

From left: June Cox, Sheila Harding, Sam Dewally, Brian Davis



Watercolour Club to the Rescue

When members of Norton Canes Watercolour Club heard a local drama group had a dilemma they stepped in to save the day.

Backstreet Theatre Company was in desperate need of a backdrop for their upcoming panto Jack and the Beanstalk which is being staged at Norton Canes Community Centre on December 15 and 16. Art club members Councillor Sheila Harding, Sam Dewally, June Cox and Brian Davis took up the challenge of creating a village square backdrop for the show. Cllr Harding said: "Visit the panto and see if you recognise the village square we created. We worked during three of our Monday morning club sessions. Instead of watercolour we immersed ourselves in acrylic paint - and came up with a unique design.

"We hope everyone enjoys the panto as much as we enjoyed working on the set."

Happy Crimble

Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece and councillors would like to wish all residents a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

December 1
2018
Issue 24

Norton Canes Village News

We Remembered



The stained glass memorial window at St James' Church



From left: Councillors Zaphne, Stretton, Mike Stretton, John Preece and Josh Newbury

Norton Canes paid its own special tribute to those who lost their lives serving our country.

A special event, on Remembrance Day, was held at St James' Church where there is a stained glass window memorial depicting soldiers leaving our village pitheads and chimney stacks - and walking towards the fields of France.

The names of the fallen can be seen in the window; on a plaque at Trinity Methodist Church, Norton Canes; and on a memorial at Norton Canes Primary Academy.
The war memorial, paid for by villagers of Norton Canes, was dedicated in 1927.

Norton Canes Parish Council organised a beacon lighting ceremony adjacent to the Community Centre - part of the national Beacon of Light event to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.
The ceremony included hymns and poems; a roll call of Norton Canes service personnel who lost their lives in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 conflicts; playing of The Last Post and lighting of the beacon.

Continued on page 2

A big ‘hello again’ to everyone.

Welcome to the 24th edition of your newsletter. I hope you find this edition a lively mix of respectful remembrance, useful information and fun.

Our story about a local author had me thinking: there must be many more villagers who have enjoyed interesting lives. How about sharing those experiences with us? Please let me know if you can think of anyone else who has a story to tell which we could include in this newsletter.

Whatever you are planning for Christmas and the New Year I wish you happy days.

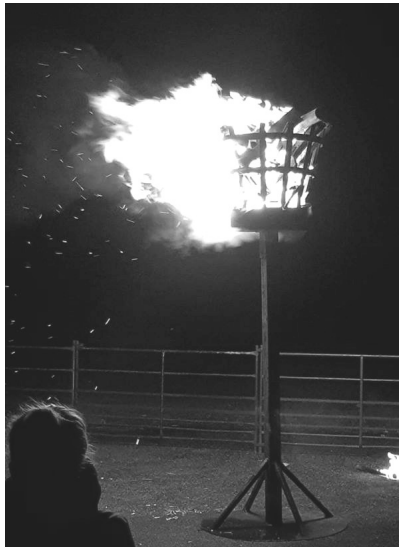
Sending a village sized hug and love to you all.
Jan x
Editor

To avoid disappointment items for the December newsletter must be sent to Jan by February 1 2019:
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Continued from page 1

The beacon was lit by the great grandson of Private J B Morris on behalf of the village. Private Morris died on the day the Great War ended. Organisers felt it would be ‘a fitting tribute’ to Private Morris’s family for a direct descendant to light the beacon in memory of his great grandfather and those who died fighting for freedom.

The village Lido Club also held a centenary event. Visitors enjoyed old time singing with a choir and solo performers plus refreshments. This event was run in conjunction with Norton Canes branch of the Royal British Legion.



Norton Canes’ Remembrance Day beacon
Photo courtesy of Michelle Williams

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2018 ~ 2019

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 J. Hampshire	01543 279850
Cllr J. Newbury	07884 111382

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: Johnny McMahon 07584 638 356
Email: Johnny@localconservative.org.uk

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

Norton Canes Practice
Partners in Life

It has been a busy couple of months with the flu season starting again and another visit from Care Quality Commission (CQC). The good news is that we have been rated as GOOD in all areas from the CQC which is the best a small practice can hope to achieve. Thank you to all our patients who provided such positive feedback to us and the CQC inspectors. To see the full report please visit our website www.nortoncanespractice.co.uk

Protect yourself and your family from flu Flu is an unpleasant but not life-threatening illness. However, it can be very serious for older people and those at risk of developing complications which include those with weakened immune systems, neurological disorders, liver, lung or renal disease, heart problems, diabetes and pregnant women. You are 11 times more likely to die from flu if you are in a clinical at-risk group. We urge everyone who is eligible to get the vaccine at your GP surgery and help protect themselves and their families this winter. If you haven't already had your vaccination or booked an appointment, it is important that you make your appointment as soon as possible.

Carers We are starting to hold regular meetings for patients who are carers. If you would like more information please contact the surgery and ask for Ann or our 'carers' champion' Dr Rajul Singh.

Any questions?

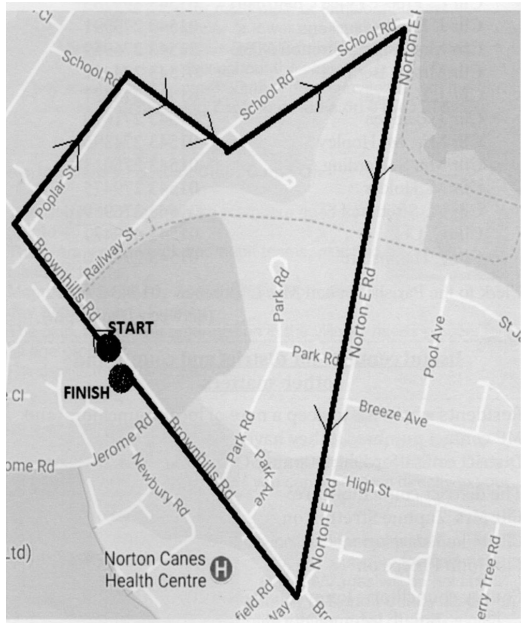


If you have any questions or concerns relating to Norton Canes you can take them directly to your county councillor.

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.

Join the Lantern Parade



Norton Canes Lantern Parade will take place on Sunday December 9. Children need to arrive at the Community Centre at 4.40pm as the parade will set off at 5pm. This will enable organisers to distribute the lights which children have made in their school or community groups. A parish council spokesperson said: "This has been a popular event which has grown over the years and is the start to the festive season. "We would like to extend the route to cover more streets but unfortunately we are unable to due to the age of children attending. We must be mindful of how far they can walk. "The children have worked hard to make their lanterns so we encourage residents to support them en route." Information about the parade is displayed on posters around the village. There will be a road closure in place for the streets along the route for the health and safety of those on parade. Marshalls will be directing traffic during the parade. For more details ring parish clerk Linda Florence on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

New Cemetery – Plans in the Pipeline

A new planning application for the cemetery project at St James' Church, Norton Canes, is due to be submitted.
Norton Canes Parish Council will shortly be submitting the application.
For more information about the new cemetery ring the parish council clerk Linda Florence on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Guides on the Move



The Armistice Day Parade

The 2nd Norton Canes Guides are moving to a new venue after Christmas. Members will meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, on Tuesday evenings. A Guides spokesperson said: "Due to more room we are now able to offer more spaces to girls aged between 10-14. "We meet during term time for crafts, adventurous activities and lots of unusual sleepovers and camping." For more details register at girlguiding.org.uk

Can you Help?

The 2nd Norton Canes Brownies and Guides need your help. The branch has been chosen as one of the Co-op's local charities for the upcoming year. Now members are aiming to raise funds for the girls to go on 'an adventurous pack holiday'. If you would like to help, register your Co-op membership card online or ring the Co-op's Membership Services. Then choose the 2nd Norton Canes Brownies and Guides unit - and every time you are in store the unit will receive funding from the Co-op's own brands and bag sales.

Community Speedwatch – Volunteer Appeal

Norton Canes Parish Council can now start the new Community Speedwatch initiative.
The council has a number of trained volunteers – but would still welcome more.
A parish council spokesperson said: "Volunteers have kindly agreed to give up their time to take part in this scheme to try and make a difference to the issues of speeding in the village." If you feel you have spare time and could commit to this scheme please ring parish council clerk Linda Florence on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

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training@cycle-r.org.uk
01543 523 606

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Please contact: Helen Borton
Your 'Safer Neighbourhood Panel' Coordinator for the Cannock Chase area
01543 464635 or email helenborton@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Make a difference
Volunteer today...
Staffordshire Safer Neighbourhood Panels

Safer Neighbourhood Panels are made up of local residents and local councillors who meet regularly with their area's policing commander.

SaferNeighbourhoodPanels
Building public trust in local policing

The panels influence and shape local policing and shine the spotlight on the work being done by police in their area to ensure greater transparency and help build public confidence.

Panel members receive training to help them carry out their role so that they can be involved in innovative work.



www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/safer-neighbourhood-panels

There are lots of volunteer opportunities available to you! Enhance your CV, meet new people and learn new skills!
www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/volunteer

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Friends of Norton Canes Parks and Open Spaces

We are applying to the Lottery for funding
Could you help us write the bid?

Could you run a monthly outdoor gym session or organise a memory walk?

Please call 270789 or 275013

Damage Despair

Youths damaging parts of the village have left local councillors in despair.
There have been three recent incidents of vandalism - which have led to parish councillors deciding not to replace one damaged seat at the skate park.
Also one of the benches on Jubilee Gardens was pulled out.
Councillors believe this was done to enable young people to sit opposite each other in the garden area to chat.
A group of youths have also been observed trying to kick in the perspex panels in the bus shelter by the village library.
A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said: “One of the wooden seats on the skate park, which was installed for the use of skateboarders, has been kicked and damaged. We have decided to take away the skate board park bench as all these instances cost time and rate payers’ money.
“The incident involving youths kicking the bus shelter panels was reported to the police and the young people involved were spoken to.
“It is sad that there is little respect for what we are trying to do to make the village a nice place to live in.”

Silver Sneakers - Back in Business

In our last edition we launched an appeal to save Norton Canes exercise group Silver Sneakers.

The class looked in danger of closing as the trainer was due to leave. But thanks to a great response a new trainer has been found.

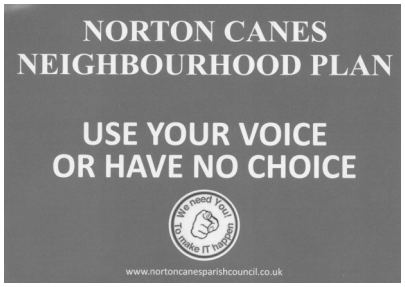
Exercise group member Pamela Louies said: “A big thank you to those who phoned in response to our appeal. Carol has been with us since September 13 so the class is able to continue in its usual Thursday slot at 12.30pm.

“Please come and join us in our efforts to stay active in our advancing years. New people are always welcome and the first class is free. Come and see what we do.”

Neighbourhood Plan – Your Comments Needed

The Neighbourhood Plan launch took place on October 13 at Norton Canes Library.

The launch was intended as an opportunity for residents to find out more and to have some input by completing a short questionnaire. But a parish council spokesperson described the turnout as 'poor'. Parish clerk Linda Florence said: "We need residents' views - so if you are able to give up a few minutes of your time the questionnaire can be completed on-line simply type *bit.ly/NortonCanesNP* into your browser and you will be taken straight to it."



There is also a dedicated Facebook page 'Neighbourhood Plan for Norton Canes'; or a copy can be obtained from Norton Canes parish office (rear of the Co-op) Monday to Friday, 10am-2 pm.

Parish meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month (no meeting in August). Public participation is from 7pm-7.30pm. All are welcome.

Time to Remember

Norton Canes Historical Society staged a special display to commemorate 100 years since the armistice was signed to mark the end of World War I.

The event featured newspaper cuttings, family stories and photographs – including many about village residents in the early 20th century.

The display was held at Norton Canes Library. Visitors to the event also enjoyed a chat about old times over a cuppa.



From left: Maureen Garbett, Roger Knowles, Dave Smith, Julie Crook, Cllr John Preece.

Norton Canes Community Centre: It's all Happening

Day	Time	Event	Contact
Monday	10am-1pm	Watercolour	07443 892 313
	2pm-4pm	Crafty Quilters (sewing group)	01785 603 255
	7pm-8.30pm	Guides	Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com
	6.30pm-8pm	Norton Canes Judo Club	076800 845 523
Tuesday	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
Wednes-day	11am-1pm	Norton Canes Craft Group	07968 291 694
	1.30pm-3.30pm	RVS/Darby and Joan	01543 279751 / 01543 274216
	5pm-6.30pm	JGM Karate Academy	07548 424 280
	7pm-10pm	Line Dance	07515 931 389
Thursday	9am-4pm	Crafty Sew and Sews	07412 191 439
	9.45am-12.15pm	Crafty Cards	07845 678 003
	4pm-5pm	L'Rythmix Ballet Class	07821 774 456
	6pm-7pm	Norton Canes Judo Club	07800 845 523
	7pm-9pm	Sugar Craft	07792 549 307
	8pm-10pm	Cannock Photographic Society	Cannockps.co.uk
Friday	1.30pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	07716 356 907
	7.30pm-10.30pm	Jenny's Social Dance	
Saturday	10.30am-1pm	L'Rythmix Dance Class	07821 774 456 07980 327 325
1st & 3rd	8pm till late	Jenny and Terry's Social Sequence Dance	
2nd & 4th	8pm-midnight	Nev's Line Dance	
Sunday			

Norton Canes Judo Club

We train Monday 6.30pm - 8pm £3, and Thursday 6pm-7pm £2.50, at Norton Canes Community Centre, first night is free. Min age 5 years. For more information see our facebook page.
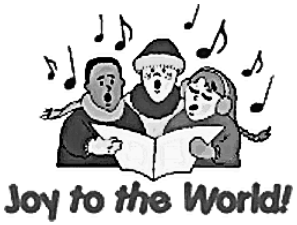


Club members at Drayton Manor Park

Norton Canes Judo Club had a fantastic day out in August at Drayton Manor Park thanks to our sponsors Todd Engineering.

December at Norton Canes Community Centre

December 2: Christmas Fayre,12 noon-4pm. Numerous Stalls selling a variety of hand-crafted and manufactured goods. An ideal chance to pick up something nice for that someone special. Come and see Santa in his grotto.





December 9: parish lantern parade followed by community Carol service. The community centre will be open from 4.40pm for children to collect lanterns. The carol service starts at 6.45pm.

December 15 and 16: Panto - Jack and the Beanstalk. Backstreet Theatre Company will present what promises to be ‘a lively and enjoyable’ production. Performances at 1pm and 5.30pm both days. Tickets £6 from committee members or Jackie on 07845 678 003.



Salon Ladies Rise to the Challenge

A charity bike ride organised by three ladies from a Norton Canes salon raised about £950.

Tracy Krzyszowski, Amy Large and Samantha Grace from the salon Alchemy, (formerly called It’s All About You), completed a 27 -mile challenge in aid of St Giles’ Hospice.

The fundraiser took place on September 2.
Tracy, Amy and Samantha cycled from the Whittington hospice through Walton on Trent, to Rosliston, Netherseal, Clifton Campville, Haunton and Harlaston – then back to St Giles.
They raised money via sponsorship and collection buckets at the Norton Canes salon, the Yew Tree pub, the village chip shop and the Lido Club, Norton Canes.



Fundraisers from left: Tracy, Samantha and Amy.

Tracy, aged 56, from St James Road, Norton Canes, runs the tanning and sun-bed part of the salon.
Amy, aged 26, the salon’s barber, is from Wolverhampton; Samantha, (40), a nail technician, is from Burntwood.

Tracy said: “We would like to thank everyone for the fabulous support and donations received.”



Wise Name Needed

Norton Canes Library has a new acquisition. This beautiful owl was carved by Lee Bayliss and paid for from a generous bequest by a late local library regular.

Staff at the library would like to give the owl a name and have decided to run a competition.

For more details ask at the library.

Hello Author, My Old Friend



Did you know that Norton Canes has an esteemed author in our midst?
Victoria Kingston is the author of the definitive biography of Simon and Garfunkel no less.

Originally from Wednesfield, she has since lived in Leicester, Australia, New Zealand and London.
But Victoria has been 'back home' in Norton Canes for about 18 months with her husband David and their two greyhounds.
Victoria, aged 62, originally wanted to write the Simon and Garfunkel biography in the 1980s - because she loves their singing, harmonies, message of optimism and lyrics by Paul Simon.
Amazingly, Victoria simply wrote to the stars asking if they would be interested. (This was in the days of no internet, no Google or mobile phones). Paul Simon said 'no' but Art Garfunkel agreed to be interviewed when he visited London. He even invited her to call him in New York and reverse the charges! A series of interviews and numerous transatlantic calls followed over the years. Victoria also talked to many people who knew Simon and Garfunkel.
She began working on the book at weekends while working as a teacher. On and off, the project took about 15 years. At first no-one was interested in publishing the book; but in the early '90s, when she was conducting interviews for a radio station, she had the opportunity to talk to Macmillan publishers - who were interested.

Victoria started working as a freelance journalist in the 1990s interviewing celebrities such as David Attenborough, Wendy Craig, Angela Rippon and Susan Hampshire for glossy magazines. She gave up teaching in 1996, the year her book was eventually published.

Victoria's other passion is for animal rescue, in particular greyhounds. She has written doggy-themed publications: Doggy Mixtures and Hounds at Home.

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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



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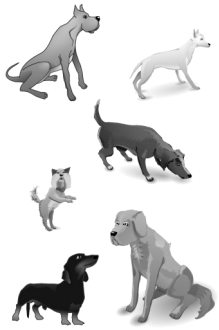
A prolific poet, Victoria has also written anthologies A Thousand Steps and Gathering Rosebuds.

So how is life for her back in Norton Canes?
"There is something about going back to your roots; my roots are very much here," Victoria said. "The area is very familiar to me. It has the language my mother spoke and people are amazingly friendly. I'm happy here."

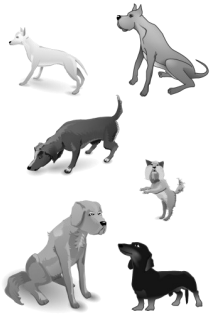
Victoria is now working on another canine book, possibly to be called Dog House. Author Jilly Cooper has already provided a story for inclusion in the book.
"People are fascinating and dogs are fascinating," Victoria added. "When you put the two together it's a winning combination." See www.victoriakingston.com for more information/to order her books. (The Simon and Garfunkel biography is available on Kindle).
*Victoria is also willing to do talks for local groups. She can be contacted via the website.

The Twelve Days of Canine Christmas

Here's a festive song with a difference for you by local writer Victoria Kingston.
(Sing to the tune of The Twelve Days of Christmas!)



Twelve spaniels swimming
Eleven poodles chasing
Ten greyhounds racing
Nine staffies sleeping
Eight lurchers leaping
Seven boxers boxing
Six westies jumping
Five Labradors
Four collie dogs
Three French pugs
Two basset hounds
And a Jack Russell in a pear tree



Dancing to Raise the Cash

Members of a Norton Canes Friday Tea Dance raised over £300 for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning organised by Macmillan Cancer Support.

Members donated goods, cakes and raffle prizes. They also bought raffle tickets.

Event organisers Mort and Sally Bakewell run the tea dance every week at Norton Canes Community Centre.

The centre committee members, who work as volunteers, also contributed to the amount raised by relaxing the admission fee. Mort and Sally have now sent a cheque to Macmillan.
They said: "We had a lovely afternoon of dancing (line/sequence and ballroom). Most of us are 'silver citizens' so we appreciate the role Macmillan Nurses do in their everyday work."



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.

*This newsletter is published by
NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL
www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

Norton Canes Flower Club

We wish you a merry Christmas and happy and peaceful 2019.
Members have enjoyed a varied programme over the last year: seeing lovely flowers at the demonstrations, learning from talks - and having the pleasure of meeting friends.
After the August break, when some members visited 'Peonies' and saw beautiful silk flowers and arrangements, we resumed meeting at Trinity Methodist Church..
In September we had a demonstration by Elaine Stoner on the theme of 'Flowers on Vacation'. The arrangements took us on a visit to many of Elaine's favourite places. The flowers and arrangements were varied.
On October 17: we were visited by David Tideswell who gave a talk 'Garden Birds in Autumn and Winter' It was a very entertaining evening enjoyed by everyone.



On October 24 the annual meeting took place. A ploughman's supper was served prior to the business part. The officers and the committee were elected for the coming year.
There was an open evening at the Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock, on November 19 and a workshop at Trinity Methodist Church on November 28.
Members will celebrate Christmas with a festive meal on December 12. (There will no meeting on December 19).
Forthcoming meetings
January16: Jo Davis will be demonstrating 'Wandering Through'.
February 20: practical evening with a workshop.
March 20: Open Evening at Norton Canes High School. All welcome. The demonstrator will be Beverley Artis with 'A Night at the Oscars' theme. Tickets will be on sale in the new year.
*Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise stated) at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 7.30pm.
New members and visitors welcome. For more details, ring 01543 278370.
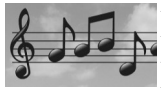
www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

Norton Canes Chess Club – Come and Join Us

Norton Canes Chess Club made an excellent start to the new season.
After three games the team won two matches and drew the third so members hope they are on course to retain the Cannock League Division 3 cup.
There are eight games to complete for the year. A club spokesman said: “All players are maintaining a good standard.”
The club still needs more members, who meet at the Lido club, Norton Canes, on Tuesdays.
Members play ‘friendly chess for any standard’.
Anyone interested in joining can contact Mike Hoare or the Lido.
*Staffordshire members entertained Warwickshire in a county game at the Lido at the end of October when there were 16 players a side.
More matches are planned in the next few months.



Join Jenny and Terry for
Social Sequence Dances at



Norton Canes Community Centre
WS11 9SF
1st and 3rd Saturday in the month,
Sunday afternoon Tea Dance once a month
plus Sunday Lunch Dances four times a year

Twice a year Hot Sunday Lunch/Charity Dance
St Matthew’s Club, Burntwood WS7 9EP

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

Telephone: 01922 415232 or 01922 478425
for more details

Come and Join the Fun



Trinity Methodist Church, Norton Canes, has released its diary dates for December.

December 1: Christmas Tree Festival at the Poplar Street church, 10am-4pm. Admission free.

December 23: Carol Service, 11am.

December 25: Christmas Day service, 10.30am. All welcome for ‘a good sing’.

*The Village Carol Service will take place at Norton Canes Community Centre on December 9 at 6.45pm.
The message is: “Let’s make this service the best yet.”
Everyone welcome. Tea or coffee and free mince pies will be available supplied by Norton Canes Parish Council.



Trinity Methodist Church Information

Sunday worship 11am.

Girls Brigade takes place at the church on Thursdays: Explorers 6pm-7.15pm; seniors and brigaders 7.30pm-9pm. For details ring Chris Straughan on 01543 276695.

Accordion group is on Saturdays, 8.30am. Contact Peter Howard on 01543 270627.

Morning coffee on Saturdays 10am-12 noon; Food Bank Saturdays 10am-12 noon.

Other events include quiz nights, barn dances, skittle evenings, Wood turning, Trinity Toddlers, keep fit and the Flower Club.

Church contacts:
Rev Christopher Parkes 01543 682277;
senior steward Ian Straughan 01543 276695;

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: Kiddy Kraft, 11am-12.30pm - New Group
Lego Club, 3.30pm-5.30pm
Drama Group, 7.30pm-9.30pm



Tuesdays: Sewing Group, 11am-1pm
Knit 'n' Natter, 1pm-4pm

Thursdays: Yoga, 10am-11am - New Group
Baby Stay & Play, 11.30am-1pm
Painting Group, **1.30pm**-4.30pm Please note time change



Open Arms Coffee Morning, 11am-1pm

Fridays: Get Together, 10.30am-12.30pm



Saturdays: Jamming Sessions, 11am-Onwards
Play the guitar, out of practice or still learning? Then come along and get some extra help.

Monthly Group Meetings

1st Wednesday: League of Ladies, 7pm-9.30pm
4th Saturday: Councillor's Surgery, 10.30am-11.30am.
Last Saturday: Norton Canes Reading Group, 11am-12noon
2nd Tuesday: Historical Society, 7pm-9pm.

For Bereavement Support ask for Val.

We still have room for more bookings if anyone is interested in hiring out our rooms.

Opening Times for Your Library

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

Norton Canes Health Centre - Dr W Nilar and Dr W Htike
London Bridges Challenge 2018 Diabetes UK







Our GPs and their two children took part in the London Bridges Challenge on September 30.
This was a 10 mile walk along 12 iconic London bridges: starting in Battersea Park, criss-crossing the Thames and finishing over the ever-grand Tower Bridge.
As manager of the practice I would like to say a 'well done' to Dr Nilar, Dr Htike, Harrison and William for taking the time to help stride towards a better future for people living with diabetes.

Influenza Immunisation

If you have not yet had your influenza injection, please contact the practice and speak to a member of staff.

GP Trainee

Dr Angor will be leaving us at the end of November. It has been a pleasure working alongside him for the last six months and we wish him well for the future.

Patient on-line servicesIf you would like to join the on-line services, please speak to a member of staff who will be able to help. This will enable you to request repeat prescriptions and make appointments with the GP. This service is very popular amongst our patients.

Early morning and late night appointments

Do you find it difficult to attend during our normal appointment times? If so, we offer 7am on Wednesdays with Dr Nilar; Tuesday 6.30pm-7.10pm with Dr Htike.
Reception opening times are 8am-6.30pm Monday to Friday. To book appointments ring 01543 450222 at 8.30am for morning slots; 2pm for afternoons.
If you have any queries contact the surgery on the above number or ask to speak to practice manager Jane Potter.

The Lido Working Men's Club – the Village's Best Kept Secret?

The club has been in constant use since 1889,
supporting the village and its community.
It has been updated and is now 'a warm and comfortable environment', with lounge, games room and large function room available for parties.



Most activities can be catered for. The club also has a resident DJ Liam to provide entertainment. There are in-house caterers (Entirely Yours Catering) who can accommodate most requests.
The Lido also has a skittle alley for parties and can assist if customers want something different, such as a charity event or horse racing night with big screen.
Crib takes place on Mondays, darts (Mondays and Fridays), chess and card craft club Tuesdays, prize bingo Wednesdays, Ladies darts and karaoke Thursdays and entertainment throughout the year on Saturdays.
Customers can also enjoy a quiet pint whilst watching BT Sport.
The games room has a pool and snooker table (snooker is free on Sunday nights). Darts nights and family nights are organised throughout the year.

Anyone can join as a club member.
If you have a function you would like to arrange, ring bar manager
Natalie Ayre on 01543 275714 or call in and see her.
Follow the club on Facebook to see forthcoming events.

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

St James the Great Christmas Services

December 9
Community Carol Service at Norton Canes Community Centre, 6.45pm.

December 16
Carol Service in St James, 6pm. Please join us.

December 23
Mass, 8am.
Sung Eucharist, 10.30am.

December 24
Christingle, 4pm.
First Mass of Christmas, 8pm (Please note revised timing).



December 25
Mass, 9am.

St James the Great Norton Canes

(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 neilhibbins@gmail.com

Church clerk Mary Carpenter 01543 275296,
email: marycarpenter243@gmail.com

Church warden Ann Eden 01543 278737.

Here are two inspiring poems by talented Brenda Benton, from Chapel Street, Norton Canes.

Autumn's Carpet

Autumn's carpet at my feet,
as leaves come tumbling down.
Once, bright and very green,
they now turn golden brown.



As they start to decompose
death will enrich the earth.
They are part of the cycle,
in nature's miracle, rebirth.

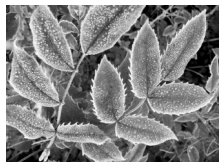


Nothing is ever wasted
everything is used for good.
Even death has its purpose
when we live as we should.

For we greet death calmly,
knowing it will not destroy.
And our lives have new meaning
when we live in peace an

Jack Frost

There is a transformation
that happened overnight.
Jack Frost has been busy
and turned everything white.



The sun is shining brightly,
the world looks crisp and new.
And in some strange way,
I feel like this too.



All the leaves and grasses
have taken a new form.
And I can stand in wonder,
because I'm wrapped up warm.

My heart feels like singing,
and I want to give God praise.
For showing me these treasures
and teaching me His ways.

Norton Canes Royal Voluntary Service and Darby and Joan Club

Are you fed up, lonely – or looking for somewhere to socialise with friendly people?
If so, why not join us for two hours a week at Norton Canes Community Centre?

We are looking for people who would like to become involved in our group as a volunteer or as a member.

Members must be 50+ but volunteers can be any age.
You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Volunteers are needed to help make and serve simple refreshments and to assist with the many activities and outings.

For more details ring Maureen on 01543 279751 or Eve 01543 274261.

Norton Canes Royal British Legion (RBL) Branch



The RBL meets at the Lido Club, School Road, Norton Canes, on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 3.30pm.

The branch is actively seeking new members (young and old) as we are opening a welfare centre soon to assist serving and ex-serving personnel.

We are a small branch but have some great projects forthcoming. We hope to hold breakfast clubs and local meetings - to help fight social isolation and loneliness that affects many ex-forces.

We are a helpful branch, so even if you just want help sorting out your family's military history, pop in and see us.

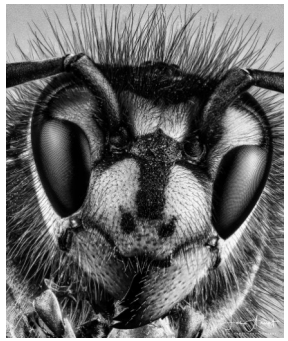
You can leave a message for branch secretary David Smith on the Lido Club answerphone 01543 275714 or call in the club and say hello.

Cannock Photographic Society

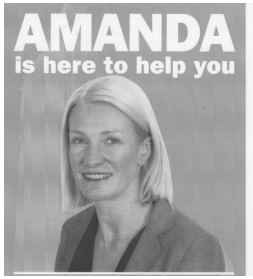
(Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Midland Counties Photographic Federation)

As a club we have a varied programme of illustrated talks given by well known photographers on a wide variety of subjects.
We also have internal competitions when members can obtain a critique of their work from a visiting photographic Judge.
There is an active practical group where more experienced members share their knowledge.
As part of this group, local member Les Arnott has set up a series of tutorials at Norton Canes Library aimed at members of all levels of experience.
The tutorials will cover various aspects of photography from the taking stage through to editing and final production of the image.
The early classes have given Les the opportunity to re-visit teaching his favourite subjects as he is a fully qualified tutor and D32, 33 assessor. He was a full time teacher of photography.
Les introduced the first classes to Macro photography covering equipment required and techniques involved to overcome pitfalls of this specialist but rewarding photographic genre.
Under his guidance, members had the opportunity to photograph a stick insect and they produced some stunning images.
Les also shared some of his equipment with members who did not have the appropriate lenses etc.
The tutorials look set to be very interesting. Les's plans include field work in support of theoretical class work. (See the examples of Les's work printed in this magazine).
All visitors and prospective new members are welcome.
The club caters for all abilities: from beginners to advanced.
Meetings take place at Norton Canes Community Centre on Thursdays, 7.45pm-10pm, from August to May. For the full programme visit www.cannockps.co.uk





Message from Your MP Amanda Milling



As we approach the end of another year, I can't believe how quickly it has gone by.
It has been an eventful year, especially in Parliament, with the numerous debates and votes on Brexit and Brexit-related matters, ahead of us leaving the EU next March.
A busy Parliamentary year hasn't stopped me spending as much time as possible at home in Cannock Chase and here in Norton Canes. As ever, I have visited many fantastic businesses, visited local schools to talk to children about the issues of the day (and yes, they included Brexit!) and attended events such as the opening of the new Katharine House shop here in Norton Canes.
Much of my time is also spent holding surgeries and dealing with constituency casework.
One local issue that continues to dominate my postbag is potholes. I have continued to lobby Staffordshire County Council to ensure our roads become free of potholes (after the wintry start to the year wrought havoc with many of our roads and pavements). If you see a pothole, report it to Staffordshire County Council at highways@staffordshire.gov.uk.
There have been many other highlights for 2018. I have spent time with our local police to learn about the work they do to keep us safe; joined our armed forces on deployment in Estonia and Gibraltar; and held events such as my Jobs Fair to connect local businesses with jobseekers. I hope 2019 will be as busy and exciting!
All that remains is for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and, as always, if you need my help with anything, please email me on amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or ring 01543 877142.

The 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**

The Ghost of Christmas Past
Christmas memories from local comedy duo Dandy



Christmas is always a time for reflection. The older I get the fewer similarities I recognise from my own childhood. Nowadays, children are bombarded with ideas for presents from TV advertising, revving up the 'pester power'. Even now, frazzled menopausal grannies are queuing outside Argos tasked with finding the Holy Grail of the wish list: Donk a Dino, Poopsie Slime Surprise, My Lovely Unicorn Electric Ride On - and the doll that smells like a real baby (before or after they have filled the nappy?) I will pass on that!
When presented with a book, kids ask: "Where does the battery go?"

Christmas in the Black Country in the 1950s/'60s meant a visit to see Father Christmas either to Henry's in Walsall or sometimes to Lewis's or Greys in Birmingham - a ride on the 75 Bus from the White 'Oss in Wednesbury and a ride on the escalator to his grotto. Anybody remember the Christmas party in infant/junior School? "Bring your own dish and spoon with your name on for your jelly and ice cream." The classroom was decorated with paper chains. We spent weeks cutting stick-backed strips of coloured paper with blunt scissors. Lots of licking and lots of glitter, glue and sugar paper.

Last day of the term you were allowed to bring in your own games and toys: snakes and ladders, Ludo, airfix kits of Spitfires, dress–up/cut out dolls, stamp albums and fuzzy felt.
On Christmas Eve we had a kitchen full of feathers as grannie plucked the poultry and boiled up the gizzards for the gravy. Yuk! I'd be waiting, with one eye open, to see my dad, after a few pints up the club, trying to creep in during the night with my pillowcase of toys. He always hit his toe and did a sweary dance round the room which (in his head) was silent. "Ho! Ho! Ho!" didn't come into it!

What a Year for Ladies League

Members of Norton League of Ladies have been busy since they formed in March this year.

In August they enjoyed an afternoon tea on a riverboat on the River Trent followed by shopping in Nottingham. The fun has also included: quiz nights, a visit from an Avon representative, flower arranging and a fashion show.
A trip to Chester was planned for November (Christmas shopping included). Members could also enjoy visiting Chester Cathedral and the City Wall.
And there is more to come.
There will be a fun Christmas party with entertainment by singer Louise (a regular on cruise holidays).

A full agenda is planned for 2019 with a variety of talks, activities and trips.
The ladies have adopted Katharine House Hospice as their charity of the year. They will also be supporting a ladies' refuge by providing handbags full of toiletries.
Members meet at Norton Canes Library on the first Wednesday of each month.

More details are available from the library.



Our Day Out: the ladies are pictured on their day trip.



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

Items for March 2019 Newsletter to the editor by February 1 at the latest to avoid disappointment.
cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Whoops – sorry

In our last edition we included an incorrect name with the photo of Norton League of Ladies.

The lady pictured on the right was referred to as Anne Page. Apologies, it should have read Anne Briggs.



Continued from previous page:

It was always a bit tense eating the Christmas pud in case you bit down hard or swallowed one of the sixpences grannie randomly stuffed it with.
School nativity plays have changed so much. Sadly everything has become designer/shop bought now. It was more fun when the lesser gifted mums made the props and costumes. Half way through, one of the Angel Gabriel's wings would drop off. The headgear usually proclaimed that one of the shepherds belonged to the tribe of Tesco. The said tea towel was usually held in place by knicker elastic making the shepherd's eyes water. Mary would often lose interest and drop Baby Jesus who would roll off stage into the front row.
My all time favourite was a Black Country nativity production where Mary and Joseph appealed to the innkeeper: "Is there room for us at the Inn?"
The innkeeper decided to ad lib: "Sorry, mate, wim chocka! It's Christmus, ay it?
Whatever you do, be kind to each other and have a great time. Dandy (me and himself) wish you all a healthy and happy New Year. Glyn Briscoe.

Norton Canes Historical Society

Society members meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Norton Canes Library, 7pm-9pm.
Dates of forthcoming meeting are:
December 11: Social evening

2019
January 8: Bob Green will be presenting a talk on 'Chimney sweeps/climbing boys' which particularly relates to Staffordshire.

February 12 and March 12: topics to be advised.
Admission is free.

Non members are welcome to attend.
*Society secretary **Mo Garbett** said: "There will be no further Thursday coffee mornings due to lack of support."

Your Local Garage

Right on your doorstep!

01543 276060

Car Friend - Unit 9
Norton Canes Business Park
Norton Green Lane
Norton Canes
WS11 9SS

Google Reviews 5.0

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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	From **£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

"Just by Norton Aluminium!"