Norton Canes Parish Council Festive Window

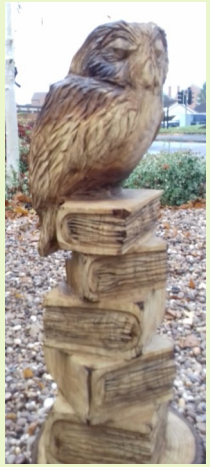


Sandra Hopkins from J. D. Nevells receives the winning cup from Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece



Ann Twist from Ann's Café receives the shield from Cllr Preece

Name the Owl



Norton Canes Library is still running its 'name the owl' competition. Entrants will also have to name four types of owl as part of the competition.

Entry forms are available from the library until Easter. There is a prize for the winner.

The bookish owl, outside the library, has been carved by Lee Bayliss and paid for by a bequest from a late local library regular.

This Newsletter is put together by just two people:
Editor Janet Lee
Sub editor Sheila Harding
It is published by Norton Canes Parish Council
www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

March
2019
Issue 25

Norton Canes Village News

Village Speedwatch Up and Running

A community Speedwatch set up in Norton Canes has already resulted in 44 motorists being reported to the police.
And that is after only three sessions.
The sessions also revealed the high volume of traffic on Brownhills Road, Walsall Road and Hednesford Road.
There will now be monthly Speedwatch sessions on different roads in the village.
As well as the issue of speeding, the initiative also covers the use of mobile phones while driving and wearing of seat belts.
Drivers reported by Speedwatch volunteers will be reported to the police and contacted by them.
A parish council spokesperson said: "We have a list of roads where we are undertaking Speedwatch sessions and will continue to expand these as the project progresses.
"We are continually looking for volunteers in an attempt to keep our roads safer in the village."
Parish councillors John Bernard and Josh Newbury recently attended a countywide event on community Speedwatch to ensure the parish council is fully up to date with what is required.
If anyone has any spare time and would like to participate in Speedwatch ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Hello.

Welcome to the 25th edition of your local newsletter.
You never let us down do you? The only problem we have now is how to fit in all your contributions. But that's a great problem to have – so please keep them coming and we'll do our best.

I love the article in this edition about the magnificent Christmas tree we enjoy each year thanks to a couple in Church Road. The decorated tree in their front garden is bigger and brighter than those provided by some town councils. As I live directly opposite the couple's house, my family has a lovely festive view for weeks on end – so I would like to say a personal thank you.

Hope you enjoy the read.
Loves
Jan
Editor

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

Become a Councillor or Volunteer

Local elections take place in May.
Would you be interested in becoming a Norton Canes parish councillor?
You do not have to belong to a political party to be a councillor. You do not have to be retired - but you must be over 18 years of age.
A parish council spokesperson said: "If being a councillor is not your thing, but you have an interest in what happens in the village, there are other areas that you can be involved in as a volunteer.
For example, you could become involved in the Neighbourhood Plan, community speedwatch, litter picking or local events.
Residents can attend parish council meetings each month to put forward any ideas regarding the village.
"Your involvement is entirely up to you. You can give as much or as little time as you wish.
"However if you become a councillor there are requirements of that role regarding attendance at meetings."
Elections take place on May 2. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, the deadline for your application to be submitted is April 3.
The parish council is run for the benefit of the community. It receives its funding from the local council tax which is called a precept. Details of how the precept is set out are included on the parish council website www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2018 ~ 2019

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr J. Beddows (Vice Chairman)	01543 279991
Cllr Mrs Z. Stretton MBE	01543 276959
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bridgen	01543 271679
Cllr Mrs M. Hopley	01543 274396
Cllr Mrs S. Harding	01543 275013
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279475
Cllr M. Stretton	01543 276959
Cllr C. Cox	01543 459477
Cllr J. Hampshire	01543 279850
Cllr J. Newbury	07884 111382

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

Useful contacts for district and county and other matters

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

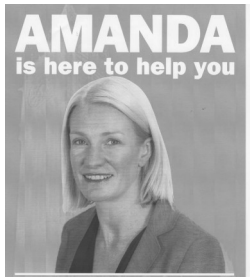
The district councillors are:

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

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

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

Message from Your MP Amanda Milling



This year is turning out to be very busy - especially with the packed schedule in Parliament.
In February there is usually a week's recess to allow MPs to spend more time out and about in their constituencies; however, rightly, it has been cancelled as we look to leave the EU next month.
Please be reassured this won't stop me working hard on behalf of residents in Norton Canes - as ever. Please do get in touch if there is anything I can help you with.
One issue which many people contacted me about was the possibility of school crossing patrols being removed. Over the last few months I have made multiple representations to Staffordshire County Council on behalf of parents, grandparents and carers about the importance of maintaining school crossing patrols to ensure the safety of our school children. So I was very pleased to hear that the county council has committed to retain the budget for school crossing patrols so we can ensure children can cross the road safely on their way to and from school.
Other good news: I was also pleased to see that Staffordshire county councillors have been granted access to a pot of £1.24 million to fund road repairs. This means that Norton Canes' county councillor Johnny McMahon will have access to a pot of £20,000 for specific road repairs that would not otherwise be on the county council's wider highways plan. These repairs can be for anything from getting potholes fixed to drainage problems resolved. Having lobbied the county council heavily over the last few years to get improvements to our roads, I look forward to working with Johnny to get more road and footpath defects fixed in and around Norton Canes.
Another issue that is often raised with me is the problem of litter. I regularly join litter picks across Cannock Chase (at the time of writing this column I have just got back from a litter pick!). So I have once again thrown my support behind this year's Great British Spring Clean. Organised by Keep Britain Tidy, the Great British Spring Clean will run from March 22-April 2 and will see up to half a million people taking action to clean up streets, parks and beaches across the country. If you are interested in taking part, or want to register an event, you can find out more by visiting the Keep Britain Tidy website.
Whilst it is busy in Westminster at the moment, I am always here to help with any issues or concerns. You can contact me on 01543 877142 or email amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk

Norton Canes Parish Council Tax Increase - Zero

Norton Canes residents can celebrate a zero rise in parish council tax for 2019/20. The Parish Council said that the figures equate £39.15 for Band D property owners. This equates to 75p per week to maintain the Parish Council.

A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said: "The Council has worked hard in scrutinising the income and expenditure for the current year with decisions being made as to where best our money is spent for the benefit of the village. "Within the budget we have still been able to look at projects and community services for the village.

"We are committed to providing expenditure for the Christmas Lights as it was felt that this was important for residents.

"We also continue to fund community groups to help with the running costs."

Full details of the Precept for 2019-20 can be viewed at www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

Annual Parish Assembly

Norton Canes Parish Council's annual Parish Assembly will take place on Thursday April 4 at Norton Canes Library, 7pm.

The event is a forum where parish councillors report on the council's activities and achievements during the last year. It also gives an opportunity for residents to raise any questions relating to the business of the council.

Awards of grants to community groups plus the Community and Youth Endeavour Award will also be presented at the meeting. There will be light refreshments after the meeting. The event usually takes about an hour.

The message is: "Come along and hear what we do and have your say if you have any issues/matters to put to the council."

Ensure New Bus Connects to Village Facilities



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

We need a new bus service that connects villagers to vital services.
That is the message which a group of local councillors have submitted on a petition to Staffordshire County Council.
The aim is to ensure a new bus service proposed for the village connects to amenities such as Norton Canes Health Centre and to towns in the area.
Developers Persimmon and Bloor are building a new 450-home estate off Norton Hall Lane.
The bus service will be funded in the sum of £500,000 for five years as part of a 'Section 106 Agreement' that supports infrastructure relating to this development.
Councillors say the new route could be a lifeline for residents who were cut off after a route was slashed by Arriva in 2016.
But at the moment there is no stipulation that the bus will go past the Health Centre or village shops.
Norton Canes' newest parish councillor, Cllr Josh Newbury, is leading the petition alongside district councillors John Preece and Zaphne Stretton.
The petition, which was taken door to door, has already received over 200 signatures - demonstrating the strength of residents' feelings.
Cllr Newbury said: "An issue that comes up time and time again is that Norton Canes is putting up with more than its fair share of new housing - but we aren't getting improved infrastructure.

New Clubs Started At Norton Canes Library



Lego club every Monday
3.30pm-5.30pm.
Children 8-13 years

Jamming sessions held every Saturday from 11am.
Play the guitar, out of practice or still learning, then come along & get some extra help.

Over 18s Only





Photography every Friday
(excluding school holidays)
1.30pm-4.30pm

Baby Stay & Play is back from Thursday
11.30am-1pm.
£1.50 per session





The Painting Group is now every Thursday
1.30pm-4.30pm

Invitation from Your Local Library

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

We have had a few changes to our groups and clubs.

Mondays:	Kiddy Kraft:	11am - 12.30pm.
	Lego Club:	3.30pm - 5.30pm.
	Drama Group:	7.30pm - 9.30pm.
Tuesdays:	Sewing Group:	11am - 1pm.
	Knit 'n' Natter:	1pm - 4pm.
Thursdays:	Baby Stay & Play:	11.30am - 1pm
	Painting Group:	1.30pm - 4.30pm.
	Open Arms Coffee Morning: 11am - 1pm.	
Fridays:	Get Together:	10.30am - 12.30pm.

Monthly Group Meetings

1st Wednesday:	League of Ladies: 7pm - 9.30pm
4th 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 our rooms.

Opening Times for Your Library

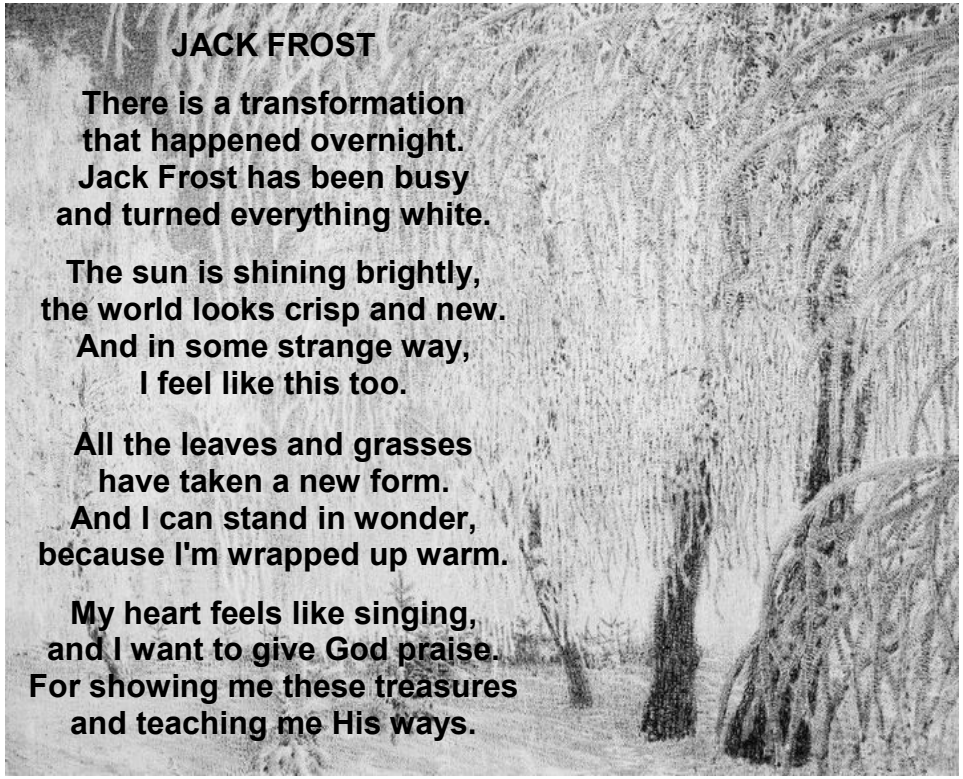
Saturday:	10am - 1pm.
Monday:	11 - 6pm.
Tuesday:	9am - 5pm.
Wednesday:	**CLOSED**
Thursday:	9am - **5pm**
Friday:	9am - 5pm

Continued from page 4

"Councillors are working to make sure money from developer contributions for village infrastructure is spent in Norton Canes.
"The first lot of money will be available when the first house is occupied."
"Our primary schools are unable to accept more children, GPs are at capacity and public transport is near non-existent in parts of the village.
"It will be brilliant to have a bus route back in the 'church end' of Norton Canes but we have to make sure it goes where residents need it."
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Cllr John Preece added:
"We've been speaking to residents about this new bus route since November. We're delighted with the level of support from residents, including many who don't use the bus, but know it was a lifeline for elderly neighbours to get to the Health Centre and shops.
"We have delivered the petition to the county council's transport and highways department and will be actively involved in the process of designing a new route to ensure residents' views and local knowledge are taken into account."
Cllr Zaphne Stretton said: "Residents will know that parking at the Health Centre has been a persistent issue lately. After several meetings with the Centre's management this has improved considerably but it's not completely resolved.
"We need this bus route to reduce the number of car journeys people take to appointments. The bus will be vital for residents who don't drive or don't have family they can rely on for lifts.
"The previous route shouldn't have been cut in the first place. At least we are getting something positive from new houses on Norton Hall Lane."
There is an online petition Make Sure the New Bus Route in Norton Canes Links with Village Facilities and there is still time to sign. Use the following link but note capital letters must be used as shown: www.bit.ly/NortonCanesBusRoute



Brrrr. Haven't we been shivering these last few months?
Here's hoping by the time you read this delightful poem by Brenda Benton, from Norton Canes, that the weather has warmed up.



JACK FROST

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

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

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

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

Festive Windows

Winners of Norton Canes Parish Council's festive window competition were as follows: 1st Place J D Nevells; 2nd Ann's Café; Joint 3rd Chequers Hairdressers and Mandie's Baps.
Local shops and businesses entered the competition. Judging took place in December.
First prize was a commemorative cup; second prize a shield; third a small shield to keep for six months each.
A parish council spokesperson said: "We would like to thank all who entered the competition and appreciate your continued support in this event.
"It contributes to the festive season in the village. Presentation of the awards took place at the January parish council meeting."

See Photos page 36

Norton Canes Community Centre: It's all Happening

Day	Time	Event	Contact
Monday	10am-1pm	Watercolour	07443 892 313
	2pm-4pm	Crafty Quilters (sewing group)	01785 603 255
	7pm-8.30pm	Guides	Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com
	6.30pm-8pm	Norton Canes Judo Club	076800 845 523
Tuesday	4pm-5pm	Rainbows	Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com
	5.15pm-6.15pm	Brownies	Helenjohnjenkinson@gmail.com
	7pm-8pm	Poundshedders	
	7pm-9pm	Indoor Bowling	01543 278534 / 07716 356 907
Wednesday	11am-1pm	Norton Canes Craft Group	07968 291 694
	1.30pm-3.30pm	RVS/Darby and Joan	01543 279751 / 01543 274216
	5pm-6.30pm	JGM Karate Academy	07548 424 280
	7pm-10pm	Line Dance	07515 931 389
Thursday	9am-4pm	Crafty Sew and Sews	07412 191 439
	9.45am-12.15pm	Crafty Cards	07845 678 003
	4pm-5pm	L'Rythmix Ballet Class	07821 774 456
	6pm-7pm	Norton Canes Judo Club	07800 845 523
	7pm-9pm	Sugar Craft	07792 549 307
	8pm-10pm	Cannock Photographic Society	Cannockps.co.uk
Friday		'tots o'clock'	See facebook for details
	1.30pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	07716 356 907
	7.30pm-10.30pm	Jenny's Social Dance	
Saturday	10.30am-1pm	L'Rythmix Dance Class	07821 774 456 07980 327 325
1st & 3rd	8pm till late	Jenny and Terry's Social Sequence Dance	
2nd & 4th	8pm-midnight	Nev's Line Dance	
Sunday	Morning	WW	(Formerly Weight Watchers)

Primary Care Extended Access

We understand the normal core GP opening hours do not suit everyone. From September 1 2018 we have been working with other practices in the Cannock area to provide additional appointments on weekends and after 6.30pm weekdays.

These appointments are held at Cannock Chase Hospital GP suite and Springfield Health Centre, Rugeley. If you do attend one of these appointments, the GP will have access to view your medical record just as if they were in the surgery. Choosing to accept one of the extended access appointments is your way of giving consent for your records to be used in this way. To book an appointment for the extended access, contact Norton Canes practice as normal.

Make appointments or order repeat prescriptions online

Do you want the convenience of booking your appointments/ordering repeat prescriptions without having to phone or visit the surgery? With Patient Access, you can now access local GP services at home, work or on the move - wherever you can connect to the internet. Because Patient Access is a 24-hour online service you can do this in your own time. If you would like to be set up for this service, ask our receptionists.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Our PPG is a group of volunteer patients who meet at the practice every three months with staff to provide views and feedback from a patient's perspective. If you would you like to be involved in helping us continually improve our services and wish to join the PPG, speak to senior receptionist Ann.

Carers

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



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.

Norton Canes High School Footie Fever



Norton Canes High School football club reached the semi finals of the County Cup and took 16th place in the U13 English Schools FA Cup. Norton Canes lost out to Whitworth in Rochdale in the English Schools Cup. Although they lost 6-2 PE teacher Ian Oliphant said he was proud of year eight's efforts.

"Normally we don't have enough students to field a football team," he said. "This year's success has been incredible.

"The under-13s were up against a very strong team in Whitworth and the boys put in a creditable performance.

"Whitworth were losing finalists last year and the final is the only game they have lost in two years. We were 3-0 down in the first 10 minutes. We could have folded there and then but we didn't. We went in 3-2 at half-time. Credit to the boys for battling back."

The team will now play Trentham Academy in the County Cup semi finals.

"We look forward to the Trentham game. We are hoping to play on Chasetown's pitch and make a big event of it," Mr Oliphant added.

The school has been involved with the Martin O'Connor Football Academy (MOCEFA) for two years. Martin is a former Walsall and Birmingham midfielder.

"It's a great asset to have someone of Martin's stature linked to the school," Mr Oliphant said. "It's inspiring for the boys to see lads walking about in MOCEFA tracksuits. They see them as role models and aspire to be like them."

*Former Norton High School pupil Ryan Woods plays for Stoke City in the Championship. Woods recently returned to the school as guest of honour to present trophies at an awards evening.

Our Tree



A tree in the front garden of a Norton Canes house is attracting attention even from abroad.

While many towns and villages now struggle to have an impressive Christmas tree, Norton Canes is fortunate to have a real spectacle – thanks to a couple from Church Road.
Each year their decorated tree at the front of their bungalow is attracting more and more attention.
Now people even pull over in their cars to take photos in front of the landmark.

Pete and Marg Matthews, who have been nurturing the 20ft tree for 20 years say they enjoy decorating it each year.
And it is quite a marathon task. There were a staggering 6,000 lights on the tree this year.
The couple even receive Christmas cards from villagers to say thank you for the festive attraction.
This year, they even received a card from someone in Canada.
Pete and Marg said they would like to pass on their thanks to Norton Canes residents (and the Canadian).
“We are pleased that people stop in their cars to say thanks for the tree lights and take photos with their family,” Pete said. “We get personal pleasure setting up the tree each year.”

But there is one mystery. What type of tree is it?
Pete and Marg have two theories: it is a Fraser Fir, native to the Appalachian mountains in the south east United States; or it is a’ Douglas Fir’, native to west/north America.
Pete said: “This has baffled us for 20 years and no-one seems to be certain about its name. We are open to suggestions.”

*If you can name the tree – please let us know at cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

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CARPETS DIRECT 2U

Your Local Discount Carpet Store

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

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

Great Value, Great Quality

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

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

Vinyls

The vinyl selection is endless at prices to suit everyone. In the store they stock remnants of all sizes: **2,3** and **4** metre widths with discounts of up to **75% off** normal cut length prices. Any time of the day, every day you can go to **Carpets Direct 2U** and buy a cut-price piece of vinyl, 2m x 2m for **£25**.

If you want a particular range or you don't see what you're looking for, you can order just what you want from a number of sample books and normally get it delivered the very next day.

Fitting Service

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

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

Measuring Service

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

Rugs

RUGS DIRECT 2U

Whilst you can find a great selection of rugs in store, you can also shop online at **www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk** or order over the telephone on **08454 501221**.

Rugs Direct 2U offer quality rugs at the lowest prices. They have rugs to suit all tastes and budgets from retro designs to timeless classic styles from their traditional collections. They offer a wide variety of colours in materials ranging from luxurious wool to durable manmade fibres.

Customer Satisfaction

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

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

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



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

Our Neighbourhood Plan: Could You Get Involved?

Norton Canes parish councillors need you.
They are looking for people from all walks of life, who are passionate about the village and would like to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan.
This could involve residents or business and community representatives for example.
The aim is to include people in a steering group who have skills that can help the parish council with the Plan.
You may be someone with a great analytical mind, someone who knows the history of Norton Canes, a former town planner - or you could be a 'graphic design guru' who can help with producing promotional materials.

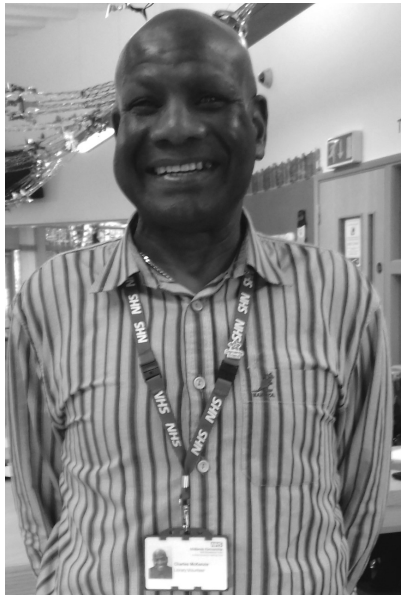
Parish councillors are looking for a diverse mix of people who can add value to the Plan which will be used to influence decisions regarding the shaping of Norton Canes in the future.
There will be several meetings of the steering group throughout the year at key stages of the Neighbourhood Plan development. Meetings will take place locally on an evening or Saturday morning.

Anyone interested in joining the steering group is invited to email their contact details to nortoncanes.neighbourhoodplan@gmail.com or ring the parish council on 01543 276812.

New Cemetery Delay

The provision of a new cemetery at St James' Church is still ongoing.
A Norton Canes Parish Council spokesperson said: "There are lots of issues to be resolved which have culminated in a delay taking the project forward.
"We will continue to update you in our quarterly newsletter and on the parish council website www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk."
If you have any queries regarding the new cemetery ring the parish council clerk on 01543 276812, Monday- Friday 10am-2pm or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Walking Towards a Better Future



Charles McKenzie; inspired by his mum to take part in the memory walk

A Norton Canes Library volunteer raised £215 by taking part in his fourth 10k event.
Charles McKenzie, aged 67, raised money for the Alzheimer's Society's dementia research.
The annual walk took place at Sutton Coldfield Park.
Charles, who lives in Burntwood, said: "I chose this charity because my mum has dementia.
"Over 5,000 people participate in the walk to help change the lives of people affected by dementia. I raised my sponsorship money by donations from family, friends and work colleagues.
"The money raised from the walk will help fund research that could find new ways to treat and prevent dementia in the future."
Charles wishes to thank everyone who supported and sponsored his efforts.
**More than 850,000 people in the UK are living with dementia today.*

Time to Spring Clean

Norton Canes is taking part in the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean.
As part of the event a litter pick has been organised to help with the Best Kept Village entry.
It will take place in various locations in the village on April 14 and volunteers can choose where they would like to work.
Anyone interested in taking part is asked to meet at the Lido club, School Road, at 11am.
Organiser Cllr John Preece said: "Please wear sturdy footwear and appropriate clothing. Gloves, litter sticks, bags, light refreshments and biscuits will be provided."

Silver Sneakers
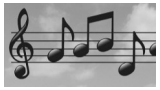


Members meet for their exercise class each week with new trainer Carol.

Member Pam Louies said: "This class helps our mental as well as physical health, so come and join us if you feel a bit down. Our friendly group will help 'pick you up' again. We would be very happy to welcome new faces. We still like the old faces - but a new face would be lovely! Please join us."
The class already has two new members.

Members meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, 12.30pm-1.30pm on Thursdays.
Subs are £4 - first class free.

For more details ring Pam on 01543 899367 or Jan 01543 495796





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

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

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

Telephone: 01922 415232 or 01922 478425
for more details

Norton Canes Flower Club



Here we are looking forward to spring and with a new programme that began in January. Since the last newsletter we had the lead-up to Christmas with an open evening at the Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock, on November 19, when the club presented an evening with David Rylands. David demonstrated 'A Christmas Wish' which was a great start to celebrations. In December some members enjoyed a meal in Brewood and had a lovely evening. The New Year began on January 16 with a demonstration by Jo Davis who is a club member/ qualified National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) demonstrator. She presented 'A Wander through Time' with lovely flowers and super arrangements. February 20 was a practical evening led by Chris and entitled 'Let's Go Green', encouraging us to think about recycling the mechanics.

Forthcoming Events:

March 20: open evening at Norton Canes High School. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy an evening of flowers. The demonstrator is Beverley Artis with 'A Night at the Oscars' which sounds very exciting. Tickets (£7) are available from 01543 279133 or pay on the door.

April 17: a talk 'Spring Plant Showcase' by Byron from Lichfield Garden Centre.

May 15: demonstration by Sofie O'Keefe entitled 'New York New York'.

Visitors and new members are most welcome. Meetings take place at Trinity Methodist Chapel, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month (except August). For more details ring 01543 278370.

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

Lively Lido Raises the Cash



from left: Lido president Glenys Hardware, Cllr Sheila Harding and entertainments manager Caroline Hardware.

A series of fundraisers at the Lido Club, Norton Canes, resulted in bumper charity cheques. The fundraisers, which took place over the last few months raised a fantastic £1,280 for the Alzheimer's Society. Norton Canes 'dementia champion' Councillor Sheila Harding received the cheque on behalf of the Society. "I would like to congratulate staff and members of The Lido," Cllr Harding said. "Special thanks to Caroline Hardware for allowing me to be part of these fantastic fundraisers."



Lido bar manager Natalie Ayre Is pictured with a certificate from St Giles

The Society is celebrating 40 years of research this year. The Lido held a psychic evening with Ruth James, a coffee morning and a darts marathon to raise the cash. Caroline Hardware said she would like to thank Glenys Hardware, Kirsty Westwood, Natalie Ayre, Robin Ayre, Martin Owen, Carl Hardware and Lido club members, staff and guests. She said thanks are also due to Dave Smith who 'twisted the arms of local shopkeepers' for donations of food for the events.

Lido staff and members also raised a magnificent £592.09 for St Giles Hospice last year.

Best Kept Village: Here We Go Again

Norton Canes will again be entered into the Best Kept Village competition.

Norton Canes parish councillors are now busy preparing the entry for the 2019 competition.

Judging will take place in May and June.

The aim is to focus on presentation of the village.

A parish council spokesperson said: "We feel this is important for residents too. We are looking at providing new notice boards in the village centre. The new board has already been installed at the entrance to the Co-op and has already made a difference.

"We would encourage residents to get involved even with small tasks such as litter picking in your local area.

"If you have any suggestions that you feel would contribute to the presentation of the village please let us know."

If you are interested in becoming involved ring the parish council clerk on 015432 276812, Monday to Friday, 10am-2pm or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Trinity Methodist Church

Easter Services:
Palm Sunday - April 14, 11am, Section Service
Easter Sunday - April 21, 6am, Sunrise at Castle Ring
Easter Sunday - April 21, 11am, Morning Service

Church Information

Sunday worship 11am.
Girls Brigade takes place at the church on Thursdays: Explorers 6pm-7.15pm; seniors and brigaders 7.30pm-9pm. For details ring Chris Straughan on 01543 276695.
Accordion group is on Saturdays, 8.30am. Contact Peter Howard on 01543 270627.
Morning coffee on Saturdays 10am-12 noon; Food Bank Saturdays 10am-12 noon.
Other events include quiz nights, barn dances, skittle evenings, Wood turning, Trinity Toddlers, keep fit and the Flower Club.

Church contacts:
Rev Christopher Parkes 01543 682277
senior steward Ian Straughan 01543 276695
organist Pat Littler 01543 276371.

Check us Out and Join In

Norton Canes Chess Club needs new members. Club members have completed this year's League matches and look set to retain their Division 3 trophy if other matches go their way.

Members enjoy 'social chess'. They meet at the Lido Club, Norton Canes, on Tuesdays from 7.30pm, (unless they are playing an 'away' game) almost every week of the year. All levels are catered for.

Club spokesperson Mike Hoare said: "We are sure there must be other players who would like a go.

"The Lido hosted another county game in January but unfortunately we lost. However the Under 14 side played a game at Bloxwich and we had our first win of the year, 9-7."

For more details about the club ring Mike on 01543 279989.

Volunteer Action

Fancy having a go at lopping, chopping, slashing and burning? Then Staffordshire County rangers would love to hear from you.

The rangers host work parties from 10am-1pm at the following: Norton Bog on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month; Hatherton Reservoir on the 2nd Sunday of the month and Chasewater Country Park - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Volunteers will be taking part in woodland and heathland restoration including coppicing, selective thinning, scrub control and hedge laying. They will also be carrying out routine maintenance such as track repairs, cutting back overgrowth and installing bollards and benches.

If you would like to help (bring waterproofs, boots and gloves) ring Rob on 07855 336 907 or Nigel 07772 132 896

Welcome to the Lido Working Men's Club & Institute - the best kept secret in the village!
The club has been in constant use since 1889, supporting the village and its community.



Luckily, the club has been updated since then and is now a warm and comfortable environment, with a lounge, games room and large function room available for most parties.

If you have a function you would like to arrange, please speak to bar manager Natalie Ayre on 01543 275714 (answer phone) or pop in and see her. We can help with most activities and also have our resident DJ, Liam, to provide the entertainment. We also have in-house caterers (Entirely Yours Catering) that can accommodate most requests. The club also has a skittle alley available for parties and can assist if you want something different, such as a charity night or horse racing night with our big screen.

We have a busy week with crib on Mondays; darts (Mondays and Fridays); chess and card craft club Tuesdays; prize bingo Wednesdays; karaoke and ladies' darts Thursdays; and entertainment throughout the year on Saturdays.
But we can always find time for a quiet pint and watch our BT & Sky Sport.

The games room has a pool and snooker table (snooker free on Sunday nights) and we organise darts nights and family nights throughout the year.

What's on at the Lido?



Over 60s Club
Tired of staring at four walls? Fancy a nice cuppa, bingo, a raffle and someone to chat with? Why not come and join the Over 60s club at the Lido Club, 58 School Rd, Norton Canes.
We meet every Tuesday from 12pm-2.30pm and transport can be arranged. The Lido is a friendly club that gets you out and socialising and also offers day trips.
You can leave a message on our answerphone (01543 275714) or pop in and see us. We'll get the kettle on!

Norton Canes Royal British Legion
The branch meets at the Lido Club on the second Tuesday of most months (December-Jan, no meetings). It is a small but ambitious branch. We help around the village with parish council projects when we can and attend as many local functions as possible.
The branch has some interesting projects this year, with visits to the National Memorial Arboretum and RAF Cosford planned.
Branch members also attend Whittington Barracks Open Day.
If you would like to join or help in any way it would be greatly appreciated.
Children over 14 are welcome to become junior members and any adults, regardless of military service, are welcome to attend or join.
The branch secretary would like to thank Norton Canes Academy and Norton Canes High School staff for their effort and support celebrating the Centenary Anniversary of the end of WW1.
Norton Canes Parish Council organised the Lighting of the Beacon on Brownhills Road Sports Field which was a fantastic night.
Thank you also to the brave parents who volunteered their children to dress in period uniforms which were amazing and greatly appreciated by branch members. The after party at the Lido was good, with the Norton Girls Choir and local singer Steve Knight providing entertainment. A fantastic buffet was laid on. We hope to hold more events like this in the future.
If you like the idea of helping around the village, have an interest in 'things military' or just need to get out of the house and socialise, you will always receive a friendly welcome from us. Hope to see you soon.
David Smith
Lido secretary

‘Forget-Me-Not’ day 2019

Will be at

Norton Canes Library
Burntwood Road

Saturday May 25
11am - 2pm

Fun, Food and Entertainment
Tombola in aid of MASE
(Monthly Alzheimer’s Support Evenings)

And the fun continues
7pm - 10pm
at The Lido,
School Road, Norton Canes

Advice and information from dementia organizations and support from the Alzheimer’s Society

For details contact Sheila Harding
01543 275013 or mobile 07733346280



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 Health Centre - Dr W Nilar and Dr W Htike



We have come to the end of our influenza immunisation programme. Thank you to those who attended. Our aim is to immunise as many eligible patients as possible.

Extended Access Primary Care Services
The Extended Hours Primary Care Service aims to respond to the needs of the local population in each area. Your local GP surgery will advise you on arrangements for your own practice. To book an appointment, patients should contact their GP surgery. Patients will be required to visit a nearby practice other than their own. Clinicians will view patients’ medical records to ensure effective clinical care.

Carers
Are you a carer? If so please make staff aware as we keep a register of all carers.

Pharmacy First
Did you know you don’t always need to see your GP with minor health problems? The local pharmacy can recognise and treat many common illnesses. They can give advice and where appropriate recommend over the counter medicines. If they think you need to see a GP they will advise you to do so. If you are eligible for free prescriptions you will not have to pay for medicine that the pharmacist suggests. Below are examples of some common problems that a pharmacist can treat: allergies/hayfever, vaginal thrush, constipation/diarrhoea, athlete’s foot, earache, headache, migraine , haemorrhoids, teething, threadworm, warts/verrucas, acute bacterial conjunctivitis.

Minor eye conditions (MECS)
This service is available for diagnosis of minor eye conditions. You do not need to be referred by your GP for this service. You can contact your local optician regarding the following minor eye conditions: dry eye, watery eye, mild to moderate ocular pain or discomfort, red eye, corneal conditions, distorted vision, in-growing eyelashes, eye lumps and bumps, flashes or floaters, blurred vision, retinal lesions.

Bowel Scope Screening
This is a service which is offered to people when they reach the age of 55 to 60. You will receive an invitation to take part in bowel scope screening. Ring the Freephone helpline for advice on 0800 707 60 60. This service is free of charge and we encourage patients to participate if invited to do so.

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

Early morning and late night appointments
Do you find it difficult to attend during our normal appointment times? If so then we do early morning 7am on Wednesdays with Dr Nilar and also late Tuesday 6.30pm-7.10pm with Dr Htike.
Reception opening times are 8am-6.30pm Monday-Friday. Booking of morning appointments at 8.30am; 2pm for afternoon appointments.
Any queries, ring the surgery on 01543 450222 and speak to practice manager Jane Potter

In Memory of Mervin

A popular organist/choirmaster at St James Church, Norton Canes, has passed away at the age of 80.

Mervin Jones, formerly from Church Road, Norton Canes, was performing until he became too ill and was hospitalised. He died in hospital in October.



Master of the keyboards: Mervin Jones

Mervin came to St James the Great as a stand-in organist/ choirmaster in 2005 - and stayed for the next 13 years.
He was a master of the keyboard playing anything from pop, classical and church music as well as being a modest person who would always help others.

Over the years he has delighted audiences far and wide with his talent. Music was his work and passion for most of his life.
Norton Canes has had the pleasure of his music at services, especially at weddings where many young couples have been delighted with his performance. He also played at funerals and used to stage concerts in church with local choirs and friends.
Mervin began playing the organ at the age of 12 and performed for many audiences from the age of 13 when he was invited on stage at Birmingham Town Hall and 'caught the bug'.

One of his proudest moments was being invited to play at Haarlem Cathedral in Belgium.

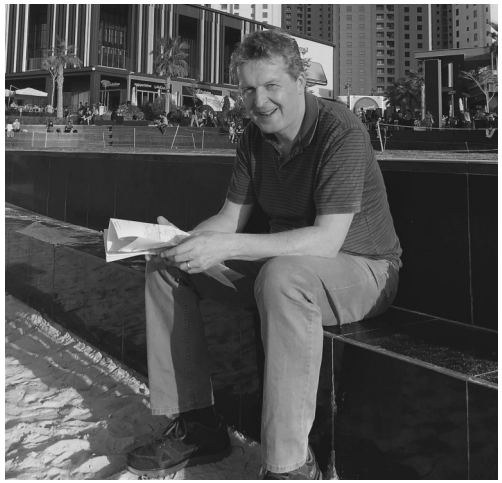
Mervin performed monthly concerts at Darlaston Town Hall and latterly in Walsall.

He was always appreciated for his dedication and enthusiasm and mastery on the keys. He is sadly missed by all who knew him.

Mary Carpenter

Dream Come True for Village Author

A Norton Canes man decided to turn the disappointment of redundancy into spending his time writing.
Nick France, from Church Road, was made redundant in August. He worked for local company Carillion which has now gone into liquidation.
So he decided to use his new free time to finish a novel he has had on the backburner for three years.
Now, The Skin Traders has been published – and he is already working on the follow-up called Zero Gravity Season Five.



Free at last: Nick France gets down to writing

As well as working, Nick, aged 54, was also performing in a band called Dance Floor Deluxe for four years which further limited the time he had for writing.
Nowadays Nick is happy to write, to work part time and teach guitar.
He still has his music and time to write so looks forward to a positive future.
The book is available on Amazon.

And don't forget.....

Our own editor Janet Lee has written a sequel to her first novel Mistress Magic. This one is called In Search of Dion and is just as enthralling as the first. Both books are available on Amazon and I personally can't wait for the third. We are very lucky that this talented lady finds time to edit our Newsletter and I for one owe her a big thank you.

Sheila Harding. Norton Canes Newsletter sub editor.

Norton Canes League of Ladies



We have had a great few months. Our meeting in November included wine tasting with Clive Wines, Burntwood. It was a very 'tasty' evening enjoyed by all. We will be arranging another evening with Clive Wines in the spring. Clive talked about how he started wine making and how he is looking forward to the future. Also in November we enjoyed a Christmas shopping day in Chester. The weather wasn't the best, but we had a good full day. At our Christmas meeting on December 5 we were entertained by Louise, who sings on cruise liners. We had a fantastic evening, with a great buffet c/o Whitehouses. We are now at full capacity for members with a waiting list for 2019. We are anticipating going to The Rag in February for a late Christmas meal. Our next trip will be in April. Thank you to Val at the Library, Lyn at parish council office and Councillor Johnny McMahon for all the help they have given us. Happy New Year to all our members and officers.

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

Rector Fr Neil Hibbins 01543 278969, email neilhibbins@gmail.com
Church clerk Mary Carpenter 01543 275296, email: marycarpenter243@gmail.com
Church warden Ann Eden 01543 278737.

Norton Canes Historical Society

The society meets at Norton Canes Library on the second Tuesday of the month from 7pm-9pm.
The speakers and subjects for upcoming meetings are as follows:
March 12: Tony Hunt giving a talk about Heath Hayes Murders.
April 9: Rachel Hawkins - The Red Cross.
May 14: Mary Bodfish - How We Lived Then.
June 11: Kath Reynolds - Goose Grease and Brown Paper.
(No meetings in July and August).
Admission is free. We welcome members and non members.
For more details ring the society chairman Roger Knowles on 01543 279313 or
secretary Maureen Garbett 01543 275416.



Feeling Snap Happy?



Controlling The Flock

Cannock Photographic Society has re-commenced after the festive break.
Members old and new are welcome to join.
Members meet at Norton Canes Community Centre on Thursday nights. There is a new, varied programme for 2019 with many guest speakers covering a variety of subjects plus a range of club competitions. The popular club has a membership of about 80 with a regular attendance of about 50. Anyone interested in photography, whatever their experience and preferred subject, is welcome. The club organises occasional photographic trips for members. The first event for 2019 was a 'Three on a Theme' competition on January 24. The challenge was to present three photos with a similar theme on one background. During the next two months there will be inter-club, digital and print competitions. Club members do well in national competitions, doing the region proud. On January 17 the renowned Irene Froy gave an illustrated lecture about land, light and atmosphere, followed by an illustrated talk on street photography. The following week there was a talk about landscape photography. For the less experienced members there are regular training sessions on a variety of subjects. Instructors are experienced club members who 'want to help others to improve their photography'. There is a small charge for sessions to cover room hire. Instructors give their time free. A club spokesperson said: "We are lucky to have a number of experienced members, including four national judges, who are happy to give help and advice." Members meet from 7.30pm-10pm with a break for refreshments. Visit www.canockps.co.uk for more information and a full programme of events.



Printing

Musical Treat



William Dodd is congratulated by parish council chairman Councillor John Preece

A Norton Canes High School sixth former treated the community to a special concert.
William Dodd, aged 18, from Cannock, sang for about 30 minutes as part of his BTEC Level 3 Music exam.
School governor Beryl Hall helped to organise the concert. The audience comprised of members of the local community invited by Ms Hall.
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman John Preece and parish councillors Ann Bernard and Sheila Harding attended with former Norton Canes High School librarian Sam Dewally - who used to work with William.
Cllr Harding said: "We thoroughly enjoyed William's presentation and wish him well in his BTEC exam. He introduced all the songs and sang them beautifully."
William sang to backing track, performing favourites such as Chim Chim Cheree from Mary Poppins; Reviewing the Situation from Oliver; Stars from Les Misérables and more.
A school spokesperson said: "The concert was very successful. William performed to a high enough standard to ensure this unit was passed. Feedback from the audience was very positive.
"This unit was based around him singing but he also plays keyboard and piano."

Easter Services at St James' Church

Sunday April 14: Palm Sunday. Procession and Mass 10.30am.
Maundy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm.

Good Friday: Children's activities 10.30am.

Way of the Cross: 12 noon.

Lent Lunch: 1pm.

Liturgy of the Passion 7pm.

Easter Eve: First Mass of Easter 8pm.

Easter Day: Mass 8am.

Solemn Mass 10.30am.



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Interim	**£99**	Oil & Filter Change & Vital Visual Checks, Recommend for high Mileage cars as a mini service between Annual services
Annual	**£145**	The most popular service, All vital fluids checked, Oil, Oil Filter & Air Filter changed, full comprehensive report, Also includes Battery check and a diagnostics check. Recommended every year
Major	**£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!"