

Page 5: Zaphne Stretton and her husband Michael Stretton. Photograph courtesy of Silke Wilhelm-Maemecke



Page 9: 'Autumn Leaves' one of the beautiful Cannock Photographic Society pictures



Page 11: J an's Crazy Tree



Cannock Chase vice chairman Cllr Paul Witton watches as Clive's sister Emma gives him a close shave.



At the January Fair: (from left) Emma Williams, parish council clerk Linda Florence, Erin Williams, Cannock Chase Council vice chairman Cllr Paul Witton, parish councillor Clive Preece and Wendy McGreevy.



Parish councillor Clive Preece (left) receiving a donation from Norton Canes Watercolour Club member Alan Cox.

Pictures from January Fair
In aid of St. Giles Hospice
Organised by Cllr Clive Preece
See story: page 4

March
2018
Issue 21

Norton Canes Village News

Freddie's Fight



Villagers are asked to support a special event in aid of a Norton Canes toddler.

Freddie Smith, aged two, was diagnosed in September last year with neuroblastoma. Further tests revealed he had germ cell cancer which caused tumours to form in his hip, liver, bones and spine.

Freddie is enduring chemotherapy and results so far show treatment has been effective. But the youngster has suffered some permanent nerve damage. He also has a weak immune system.

The toddler will have to make regular trips to hospital and be monitored closely for a long time.

A fundraiser, 'A Gig For Freddie', will take place at Yates's Social Club, Norton Canes, on June 23 from 12 noon.

His Godmother, Cindy Foster, said: "He has coped with the whole devastating time with bravery and managed to smile – no easy task given how poorly he has been with infections, regular blood tests, scans, blood transfusions and medication. He is a real superhero."

Jemma said Norton Canes has already shown 'immense support'.

Freddie's mum, Jemma Green, works at Norton Canes Primary School Nursery. His dad, Gareth Smith, works as an electrician for a local firm.

The family received a £151 donation from the Lantern Parade hosted by Norton Canes Parish Council. The Lido, The Vic, The Railway Tavern and Yates's also held fundraisers. Money raised is for practical expenses, hospital visits and a family holiday when Freddie is well enough to travel.

"This support has meant so much," Cindy added. "Gareth and Jemma will be eternally grateful to family, friends, local businesses and everyone who has helped them along the most frightening journey any parent can imagine."

Tickets for the June 23 event are £10 adults, £5 children.

Cindy is appealing for local bands to come forward to perform (open air, weather permitting).

For more information email Katy Shepherd via k.elouise@hotmail.co.uk

A big hello and welcome to Newsletter 21. Your even fatter newsletter really has come of age.



Shriek! The picturesque view from my house

Residents of Church Road have experienced something akin to sounds of an earthquake over the last few weeks with thunderous bangs, crashes and roars resounding as road works got into full swing.
Despite the noise and disruption it appears most residents appreciated the work had to be done. My experience has been that the workmen have bent over backwards to be accommodating to minimise inconvenience so I would like to express my thanks for the friendly waves and guidance as I tried to negotiate giant diggers and the like to get on and off my drive.
Which reminds me: not everyone is so polite.

Conversation overheard between two women in the village Co-op:
"As a vegetarian I find it disgusting that people sell meat."
"Well – I think selling fruit and veg is grocer."

You are all doing a great job keeping the articles coming in. Please keep up the good work.
Until next time.
Loves
Jan

To avoid disappointment items for the June newsletter must be sent to Jan by May 1: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Rev Up for the Yew Tree Car Show



The Yew Tree pub car show takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from March.

The popular event, which runs until October, attracts classic, custom and American vehicles.

*The Norton Canes pub also hosts live music every Saturday night.

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2017 ~ 2018

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr C. Preece (Vice Chairman)	01543 899785
Cllr J. Beddows	01543 279991
Cllr Mrs Zaphne Stretton MBE	01543 276959
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bridgen	01543 271679
Cllr Mrs M. Hopley	01543 274396
Cllr Mrs S. Harding	01543 275013
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279475
Cllr M. Stretton	01543 276959
Cllr C. Cox	01543 459477
Cllr J. Hampshire	01543 279850

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

Useful contacts for district and county and other matters

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

The district councillors are:

Cllr Mrs Zaphne Stretton on	01543 276959
Cllr Mike Hoare on	01543 279989
Cllr John Preece on	01543 270789

County councillor: Johnny McMahon 07584638356
Email: Johnny@localconservative.org.uk

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

Norton Canes RVS (Darby and Joan)

This fun club meets at Norton Canes Community Centre every Wednesday.
There is room for more male or female members (no upper or lower age limit).
Members enjoy trips, celebrations and birthday parties throughout the year.
They meet from 1.30pm-3.30pm. You are invited to join the fun.
For more details, ring **Zaphne or Mike on 01543 276959.**

Norton Canes Football Club: Game On

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



Any questions?

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

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

10.30am-11.30am.

News From Your Parish Council

Potholes

It is good news that resurfacing work on Church Road has been completed which is a great improvement. The parish council continues to meet with Staffordshire County Council Highways Department liaison officer to review other areas where potholes need to be repaired.

Lantern Parade

The lantern parade took place on December 3 and was a great success. Thanks to all who attended and to volunteers/marshalls who ensured the parade was carried out in a safe manner. A big thank you to Santa too. We are now looking to plan this year's event. Details will appear in our newsletter later in the year.

Community Litter picks

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

Fond Memories of Frank Green

Former Norton Canes parish councillor Frank Green passed away on November 22.
Frank served on the parish council for 14 years from when it was founded.
Frank also dedicated a lot of time to Norton Canes Community Centre, having served as committee chairman, a position he held for 13 years before retiring a few years ago.
Community Centre committee members would like to send their condolences to Frank's family and friends.
A committee spokesperson said, "Frank gave many years of service to the village."

All the Fun of the Fair

The New Year Shopping Fair, held at Trinity Methodist Church, raised £1,500 for St Giles' Hospice – and the money is still rolling in.
Organiser Councillor Clive Preece said thanks are due to everyone who supported the Poplar Street, Norton Canes event.
He would like to thank two special guests: Cannock Chase Council vice chairman Cllr Paul Witton for opening the event and Cllr John Kraujalis for taking the photos on the day. Thanks also to Trinity Methodist Church for providing the venue.

Cllr Preece said the event could not have taken place without the help of many volunteers including Wendy McGreevy, Lesley Hunnwick and Glennis Clews who co-ordinated refreshments on the day.

Thanks also to: Morrisons who supplied food for the event; Sheila Leach for providing a beautiful cake for the 'guess the weight of the cake' competition; stallholders Linda Florence, Margaret Sheedy, Wendy Pallatina, Gill Allen, Laura Carroll, Chris and Ian Straughan, Brenda and Stuart Benton, Jenny Gough, Zaphne Stretton, Emma and Erin Williams, Danny Finch and Dave Smith.
Despite poor weather the event still achieved a good attendance. Norton Canes Watercolour Club provided a donation raised by members donating money rather than sending Christmas cards Jenny and Robert Ford also raised extra money. Village businesses the Co-op, Norton Aluminium, Durapipe, Nevells and Craig Watts provided raffle prizes.

Cllr Preece thanks his sister Emma for shaving his head to raise funds and Jean Hill for providing a beautiful embroidered quilt for the grand raffle first prize.

Thanks also to Chris Straughan and Jenny Dunn for providing second and third raffle prizes and to Brenda Rose for making aprons for kitchen staff and for helping with bunting.
"It was a great team effort to raise money for a good cause - in special memory of a great guy, my dad (Jim Preece), who passed away 14 years ago," Cllr Preece said.

See pictures page 36

ST JAMES THE GREAT NORTON CANES

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES LEADING TO EASTER

Passion Sunday March 18 8.00am Mass
10.30am Solemn Mass
12.00 Annual Church Meeting of Parishioners
Palm Sunday March 25 8.00am Mass
10.30am Palm Procession and Solemn Mass
Monday 26 March 7.00pm Mass
Tuesday 27 March 7.00pm Mass
Wednesday 28 March 11.00am and 7.00pm Mass
Maundy Thursday 29 March
7.00pm Solemn Mass of the Last Supper
Good Friday 30 March
10.30am "Footsteps" a Children's Activity with short Service
To include Hot Cross Buns



12.00pm Stations of the Cross

1.00 pm Lent Lunch in aid Let the Children Live
ALL WELCOME
7.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

Holy Saturday 31 March
8.00pm The Easter Vigil and the First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday 1 April 8.00am Mass

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(weekly services are on the church notice board).
Sunday Mass at 8am.
Sung Eucharist 10.30am (Sunday School held during this service).
Weekday Holy Communion: Wednesday 11am and Thursday 7pm.

Rector Fr Neil Hibbins 01543 278969, email neil_hibbins@lycos.co.uk
Church clerk Mary Carpenter 01543 275296, email maryofnorton@talktalk.net
Church warden Ann Eden 01543 278737.
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Norton Canes Health Centre - Dr W Nilar & Dr W Htike

The flu immunisation programme went very well with lots of patients taking up the invitation of having their immunisations this year.

Dr Anthony, who was with us for six months, has completed his training and moved on. It was a pleasure working alongside him and he was well liked by all patients who saw him.

If you would like to join the patient on-line services please speak to a member of staff. This will enable you to request repeat prescriptions and make appointments with the GP. This service is very popular amongst our patients.

Do you find it difficult to attend during our normal appointment times? If so, we do 7am on Wednesdays with Dr Nilar and Tuesday 6.30pm-7.10pm with Dr Htike.

Bowel Scope Screening This is a service offered to people aged 55- 60. You will receive an invitation to take part. You can ring the freephone helpline for advice on 0800 707 60 60.

Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening is a free check for men aged 65 and over. This is done by ultrasound scan of your abdomen. If you have not had an invitation to attend please ring 01782 674356 and speak to the screening team.

Reception opening times are Monday to Friday, 8am-6.30pm. Booking of appointments open at 8.30am for morning appointments; 2pm for afternoon appointments. Ring 01543 450222.

If you have any queries please contact the surgery on the above number or ask to speak to practice manager Jane Potter.

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Special Honour for Zaphne

A Norton Canes councillor has been awarded a prestigious prize from a church in our village's twin town Datteln.

Councillor Zaphne Stretton, who was presented with the Etienne Bach Prize by the Evangelical Church in Germany, said she was 'overwhelmed'.

It is the first time the prize has been awarded. It was presented to Zaphne for her 'commitment to reconciliation and peace between the British and German people'.

The Prize was set up to honour people or initiatives working for more understanding and exchange between those of a different culture, religion or nationality.

Lieutenant Etienne Bach was a French officer. He was in charge of the Datteln administration during occupation of the Ruhr from 1923 -25.

Zaphne was accompanied to the ceremony by her husband Mike; Cannock Chase Council leader Cllr George Adamson; Cannock Chase Council managing director Tony McGovern; and Cannock Chase Council chairman Cllr Alan Dudson.

See picture page 36

Festive Window Results

Results of Norton Canes Parish Council Festive Window competition were as follows:

1st Sprinkles
2nd All About You
3rd J D Nevell

All winners received a trophy or shield.
Councillors thank all those who entered the competition.

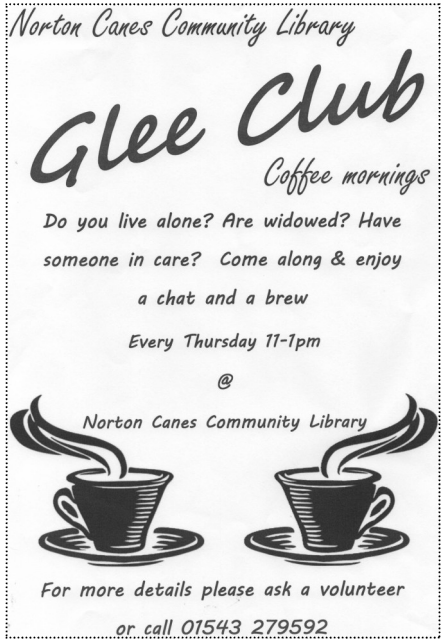
Norton Canes Library Invites You to Join in the Fun

Mondays: Norton Canes Music and Drama Group, 7.30pm-9.30pm.
Kiddy Kraft, 11am-12.30pm.
Lego Club *NEW, 3.30pm-5.30pm. Children aged eight to 13.

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

Thursdays: Baby Stay and Play, 10am-11.30am.
Painting Group, 1pm-4pm.
Glee Club *NEW, 11am-1pm. All welcome. Come and have a cuppa.

Fridays: Get Together, 10.30am-12.30pm.



Saturdays: Jamming Sessions *NEW, 11am-onwards. For anyone wanting help/willing to help others play guitar.

Monthly Group Meetings
1st Wednesday: Women's Group, 7pm-10pm.
Fourth Saturday: Councillors' Surgery, 10.30am-11.30am.
Last Saturday: Norton Canes Reading Group, 11am-12noon.
2nd Tuesday: Historical Society, 7pm-9pm.
3rd Thursday: Historical Morning Coffee, 10am-12noon.

For Bereavement Support ask for Val.

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



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 603255
	7pm-8.30pm	Guides	Helenjohnjenkin-
	6pm-8pm	Norton Canes Judo Club	son@gmail.com
			076800 845 523
Tuesday	4pm-5pm	Rainbows	Helenjohnjenkin-
	5.15pm-6.15pm	Brownies	son@gmail.com
	7pm-8pm	Poundshedders	Henenjohnjenkison@gmail.com
	7pm-9pm	Indoor Bowling	
			01543 278534/07716 356 907
Wednesday	11am-1pm	Norton Canes Craft Group	07968 291 694
	1.30pm-3.30pm	RVS/Darby and Joan	07899 905 779
	5pm-6.30pm	JGM Karate Academy	07548 424 280
	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	Cannockps.co.uk
Friday	1.30pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	07716 356 907
	5pm-6.30pm	JGM Karate Academy	07548 424 280
	7.30pm-10.30pm	Jenny's Social Dance	
Saturday	10.30am-1pm	L'Rythmix Dance Class	07821 774 456
	8pm till late	1st and 3rd: Jenny's Dance	07980 327 325
	8pm-midnight	2nd and 4th: Nev's Line Dance	
Sunday			

Norton Canes Community Centre News: Latest

Dates for upcoming events will be announced once details have been finalised. Please check Facebook page 'Norton Canes Community Centre Events' and keep an eye out for posters on the notice board outside the Community Centre. There are some slots available for private events bookings: birthdays, christenings, etc. Anyone interested can ring Jackie Earp on 07845 678 003.



Norton Canes Community Centre Committee members are:

Chairperson Maureen Hopley 07814 184 587
Vice chairperson John Beddows 07921 850 554
Secretary Ian Reeves 07549 108 829
Treasurer Annie Betts 07716 35 6907
Booking clerk Jackie Earp 07845 678 003
Parish council representative Anne Bernard 07878 385 224
District council representative John Preece 07929 558 885
Committee members Jenny Dunn, Josh Mills, Alex Reeves, Zaphne Stretton

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

*This newsletter is published by
NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Huge Housing Development for the Village

A major issue affecting the village is the submission of a full planning application for 449 houses off Norton Hall Lane.

Local residents expressed their dismay at a recent public meeting that 'outline' permissions granted in 2011 cannot now be overturned.
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece said: "At a public meeting, residents' frustrations were obvious to see when told this."
"The parish council has made a submission to the planning authority asking that outline issues such as an air quality assessment can be looked at again – particularly with the popularity of the M6 Toll and development of Kingswood Lakeside.
"We now wait to see what the outcome of this request will be."
The issue dates back to 2009-2011 when developers Persimmon and Bloors submitted the 'outline' application.

Cllr Preece explained: "Under planning law developers can break up large scale planning applications and apply separately for specific elements of the development. These consist of things such as layout, scale, access, appearance and landscaping. Developers applied for 449 houses and access (an island on Norton Hall Lane) and nothing else.

Permission was granted by Cannock Chase Council Planning Committee on the March 9 2011."

Cannock Chase Council imposed financial conditions on the developers to help with, what were considered at the time, infrastructure improvements. These included: £650,000 for indoor and outdoor sport and leisure improvements in Norton Canes; £500,000 (£100,000 a year) for a bus service in this part of the village connecting Norton Canes to Cannock, Walsall and Burntwood; £150,000 for a road safety scheme on Church Road; more than £1/2million for Norton Canes' schools; other monies for local transports schemes in Staffordshire.

Conditions were agreed by developers in 2015, formally signed and planning permission granted for 'outline' elements. Developers were then required to submit plans for landscaping, scale, appearance etc which is what they have now done via the 'full' planning application.

*The planning application reference is CH/17/450.

Continued from page 3 - News From Your Parish Council

Parish Precept 2018-19

The parish council has set the precept for 2018-19. It has been a difficult task this year setting a budget whilst looking at continuing projects for development and also taking into account the loss of a £7,987 Government grant. We were able to absorb this loss of grant in last year's precept but unfortunately do not have the reserves to maintain this year on year. We have scrutinised our budgets and looked at where our precept is spent. The precept for 2018-19 has had to be increased and details in terms of what it means for you are as follows:

	Per annum	Per week
Increase for 2018-19	£9.85	£0.19

The increase has been necessary due to additional expenditure in the following areas:

- Development of a Neighbourhood Plan
- Increase in provision of Christmas lights (Cannock Chase Council no longer provides these)
- Defibrillators – ongoing costs in terms of maintenance and supplies for the five defibrillators in the village.
- Increase in S137 grants so we can provide more funding for local community groups.
- Continuing projects to enhance the village.

If you have any queries/concerns about the budget expenditure full details are available at the parish office. Ring the clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Best Kept Village Competition 2018

Due to our success in 2017 when we achieved 1st place, we are now looking at our entry for 2018 to see how we can enhance our village. The theme for this year will be the Centenary of the Great War. We will be involving local schools in the design of posters and poems; also local Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. We encourage residents to play their part and keep areas around where they live tidy. We welcome volunteers willing to undertake tasks. Please contact the clerk on 01543 276812 email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

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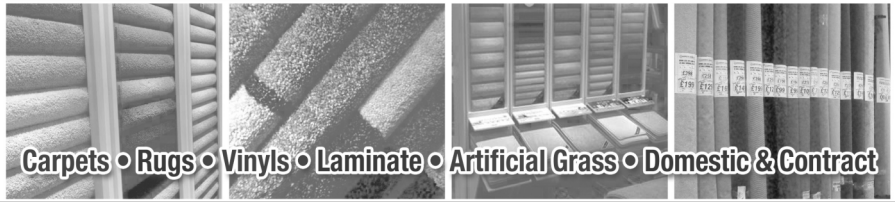
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CARPETS DIRECT 2U

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.

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

Norton Canes Youth Outreach Workers



Cllr John Preece

A brand new Youth Outreach Project is on the way to Norton Canes.

Parish council chairman Councillor John Preece has obtained joint funding from Norton Canes Parish Council and Staffordshire Local Community Fund (a pot of money given on behalf of county councillor for Norton Canes Johnny McMahon) for the project.

The project will ask young people about their needs, how they perceive their community, how they feel the community sees them and what they would like to see improved.

Cllr Preece commissioned a small survey with Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Service. Young people were asked about things that affected them in the village and given an imaginary budget for priorities.

The results highlighted concerns shared by the community: cleanliness of parks, feeling safe in public areas and access to leisure facilities.

There was not much demand for a traditional youth club. Young people want somewhere to 'hang out'- but don't want adult supervision associated with youth clubs.

The project will involve youth workers from an organisation already doing great work in Burntwood (YFC) and will be lead by youth worker Gareth Williamson.

Gareth and his team will be out and about in the village on Monday evenings, 6pm-8pm, meeting at places such as the skate park, outside the Co-op and the Cema. Any young person can speak to Gareth about youth services, Norton Canes, their lives and how they spend their spare time.

There will also be a survey on-line so any young person who does not get to speak to Gareth and his team can have their say.

Young people are asked to keep an eye out on Facebook, the parish council website and in school for details of how to fill it in.

Cllr Preece said: "I am confident this project will give us invaluable information with which to build meaningful youth facilities lost following the closure of Staffordshire Youth Service in 2014.

"I thank Norton Canes Parish Council and our county councillor for financial contribution to this project."

If anyone would like any more information, ring Cllr Preece on 01543 270789.

www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

Recollections from 'Over the Border'



The Old Norton Canes Community Centre

As a newcomer to the art of watercolour painting I was fortunate to be able to join Norton Canes art group in the Autumn of 2015.
At their 2016 exhibition I was introduced to the visiting local MP as 'a foreigner from over the border'- as I live in Brownhills. But I do have some historical connections to Norton Canes.
After leaving school in 1955 I obtained an apprenticeship with a radio, TV and electrical engineering business in Brownhills. Amongst many jobs we carried out in the area was electrical installation at the original Norton Canes Community Centre in the mid/late 1950s. Memories of this job include the roof construction – which was formed from large, neatly built wooden rafters. These were lifted into position and initially given temporary support. Overnight the weather was rough, so on arrival next morning most of the rafters were in a heap in the body of the building!
Once replaced, the timber covering was completed with boards fixed diagonally. The final covering of green mineral felt was cut into widths from the roll then, using a hardboard template, cut into shingle-like tiles. Each group of four tiles were all hand cut by one man using a Stanley knife.
Large, steel mesh crates, containing light fittings packed in straw for protection, were unpacked. The straw had provided home for dozens of mice – who scattered in all directions inside the building!
Since my main interest settled on the radio, TV and electronic side of the job, I moved on to work with a number of Walsall companies, the last being Limited TV Insurance. The partnership owning this company eventually took over the Norton Canes Radio, TV and Hardware business of James and Bentley. At some point during 1963-1967 I must have visited the homes or served some of the more senior residents of Norton Canes.

Forget-Me-Not Day 2018

This year's trip down memory lane will be held at Norton Canes Library, Burntwood Road, on Saturday May 26.

Forget Me Not Day, which will take place from 11am-2pm, will feature a video and pictures of Norton Canes past and present, a sing-a-long and refreshments.

Visitors are invited to bring their memories to share.
The event takes place during dementia awareness week. There will be lots of information and advice available.

The forget-me-not is the emblem of Dementia Friends and there are lots of 'Friends' in the village who wear a badge with the flower design.

If you would like to become a Dementia Friend, information will be available during the event or ring Sheila on 01543 275013





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

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

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

Norton Canes Practice
Partners in Life

Welcome to Norton Canes Practice newsletter. There has been a lot in the news over the winter about the flu. Please remember there is still time to get your vaccinations and protect yourself from this very unpleasant illness.

Network appointments: over the winter months Norton Canes practice has been working with seven other GP practices in the area to increase our urgent appointments in an effort to help the winter pressures hospitals face and hopefully decrease the amount of patients having to attend A&E departments.

If you have an urgent need to see a GP, you may be offered one of these appointments at a different surgery. The GP will have access to your computerised medical records so they can treat you correctly but none of your records can be accessed by other staff at those surgeries.

Medicines Matter
Every year £6 million is wasted across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent on medicines that people do not use. Those medicines end up being thrown away because they cannot be used by anyone else. We are working with the Clinical Commissioning Group and pharmacies to try and cut down on this waste and are asking patients to do the following:
Check what medicines you have before ordering more; check your medicines at the pharmacy and hand back any you don't need; let the GP know if there are any medicines you don't need any more.

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

At the Arts Group exhibition of 2016, during our conversation with church organist Pat Littler, we realised we had met earlier when both of us worked for these companies.



Sheila Harding's artistic depiction of the Community Centre

I left Limited TV Insurance in July 1967 to take up a post at Matthew Boulton Technical College, Birmingham. I left in 1972 and took up a full time lecturing post at Derby College of Art and Technology (now Derby University) where I worked until 1990.

In 2013 I contacted Norton Canes parish councillor Sheila Harding to arrange for a commemorative brick to be laid at the miners' memorial in Hednesford in memory of my father (who worked in several mines around the area from the 1930s until 1952).

And so to the present: it was after reading a letter in the Express and Star in 2015, thanking members and ladies of Trinity Methodist Church for their help and excellent work providing refreshments etc at the Watercolour Club's first exhibition, that I managed to contact an art club member.
This resulted in a phone call inviting me to join. Having been a regular at the club's Monday morning classes and participating in two exhibitions, I have enjoyed renewed connections with Norton Canes and thank club members for their help and encouragement .

Thanks to councillor/artist Sheila Harding for encouraging me to tell the tales after I saw her picture of the 'old' Community Centre at this year's exhibition.

Brian Davis, Brownhills

Anyone noticed 'crazy tree'? Looks as if he has his winter jumper on at the moment!
See picture page 36

Message From Your MP Amanda Milling

It has been a busy start to 2018. I am currently taking part in the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, so my first duty of the year was a visit to see our incredibly talented troops in Estonia.

The scheme has been an excellent way of learning about the threats to our country and the challenges that our armed forces face. I was therefore pleased to welcome the recent announcement (made by Defence Secretary and neighbouring MP, Gavin Williamson) about a programme to modernise defence to ensure that our capabilities are adapting and continue to adapt to the changing threats

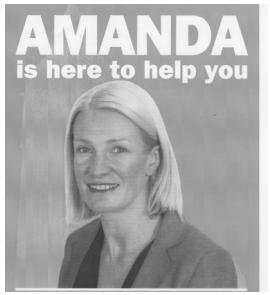
Returning to Parliament after the Christmas break started off like any normal week in the Commons. I had plans to speak in a number of debates. However, that all changed when I received a phone call asking me to visit Number 10 where the Prime Minister appointed me an Assistant Government Whip. I have a range of new duties to fulfil in Parliament, one of the most challenging being telling. When MPs vote they go through either the 'Aye' or 'No' lobby and as they leave, a whip is at the door physically counting them out – no computer, ballot paper or clicker counters.

My first telling duties were on some very important Brexit votes – as you can imagine, counting upward of 300 MPs in such a short time and in a very busy environment, tests your concentration. Once this task is complete, the teller has to announce the results to the Chamber, so you've got to get it right!

Closer to home, I was delighted to welcome the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, to Cannock Chase where I was able to discuss with him some of the issues that local rail commuters face and show him some of the improvements that we need to our railway stations.

This is an issue I have raised in Parliament on numerous occasions so it was great for the Secretary of State to see first-hand what I have been campaigning for.

Whilst I now have new duties in Parliament, I am still your MP and will continue to be out and about across the constituency when the House is not sitting. I will still be raising constituents' concerns and local issues with Government Ministers, departments and their agencies.



If you have any issues or problems you need help with, please emailamanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk or ring 01543 877142

Life at the Lido

The Over 60s Club meets at the Lido Club (58 School Road, Norton Canes) every Tuesday. Members enjoy 'good company in friendly surroundings'.

They play bingo and hold raffles, chat and sing and enjoy a sandwich and a cuppa.

Members also enjoy days out and a Christmas party.

The invitation is: come and join us at the Lido between 12.30pm-2.30pm. Transport can be arranged. For more information ring Glenys or Annie on 01543 275714.

Norton Canes Chess Club meets at the Lido every Tuesday from about 7pm. The club is open to experts, beginners, Masters and interested onlookers. The club is now also playing in local tournaments with the 'unstoppable' Mike Hoare winning most matches.

A club spokesperson said: "We would love to have a few more new members turn up and enjoy a social but strategic night. Come and meet us."

Norton Canes Royal British Legion (RBL) Branch holds meetings at the Lido on the second Tuesday of every month at 3.30pm during winter months (January-March); and meets at 7.30pm (April-October). Everyone is invited to attend.

The RBL ensures serving personnel, ex-service and their families are given support to live day to day. Membership is open to everyone and the branch is actively seeking new members to help with charity events, the Poppy Appeal and village community projects.

A branch spokesperson said: "We would be especially pleased to encourage junior members (12-18) to join and help support the branch.

"The branch was involved in the open day at the Defence Medical School at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, which was attended by several hundred people, who enjoyed re-enactments and bands performing in the centre square.

"Hopefully this will become an annual event. The branch also has a major project in the pipeline, which hopefully will be agreed upon very soon, which will be a huge asset to the village - so watch this space."

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 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

Cannock Photographic Society – Settling into Our New Home

As a regular user group of Norton Canes Community Centre, we are very happy with our new home. Our move has not been without the trials and tribulations associated with any kind of move but everything is now falling into place. We thank Jackie Earp and Ian Reeves for their help and cooperation in accommodating us.


'*High rise'*

We wish to establish our group as part of the community. As such we had a stall at the village fair in July and also supported the Art Exhibition in October. We are also happy to report several new members have joined us, many who have expressed an interest in the regular practical events we run including trips, studio work and technical workshops covering many aspects of photographic editing. These practical events are strictly for members only, but anyone interested in joining can attend our regular Thursday evening events, 7.45pm-10pm as a visitor for a couple of weeks, at a cost of £3 (includes refreshments at half time) before joining as a member.
Club nights are a mixture of internal photo competitions where members have the opportunity to have their work critiqued by visiting judges and view other members' images to gain an insight into possible improvements and inspiration for future.
We operate in three groups: novice, intermediate and advanced so there is something for all standards of photography from those just starting out to accomplished photographers.
We include in this article the winners of each section in the projected image competition held in January.

The other half of our programme is made up of visiting eminent and professional photographers who entertain us with their images. Many of them pass on hints and tips to help members improve their photography.
In November we held our 60th Annual Exhibition and were graced with the presence of Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece. Over 200 of our members' prints were on display to the public at Chasewater Innovation Centre throughout the month of November and were viewed by many hundreds of visitors.
The club belongs to the Midlands Counties Photographic Federation which is also part of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. These organisation run National and International competitions and in the recent GB Cup for prints Cannock Photographic Society came a creditable 6th in the UK out of an entry of 76 clubs.

For details of our programme please see www.cannockps.co.uk
Interested? Pop in and see us any Thursday evening. You can be sure of a warm welcome.
Graham Orgill
Programme secretary

The following beautiful poem was sent to us by Brenda Benton, from Chapel Street, Norton Canes. More of Brenda's work to follow in future editions. Enjoy.

THE FROZEN TULIP

There are tulips in our garden
which are a sight to behold.
And from this gift of nature
a story will be told.
The tulips were almost ready
to come into full bloom.
But an early morning frost
forced them into an icy tomb.
They were now bent right over
and I felt sure they were dead.
So I was rather unprepared
for the miracle that lay ahead.



To compensate severe frost,
God sent the warmth of spring sun.
And this victory over death,
I could see was clearly won.
For the flowers were restored
and stood tall and erect.
So when life's icy storms attack
on this we can reflect.
Remembering that we too will thaw
when God's bright SON comes out.
To restore, cleanse, and heal us,
by removing fear and doubt.



The notice board outside the Co-op contains information which is updated regularly on parish matters.
Parish council meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month (no meeting in August). Public participation is from 7pm-7.30pm. All welcome.
You can also find information on the parish council website
www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

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)
email: nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Norton Canes Historical Society

Meetings are held at Norton Canes Library on the second Tuesday of the month from 7pm-9pm.
March 13: the speaker is John Billingham who will be showing 'Images of Staffordshire'.
April 10: a social evening, to replace the event set up in December, which had to be cancelled due to bad weather.
May 8: society chairman Roger Knowles will be giving a talk on 'Beaudesert and the Pagets'.
June 12: the speaker is Mary Bodfish giving a follow-up talk 'Merry Monarchs Part II'.
(There are no meetings in July and August).
*Tea and coffee mornings are held at the library on the third Thursday of the month, 10am-12 noon: March15, April 19, May 17, June 21.
Members and non members are welcome. Admission is free. Light refreshments are served.
Maureen Garbett - Secretary

Sneak in For Some Exercise



Silver Sneakers gentle exercise group meets on at Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Thursdays. Members enjoy an hour of exercise, music and fun at the Poplar Street venue in Norton Canes from 12.30pm.
Member Pam Louies said: "We should be staying active as we get older. This class allows us to have a good quality of life; and helps us prevent falls and remain in our own homes.
"We have an excellent teacher and wonderful group of people so please come and join us."
*The first week is free to see if you like the club and to find out if it could help you

Our Tribute to Chris



In the last edition of our newsletter we mentioned the passing of popular local resident Christine Benton and asked for your memories of her.
Chris, who passed away on October 23, was a key member of the local cubs and scouts and flower club.
Here we continue our tribute with reflections from Tony Carpenter and Jose Aulton from Norton Canes Flower Club.

"During my time as Group Scout Leader from 1984-2001, Chris Benton was a very good Akela to Navaho, one of the Cub Packs.
She always seemed to have a smile on her face and it became obvious she was enjoying her post. All Cubs seemed to obtain national activity badges for their uniform sleeves and were overjoyed at being with Chris. I do not remember Chris ever having to raise her voice unnecessarily. She supervised her pack of Cubs very well.
The Cub Pack won Cannock Chase Swimming Gala on many occasions sometimes in consecutive years.
In 2001Chris became Group Scout Leader for Norton Canes Scout Group much to my pleasure, then in later years she entered into more Scout District activities.
In 2001 we had to retire at 65 from all Scouting activities. Later it was decided by HQ that this retiring age should be disregarded - which enabled Chris to carry on with the Scouting she loved."
Tony Carpenter
Chris was a member of Norton Canes Flower Club committee as minutes secretary but she had been associated with the club for a long time.
She joined in the early '70s and became a valued member, becoming show secretary and in charge of organising two shows each year.
Chris took part in flower festivals at St James' Church and Trinity Methodist Church, Norton Canes, over many years and recently at St Luke's Church, Cannock. She was also chairman of the Flower Club for two years.
Chris had a break for a number of years while she pursued the scouting part of her life and rose through the ranks giving a lot of her life to this organisation.
She was also a teacher and worked at all Norton Canes schools. Chris was on the Parents Teachers Association and was a school governor.
Chris retired from scouting (or so she thought) and returned to the Flower Club. She was still on the committee when she passed away.
But Scouting soon lured her back in an advisory capacity.
Chris touched a lot of lives with her generosity of time especially for young people of Norton Canes. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.
Jose Aulton



Trinity Methodist Church
Poplar Street, Norton Canes
50 years old in July 2018

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

Girls Brigade Thursdays
Explorers and Juniors: 6pm to 7.15pm
Seniors & Brigaders: 7.30pm-9pm
Contact: Chris Straughan 276695
Accordion Group Saturdays 8.30am
Contact: Peter Howard 01543 270627
Morning Coffee Saturdays 10am-12 noon

Periodical social events include Quiz Night, Barn Dance, Skittles Evenings.
Other activities: Wood Turning,
Trinity Toddlers, Keep Fit,
Flower Club.

Trinity Methodist Church – Dates for Your Diary

March 9: quiz night

March 24, 2pm-4.30pm, Girls' Brigade Easter Fair

April 27: skittles night

July 6-8: Chapel 50 Anniversary celebrations. Exhibition and celebration worship.

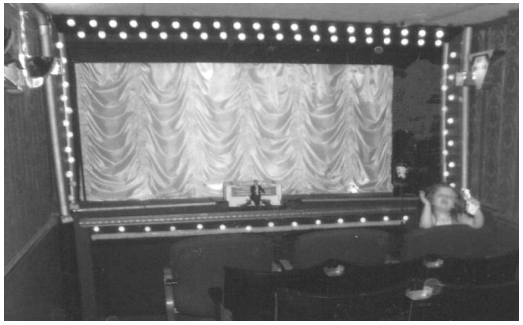
December 1: Christmas Tree Festival.

Norton Canes Cinema



Albert welcoming guests to his cinema

Before you get too excited about the headline a bit of clarification is due. There is indeed a cinema in the village – owned and run by 87-year-old Albert Holmes, at his Norton Grange home.
But the treat is for invited guests only.
Albert grew up living opposite the Caldmore Picture Playhouse in Walsall which then became Forum Cinema. Even from an early age he loved films, his favourites being Oh Mr Porter, Snow White and National Velvet. At the age of just 12 he was fortunate enough to meet National Velvet star Mickey Rooney who was visiting Walsall with film star Donald O'Connor. The meeting came about when, as a newspaper delivery boy, he took the papers to the George Hotel in Walsall – where the doorman invited him to meet the stars who were in England to entertain the troops during the war.



Albert's granddaughter waiting for the show to start

Albert's cinema, which he created 25 years ago, can accommodate about 14 people, mostly friends and family.
And as president of Bloxwich Probus Club he treats members (retired professionals/businessmen) to a film each month.
The cinema comes complete with flock wallpaper, 1930s tip-up seats and lighting and three screens.

For Albert, the magic of the movies is just a few steps away from his lounge. He has countless films which he loves to share.

Norton Canes Flower Club



Members enjoyed a varied programme to round off 2017.
The November meeting was a practical and we made hanging decorations for Christmas and used fresh and artificial materials including using a potato instead of floral foam.
Also in November the club presented an open demonstration at the Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock. Ian Lloyd's 'A Cheshire Christmas' proved to be a wonderful way to start Christmas.
There was a Christmas party in December. A good time was had by all.
The 2018 programme started in January with a talk by founder member Jose Aulton entitled An Evening of Flowers.
On March 24 there will be a special event, an Open Evening at Norton Canes High School. The demonstrator is Andrew Lloyd and his presentation is 'Mad as a March Hare'. Everyone welcome. Tickets are £6.50 from 01543 279133 or pay on the door.
April 18: Graham and Judy White will be talking about 'A Uttoxeter Garden'.
May 16: Linda Seabrook will be giving a demonstration entitled 'Green Finger Flower Arranger'.
June 20: workshop 'Boxes and Bags' led by Jude Jones.
The club meets on the third Wednesday of the month unless otherwise stated. Meetings are held at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, from 7.30pm.
New members and visitors are welcome. For more information, ring 01543 278370.

New Cemetery

The parish council is continuing to look at a new cemetery site adjacent to the St James' churchyard; and working with the church and diocese regarding repair/replacement of the Edwardian wall - considered the best access pathway to the new cemetery. Further updates will be available in future newsletters and on www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

In Memory of Gwen



Gwen Eccleshall, from Breeze Avenue, Norton Canes, passed away on January 28, at the grand old age of 98.

Gwen's friend Jenny Dunn, from Churchbridge, paid the following tribute to her:

"I first met Gwen in 1987 when Yvonne and I started our Friday Afternoon Tea Dance at the old Community Centre. I knew Gwen was going to be a special friend. She gave us lots of support over the years.

"Gwen made cakes for our fairs at the old and new Community Centre. She was a wonderful cook. She could also do wonderful work with a needle. She amazed us with her home-made fancy dress costumes.

"Gwen was a modest lady. She didn't boast about her family's achievements. She was very proud of them all and loved them so much.

"She was my star."



Dancing @ Norton Canes Community Centre



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

Sequence, Line, Ballroom and Party Dancing.

Come along and give it a try!

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



Nice Friendly Atmosphere
Make New Friends,
Meet old Friends.



Norton Canes WI – the End of an Era

A last ditch attempt to save Norton Canes Women's Institute has failed.

A handful of members held their final get-together on January 3 to toast the end of a 25-year era with a glass of wine and nibbles.

Appeals for volunteers to come forward to fill the roles of president, treasurer and secretary failed to recruit new members.

One of the founder members Norma Jenvey said: "We are sorry to see it go. It was really emotional. Members said how sorry they were that it had come to this."

The Norton Canes branch officially ended in January.

But it isn't all bad news.

Members have now decided to launch a brand new club called The Norton League of Women.

Members will meet at the same venue that the WI used to – at the village library.

The new club, for ladies of any age, will be launched on March 7 when the ladies will meet from 7pm-9pm. Meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of each month.

New members are invited to come along and make their views known about what they would like the club to do.

"It will be a get-together with a cup of tea and a natter to start with," Norma added. "We would love to see people. The more the merrier."

Norton Canes Judo Club

Norton Canes Community Centre every Monday and Thursday from 6pm. £2.50 per session, first session free. If you want to learn self defence, build confidence and have fun just come along. Anyone from the age of five is welcome.

Free Fitness Classes

Lewis, our club coach who is a qualified personal trainer, is offering free fitness classes on Monday night 7pm-8pm. If you want to improve your fitness or lose weight in a relaxed atmosphere come along and have a go. These classes are for any age or ability and families are welcome.

Johnny McMahon our county councillor has sponsored these classes and they will be free until the end of March. For more information

email nortoncanesjudoclub@hotmail.com

or ring 07800 845 523



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Annual	**£145**	The most popular service, All vital fluids checked, Oil, Oil Filter & Air Filter changed, full comprehensive report, Also includes Battery check and a diagnostics check. Recommended every year
Major	**£249**	A fully comprehensive and extended service, Everything the annual service offers with the addition of Cabin filter, Fuel Filter, Spark plugs, Gear oil & Brake fluid. Recommended annually for high mileage & every 2 years for average use vehicles.
Manufacturer Specific	**£**	Advised for new cars still within warranty, The use of Genuine parts and specific oil, , Price on application, Must have your mileage and your registration number to hand upon booking,

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

We Promise to NEVER apply any hidden charges. Any surcharges will be discussed upon booking, Rest assured if we notice anything we think you will benefit from doing while your car is with us, we will always contact you and let you have the choice.

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

Fancy Something Extra?

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


Diagnostic £35


Brakes


Dash Cams


MOT £35


Air Fresheners & Mini Valets


Consumables/Essentials


Tyres


Wipers


Exhausts

"Just by Norton Aluminium!"