


## Aston Villa dugouts homed in Norton Canes!

Norton Canes Football Club has its very own dugouts – courtesy of Aston Villa Football Club.

The dugouts, for home and away, were installed in December at Norton Canes Primary Academy, where the youngsters' club is based.

To add to the excitement their arrival generated, the two dugouts were officially dedicated by Villa star Gordon 'Sid' Cowans.

Villa ran a competition to win their old dugouts, which had been at their ground since 2001. And Norton Canes FC won it.

Club chairman Ryan Horton was ecstatic.

"We have a lot of Villa-mad young members so it's great for them to have such a historic part of a football club as part of their own," he said.

"Many great managers and players have sat in those dugouts so it's a real privilege."

"Gordon was brilliant. He answered plenty of questions from our youngsters.

"The kids asked him what it was like to win and be part of a European Cup winning side."

And he revealed even the dads were excited to meet Gordon, because they attended games 15-20 years ago when he was playing.

"It was a real celebration all round," Ryan added.

Norton Canes Football Club has nine teams of youngsters aged between four and 15 - with 250 members including players and coaches.

Players can sit in the dugouts, which are fixed to the ground.

The dugouts are sponsored by XPEL Environment, Voujon Restaurant and Midland Signs and Graphics.

Ryan is appealing for sponsorship towards the club's running costs.





February 2015 Issue 9

# Norton Canes Village News

## ST JAMES - NEW CHURCHYARD

### HAVE YOUR SAY

Burial space at St James Church is running out.

Norton Canes Parish Council has been aware for some time that there will soon be no space left in the churchyard.

And the results of a survey some years ago revealed Norton Canes residents want to be buried in the village - and not have to go to other areas in Cannock Chase.

Parish councillors have been working for the last two years with the church to take forward a project for a new churchyard.

The aim is to increase the churchyard capacity for the next 50 years.

Discussions have taken place with the landowner and agreement has been reached in principle to buy adjacent land.

A number of meetings have taken place with the church and the parish council has now submitted a planning application to Cannock Chase Council for approval.

The parish council is obliged to consult with the general public to see if they agree with spending public money on a burial site for the village.

Two public meetings have been arranged:

**Tuesday February 24 at Norton Canes Library, 7pm.**

**Saturday March 7 at Norton Canes Community Centre, 10am.**

Residents are encouraged to view the plans and make any representations they wish on the project.

Information about how the project can be funded will also be available.

Chartered Engineer Sam Whitehouse, who has produced the plans, will be available to answer any questions arising from the meeting.

Anyone with any queries about the plans can ring parish clerk Linda Florence on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

*Page 3* *Page 5* *Page 13* *Page 24*









**Hi everyone**



Welcome to Newsletter 9 and thank you to all those who contributed.

'The 9th edition already?' I hear you say. How time flies when you are enjoying yourself.

It is a privilege being able to write this newsletter and keep everyone informed what is going on in the village. As you can see there is always plenty to report.

I am pleased to live in a village where there is no need for anyone to feel isolated. Residents have a wealth of organisations to join – to get involved in as much or as little as they wish.

Over Christmas I attended Jerome Primary School's concert. The children pulled off a really funny production – about a school trying to put on a Christmas play and all the difficulties that go with it – a kind of 'play within a play'. With funny songs and children playing the parts of pupils, staff and parents I think it was their best show so far.

I also visited the Christmas Tree Festival at Trinity Methodist Church. The humour and poignancy of some of the trees on display made for a real spectacle.

Thanks to Cllr Sheila Harding for laying out this newsletter and dealing with a constant barrage of emails from me.

Please treat this newsletter as your own village newspaper. Send me any stories/photos for the next edition. If you feel a particular area/cause has been neglected, could that be because you haven't told me about it?

We need a good balance of serious articles and humorous ones. You can email me cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk or drop information into the parish office at the rear of the Co-op.

**Janet Lee**

Editor



**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

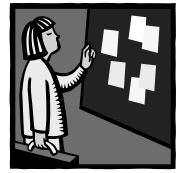
**Trinity Methodist Church**

Poplar Street, Norton Canes. WS11 9SG

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

**NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2014 ~ 2015**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cllr J. Bernard (Chairman) | 01543 274427 |
| Cllr J. Preece (Vice Chairman) | 01543 278872 |
| Cllr J. Beddows | 01543 279991 |
| Cllr Mrs A. Bernard | 01543 274427 |
| Cllr Mrs Z. Stretton MBE | 01543 276959 |
| Cllr J. Bridgen | 01543 271679 |
| Cllr J Hampshire | 01543 279850 |
| Cllr Mrs M. Hopley | 01543 274396 |
| Cllr Mrs S. Harding | 01543 275013 |
| Cllr R. Knowles | 01543 279313 |
| Cllr R. Horton | 01543 270801 |
| Cllr R. Wilkinson | 07956 994199 |
| Clerk to the Parish Council Mrs L. Florence (between 10am-2pm) | 01543 276812 |



**Useful contacts for district and county 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 Holder | on 01543 279475 |
| | Cllr John Preece | on 01543 278872 |

County councillor: Diane Todd on 01543 278778

# NOTICE BOARD

EASTER FUN
at the
Community Centre Fayre

**Make a diary date.**

There's an Easter Egg Hunt and Bonnet Parade at the centre on
**Saturday March 28**.
The fun takes place from 12 noon until 3pm.
Lots of stalls and bargains
There will be prizes for the best Easter bonnets.
And the Easter Bunny is coming!

.....

A Family Easter Disco takes place at the centre on
**Sunday March 29.**
The disco will be held from 4pm-6pm.
The Easter bonnet prizes will be given out at the disco.

**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

**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



Best Kept Village – with Woolly Flowers!

Picture the scene: trees and fences covered in flowers – made of wool!
A local councillor visited an arts festival and saw just what can be done with decorative knitted and crocheted flowers.
And she decided to bring the idea back to our village.
Always looking to enhance the village, Councillor Sheila Harding thought the woolly flowers could be used to decorate any dull areas – such as non flowering trees or fences.
Now members of the village 'Knit and Natter' group have got involved.
The members, who meet at Norton Canes Library, are starting to knit the flowers.
And Cllr Harding intends to get stuck in – knitting one flower a night while watching TV.
She said the flowers can be used to 'pretty up' any plain areas.
Local councillor Sheila Harding said: "We hope residents will help us in the Best Kept Village competition this year by knitting or crocheting flowers for us to decorate dull areas of the village."
Norton Canes Parish Council has already used crocheted flowers to good effect. They were used to decorate the council's Christmas tree at Trinity Methodist Church's Christmas Tree Festival.
Other projects are also coming together to make the village more decorative. Norton Canes High School pupils are working on ceramic and metal decorations which can also be used to decorate the village.
And they are also making a mosaic out of special words which represent Norton Canes. The mosaic will be installed in a prominent position in the centre of the village
Former Norton Canes resident Sam Whitehouse is creating a map of the village showing churches, the library, parks, seating and information boards.
The Best Kept Village judges will be visiting the village in May and June, but we will not know the exact date.
If anyone can donate any wool, or if anyone would like to help in any way, ring Cllr Harding on 01543 275013 or speak to the parish clerk Linda at the parish office.



Knit 'n' Natter
Takes place every Tuesday at Norton Canes Library from 2pm-4pm.
Admission is free.
Come and join us for fun and chatter.
We are knitting flowers for the Best Kept Village competition and would be grateful for any donations of bright coloured wool.
Come and join us and have a go.

Festive Festival Went Down a Treat

Norton Canes Methodist Church hosted its first Christmas Tree Festival.
The Poplar Street church was filled with 17 decorated trees donated by local people and organisations.
The event, organised by Susan Hewitt and Jenny Gough, attracted a number of visitors to the church at the end of November.
Local shops, schools and organisations were invited to visit the church on November 28 to decorate their tree - or bring it along already decorated.

Posters were put up around the village advertising the event and everyone was invited to view the trees. At the same time, visitors were treated to tea, coffee and mince pies.
Jenny said: "It was non profit-making, just a way of bringing the village together to start the Christmas celebrations.
"Some people put money in the box. The money was added to our candlelight carol service and Christmas morning service collection and given to the Ebola appeal."

Trees were donated by Norton Canes Parish Council, the village Flower Club, Watercolour club, Methodist Church Saturday Coffee Morning, Girls Brigade, British Legion, Ann's Café and Catering, Nevells shop, Food Bank, W I, Slimming Club, Norton Canes High School, Methodist Church Stewards and church members.

Jenny added: "We wish to thank everyone for taking part in any way. We were pleased with our first attempt - but hope to involve even more people next year."

*Decorated by Ann's Cafe and Catering in memory of John Cameron.*



*Norton Canes High School art work and recycling to be featured in this year's Best Kept Village competition.*





*Parish council contribution. Tree donated by Cllrs John and Mrs Ann Bernard. Decorated with 'woolly flowers'*



## Norton Canes Community Centre



Regular events
Why not join in one of them?

Mondays: Playgroup, 8.15am-1pm. 07891 149 381
Watercolours, 10am-1pm. 01543 275013
Sewing Group, 1pm-4pm.
Tuesdays: Playgroup, 8.15am-3pm.
Poundshedders, 7pm-8pm. 01543 278534
Indoor bowls, 7.30pm-9.30pm. 01543 279185
Wednesdays: Playgroup, 8.15am-1pm
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
Thursdays: Playgroup, 8.15am-3pm.
Chris's cards, 10am-12 noon. 07964 578 545
Kano Judo Club, 6.30pm-9.30pm. 01543 459785
Sugar Craft, 7pm-9pm.
Fridays: Playgroup, 8.15am-1pm.
Tea dance, 1.30pm-3.30pm.
Jenny's Social, 7.30pm-10.30pm. 01922 415232
Saturdays: (1st and 3rd) Jenny and Terry, 8pm till late.
01922 415232
(2nd and 4th) Nev's Line Dance, 7.30pm-12 midnight
07894 947 334

Every school holiday the Family Fun Club runs on Tuesdays, 10am-1pm for up to 11-year-olds.
For more details ring Jackie on 07999 217 364 or Wendy 07845 678 003.

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

## Volunteers Wanted

Are you interested in helping out at your local country park?
The rangers need assistance in improving wildlife habitats at several countryside sites including Chasewater, Norton Bog, Hatherton Reservoir, Sevens Road Wood and Wimblebury Mound.
The work varies from site to site but includes woodland and heathland management, improving public rights of way and access, helping out at events, litter picking, general tidying up - and keeping an eye on the place.
It is also an opportunity to keep active and meet like-minded people.
No experience is needed. Just bring 'a smile and a pair of gloves.
Work parties are normally on Wednesdays and Sundays, but help on other days is also welcome.
Corporate volunteering opportunities are also available.
Anyone interested can obtain more details from Rob on 07855 336 907 (office hours).




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



## Lifesaving Equipment Installed in the Village

Norton Canes has a life-saving defibrillator in the foyer of the Community Centre.
Money was raised for the equipment by many local people and by numerous fundraisers.
The defibrillator, which can resuscitate the heart after a heart attack, 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.
The idea of fundraising started at a village Patients' Participation Group at the beginning of 2014. Group members decided a defibrillator was needed in the village 'urgently'.
Money came from sales of a booklet 'Old to New Community Centre' and a sing-a-long CD originally made by the British Heart Foundation (BHF).
Trinity Methodist Church helped with the sale of the booklet and CD.
Many individuals and local groups also helped raised the funds.
The defibrillator was bought thanks to private donations, raffles and competitions such as 'guessing the birthday of the teddy bear.
Village groups involved with the fundraisers were the Over 60s, RVS, WI and Norton Canes Partnership.
Fundraising dances were held at the Community Centre and at Trinity Methodist Church.
A £500 donation was also received from county councillor Diane Todd from her Staffordshire County Council Community Fund.
Norton Canes Community Centre Committee also donated £200.
A second defibrillator, part-funded by the British Heart Foundation, will be installed on an outside wall at Trinity Methodist Church.
The British Heart Foundation insists defibrillators should be accessible and unlocked.
Fundraising will continue for equipment such as replacement pads and training.
A training session on how to use the defibrillator is being arranged with West Midlands Ambulance Service.
Fund organiser/fundraiser Mort Bakewell said: "The money was raised by many people. Sincere thanks to all who helped."

PARISH NEWS

**Community Grants**

The parish council presented cheques to local community groups at its meeting on January 21. The presentation took place at Norton Canes Library. Full details of the grants are available on the parish council website www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

**Lantern Parade**

The Lantern Parade took place on December 7 and was well attended.
The procession was led by Santa and supported by Cannock Chase Drum Corps.
The event also included attending the Christmas lights switch-on at Trinity Methodist Church.
Children and parents were treated to refreshments afterwards at the Community Centre. Norton Canes Primary School children attended the event and put on their 'flash dance' display.

**Festive Window Competition**

The results of the Festive Window Competition are: 1st Place Ann's Café, 2nd C K Hairdressers, 3rd J D Nevells. The winners were presented with their trophies at the January parish council meeting.

**Elections**

May 7 is the date of the general, district and town/parish council elections. Please ensure you vote for your chosen candidate.

**Community Award**

Each year the parish council recognises volunteers in the community who provide additional support to groups. This year's Community Award went to Morton Bakewell
The parish council also recognises that young people who volunteer make contributions to local community groups or make a difference in their school.
This year's Youth Endeavour Award goes to Mason Whordley age 6.

**Defibrillators**

The first defibrillator for the village has been delivered for the Community Centre. The second one is being ordered through the British Heart Foundation and will be located at Trinity Methodist Church in Poplar Street.
Norton Canes is leading the way with defibrillators being available in the village.

**Best Kept Village Competition 2015**

After the success of the village entry in 2014 where we received a Highly Commended award we are again entering the Competition in 2015.
The parish council will be working towards this during the coming months with judging taking place in May and July. Local schools are involved in the project.
We hope residents will play their part too.
If you would like to become a volunteer/ help with some of the tasks that need to be undertaken please contact Linda on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk




# Norton and District

## Independent Family Funeral Directors

*1 Shaw court, Brownhills Road, Norton Canes, WS11 9SE*

Here at Norton and District we aim to provide a bespoke, dignified service, to people in and around the Norton Canes area, at a time of great sadness and confusion.

As a small family run business we are fully aware of the hardship that suffering a bereavement can bring, and we aim to support all of our clients as family, as we would be expected to be treated ourselves.

The following are just a few services we offer, however we pride ourselves on catering for almost any request, so please feel free to ask!

*Pre-planned funerals*

*24 hour advice*

*Home visits*

*Non-Religious Funerals*

*DHSS catered for*

*Private Chapel of Rest*

*Funeral packages start from* £2,345.00

*Telephone 24/7: 01543 278577*

*Email: nortonanddistrictfd@gmail.com*

## Food Bank plea

Norton Canes Food Bank continues to operate at Trinity Methodist Church.
And the message is: please continue to help.

Latest figures show one in five people in the Cannock area are living below the poverty line.
Over the past 12 months local people have show extraordinary generosity – donating 37.9 tons of food.
But the problem is: 40.9 tons of food have been handed out.
To make up the shortfall, Food Bank staff have had to go out and buy urgently needed foodstuffs.
Local store Tesco has supported the project by holding collection trolleys in their stores.
And about 39 per cent of the food needed is donated by 44 local churches which hold regular collections.
About 14 per cent of donations come from harvest festivals around the district, 17 per cent from supermarkets.
Donations are also received from local shops, schools and individuals.
Across the district there are 110 volunteers.
Latest figures reveal over 3,500 people across the district have received food from Food Banks.
This includes 2,353 adults and 1, 178 children.

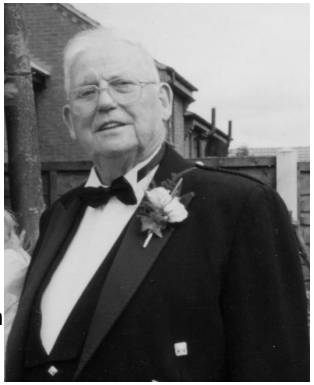
The main reasons people give for needing to apply to the Food Bank are: benefit changes or delays, unemployment, homelessness and breakdown in relationships. Over 20 per cent of applicants have debt problems.
Applicants to the food bank are asked to first obtain a voucher from agencies such as health centres.

Norton Canes Food Bank is open on Saturdays from 10am-12 noon.
The aim is to provide an emergency food supply during a crisis.
If you would like to become a Friend of the Food Bank you can sponsor running costs for £5 a month or more. If you would like to make a donation or become a Friend ring 01543 422394 or email foodbank@pyegreen.co.uk

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



## Tribute to a Fine Family Man



The village has lost one of its treasures.
John Cameron, from Butts Way, died at Walsall Manor Hospital in November. He was 87 years old.
John came to the village with his wife and three children from Birmingham in 1967.
The couple had two more children after moving to the village.

John worked as a painter and decorator for Birmingham City Council. In his later years he worked as a glazier.
John was a member of Norton Canes Drama Society, with most of his family. He performed, built sets and was stage manager. One of the shows he was involved in was a production of Oliver.
John was a governor at Norton Canes High School.
He was a member of Norton Canes Community Partnership, which was formed to obtain funding for new library facilities in the village.

Local councillor John Beddows said John was 'well respected'.
"He was chairman of the Library Committee for most of his life and was instrumental in putting a business plan together for enough funding to build the new library and Community Hub," he said.
"Without John's expertise and commitment the new library would not have been possible."
Local resident Jean Hill said: "With the sad passing of John Cameron Norton Canes lost a really good gentleman.
"Whilst not everyone in the village had the good fortune of knowing him, I felt very privileged to have worked alongside of him on the Community Partnership Committee and especially on the Library Committee of which he was chairman.
"He worked tirelessly with David Clarke chairman of the Partnership (another one of life's gentlemen) along with the rest of the committee to bring the plans for a new library to fruition.
"John will be sadly missed by all of us who knew him."

John used to arrange fun Christmas parties for the elderly at the former St James' Church Hall.

He was also involved with organising the free community mini bus for local organisations to use.
John was also a blood donor.

His son Don, from Church Road, Norton Canes, said: "Dad was forthright, but very much a family man. He worked hard for his family. His family was everything."
John's funeral was held at Sutton Crematorium.
He leaves five children: Lynn, Lesley, Don, Jayne and Paul who all live locally.

Appeal for space

Are you an employer or do you work anywhere that has storage space?
'Seasons' drama group for vulnerable adults is seeking a low-cost, dry place to store and work on scenery.
They have transport and are looking for anywhere in the Cannock area.
There are a number of families in Norton Canes who have members in the group.
If you can help please ring Maureen Ansell on 01543 277188.

**Urgent appeal for volunteer drivers**

Norton Canes Community Partnership urgently needs volunteer drivers for its mini-bus.
The most pressing need is for drivers to pick up members of the Over 60s Club from their homes on Tuesday afternoons.
Drivers take them to the Lido Club (club starts 1pm) then pick them up at 3pm to take them home.
Drivers are also needed to pick up members of the RVS Club which meets at Norton Canes Community Centre on Wednesdays from 1.30pm-3.30pm.
And volunteers are needed to take villagers on trips to Sainsbury's on Thursdays.
Pick-ups take place at 9.30am and 10.15am. The shoppers are picked up for their return journey home at 11.45am and 12.15pm.
Drivers must be aged 25-70 with a clean driving licence. The back of the licence must state D1 01 in the qualifying category.
A spokesperson for the volunteer service said: "The mini-bus is a vital service for elderly groups in the village who are socially excluded without it.
"If you can help on any of these three days we would be most grateful."
The bus is also available for other groups in the village to use on the remaining days.
To offer your help/obtain more details ring Beryl Hall on 07974 569 482.



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








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 fourth 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**



NORTON CANES HISTORICAL SOCIETY
&
FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The historical society meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Norton Canes Library, 7pm-9pm. Admission is free.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday February 10: Speaker Ian Bott gives a talk on 'A Grave Subject' (Midland Gravestones).

Tuesday March 10: Speaker Alan Lewis - 'Things you might not know about Staffordshire' .

Tuesday April 14: Speaker Cliff Kirby-Tibbits - 'The History of Walsall'.

Members also meet for Coffee Mornings at the library from 10am-12 noon on the third Thursday of the month: February 19, March 19, April 23.

Members and non members are welcome.

## Jerome Primary School

Since our last edition youngsters at Jerome Primary School have had a busy time. In November they hosted a Remembrance Day service at the school where they were joined by members of the Royal British Legion. Money from sales of poppy -related items was donated to the Legion.

Children raised money for Children in Need day by dressing as superheroes.

In December the school hosted a Christmas Fair.

Youngsters from the church choir sang in the Christmas Festival of Hope at the Community Centre with the Emmanuel Church Band.

Children performed in the school's Christmas Musical – a funny performance about teachers trying to arrange a Christmas performance – but all does not go to plan! The children took the parts of the headteacher, teachers, teachers' assistants, parents, school cooks, teaching – and pupils. Great songs and hilarious dialogue.

The year ended with children attending the village's Christmas lantern parade.
*The school is appealing for Morrison's Let's Grow vouchers – a scheme which provides gardening resources free in exchange for the vouchers.

Busy Norton Canes High School

**Festive card winners**

Here are just some of the activities which took place last term.
Two Norton Canes High School pupils took top places in Cannock Chase Council's Christmas card competition.
Jodie Grice took first place in the 12-16 category. Connor Mathews was runner-up with his pop-up design.
Both were invited to an award ceremony.
Jodie's design was used by the council as their Christmas card.

**Norton Canes High's Got Talent!**

Students from all years took part in a school talent show. Many different acts performed ranging from year 7 gymnasts to year 11 singers.
In true X Factor style, auditions were held and those who performed well made it to the final where they performed before years 7, 8 and 9.
The winners were announced the next day.
Key Stage 3 winner was Josh Marklew from year 8 who sang Girl on Fire.
The KS4 winner was Abi Shuttleworth from year 11 who sang and played guitar to The Apple Tree.
The overall winner was Aime Drury from year 9 who showed a video of one of her recent ice skating competition dances.

**Norton Canes High School Farewell**

Staff and students said goodbye to Mr Halford – who leaves the school to take up a post in Dubai.
Mr Halford joined the school in September 2012 as a newly qualified teacher of ICT.
Headteacher Sara Birchall said: "In a short space of time he made a huge impact on the school delivering excellent lessons under the expert guidance of Mr Farley and introducing Computing Science at GCSE. Mr Halford has also led our sixth form and has again done a superb job in creating a vibrant learning experience for our older students.
"He has contributed to all aspects of school life, accompanying and leading visits abroad and participating in a wide range of school events.
"We are all sad to see him leave, but I am sure he will keep in touch.
Thank you for the fabulous job you have done here. We all wish you every success for the future."

**Latest fixtures and results**

Year 7 Boys 5-A-Side Football are Cannock and District Final winners.
Year 7 Girls Football: reached the semi-finals of Cannock and District tournament.
Year 7 Girls Netball: beat Great Wyrley High School 5 –0

**MS Society and Paul's Fun Fund**

Students took part in a 'Wear your Christmas Jumper (or Santa Hat or Christmassy item)' day in return for donating £1 .
The proceeds were split between our MS SOCIETY and the Paul Lee-Davis Fund.
Paul, a former pupil of the school, lost his battle against a rare form of leukaemia in 2011, aged 37.
A charity has been set up in his name which funds treats/days out for young adults at the Haematology Unit, New Cross Hospital, where Paul was treated
Paul's nephew, Thomas Lee-Davis , attends the school in Year 7.



NORTON CANES FLOWER CLUB

Members enjoyed a varied programme of meetings last year so 2014 was another successful year.

In October we had a practical evening led by Josie which was an opportunity to learn for members.
The annual meeting was also held at the end of October.

In November Sybil taught how to make beautiful bows - useful for wrapping presents.
We also had a Christmas demonstration by Michael Handy at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock. This was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all.
Club members took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Norton Canes, at the end of November.

The meeting in December was a party and a good time was had, with the results of the photograph competition and decorating a cross given.
These crosses will be displayed at St Luke's Church Cannock.

The new year is a special year.
The flower club started on January 20, 1970, which means it has been in the Village for 45 years, our sapphire anniversary.

We are looking forward to 2015 with a variety of activities:
On February 18 there will be a practical session with Christine.



In March there will be a special event. March 18 is to be an Open Evening at Norton Canes High School, 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. The title of the demonstration is 'Spring Celebrations'. It will be presented by Sharon Badger.
Tickets are £6 from Marjorie on 01543 279133 or pay on the door.
April 15 will be a practical evening.

Members meet on the third Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 7.30pm.

New members are always welcome.
For more information ring Jose Aulton on 01543 278370.

Norton Canes Community Centre (the old one)

Thank you to Mrs R Fereday who dropped these pictures of the old Community Centre into the parish office.
A former villager took exception to our newsletter referring to the old community centre as looking like a 'tin shack'.
She pointed out the building, which stood on the junction of Jerome Road/Brownhills Road, had pre-formed pebble dashed concrete walls and was 'quite modern for its day'.

Now we have proof what it really looked like.
The photo was taken about 2000 just before the building was demolished.

Judge for yourself.....

Whatever you think of the building, love it or not, there are many villagers who remember happy times there.
I can remember one particular hilarious night with local comedy duo Dandy.

Let us know if you have any fond memories (or otherwise) of the old Community Centre at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk





**Norton Canes W I**
Members meet every 1st Wednesday of the month at
Norton Canes Library, 7.30pm.
New members are always welcome.
We have lots of new speakers lined up for future meetings.
For more details ring Gill on 01543 279039.



Norton Canes High School—Winners in
Cannock Chase Council's Christmas Card Completion




Jodie Grice




Connor Mathews

**Norton Canes Lantern Parade**

On behalf of the children, parents, grandparents and staff of Norton Canes Primary Academy I would like to pass on my thanks to all those involved in organising the Community Lantern Parade.

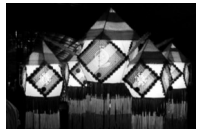
It was such a lovely event that unites the whole community, a wonderful experience for the children involved and a special way to start Christmas celebrations. We are particularly grateful for the time June Davies gave to coming into school and helping parents and children make their lanterns. The lanterns looked spectacular as the whole parade moved round the village.

Thanks to parish council clerk Linda Florence too for coming in to school to collect the lanterns and get them ready for the parade. And thanks to the team of volunteers who also helped to make the event such a success. What a fantastic job by all involved.

It was lovely to see some staff attending too, including two long standing teaching assistants, Barbara Clover and Glenys Cooper, who sadly finished work at Christmas after 53 years' service between them. We will miss them very much.

I hope that as a school we can continue to work with the local community to enjoy many more of these occasions.

**Karen Amos**
***Headteacher***
***Norton Canes Primary Academy***



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

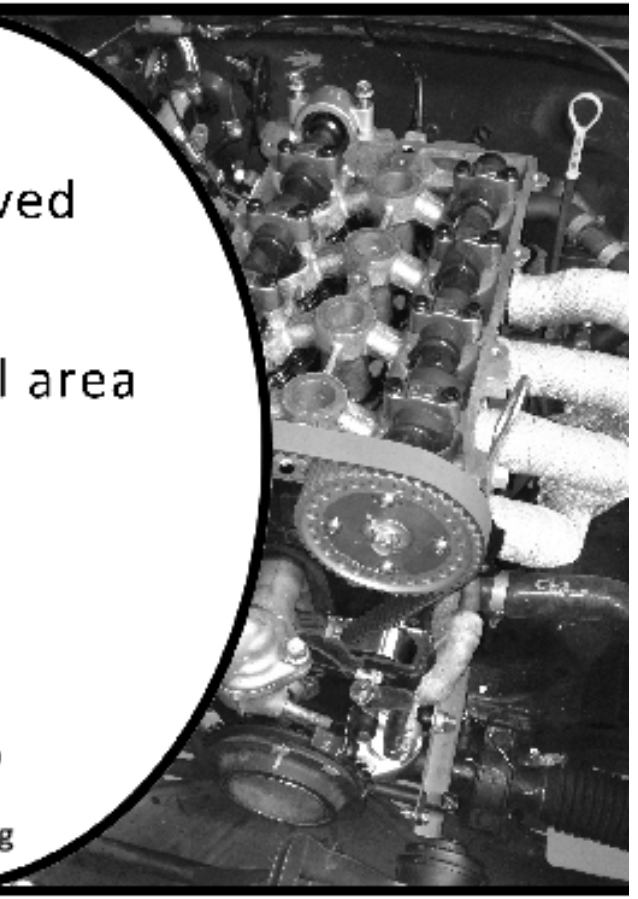


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