Best Kept Village



Norton Canes High School: Year 7 and 10 students have been **creating artwork to display in the village** during judging of the Best Kept Village competition.
Trees cut from Norton Bog have been adorned with hangers made of clay and recycled materials to fill spaces where no natural planting is possible.
Students have also been creating a **mosaic for the village centre**.
It commemorates Norton Canes' past and celebrates its present and future.
Students researched the history of the village.
The mosaic is largely based on the symbols of the swan and the oak tree – ancient symbols of the villages.







Thank you
'Knit n Natter'
And all who have
contributed to our
'woolly' flowers



Best Kept Village workshop
'Before Easter, guests from the community craft club based at the library created exotic flowers from plastic bottles to show the importance of recycling and keeping our village tidy. Norton Primary Academy pupils from Year 2 took part in a printing workshop with Francesca and Millie from Year 9. These will be turned into hangers for their very own tree to commemorate Norton soldiers who fell in World War Two, accompanied by pieces of writing from pupils in KS2.



Cllr John Preece planting the
'Beautiful Recycling Tree'

May
2015
Issue 10

Norton Canes Village News

New Cemetery for the village - have your say

Residents are invited to state their views about future burial space in the village.
A proposed new cemetery adjacent to St James Church has been put on hold – because a water spring has reportedly been found close to the site.
Cannock Chase Council was due to determine an application for the 500-plot burial site on April 22.
But due to the investigations into a possible spring, Norton Canes parish councillors have deferred their application. The parish council is obtaining an expert opinion which will determine if the spring will affect the plans.
Now councillors would like to know your views.
Would you like them to go ahead with the application (subject to the issue of the spring being resolved)?
Or would you prefer residents have an option to be buried in a new Cannock Chase Council site at Bleak House – which would be open to anyone in the Cannock Chase area?
Residents are invited to complete the survey enclosed in this newsletter and return it to the parish office at the rear of the Co-op.
A parish council spokesperson said: "Residents are encouraged to complete the survey as it is public money that is being proposed to be spent on the churchyard."
Two public consultation sessions have already been held in the village: one in February which was 'well attended' and one in March which was 'very poorly attended'. Councillors want to ensure as many villagers' views are taken into account as possible.
The Bleak House cemetery would be built on 20 acres of former opencast mine land off Norton Road between Norton Canes and Heath Hayes. It would provide burial space for about 50 years.



Beryl Hall, school governor with Shane Brown. 'dress as as book character' day. *See page 5*

Parish News *Page 18*
Elected Parish Councillors *Page 19*
Useful contacts for district , county and

BEST KEPT VILLAGE *Page 24*



Welcome to Mrs Sarginson



Jerome Primary School has welcomed new headteacher Claire Sarginson.
Mrs Sarginson is a former deputy head of a school in Tile Cross, Birmingham.
She said she has found everyone at Jerome very welcoming.
"Staff and children clearly have a fondness for their school," she said.
"I want to ensure every child gets an outstanding education."
Mrs Sarginson said her aims are for Jerome to achieve 'outstanding' status.
She lives in Lichfield with her husband and three-year-old son.

Hi all

Wow! What an explosion of colour and artefacts around the village.
It's a case of 'spot the unusual tree or flower' in nooks and crannies around Norton Canes.
It all makes the village more interesting and hopefully will galvanise local people into doing their bit for the Best Kept Village competition.
If we can do this much for the Best Kept Village – how about a seasonal explosion of inventive artwork or a festive themed one for Christmas? Perhaps we could set a trend.....
Enjoy the magazine, which as ever is stuffed full of goings on.
Grateful thanks to Sheila Harding, who sub edits the magazine, for keeping her cool when she receives emails from me such as 'correct this, shift that, don't like that, change this' etc etc etc. (Bet she secretly goes 'aarrghhhhhhh!').
Village hugs.
Janet Lee
Editor



Please let us have 'letters to the editor' or any other articles by June 30 for inclusion in the August Newsletter. We don't want anyone to be disappointed.

LOCAL WORSHIP

St James The Great

Services:
Our main service is Mass, celebrated in response To Jesus' command to 'do this in memory of me'.

Sunday: Mass 8am.

Family Sung Mass 10.30am.
(Sunday School is held during the service).

Weekday Mass on Wednesday 11am and Thursday 7pm.

Rector: Fr. Neil Hibbins 01543278969 email: neil_hibbins@lycos.co.uk
Church Clerk is Mary Carpenter 01543 275296 email: mary.carpenter@tiscali.co.uk
Church Wardens: Meg Crossland 01543 685069,
Kim Lloyd 01922 413718

Trinity Methodist Church

Poplar Street, Norton Canes. WS11 9SG

Morning worship Sunday 11am
Minister Rev C Parkes 01543 682277
Senior Seward: Ian Straughan 01543 276695

Norton Canes RVS – Darby and Joan Club For over 50s

Every Wednesday from 1.30pm-3.45pm at Norton Canes Community Centre

Come along and enjoy live entertainment, bingo and parties for special occasions

We also arrange outings and holidays

Cllr Zaphne Stretton MBE and the committee look forward to welcoming new members and anyone prepared to give 'a helping hand'

Ring 01543 276959 for information

NOTICE BOARD



A Mad Hatter's Tea Party and Disco takes place at Norton Canes Community Centre on Thursday August 13 from 1pm-4pm.
Have lunch with lunch with Alice, the Queen of Hearts, the Cheshire cat, The White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee.
There will also be games, pass the parcel and a disco
Fancy dress is optional
Children £4 (adults and under 1 free)
Entrance is by ticket only
To book tickets email: ncca@hotmail.co.uk

Norton Canes Over 60s Club
Don't be put off by the club's name – the organisers say!
Members meet at the Lido Working Men's Club, School Road, Norton Canes, every Tuesday at 12.30pm.
And the message is: "We would love to welcome you. Age isn't a factor. If you want a social outing with new friends – come and join us."
For details call into the club or ring 01543 275714.

RAINBOWS
2nd Norton Canes Rainbows meet at the Community Centre
Tuesday afternoons (term Time) 4.15pm – 5.15pm
Lead by Helen Jenkinson with assistant leader Samantha Earp
www.girlguiding.org.uk or ring Helen on 07958 127 489

Royal British Legion goes from strength to strength

Members of the Royal British Legion Norton Canes branch have good reason to celebrate.
They feel they are 'newly invigorated'.
They are enjoying a steady membership, have a new Standard flag – and are looking to open a welfare office in the village.
About 18 members meet on the last Tuesday of the month bi monthly at the Lido club, School Road, Norton Canes.
They moved to the Lido in October having previously met at Norton Canes Library.
And there is an open invitation for more members to attend. It is not necessary to have served in the Armed Forces to be a member.
The new standard will be proudly on parade at Norton Canes Fun Day in June.
The branch received a £250 grant from Norton Canes Parish Council towards the cost.
Branch secretary David Smith said: "The old standard was commissioned in the 1950s. It has done sterling service but was looking a bit tired."
The old standard will be proudly on display at the Lido club.
Legion branch members will be helping with marshalling and refreshments at Chasewater Fun Run on May 17.
They also enjoy social occasions and are looking to run trips to the National Arboretum. There is an information board at the Lido if members of the public would like to join them.
Members are now working towards opening a welfare office in an upstairs room at the Lido.
Volunteers are currently transforming the room into an office, kitchenette and two store rooms.
Members hope it will be open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, by the end of June. If there are times it cannot open, a member will man the phone during those hours.
The closest welfare office at the moment is in Stafford or Birmingham.
The welfare office is for serving or ex-servicemen or women and their families. The aim is to give help and advice about benefits available for example.

The next branch meeting takes place at the Lido on May 26 at 7.30pm.
If you would like to become involved/obtain more details pop into the club during the meeting or ring David for more details on 07810 130 070.

Norton Canes Gold Medallists

Two Norton Canes High School pupils took top places in a gymnastics competition. Alex Woolley and Maddison French won gold medals at the West Midlands Schools Acro-gymnastics preliminaries.
They will now go on to the national finals in May.
Alex and Maddison were representing Norton Canes High School in this event.
They will be representing the school and the West Midlands in the final.
Alex is in Year 9 and Maddy is in Year 7.
We wish them all the best.

Council Easter Art Competition

Four Norton Canes High School pupils had their artwork displayed in Cannock town centre after earning top places in an Easter competition run by Cannock Chase Council.
The Art and Design department students were asked to design an Easter-related poster.
Year 10 pupil Jodie Grice won first prize.
All three runner-up prizes were also scooped by Norton Canes pupils in the 12-16 age group category. These were won by Ella-Jay, Evie and Hannah.
All of the girls attended a special ceremony with their families at the council chambers on March 19.
They each received a goodie bag of Easter treats.



From left: Hannah Bate, Maddy French, Jodie Grice and Ella-Jay Anslow with Councillor Diane Todd and the organiser of the competition from Cannock Chase Council.

Artist Visits Norton Canes High School.

A regular feature of the Spring Term is a visit by artist **John Denaro** . Students in Year 11 spent the whole day with John and each produced large scale portraits using charcoal and pastels, with stunning results. Pictured attached: Portrait by Joe Dolman.



Variety of events at Norton Canes Community Centre

Sunday May 10	Charity Day for Acorns 12 noon–3pm
Saturday May 16	May Fayre 12 noon-3pm. Tables £5
Saturday June 6	Afternoon tea and bingo. Tickets £5 from the Committee
Sunday June 7	Holistic Fayre 10am-4pm
Saturday June 20	Summer Fayre and Fun Day 12 noon–6pm Afternoon tea for £4
Thursday August 13	Mad Hatter's Tea Party 12noon-3pm. £4 per child, includes food, disco and games and Alice in Wonderland characters. Fancy dress optional
Saturday October 3	Autumn Fayre 12 noon-3pm
Sunday October 25	Halloween Disco 4pm-6pm
Sunday November 15	Remembrance Service 6pm
Saturday December 5	Christmas Fayre 3pm-6pm. Includes lantern parade
Sunday December 13	Community Carol Service 6pm
Saturday December 19	Lunch with Anna, Elsa and DJ Olaf 12 noon–3pm. £5 per child. Includes food, disco, games, pass the parcel, visit from Santa and a present



Come and have a game and a cuppa



An afternoon Tea and Bingo session takes place at Norton Canes Community Centre on
Saturday June 6.
The event, which includes six full houses, starts at 2 pm
Tickets are £5 from a committee member.

What's on at
Norton Canes Community Centre



MONDAY	PLAYGROUP	8.15am-1pm. 07891 149 381
	WATERCOLOURS	10am–1pm. 01543 275013
	SEWING GROUP	2pm–4pm
TUESDAY	PLAYGROUP	8.15am–3pm. 07891 149 381
	RAINBOWS	4.15pm–5.15pm. 07958 127 489
	POUNDSHEDDERS	7pm-8pm. 01543 278534
	INDOOR BOWLS	7.30pm–9.30pm. 01543 279185
WEDNESDAY	PLAYGROUP	8.15am– 1pm. 07891 149 381
	PHYLLIS'S CARDS	11am-1pm
	RVS	1.30pm–3.30pm. 01543 276959
	ZUMBA	7pm-8pm. 07894 947 334
	LINE DANCE	8pm-11pm. 07894 947 334
THURS	PLAYGROUP	8.15am-3pm. 07891 149 381
	CHRIS'S CARDS	10am–12 noon. 01543 276258
	KANO JUDO CLUB	6.30pm-9.30pm. 01543 459785
	SUGAR CRAFT	7pm-9pm
FRIDAY	PLAYGROUP	8.15am–10pm. 07891 149 381
	TEA DANCE	1.30pm-3.30pm.
	JENNY'S SOCIAL	7.30pm-10.30pm. 01922 415232

SATURDAY
1st & 3RD- JENNY AND TERRY 8pm till late 01922 415232
2ND& 4THNEV'S LINE DANCE 7.30pm-12 midnight 07894 947 334

*EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN CLUB RUNS EVERY TUESDAY 10 – 1 FOR UP TO 11 YEAR OLDS.FOR FUTHER DETAILS RING JACKIE 0N 07999217364 OR WENDY ON 07845678003

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

Kind-hearted Norton Canes High School pupils

Norton Canes High School pupils have certainly been busy fundraising for good causes.
For Comic Relief teacher Mrs Merry organised a **'bake-off' competition and cake sale**. These raised £121.30.
The baking competition was won by year 7 pupil Ashleigh Kelsall.
Prize for the the most cakes sold went to year 11 pupil Joanne Green.
Mrs Merry also organised a **sponsored silence**. Shhhhh. Whisper about it. Some pupils managed to keep quiet for an entire morning – raising over £1,151 for Save the Children.

Year 7 and 8 pupils raised £349.96 for LEPRA by taking part in a **sponsored Zumba** in February.
LEPRA is an international charity fighting disease, poverty and prejudice. It focuses on people affected by some of the world's 'oldest and most neglected diseases'.
Money raised from the fun workout will help ensure families can access diagnosis and treatment. They can also receive reconstructive surgery, shoes and daily living aids for disabled people.

And the fundraising doesn't end there.
Year 7 also raised £363 for Cancer Research at the school's **annual coffee morning** on March 21.
Each tutor group was asked to devise stalls and games and invite as many people as possible to the event.
The tutor group raising the most money was 7CU.
The **'dress as a book character'** day raised £75 for MS and £75 for new books for our library to support our Accelerated Reader program.
See picture on page one.

Well done ladies

The Women's Section of the village Royal British Legion has been awarded the Overton Cup and a Certificate of Merit.
This was for achieving the highest average donation raised per member for national schemes which have helped families locally.

Member Brenda Rose said: "This is a real achievement for such a small group. "We continue to fundraise, knitting and sewing items to be sold or raffled."

Life saver

In the last edition we reported how life-saving defibrillators have been installed in two key locations in the village.
There is one in the foyer in the village Community Centre which is accessible whenever the building is open.
The second one is on the external wall of Trinity Methodist Church.
Anyone requiring this one needs to ring 999 for a code to open the cabinet and alert emergency services.
We are delighted to report we now also have the lifesaving piece of equipment on the external wall of the Railway Tavern pub, Norton Green Lane.
The defibrillator can resuscitate the heart after a heart attack. It can be used by anyone without medical knowledge.
It talks the user through the procedure and has a failsafe mechanism so it cannot be used on anyone who has not suffered a heart attack.
Various fundraising campaigns have been taking place to fund the equipment.

W I Centenary

Reading through some old paperwork I had from the WI headquarters I realised that this is their Centenary Year. Did you know it is 100 years since the Women's Institute came to Britain from Canada?

It was originally devised to bring together women from isolated communities and to offer them training in home economics, childcare, poultry keeping and small animal husbandry. When it came to Britain in 1915 it was hoped it would revitalise rural communities and encourage women to produce more food and keep the home front united during the First World War.

Another of the aims was to give women a voice, to be a force for good in the community and to be for all women alike.
This remains the same today, including ongoing educational opportunities and social interaction.

Did it work?

Gill Crutchley spokesperson for our local group tells me there are currently around 6,600 branches of the WI in the UK and 212,000 members.
I think we can safely say **yes**.

Sheila Harding



Elections

The parish council elections took place on May 7.
Your councillors for the ensuing period 2015—2016 are:

Cllr John Beddows
Cllr Mrs Ann Bernard
Cllr John Bernard
Cllr John Bridgen
Cllr Christopher Cox
Cllr Sean Lee Felton
Cllr Mrs Sheila Harding
Cllr Michael Holder
Cllr Mrs Maureen Hopley
Cllr Clive Preece
Cllr John Preece
Cllr Michael Stretton
Cllr Zaphne Stretton

Chairman, vice chairman and committee members will be appointed at the council meeting on May 21.

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

Useful contacts for district and county and other matters

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

The district councillors are:	Cllr Mrs Zaphne Stretton	on 01543 276959
	Cllr Mike Hoare	on 01543 279989
	Cllr John Preece	on 01543 278872
County councillor:	Diane Todd	on 01543 278778
Member of Parliament:	Amanda Milling	on 01543 509108

News from your Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly

The annual assembly was held at the library on April 15.
It was attended by local community groups to inform the council how they had spent their grants which were presented in January.
The chairman of the council outlined the activities of the parish council during the last year and thanked all councillors for their support during his term of office. He wished all councillors good luck in the forthcoming elections.

Norton Fun Day

The parish council has again financially supported this event which will take place on Saturday June 20 at the Community Centre and Brownhills Road Playing Fields.
This is a family fun day organised in conjunction with the Community Centre and is FREE so come along and enjoy the activities provided.

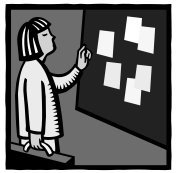
Best Kept Village Competition 2015

The parish council has been working hard over the last few months regarding the appearance and presentation of the village. Thanks to the Community Payback Team who have supported us in this work. The judging will take place in May and July and we are hopeful of exceeding our award from last year. As a resident we ask that if you are able to offer support in this initiative by keeping your area tidy we would be grateful.

Annual General Meeting of Parish Council

The parish council usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month. Please note that there has been a change to the date for May and this will now take place on Thursday May 21, 7pm, at Norton Canes Community Centre.

Thank you



The parish council wishes to thank all councillors who have served in the past year and all who applied for nomination in this years election.
Full councillor contact details will be available at the parish office and in the parish notice boards outside the co-op store.

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Message from Norton Canes WI

Calling all ladies!

Would you be interested in a lovely night out?
If so, come and join our WI.
We have some really good speakers lined up for the rest of the year and some really interesting days out too.
Just come along to Norton Canes Library on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.
Our ladies will make you very welcome.
For more information ring Gill on 01543 279039.



There's a chair waiting for you!

Dear Editor,

Loved your magazine – especially your story re the old Norton Canes Community Centre.

I don't live in the village, but I have lots of stories, lovely memories of the old centre: going to Yvonne's Tap dancing class one Wednesday night in 1983.

Never did I think it would make a new path in my life i.e. meeting friends at Norton Canes and having so many good times.

That night I had to have a map to get to the village of Norton Canes.

So time went by, loving the class and seeing how sad and run-down the village centre was.

The building was in a bad state and being vandalised, it seemed, every week.

During one class it was raining outside and it rained in. The hole in the ceiling was so big.

Then a few of us got the bug to do it up: to paint, clean etc.

In June 1987 Yvonne, Gloria and myself started our Friday T Dance.

Eight came for the first three weeks. Then word got round and it grew and grew. We had quite a few Saturday night dances and it was during one of our fundraising dances (for the centre) that Gloria's bag was stolen out of the kitchen.

The police said the offenders came through the pram shelter, but we should have locked the kitchen door. With the kitchen being in darkness and with us dancing, we didn't see or hear anything. That was in winter.

The following summer one Friday afternoon a fisherman from Chasewater came with Gloria's handbag. No money in it – but all the rest of the things were there. I've still got a lucky key ring disc she gave me that day.

He found us by some tickets in a plastic bag - for a Saturday dance. We couldn't believe it.

The bag was no good, but some sentimental bits inside made Gloria's day.

Jenny Dunn
Churchbridge

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

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Carpets Direct 2U is owned by **Robert** and **Mandy Freeman**, and their son **Richard**. The Freeman family have been serving customers throughout the Walsall and West Midlands area for four generations. Their years of retail experience have helped them to identify a niche in the market and come up with an idea that allows them to buy and sell carpets to the public at discounted prices.

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

Great Value, Great Quality

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

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

Vinyls

The vinyl selection is endless at prices to suit everyone. In the store they stock remnants of all sizes: **2,3** and **4** metre widths with discounts of up to **75% off** normal cut length prices. Any time of the day, every day you can go to **Carpets Direct 2U** and buy a cut-price piece of vinyl, 2m x 2m for **£25**.
If you want a particular range or you don't see what you're looking for, you can order just what you want from a number of sample books and normally get it delivered the very next day.

Fitting Service

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

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

Measuring Service

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

Rugs RUGS DIRECT 2U®

Whilst you can find a great selection of rugs in store, you can also shop online at **www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk** or order over the telephone on **08454 501221**.
Rugs Direct 2U offer quality rugs at the lowest prices. They have rugs to suit all tastes and budgets from retro designs to timeless classic styles from their traditional collections. They offer a wide variety of colours in materials ranging from luxurious wool to durable manmade fibres.

Customer Satisfaction

Carpets Direct 2U/Rugs Direct 2U are delighted to have been voted 'Most Loved Carpet & Rugs Business in the UK' (as voted for by local people) for the fifth year running. See what customers have to say about their service and products on the Best of Walsall website. Log onto the Best of Walsall website to read the numerous testimonials and see for yourself why **Carpets Direct 2U** and **Rugs Direct 2U** are so highly recommended as UK's most loved carpet and rugs business, an accolade they are proud of.

Sincere thanks to all customers, old and new, for taking time to forward your recommendations.

- Web: www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk
- Email: info@rugsdirect2u.co.uk



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

Dear Editor,

I have been a blood donor since the early '70s.
We have a wonderful Community Centre in Norton Canes which houses a lot of activities – one of which was the blood donor session on Tuesday afternoons.
On Tuesday mornings there was/is now a children's playgroup.
The blood donor sessions had to be cancelled because there wasn't enough time to set up the equipment to allow the donor session to start on time.
Then we started using the Victoria Club – but not for long.
Never mind, nearby was the Cons Club in Heath Hayes, just a bus ride away. They even had donor sessions on Christmas Eve there.
For whatever reason sessions at that venue were also cancelled.
So - you Norton folk out there who still want to give blood – the nearest venue is 2.5 miles away.
We have the choice of the Catholic Church at Hednesford or the Community Centre at Landywood Lane in Great Wyrley.
Or you could go to the Church of the Latter Day Saints in New Penkridge Road, Cannock. (But don't expect a cup of tea or coffee afterwards at this one. Their religion does not allow caffeine on the premises).
They are all more than just a bus ride away.
Have a happy blood donor session – if you can get there.
Su Pickstone

If you could host a fundraiser to help towards printing costs of this magazine please contact the parish council clerk Linda on 01543 276812 (10am-2pm) or email her nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Table Top Sale

A table top sale will be held at Norton Canes Methodist Church on Saturday June 6.
There will be various stalls, crafts, tombola, raffle, refreshments and more.
The event will take place from 12.30pm-3.30pm.
If anyone would like to book a table (£5) ring Clive Preece on 01543 899785 or 07434 397 695 or email clive_preece@sky.com

Spot the Decorations

Special 'Best Kept Village trees' have been decorated by Norton Canes High School students.

Students created seasonal ceramic shapes which decorate one of the trees situated outside Trinity Methodist Church.

A 'Love our Litter' campaign also resulted in heart shapes made from tin cans.

Norton Canes Primary Academy pupils took part in an art workshop lead by High School year 9 students Millie Edwards and Francesca Russell.

They have created decorations for a tree outside the Community Centre called Remember Our Soldiers.

The tree honours soldiers who fought in the World Wars.

The Craft Club (based in the library) visited the High School on a couple of Wednesdays to create their tree, called Beautiful Recycling.

The 'rather spectacular' tree is made up of plastic bottles.

The final tree has been created by the Watercolour Club. It features beautiful painted postcards of the village and is placed outside the parish office.

High School students have also created two mosaic panels which can be seen on the village notice board outside the Co-op.

Spot the crocheted flowers – in the most unlikeliest of places – around the village. They have been created by the village Knit 'n' Natter group and other village 'crafters'.

Norton Canes High School students from years 7 to 10 have been involved in creating artworks to display in Norton Canes during the judging of the Best Kept Village competition from May 1st. Trees cut from Norton Bog will be adorned with hangers made of clay and recycled materials to fill spaces where no natural planting is possible. Also, students have been creating a mosaic to go in the village centre which commemorates Norton's past and celebrates its present and future. Students researched the history of the village and the mosaic is based largely on the symbols of the swan and the oak tree, ancient symbols of the village.

A' Level Art students are also involved in the project. Before Easter, guests from the community craft club based at the library created exotic flowers from plastic bottles to show the importance of recycling and keeping our village tidy. Norton Primary Academy pupils from Year 2 took part in a printing workshop with Francesca and Millie from Year 9. These will be turned into hangers for their very own tree to commemorate Norton soldiers who fell in World War Two, accompanied by pieces of writing from pupils in KS2.

Report from Norton Canes Neighbourhood Network

The meeting, on March 17, was held at Norton Canes Library.

It was attended by representatives from voluntary and statutory organisations as follows:

Libraries Service provided a list of regular activities held within the library for Norton Canes residents: IT Group, Knit and Natter group, Card Group, Historical Society Coffee Morning, Baby Bounce, Get-together group for older/disabled people, Reading Group.

Information was given on groups in Burntwood which were open to Norton Canes residents: Burntwood Carers, Gateway group for vulnerable adults, Stars Disco - run by and for vulnerable adults, Green Turtles swimming group for disabled people.

Norton Canes Parish Council provided information on placing defibrillators in the village, news about village groups participating in the Best Kept Village for 2015 and a proposed new memorial for the Millennium Garden.

The Longford Centre - Cannock is a new centre for over 55s with facilities open to members of the public. It comprises 63 rental apartments, a restaurant, GP surgery, pharmacy, community rooms and an IT suite. The Centre offers exercise classes and varied activities for older people. It also offers opportunities for volunteers and work placements.

Support Staffordshire is currently undergoing a merger and restructure but will continue to offer volunteer support to organisations and volunteers, a furniture reclamation scheme based at Rugeley and a Community Car scheme for residents of Cannock and surrounding areas. The new telephone contact for the community car scheme is 01543 303025.

Victim Support reported that their Witness Support scheme will be taken over by Citizens Advice Bureau on April 1. The scheme's fully trained volunteers offer emotional and practical support for victims of crime whilst attending court.

Healthwatch Staffordshire continues to monitor the general public's experiences of health and social care in Cannock by surveying and producing reports which influence the way services are designed and delivered. Their current focus is on mental health, learning disabilities and autism. Contact phone number is 0800 051 8371.



Healthwatch NHS Complaints Advocacy Service is a free, independent advocacy service providing practical support and information to people who want to complain about an NHS service. You will be supported to have your complaint dealt with efficiently and be properly investigated. The contact phone number is 0800 161 5600.

The next meeting, open to all residents of Norton Canes, will be at Norton Canes Library on **June 2 at 10am.** We are proposing to hold a 45-minute session by a dementia champion on 'Dementia Friends' for the benefit of family and friends of dementia sufferers.

NORTON CANES FLOWER CLUB

The year has started well.
In February we had a practical meeting led by Christine.
This was a fun evening when we learnt and practised leaf manipulation which we than incorporated into an arrangement.
In March it was the first Open Evening of the 2015.
Members have much to look forward to in our special Sapphire anniversary year.
In April we held a combination evening with flower demonstrations and a Garden Talk with members of Gentleshaw Gardening Club – a varied event.
May 2 was National Flower Day. Members put arrangements in various locations around the village, did you see them?
On **May 20** we will host a demonstration by Louise Rigden entitled Fairy Tale Flowers.
On **June 17** we are having a Strawberry Tea and everyone is welcome to come along. More details later.
On **July 15** there will be a demonstration by Jackie Charnock called Melody of Contrast - an intriguing title.
In **August** there is no meeting. Instead we have an outing to Trentham Gardens.



The club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes at 7.30 pm. New members and visitors are most welcome.
For details ring Jose on 01543 278370.

Would you like to advertise your business in this newsletter and reach every home in the village?

A half page ad' costs just £25, full page £50, double page spread £100.

For details ring the parish council clerk Linda on 01543 276812 (10am-2pm) or email her

nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Norton Canes Historical Society

Some dates for your diary:
Members will be meeting at Norton Canes Library as follows.
May 12: Beer, Bets and Bull Baiting with speaker Mary Bodfish.
June 9: A Child Living in the War in Norton Canes (speaker Brenda Rose).
July/August: No meetings
September 8: Hednesford's History of Horse Racing (Tony Hunt).
Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, 7pm-9pm.
Family History Group/coffee mornings are held on the third Thursday of each month, 10am-12 noon.
All welcome.
The Old Turf Inn excavations have re-commenced.
Volunteers are always welcome.
Please contact Roger Knowles on 01543 279313.



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 at **www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk**
***This Newsletter is Published by NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL**

Car Friend

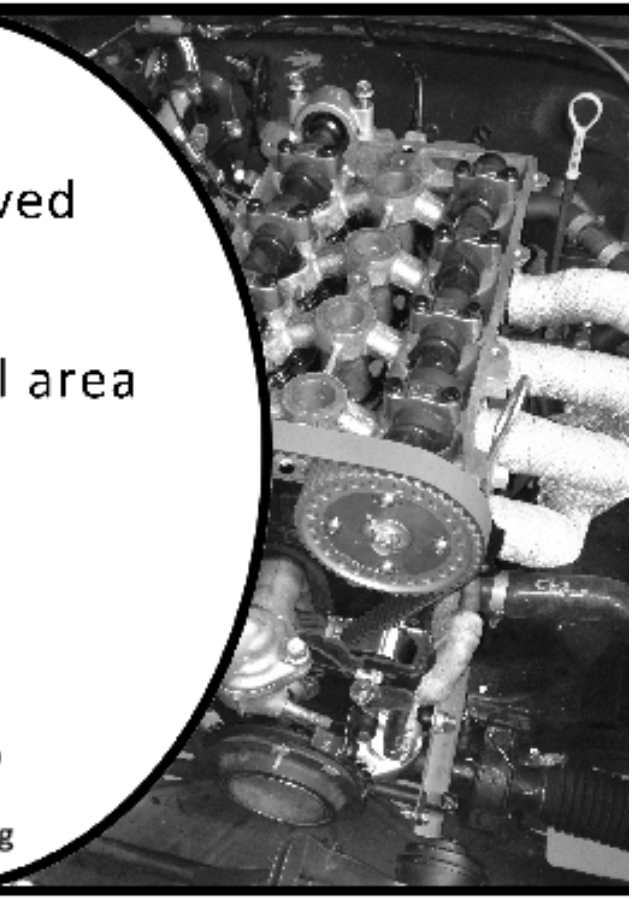


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