Cannock Chase Council that it is our intention to produce a Plan.
"If you would like to be involved in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan we would like to hear from you."
The Plan will enable the parish council to have a say in shaping the village for the future - particularly with planning issues. The aim is to give local people a voice.
A parish council spokesperson confirmed there is a cost involved in preparation of the Plan – but said there is funding available to support the process.
Development of the Plan will be led by the parish council.
It can also involve representatives from community groups or residents who may have an interest in being part of a Steering Group to take the initiative forward.
The parish council website will be updated to keep residents informed of progress.

*If you have any queries relating to the Plan or if you have any further information ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812 (Monday to Friday, 10am-2pm) or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Norton Canes Community Centre Committee Members

Chair Maureen Hopley 07814 184 587
Vice Chair John Beddows 07921 850 554
Secretary Ian Reeves 07549 108 829
Treasurer Annie Betts 07716 356 907
Booking Clerk Jackie Earp 07845 678 003
Parish Council Rep Anne Bernard 07878 385 224
District Council Rep John Preece 07929 558 885
Committee Members Jenny Dunn, Josh Mills, Alex Reeves, Zaphne Stretton

All the above give their time and effort free of charge to manage and maintain this centre for the benefit of the villagers of Norton Canes and surrounding areas.
For booking information contact
Jackie on nccabookings@hotmail.com
For other information contact Ian on nccasecretary@hotmail.com

Clive Preece has left the committee for personal reasons. He continues with his civic role as Norton Canes Parish Council vice chair. Everyone at the centre wishes him every success in this role and in any other endeavour. We would like to say thank you for all his hard work in the past.

Norton Canes WI Report

Following the summer break our meeting in September was opened by Gill Crutchley with minutes read by Margaret Shirley. The speaker was Ray Sturdy with an interesting talk entitled 'The Real Dad's Army' about activities of the Home Guard. Mr Sturdy donated his fee to Cancer Research.
The October meeting was opened by Christine Mason. The minutes were read by Margaret Shirley. The speaker was Kath Reynolds with her excellent talk 'Watching With Mother', reminiscing about TV programmes which we watched as children - and, in time, with our own children and grandchildren. We were reminded about our favourite programmes and our children's favourites - up until the age of the Internet.

What's On at Norton Canes Community Centre

Mondays 10am-1pm: Watercolours. Details from 07443 892 313 2pm-4pm: Crafty Quilters (sewing group). 01785 603255 7pm-8.30pm: Guides. Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.co 6pm-8pm: Norton Canes Judo Club. 07800 845 523
Tuesdays 4pm-5pm: Rainbows. Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com 5.15pm-6.15pm: Brownies Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com 7pm-8pm: Poundshedders 7pm-9pm: Indoor bowling. 01543 278534, 07716 356 907
Wednesdays 11am-1pm: Norton Canes Craft Group. 07968 291 694 1.30pm-3.30pm: RVS/Darby and Joan. 07899 905 779 5pm-6.30pm: JGM Karate Academy. 07548 424 280
Thursdays 9am-4pm: Crafty Sew and Sews. 07412 191 439 9.45am-12.15pm: Crafty Cards. 07845 678 003 4pm-5pm: Norton Canes Judo Club 6pm-7pm: Sugar Craft. 07792 549 307 8pm-10pm: Cannock Photographic Society. Cannockps.co.uk
Fridays 1.30pm-3.30pm: Afternoon Tea Dance. 07716 356 907 5pm-6.30pm: JGM Karate Academy 7.30pm-10.30pm: Jenny's Social Dance
Saturdays 10.30pam-1pm: L'Rhythmix dance class. 07821 774 456 8pm till late:
1st and 3rd Saturday each month. Jenny's Social Dance. 07980 327 325 8pm till midnight: 2nd and 4th Saturday each month. Nev's Line Dance

What's Going On at the Lido?

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 are available from Lido Working Men's Club secretary at the Lido club, 58 School Road, Norton Canes, WS11 9SQ.
The Over 60s club meets every Tuesday at the Lido from noon until 2.30pm for a friendly chat, bingo and lunch.
Norton Canes Chess Club Members meet every Tuesday at The Lido, School Road, Norton Canes, at 7.30pm.
Younger members need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The message is: "Don't sit at home looking at the same four walls. Come and join us."
Monthly trips to new places are arranged. Transport is available.
For more details contact Glenys Hardware or David Smith at the Lido or ring

Fine and Dandy

You may be aware that we have a couple of real funny folk in Norton Canes. Husband and wife team/comedy duo Alan and Glen Briscoe have been entertaining audiences for many years. A glance at the couple's website shows how in demand they are. Here's a taste of their lives, written by Alan and Glen:

Time between one Christmas and the next seems to get shorter and shorter. It feels about two months since the last one. Shops seem to have overlapped the festivals so now we get a Halloween mask, fireworks, Christmas tree and Easter egg on the same day. You know it's going to be a stressful time when magazine headlines say '200 Ways to Make Christmas Simple'. My Mother, God bless her, used to open her many presents and start three piles: one called 'That's To Keep', one called 'That Will Do For' and the third – 'That's Awful. You Will Probably Like That!' Now in the throes of my pre-Christmas diet, which hopefully will allow me to adopt my Christmas 'stuff yourself silly diet' when the time comes. My Mother would only eat toast when she came to stay. Mind you that was all we could get under the shed door… Growing older is strange, particularly for men. They start by 'believing in Father Christmas', closely followed by 'not believing in Father Christmas', then 'becoming Father Christmas' and finally – 'looking like Father Christmas'.

Certain things you can be sure will happen at Christmas: If you own a dog or cat (although a cat owns you) it will always steal food, get over-excited and throw up just when the visitors arrive. There will always be a need for one more journey to the Co-op for some vital thing you have forgotten. Somebody will turn up with a last minute gift - and you will have to hide or unwrap one of your own pressies and give them that. And – a remote control will have been thrown away with the Christmas wrappings and somebody will have to hunt through the smelly bin to find it.

We have lived here since 1971…settlers from another world…the Black Country: the land of the Yam Yams and faggits and pays. We feel very lucky because Norton Canes is a good place to live. Folk are friendly; and the village (particularly this year) has looked lovely with summer flowers and quirky touches round and about. People have worked hard and care about their surroundings – and it shows. Cause enough to celebrate and be thankful. Be kind to each other and share Christmas goodwill. Good wishes for a happy and healthy 2018.
See http://dandycomedy.co.uk/





Congratulations

On November 20 1947 the Princess Elizabeth married Prince Phillip of Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey.

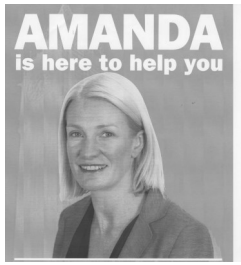
Do you have any family stories about this date? Let us know at the parish office or email Jan at: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Message from Your MP Amanda Milling

We are now at the end of what has been a very eventful year in politics, which has included an unexpected General Election and the start of Brexit being implemented. However, despite these big national issues we have had some important local issues to focus on here in Norton Canes.

I have continued to put pressure on Staffordshire County Council to get our roads repaired. At last some big projects have been carried out – notably the resurfacing of Five Ways Island. But, there is more to do and at the time of writing this column more works are due to take place on Church Road, at last! This road has been in need of resurfacing for some time and one I have constantly raised.

Buses have been an on-going issue in the village too with the withdrawal of the Number 3 service from part of the village last year. As many of you will know I have held many meetings with Arriva and I am pleased that we have had a partial result and some service returned to the Norton Green Lane area of Norton Canes. Whilst this is not a full service it is a step in the right direction. I would like to urge residents to use this new service.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As always, should you face any issues this Christmas and you need my help, please get in touch on 01543 877142 or email me on amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk

My warmest Christmas wishes to one and all.

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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**

What a Mess!



Letter from Danni's nan

Hi everyone,
Danni's nan again, writing about the same thing.
My granddaughter says the dog mess in our village is disgusting. Danni visits us every so often and cannot believe the dog mess still in our village: in the park, in our streets, outside schools.

You dog owners who don't pick up - shame on you.
But a warning to you disgusting dog owners: we have asked people in surrounding areas to keep watching and reporting them.
This is the only way to stop this mess everywhere.
Dog owners who think there is no one watching when you when you don't pick up - there are.
People are getting fed up of the few owners who think it's OK to leave mess everywhere.

So those who leave mess will be getting something not so nice through their door from the council.

Although dark nights are here, you are being watched.

Well done all you responsible dog owners who do pick up. Not all dog owners are bad, just a few.

WANTED
INFORMATION
LEADING TO
IDENTIFICAION
OF THE
DOG OWNER
WHO IS ALLOWING
A DOG TO FOUL
THIS AREA
AND
DOES NOT CLEAN UP!
REWARD?
CLEAN FEET!

Poster now on park entrances and school fence

Time to Claim Your Watch

Have you lost a watch or do you know someone who has?
A girl's watch was found opposite Norton Canes Library in September. It was advertised in the Co-op and the village library but no-one has claimed it.
The watch, which looks fairly new, is quite distinctive.
If you think it belongs to you ring 01543 275296 and give a description of the watch.

Invitation from Your Local Library

Welcome to Norton Canes Community Library.
Why not come and see what we have to offer?

Weekly Group Meetings

Mondays: Pre-School Kiddy Kraft Group, 11am-12:30pm.
Norton Canes Music and Drama Group, 7:30pm-9:30pm.

Tuesdays: In Stitches, 11am-1pm.
Knit 'n' Knatter, 1:30pm-4pm.

Thursdays: Baby Stay and Play, 10am-11:30am.
Fridays: Get Together, 10:30am-12:30pm

New Opening Times for Your Library

Monday: 11am – 6pm.
Tuesday: 9am – 5pm.
Wednesday: **CLOSED**
Thursday: 9am – 5pm.
Friday: 9am – 5pm.
Saturday: 10am – 1pm.



Monthly Group Meetings

1st Wednesday: Women's Institute, 7pm-10pm.
Last Thursday: Afternoon Tea, 2pm-4pm.
2nd Tuesday, 7pm-9pm and **3rd Thursday**, 10am-12noon:
Norton Canes Community Partnership Local History Group.
4th Saturday: Councillors' surgery, 10:30am-11:30am.
Last Saturday: Norton Canes Reading Group, 11am-12noon.

For Bereavement Support ask for Val.

We now have two meeting rooms newly decorated and renamed **Jerome Room** and **Grove Room** ready for hire.
The Grove room is a small study place.

Norton Canes Historical Society

Meetings are held at Norton Canes Library on the second Tuesday of the month from 7pm-9pm.

There will be a Social Evening on Tuesday December 12.
The speaker for the January 9 meeting is popular Black Country historian/author Ian Bott. His talk will be 'Picture Postcards from the Black Country'.
On February 13 Nicholas Corder will be entertaining us with the 'George Formby Story' - music included!
Tea and coffee mornings are held at the library on the third Thursday of the month 10am-12 noon.
The group welcomes members and non members. Admission is free and light refreshments are served.

Maureen Garbett
Secretary



Join Jenny and Terry for
Social Sequence Dances at
Norton Canes Community Centre
WS11 9SF
1st and 3rd Saturday in the month
plus Sunday Lunch Dances four times a year

Also Monthly on Tuesday night at
St Matthew's Club, Burntwood WS7 9EP
December 19 - Christmas Party Dance
and twice a year Hot Sunday Lunch/Charity Dance

always
dancing to: **' Top Keyboards '**

Norton Canes Practice
Partners in Life

Hello everyone,
How are you?
In our adult years, lifestyle choices we make can dramatically increase our chances of becoming ill in later life. Making small changes now can improve your health right away and double your chances of staying healthy as you get older. It's never too late to start. Visit www.nhs.uk/oneyou or search 'One You' to take a free health quiz to see how you score.

Flu Vaccinations

Protect yourself and your family from flu. If you haven't already had your vaccination or booked an appointment, it is important that you do so as soon as possible. Who is eligible?
Anyone aged 65 and over; pregnant women; anyone aged six months to 64 years on the 'at risk' register; children aged two and three (but not aged less than two or aged four or over on August 31 2017 i.e. born on or after September 1 2013 and on or before August 31 2015); youngsters aged two-17 'at risk' will have a nasal spray at the surgery.

Pneumococcal vaccinations

Certain patients will also be offered the pneumococcal vaccination.
Pneumococcal infection is caused by streptococcus pneumonia – a common cause of pneumonia which can also lead to invasive disease including meningitis and septicaemia. Who is eligible?
Anyone aged 65 and over; anyone aged two to 64 years and defined as 'at risk'. Patients are eligible only if they have not had a previous vaccine since the age of two.

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.

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.

Norton Canes Library Sets a Challenge

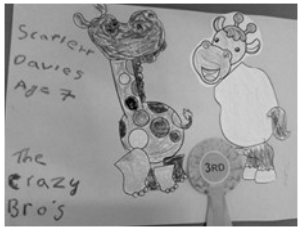
This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme was 'animal agents'. In keeping with the theme children were asked to create a 'crazy mix 'n' match animal'. The winners were: 1st Chloe Beth Harris; second Hayden Goacher; third Scarlett Davis. Library staff are having difficulty contacting Chloe and Scarlett and are appealing for the youngsters to get in touch. If you know Chloe or Scarlett please let them know so they can receive their prizes. A library spokesperson said: "Well done to everyone who took part. We have a lovely wall full of your wonderful designs. "Thank you to Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece for making the very difficult decision to choose our winners. Thanks also to council vice chairman Cllr Clive Preece for presenting the prize to Hayden."





Hayden receiving his prize

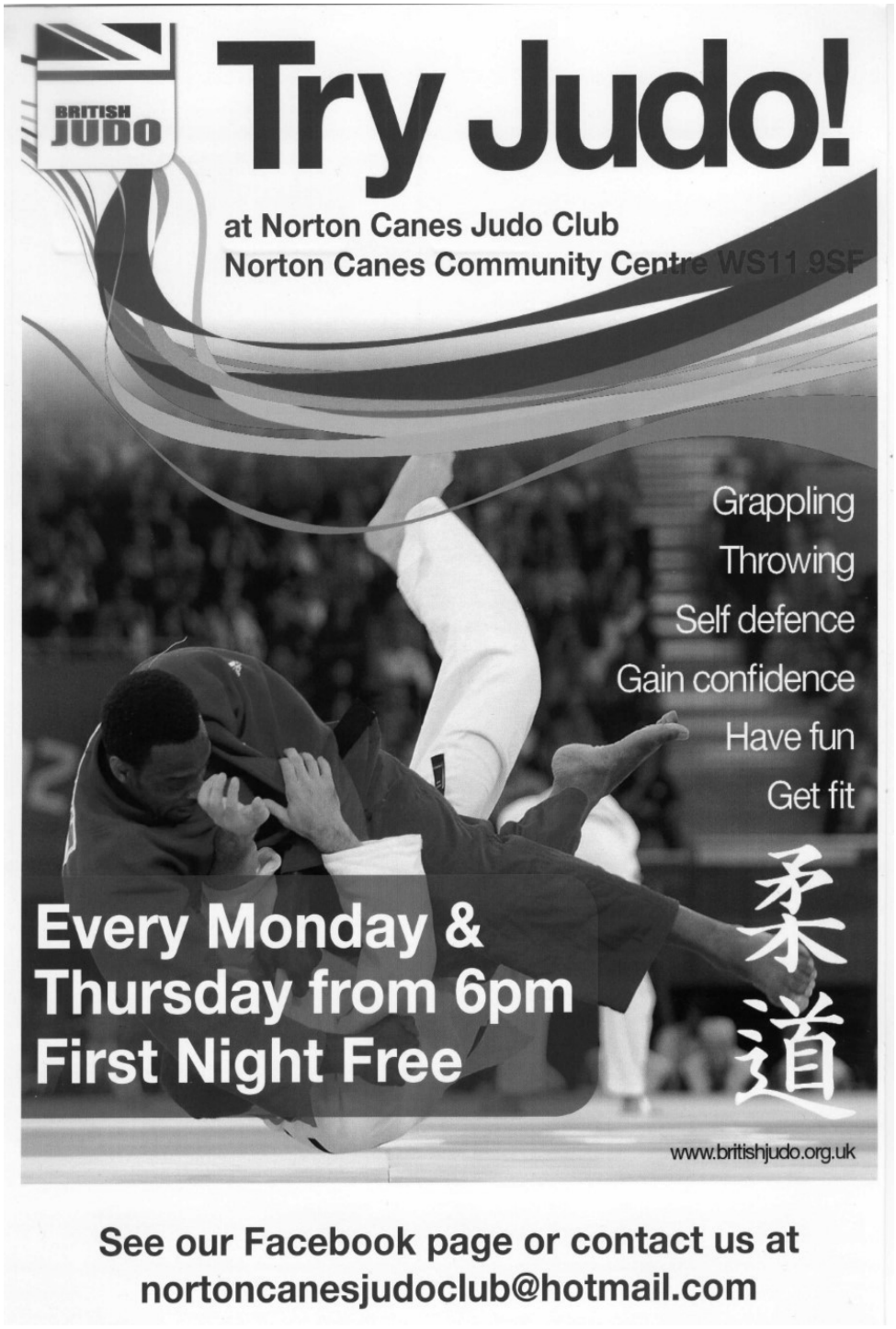




We are always looking for people to help deliver this newsletter.

If you could deliver in your road or near please contact the parish council clerk Linda on
01543 276812 (10am-2pm)
or email her at

nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk



Come to the Fair

A New Year Shopping Fair takes place at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on Saturday January 20. The event, in aid of St Giles' Hospice, will be held from 1pm-5pm.

There will be a grand raffle and sponsored hair cut. Attractions include guess the name of the teddy and how many sweets in the jar; and children's stalls. Refreshments will be available.



The charge is £5 per table used.
If anyone has any raffle prizes/bric a brac or if anyone wishes to book a stall ring Clive Preece on 01543 899785 or email clive_preece@sky.com

Girls' Brigade – Plea for Leaders

Norton Canes Girls' Brigade has plenty of girls – but there is a desperate shortage of leaders.
The 1st Norton Canes Girls' Brigade meets every Thursday in term time at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes.

An appeal has been launched for leaders who can spare at least an hour on Thursday nights to help existing leaders.

Girls Brigade Captain Chris Straughan said, "Applicants would need to undergo a DBS check and be sympathetic to the organisation's Christian ethos. No-one too old. If you feel you could help us please ring 01543 276695.



*Explorers and Juniors meet at Trinity Methodist Church from 6pm-7.15pm; Seniors and Brigaders, 7.30pm-9pm.

Trinity Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday December 2 10am-4pm. At the festival trees are donated and decorated by various businesses and organisations. The trees will be left on display throughout the Christmas period.

Honouring Brenda



Former Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Brenda Whitehouse passed away on October 6.

Brenda, aged 73, was an active member of the community for many years being a member of the parish council from 1988-2009. She was council chairman from 1990-91, 1995-96 and 2001-02.

Parish councillor Mike Holder said: "Brenda worked tirelessly for those who needed help or advice with no desire for any credit or recognition.

"In 1999 she was very proud to be invited to attend the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, a highlight in her community life. "Brenda was very proud to receive a commemorative scroll from the parish council on her retirement due to health issues."

Brenda was also an active member of the Labour Party at Branch and Constituency level, receiving the Harry Minten merit award for the Constituency 'unsung hero' (i.e. someone who works hard behind the scenes).

Brenda lived all her life in Norton Canes, apart from two years, after she married her husband David, when they lived in Hednesford. David passed away in 2007.

The couple had three children: Mark, Garry and Julie; four grandchildren and a great grandson.

Her funeral took place at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Norton Canes, on October 19 followed by interment at St James Churchyard.

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

Friends of Norton's Parks and Open Spaces

Friends of Norton's Parks and Open Spaces is a group set up to recognise relevance of parks and green spaces for our health and community. We held our inaugural meeting in July. The meeting was well attended and quite a few ideas for projects and objectives were discussed. The first impression from the meeting was to place importance on our heritage. Old mineral lines criss/cross the village for example; and parks like the Cema were the site of old canal routes or mining. Many of our green spaces are here because of industries of our past. There was a general consensus that we need to formally recognise our heritage, through memory display boards or pictures and documents. The second impression was the amount of enthusiasm for supporting green spaces. Whether it was a strategic suggestion such as using green spaces for promoting health benefits or hands-on events such as litter picks and footpath clearance, there was a wide range of ideas on how we can protect and enhance our environment. We have been taking 'baby steps' and have held a few meetings since. One of the major developments has been to try and link health benefits of using and enjoying open spaces with ways of protecting and enhancing our environment. We have been working with Staffordshire County Council in identifying health issues in Norton Canes. Thanks to Councillor Jonny Macmahon for helping to facilitate this information. Initial evidence suggests issues with childhood obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular problems in the village. We will be looking at ways of sourcing funding to develop projects to help tackle these issues. Projects such as an outdoor gym trail, upgraded play equipment, improved cycle routes and better promotion and access to our parks are all practical steps to improving our health. Regular litter picks and volunteer activity groups have been shown elsewhere to develop greater respect for the environment. Our experience here is they are a good way of meeting people, making friends and seeing parts of the village you would otherwise not see. Over the next few months I will be liaising with Cannock Chase Council's Countryside Service identifying areas in the village that could benefit from volunteer activity days: whether it's footpath clearance, brash cutting, conservation work or anything else that will be benefit our environment. The key to success is partnership work so the group will be seeking to form links with the parish, district and county councils; health and leisure groups; facilities such as Chasewater; and groups in Norton Canes. We have a Facebook group, so feel free to search for Friends of Norton's Parks and Open Spaces and join us. If you wish to get involved, message me online or ring 01543 270789 Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Cllr John Preece.

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01543 495700

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!

We play all kinds of music, you can Dance/ Sing to.



Nice Friendly Atmosphere
Make New Friends,
Meet old Friends.



Norton Terriers continued:

Bull was discharged from hospital on 13 March. Posted to No 1 Command Depot, AIF, at Perham Down, Second-Lieutenant Bull was passed fit for General Service and was drafted back to France on 13 May, being posted to the 5th Division A.I.F. Base Depot at Etaples two days later.

He rejoined the 56th Battalion on 20 May. Bull had also been promoted to Lieutenant on 6 March, and was appointed Lewis Gun Officer for the 56th Battalion on 29 July.

Lieutenant Bull distinguished himself during the fighting at Polygon Wood on 26 September, during which the 56th Battalion lost 255 killed, wounded and missing.

The recommendation for the award of the Military Cross to Lieutenant James Bull, 56th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, was written by his Commanding Officer.

Brigadier-General J Hobkirk, commanding 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division, originally confirmed a recommendation for the award of a Mention in Despatches for Lieutenant Bull's gallantry during the period between 26 September 1917 and 25 February 1918, but instead supported the recommendation that Bull should receive the Military Cross.

Lieutenant Bull was granted leave to England between 30 October and 18 November and on 25 November, Bull reported sick and was admitted to the 5th Division Rest Station for dental treatment, returning to the 56th Battalion on 16 December.

He was wounded for a second time on 18 April 1918 near Amiens, and was evacuated to No. 8 General Hospital suffering from gas poisoning. He was later sent back to England and admitted again to 3rd London General Hospital at Wandsworth.

After a period of convalescence, Lieutenant Bull returned to France on 12 August and rejoined the 56th Battalion on 22 August. He was posted to the Australian Corps School on 4 October and did not return to his unit, which had amalgamated with the 54th Battalion on 11 October to become the 54th/56th Battalion, until 11 November, the day that the Armistice came into effect.

Lieutenant Bull was granted leave to Paris in December but was admitted to No 39 General Hospital at Le Havre on 15 January 1919, before being transferred by hospital ship to England, and was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford for treatment.

He assumed duties as Assistant Adjutant at the AIF Depot in Tidworth on 27 June, and served in the post until August.

Bull was posted to the Agricultural Depot at Sutton Veny on 30 August and returned to Sutton Veny before sailing for Australia in November on board the troop transport Nestor.

He was demobilised on his return home and returned to farming, marrying Annie Beatrice Dyke, who also came from Norton Canes, and had emigrated to Australia to join him in 1921. James and Annie lived at Trangie and later moved to Dubbo, and they had four children.

In 1967, James made an application for Anzac Commemorative Medallion, which had been instituted in that year.



James Bull M C died in New South Wales on 27 July 1974 and is buried at Dubbo General Cemetery. His name can also be found on the Roll of Honour of the former scholars of Norton Canes Boys' School, which is now located at Norton Canes Primary Academy.

*The book also charts the stories of **18484 Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Albert Edward Shergold**, who is buried at St James Church and **1293 Sapper Harry Adams,** from Norton Canes.

Norton Terriers

Local author **Andrew Thornton** will shortly be bringing out a book about the Norton Territorials.

The following extract will give you a flavour of the book:

Lieutenant James Bull MC, 56th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force

Born at Norton Canes in 1890, James Bull was living on Norton East Road and working at No 11 Pit of the Conduit Colliery as a miner when he attested for 2nd North Midland Field Company at Norton Hall in 1908.

Giving his age at his enlistment as 17 years and three months, he was posted to the Mounted Section of the Company as a driver.

Driver Bull went to the Annual Camp held at Towyn in August, and attended subsequent camps at Towyn (1909) and Hindlow Camp, near Buxton (1910).

While serving with the Company, James fell foul of the law when he was spotted cycling at 10.25pm on 3 April 1909 on the Walsall Road in Rushall without a light, for which he was fined 6s.

In 1911, at the annual prize-giving held at Norton Hall, Driver Bull was awarded first place for best driving skill and all-round efficiency.

Driver Bull was discharged from 2nd North Midland Company in 1911, by which time he had already sailed from Southampton, on board the SS Otway, for a new life in Australia. James went to work as a farmer at Trangie in New South Wales.

In 1915, together with Josiah Cooper Birch, who had also emigrated to Australia from Norton Canes, he attested for the Australian Imperial Force at Liverpool in New South Wales. Both he and Birch were posted to the 4th Battalion, Bull.

They embarked on the HMAT A9 Shropshire, with the Fourth Reinforcement for the 4th Battalion in March, destined for Egypt. Private Bull was appointed Lance-Corporal on March 30.

Bull served with the 4th Battalion on the Gallipoli Peninsula from May 1915 and took part in the Battle of Lone Pine. The 4th Battalion was withdrawn to Lemnos in September to refit.

While on the island Bull was again appointed Lance-Corporal. He returned to Gallipoli with the 4th Battalion on October 30, and was appointed Temporary Corporal in November, promoted to Corporal on November 29. The Battalion was evacuated from Anzac Cove in December.

Corporal Bull and his comrades of the 4th Battalion landed at Alexandria on New Year's Eve, and proceeded to a camp at Mustaphi, before moving to Tel-el-Kebir on 2 January 1916. On 20 January, Bull was appointed a Temporary Sergeant.

He was appointed an acting Company Sergeant-Major on 29 February, before reverting to Temporary Sergeant and being promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 7 March. Bull received further promotion on 30 May, when he was appointed Company Sergeant-Major, with the rank of Warrant Officer, Class II, but was admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Ismalia the following day suffering from tonsilitis.

He was released a few days later and sailed with the 56th Battalion for France, disembarking at Marseilles on 30 June.

CSM Bull was serving with the 56th Battalion during the failed attack at Fromelles on 19 July and on 30 August was commissioned in the field as a Second-Lieutenant.

On 2 February 1917, Bull received a gunshot wound to the buttock and was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance and 2nd Red Cross Hospital at Rouen.

He was evacuated to England and admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital.

Trinity Methodist Church
Poplar Street, Norton Canes

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

Sunday Morning Service: 11am
Sunday December 3 Switch on of Christmas Tree lights as part of Village Lantern Parade. *See page 1 and 32.*
Thursday December 14 6.30pm Please join us for Carol singing at Morrisons Burntwood.
Sunday December 17 Carol Service at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes.

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.



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

Your Local Garage

Right on your doorstep!

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Great Advice

5 * Service

All Cars Repaired

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Norton Canes Business Park
Norton Green Lane
Norton Canes
WS11 9SS

01543 276060

Car Friend

Call us now! 01543 27 60 60

Fixed Price Service Menu

Interim	**£99**	*Oil & Filter Change & Vital Visual Checks, Recommend for high Mileage cars as a mini service between Annual services*
Annual	**£145**	*The most popular service, All vital fluids checked, Oil, Oil Filter & Air Filter changed, full comprehensive report, Also includes Battery check and a diagnostics check. Recommended every year*
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.*
Manufacturer Specific	**£**	*Advised for new cars still within warranty, The use of Genuine parts and specific oil, , Price on application, Must have your mileage and your registration number to hand upon booking,*

Having a fixed price menu means you know exactly what you will pay when it comes to collecting your car.!

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.

Something you don't understand? No problem let our experts explain exactly what's wrong, how it can be fixed and we can even show you old parts to prove what we have done.

Fancy Something Extra?

If your car has a large engine the oil capacity is usually large so we have to cover our costs for the addition oil and as such there is a surcharge of £26 likewise if your car or you request a specialist type of oil we need to charge you for that too but everything will be explained upon booking.


Diagnostic £35


Brakes


Dash Cams


MOT £35


Air Fresheners & Mini Valets


Consumables/Essentials


Tyres


Wipers


Exhausts