

Nene Valley

news

Your local independent community newspaper for East Northamptonshire

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so please submit your
news story or event at
www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

Inside...



Chris takes the helm at marina

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In Brief

Enjoy Yoga to recommence

Enjoy Yoga sessions will recommence on Tuesday 8th September and Thursday 10th September from 7pm to 8.30pm at Whitefriars Infant School Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

This is the fifteenth year of Enjoy Yoga teaching and sharing at this pleasant, peaceful venue. Help yourself to relax, feel stronger and fitter and enjoy your body and life to the optimum.

Age and fitness levels are no barrier for enjoying this time out to focus on yourself with awareness.

Explore East Northants

Local Focus Explorations is an informal friendly group for all ages and abilities.

The group meets to explore some of the more unusual local areas with unique photo-maps, on various days in the week. The multi-use maps are used for walking, cycling, car, and bus trips, and there are seasonal themes, including rubus fruticosus walks! Membership is free, with maps and booklets from £3 each. If you can't make the group events, some maps are available from Raunds Post Office. For more details: 01933 461480 or email susanthewalker@hotmail.com



Northamptonshire Special Constabulary passes 500 mark

Northamptonshire Police is celebrating after reaching a landmark 500 Special Constables, having added over 150 new officers in the past year.

The total means Northamptonshire Police has the largest ratio of Special Constables to regular officers anywhere in England and Wales, and the fifth highest total number of Special Constables of any police force, adding huge capacity to their regular, full-time officers.

The county's police force

is now made up of 1,731 officers, of which nearly one third are volunteer Special Constables who have the same powers as their paid equivalents. Northamptonshire Police's Special Constabulary consists of 502 uniformed officers, who contribute an average of 24 hours per month each.

Having completed

110,000 hours of duty in 2014 – equivalent to 60 full-time officers – Special Constables are expected to give 125,000 hours in 2015 to helping Northamptonshire become the safest place in England.

The volunteer force has made over 500 arrests and recorded nearly 1,000 crimes so far this year, working across

various different police departments. And with hundreds of applications being received every month from people looking to join the ranks, the constabulary is expected to continue to grow at pace.

Adam Simmonds, Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "I'd like to say a huge congratulations to

Northamptonshire Police for passing this landmark of 500 Special Constables, and a huge thank you to the 502 Special Constables who give their time up for free for the benefit of their communities.

"When I began my term as Police and Crime Commissioner for the county, I set the ambitious target of recruiting and training 900 special constables in order to help make Northamptonshire the safest place in England, and passing the 500 mark is a significant milestone in our journey towards that goal.

"I am committed to helping Chief Constable Simon Edens and Northamptonshire Police create a workforce that can deliver to the expectations of our residents, and having over 500 Special Constables on board is helping us considerably to achieve that."

"We are here to protect communities and keep people safe and I therefore pay tribute to those Special constables who have volunteered to protect and serve their communities in this way. As Chief Constable, I will do my very best to make them an integrated part of how we police Northamptonshire in the future."

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Fond farewell to postman Roy

Roy Hadley, Harringworth's postman for the last 30 years was honoured by the villagers with a presentation in the village hall on Saturday 8th August.

Roy certainly made an impression on the village, clear by the turnout to bid him a fond farewell. Over 60 people joined him for coffee and a super spread of homemade cakes. He had established many friendships in the village during his 30 years' service – one couple had come up from Kent for the occasion and another former villager, now living in Bulwick, popped over too.

His smile and pleasant attitude did not

go unnoticed and Roy certainly went the extra mile whilst delivering in the village. During the address by Chairman of the Parish Council, Simon McLean everyone learnt some interesting facts about Roy. One Christmas with a van full of parcels he couldn't find anyone at home and it was suggested that many people were in the church decorating it for the season, so he popped down in his van managing to find most of the recipients for his bundle of parcels.

Known for going out of his way there were several examples of him running his own redirection service when someone had moved house within the village and it was only when he was on holiday that the odd letter went astray. He even collected outgoing letters from one house, even though the letterbox was just down the road.

Roy also delivered to part of Gretton village and it was from there he would buy his daily paper and after completing his round in Harringworth he would take a break to read it sitting in his van overlooking the valley at the top of Green Lane. Apparently, Roy was rather partial to fish and chips and at the end of his working day on a Friday it was his special

treat before heading back – resulting in the driver of his van on a Saturday having to put up with the stale fishy smell.

A collection had been made in the village for Roy's fond farewell and Simon McLean on behalf of Harringworth presented him with a cheque for £650 and a bouquet of flowers for his partner Margarita.

Genealogy jottings

So, there you are, gathering lots of lovely information about your ancestors and your desk/dining room table/sofa is covered in bits of paper on which you have made notes. Time to get organised – before it is too late!

When I started to record details, I had one of those cheap and cheerful reporter's notebooks for each of my grandparents' surnames. That way, I was able to keep most of it together in the right place. I say 'most of it' as even now, I find the odd Post-it note that I had squirreled away!

One thing that I was very bad about was recording sources. If you find your great-grandfather living in Rugby in the 1901 census when you thought that he should be living in Raunds, then please make a note of the census reference – or the chances are that you will not find him again, especially if the name has been mistranscribed as well.

Sometimes, our ancestors are kind enough to have been involved in court proceedings. If they have, don't forget to record where you found that information: was it in the newspaper? If so, which one?

By Jan Pearson
Genealogy Specialists, Tracing Our Past, Discovering Our Genes (TOP DOG)
www.genealogy-specialists.com

And the date? Was it a prison record? If so, where? Was it an inquest report?

Once you have all of these lovely details, you then need to decide as to how you will be recording it all. It is all very well and good having loads of notebooks, but it is much better to have the families in an ordered manner so that you can link the information that you find with the individual concerned. I have genealogy software on my computer and record it all there. It also enables me to print trees and charts with the people already on them and to upload the information to my family tree website. I also have ring-binders – one for each surname – which allow me to keep documents such as certificates in order. I also knew one chap who kept all the details on cards in various shoeboxes! There is no right or wrong way of doing it as long as it works for you. So, get organising!

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Letters to the editor

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor please send it to news@nenevalleynews.co.uk for consideration. The maximum word count is 200 words.

Dear Editor,
SHEDDING SPEED

Your correspondent (18 July 2015 issue – Your ABC Guide to Driving Safely) avers that a vehicle should be slowed by using only its brakes: not, therefore by “lifting off” and/or “changing down”. They aver that “Using your engine/gears to slow down places extreme stress on your engine”.

Twaddle!

Compared to the stresses of acceleration, those exerted by the reversed torque of deceleration are relatively minor. Coping with them is well within the capabilities of the typical engine and gearbox, assuming proper lubrication. On the other hand,

excessive use of the brakes leads to premature wear and, ultimately, costly replacement of pads, discs and maybe tyres.

Surely, finessed driving entails looking well ahead, identifying the approaching bend, crossroads, T-junction or roundabout and slowing smoothly (through the gears as necessary) to the appropriate speed – using brakes only when finally required. Crucially, with winter approaching, such a practised technique is essential when slowing on sheet-ice or, slickest of all, hard packed slush just beginning to thaw. The very last thing one should touch – then as gently as necessary – is the brake pedal.

Yours faithfully

Brian Scott

Hon. Sec. The Institute of (Safely) Retarded Motorists

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CONTACT:

Angela White
T: 01832 273266

David Wilkinson
T: 01832 272623

Chris takes the helm of new River Nene marina



Chris Dixon

White Mills Marina at Earls Barton – Northamptonshire's newest riverside marina situated on the River Nene has appointed a marina manager to take the helm when it opens this autumn.

Chris Dixon, a boating enthusiast for the past decade, will be taking up his new role from Monday 14th September, and is relishing the thought of being involved with helping to establish White Mills Marina at Earls Barton.

Chris will be moving from Hornsea in East Riding with his wife of 35 years Wendy. They will be living aboard a 58ft narrowboat, Bees Knees, which they bought ten years ago as a sailaway and which they have completely fitted out themselves.

Commenting on his appointment, Director of White Mills Marina John Skinner commented: "What immediately struck us about Chris was not

only his knowledge of the boating world, but his enthusiasm, and excellent communication and organisational skills. We believe that Chris and his delightful wife Wendy will be a huge asset to White Mills as we all work together to create an award-winning marina."

Chris said: "I am thoroughly looking forward to helping to establish White Mills Marina as one of the best marinas in the country. It is terrific to be involved from the very start and I could not be more happy to have been given the opportunity to work with John and Debbie Skinner and help them create something really special."

With a passion for the great outdoors, Chris

includes narrowboating, walking, birdwatching, gardening, sporting activities and socialising amongst his interests and is clearly looking

forward to exploring more of Northamptonshire including the River Nene and surrounding Nene Valley.

Chris and Wendy will be attending the Northampton Festival of Water over August Bank Holiday where White Mills Marina will be exhibiting for the very first time.

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Raunds 7.30 - 8.30pm starts 23rd Sep

Thursday
Oundle 9.30 - 10.30am starts 3rd Sep
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East Northamptonshire Council

Notice of planning applications received

Notice is given that the following applications have been received together with the last date for making representations:

Brigstock
15/01181/FUL (19/09/2015) (Art8) Demolish existing cowshed and erect new artisan flour mill, with associated canopy, silos, access, paring and landscaping at Chase Farm Dusthill Road Brigstock NN14 3NG

Collyweston
15/01538/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Flat roofed single garage at 29 Main Road Collyweston PE9 3PF

Great Addington
15/01446/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Demolition of existing bus depot and barn and construction of a detached four bedroom dwelling with detached garage at Rectory Farm Cranford Road Great Addington

Harringworth
15/01534/FUL (19/09/2015) (LB/CA) Refurbishment of existing outbuildings currently in ancillary residential use to form a home office at The Limes Farm House Wakerley Road Harringworth NN17 3AH

Higham Ferrers
15/01463/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) First floor side extension at 22 Dryden Way Higham Ferrers NN10 8DH
15/01512/VAR (19/09/2015) (Art8) Variation of condition 7 - Japanese Knotweed -

pursuant to application 14/01537/REM - Reserved matters: Details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission 14/00121/VAR - 'Residential development of 166 dwellings (all matters reserved)' dated 30.05.2014 at Land at Wharf Road Allotment Site Wharf Road Higham Ferrers

Irthlingborough
15/01493/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Conversion of existing ancillary building to form annexe complete with new pitched roof, widening of existing vehicular access and alterations to roof over existing kitchen at 2 Wellingborough Road Irthlingborough NN9 5RF

King's Cliffe
15/01367/LBC (19/09/2015) (LBRegs) To install a 4kw (16 panel) solar PV system to the rear / south facing roof pitch at 1 West Street King's Cliffe PE8 6XB

Lowick and Slipton
15/01397/FUL (19/09/2015) (LB/CA) Erection of double garage and storage area to rear of property and turning area to front at 15 Main Street Lowick NN14 3BH

Oundle
15/01468/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Extension to the front of the property at 9 Cotterstock Road Oundle PE8 4PN
15/01549/LBC (19/09/2015) (LBRegs) New internal studwork walls to an existing outbuilding at 47 West Street Oundle PE8 4EJ

Raunds
15/01267/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Erection of pair of semi detached houses at Land Adjacent to 2 Midland Road Raunds NN9 6JF
15/01472/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Erection of two detached dwellings at Former RPC Site Grove Street Raunds
15/01496/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Erection of first floor extension over existing porch at 1 Andrews Way Raunds
15/01504/VAR (12/09/2015) (Info) Variation of Condition 6, 9, 12 - to relocate the proposed parking spaces and replace proposed window to west elevation pursuant to planning permission 13/00268/FUL dated 10.4.13 Change of use of existing building from storage (B8) to residential (C3). Alterations to existing building to form a two storey dwelling at 12D Rotton Row Raunds NN9

Rushden
15/01305/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Single storey rear and side extension at 36 Manor Road Rushden NN10 9EY
15/01448/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Proposed two storey rear/side extension and replacement garage/store at 40 Melloway Road Rushden NN10 6XX
15/01449/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info) Single storey front extension at 2A Swallow Drive Rushden NN10 6EG
15/01464/ADV (12/09/2015) (Info) Fascia sign, vinyl window signage and freestanding sign at Helix Lighting Factory Wellingborough Road Rushden
15/01479/FUL (12/09/2015) (Info)

Formation of hardstanding area at rear of existing building erection of a 3 metre high boundary fence and associated works at DIY Store Crown Way Rushden NN10 6AX
15/01503/ADV (19/09/2015) (LB/CA) Projecting illuminated signage boxes above the store entrance and two free standing totems with illuminated signage at Former Recycling Centre Car Park and Council Depot Newton Road Rushden

Southwick
15/01410/LBC (19/09/2015) (LBRegs) Internal plaster repair works to first floor ceiling including additional ceiling joists, mechanically fixed next to existing, to provide additional strength and support at The Shuckburgh Arms Main Street Southwick PE8 5BL

Wadenhoe
15/01462/FUL (19/09/2015) (LB/CA) The construction of two off street car parking areas for use by residents of the adjacent cottages and the provision of an improved vehicle access to one of the car parks at 1 The Green Wadenhoe PE8 5SY

Warmington
15/01551/FUL (19/09/2015) (LB/CA) Demolition of working mens club and proposed residential development of nine dwellings at 18-20 Chapel Street Warmington PE8 6TR

Woodford
15/01477/FUL (19/09/2015) (LB/CA) Conversion of former stable building to

single dwelling at 10 Addington Road Woodford
15/01485/FUL (19/09/2015) (LB/CA) Construction of two dwellings on a disused car park (re-design of 15/00371/FUL) at Land to rear of 33 High Street Newtown Street Woodford

Yarwell
15/01490/LBC (19/09/2015) (LBRegs) Alterations to layout and replacement of bathroom fittings at first floor level, removal of brick fire surround and hearth and replace with new oak lintel, surround and stone hearth with wood burning stove and flue liner, replace post to spine and cross beam and remover sleeper walls between posts in living room at 57 Main Street Yarwell PE8 6PR

The reason for applications being advertised is as follows:
Part3 - Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 2015.
Part16 - Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 2015.
Info - Non-statutory - included for information only.
LB/CA - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990.
LBRegs - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990.

David Reed
Head of Planning Services
Dated 29 August 2015

Consultation deadlines will differ for each application. Please go to www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications for details.

Islip Village Hall wins £20,000 Biffa grant to upgrade and improve central heating system

Islip Village Hall, Northamptonshire has secured a £20,000 grant from Biffa Award; a multi-million pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to community and environmental projects across the UK, as part of the Landfill Communities Fund.

The funding under Biffa Award's Community Buildings theme will pay to upgrade and improve the central heating system to all areas of the hall, including the kitchen and toilets which were previously unheated.

The hall was built in 1984 and is

a well used local facility catering to a range of groups including indoor bowls, art classes, pilates, table tennis, karate, luncheon club and dog training. It is also a popular venue for charitable fundraising activities. The new heating system will help make the hall more environmentally friendly and provide a more usable, comfortable space for the community.

Beryl Wright, Village Hall Chairman, said: "The new heating system will provide more efficient heating to the whole building and also ensure the hall continues to be a suitable venue for community activities for the

foreseeable future and beyond."

Alan Tyler, Thrapston Table Tennis Club, said: "Thrapston Table Tennis Club, and its opponents, warmly welcome the installation of the new heating system at their home venue. It will be good not having to sit with our coats and gloves on whilst waiting to play during the colder spells."

Gillian French, Biffa Award Programme Manager, said: "This project is an excellent example of how the Landfill Communities Fund can help improve local spaces for the community."

Have your say

East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) has been operating food waste collections for four years now and over this time the amount of waste being collected is falling.

To find out about use and opinion of the food waste service, they have created a short online survey. All East Northants residents are invited to participate.

The survey takes just a few minutes and will help ENC make decisions about what the waste collection service will look like in the future.

To take part please visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk and click on the banner half way down the page or visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYDPKXT The survey closes at 5pm on Monday 21 September.

Dementia: helping you make sense of the noise

Thousands of relatives and carers of dementia sufferers are battling to receive funding towards crippling care bills. Under the NHS Continuing Healthcare scheme, older people can qualify to have care and nursing home fees paid in full if they are judged to have chronic health needs. This money helps alleviate the burden for families.

There is no ceiling on the amount paid out, no means test and it is not age related. Yet access to this funding can be a struggle for people suffering from dementia. Many are often forced through lengthy assessments and

appeal processes.

Many people remain unaware of Trust Law or Continuing Healthcare payments. According to charities, one problem is the NHS facing stringent financial targets. There are around 59,000 individuals receiving Continuing Healthcare according to the Department of Health. The Alzheimer's Society believes many more could be eligible.

There is a 'national framework' covering England and Wales, but it is somewhat of a postcode lottery.

Dementia is often seen as a natural part of ageing, with patients' needs

failing to be properly assessed.

But you can remove your assets from the equation with forward thinking and some well-timed action.

If you are having sleepless nights struggling to make sense of legislation or worried about your hard earned assets, please contact St Joseph's Asset Management to discuss ways of protecting your assets and helping you make sense of the noise.

St Joseph's: Tel 01832 720052
info@stjosephs-online.co.uk
www.stjosephs-online.co.uk

ISE and Nene Valley Turners

Twenty-seven potential members from the area came to the first meeting of this newly formed club for local woodturners, held at the Counties Community Centre, Hertford Rd, Kettering NN15 6LG.

Chairman Peter Bond explained that it is the only club for woodturners in the area and it welcomes turners of all levels to its next meeting on 17th September when there will be a demonstration from the professional turner John Johnson starting at 7pm.

The Club will meet on the third Thursday of the month at The Community Centre at 7pm. If you are a woodturner or would like to learn, please come along to see what is on offer and chat with fellow turners, all are welcome and we would like to meet you. Admission is free to members and £5 for non members. Plus raffle and refreshments.

Rotary Classic Car Show a £6,500 success

Once again the sunny weather made for a really successful day as the proud owners of classic cars brought their treasured vehicles for some 3,000 people of all ages to admire.

Proud owners shared their detailed knowledge of the cars, many of which were in or near concours condition, and with a range of cars from a 1928 red and silver MG to a 2011 Chevrolet Corvette the show was a stunning sight. The winner, chosen by the public, was Derek Chapman's Jensen P66 Prototype.

170 classic cars were on show in the Castle Fields, Higham Ferrers recently at an event organised by Rushden Chichele Rotary Club.

There was plenty to do and see, with 30 stalls and businesses selling everything from roast pork to rotor arms and there was a bouncy castle for the children. Entry was by donation to Rotary Funds.

Main sponsor Winslow Ford, along with many other businesses, supported the event so generously. The club gave special thanks to the Disney stall, who donated all their takings to the event.

The Show has raised over £6,500 for a wide range of charities, local and international,

supported by the Club including The British Heart Foundation, The Prince's Trust, Rushden

MIND, The Royal British Legion, SERVE and The Women's Refuge. Internationally the Club supports Rotary's work in eradicating polio, and The Langalanga School in Kenya where they sponsor a 15-year-old boy.

New services launched to accommodate church growth

From September, St Peter's Church, Oundle will be radically changing its service pattern to accommodate the growing and diverse town community seeking to worship on Sundays.

Two new services, The 9.45am and The 11.15am will be introduced, offering contrasting worship styles to accommodate both those who want a more informal, lively style of worship, and those who prefer the more conventional Communion service.

St Peter's regularly attracts around 200 to its current 10.30am service, meaning that the church is often full. Research shows that when the building is full, it can be difficult for a church to grow further, partly because people fear they won't get seated, but also because it's less easy to get to know each other.

Rev Stephen Webster, Vicar of Oundle, and his team, have also recognised that whilst many people want to know and follow Jesus and attend church regularly, preference about the style of worship varies considerably.

He explained: "Some people prefer a quiet, more ordered service, while others favour more relaxed worship with modern songs and multi-media. We want to be a church where everyone can find their place and grow in faith."

Stephen hopes that the new service pattern, which starts on 13th September will enable the church to grow as a whole, reaching more people with the good news of Jesus Christ. The church is also excited to welcome Rev Jema Ball as its new Associate Vicar, joining Stephen as Vicar, and Rev Lynda Davies, as Curate. Jema is new to Oundle and

has moved with husband Jonno and their two small children. Jema will have particular responsibility for young people and those in their 20s and 30s.

Service details

- The 9.45 – Informal, lively worship, with children's and young people's groups, a band, talk and prayers, with a Family Service and Communion once a month. Crèche available.
- The 11.15 – Holy Communion every week, well-loved hymns and songs, a talk and prayer.

For a church Welcome Pack containing full details of all services and activities, please contact Justine Turton, Church Administrator
Tel: 01832 275675 or e-mail stpetersoundle@yahoo.co.uk
www.oundlestpeters.org.uk



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- Psychology & Crime
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**MORE CHOICES
OPPORTUNITIES
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Exam success in East Northamptonshire

Pitsford School pupils celebrate GCSE results



There was a real buzz at Pitsford School, four miles north of Northampton, as pupils opened their GCSE results in Pitsford Hall, with 83.9% of all pupils achieving at least 5 A*-C grades. A pleasing 31.8% of grades were awarded A or A*.

A school with an excellent reputation for Mathematics and Science, 65.5% of pupils gained A or A* grades in Mathematics with 55% of Pitsford School pupils securing A or A* in two or more Science subjects.

Pitsford School's highest achieving male pupil was Sam Tucker who was delighted with his 6A*s, 3As and a Distinction in ICT.

"The teachers at Pitsford School have been really caring and supportive and helped me achieve these grades. I've been at Pitsford School since Year 7 and there's a real sense of community.

Now the wait for my GCSE results is over, I'm looking forward to studying Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Biology A-levels in the Sixth Form," said Sam.

Amber Parry was the highest achieving female pupil, whose grades included 2A*s, 3As and a Distinction in ICT.

"It was quite scary opening my envelope this morning but I'm delighted with my results. I've been at Pitsford School since Year 9 and am really looking forward to joining Pitsford School's Sixth Form. I want to train to become a vet and the Sixth Form will be good preparation for university," said Amber.

Pitsford School's next Open Day takes place on Saturday 3rd October 2015 between 10.30am and 1pm.



Ferrers School students make the grade



GCSE students at the Ferrers School have been opening their exam envelopes and enjoying the reward for all their hard work over the last two years. With improved overall pass rates and an increase in the number of students getting five good GCSE grades, there was an excited, celebratory atmosphere in the school this morning.

Jonathan Giles, Headteacher,

said: "It is always such a pleasure to see happy students on results day. The students and teachers have worked so hard together to achieve these results. They deserve to celebrate this success."

Students who excelled included: Millie Gorst (10 A*, 2 As), Sarah Mansfield Ford (9A*, 3As), Jessica Underwood (5A*, 7As), Harriet Cookson (6A*, 5As), Lewsi Keeble (1A*, 8As), Tom Whattton (9As)

university, apprenticeships and employment which is needed in such a competitive international market. I and all the staff at Prince William School wish them all the best, hope they continue to dare to dream and work hard to pursue their future goals."



Record-breaking exams success at Prince William School, Oundle

Prince William School is celebrating a record set of results, proving the school has clearly turned a corner in dramatic style and is well on the way to become outstanding.

Fifty-five per cent of all entries were graded at the highest grades A*/A/B and an overall pass rate of 99%. The average point score per exam entry is 215. Overall, these set of results are the highest the school has achieved.

Based on previous results across the county, Prince William School would be placed in the top five sixth forms, excluding the private sector.

Over 90% of the students are moving on to their first choice university, most of which are Russell Group universities.

Headteacher, Mark Taitt said: "This proves that with hard work and unwavering dedication from staff and students, along with the support shown by parents and the community, daring to dream has become a reality. Our students have been given an edge in their applications for

Oundle School breaks record

Oundle School pupils have once again been awarded a brilliant set of GCSE results, maintaining the School's reputation as one of the foremost academic co-educational schools in the country.

53.3% of grades were A*, beating the previous year's performance by 0.1%. It is the fifth year in a row that the A* percentage has topped 50. 84.5% of grades were A* or A.

The number of pupils achieving exceptional grades is a School record, with 25 pupils achieving at least ten A* grades and 49 pupils (over 25% of the cohort) scoring at least nine A* grades.

Performance was strong across all subjects with Mandarin (94%), Greek (90%), Chemistry (70%), Physics (64%), Latin and German (both 61%) and Mathematics (60%) all scoring at least 60% A* grades.

The School is delighted that its pupils have performed so well in all public examinations.

New Head Sarah Kerr-Dineen said: "The pupils deserve to feel proud of what they have achieved and can now embark on Sixth Form study with justified ambition."



Pitsford School pupils celebrate impressive A-level results

Pitsford School pupils have achieved an impressive set of A-level results this year with 46% of all grades awarded either A* or A – 23% of Sixth Formers secured three A grades or better.

Proud of its extra-curricular programme and pastoral care within a caring and supportive environment, Pitsford School was delighted that 68% of all grades awarded were A* to B.

Fifty-four per cent of pupils attained AAB or higher surpassing last year's results and reinforcing Pitsford School's reputation of being one of the highest achieving co-educational independent schools in Northamptonshire. A combination of small class sizes

and specialist teachers makes Pitsford School's Sixth Form the right choice to achieve excellence at this level.

Top scoring male and female pupils included Alice Cai with 3A*s, 1A and 1B, Jeffrey Zhao with 4As, Cora Zhang with 2A*s, 2As and 1B, Jonathan Martin with 1A*, 1A and 1B and Pitsford School Head Boy, James Goldthorpe with 1A*, 1A and 2B grades.

"I'm delighted with my results. Being part of the Sixth Form at Pitsford School has been a brilliant experience as there's such a great community spirit," said Head Boy James Goldthorpe. Eighteen-year old James, who was a member of the School's Debating Society, will now study English Literature at

Outstanding A-level results

Oundle School pupils have performed outstandingly in their Sixth Form examinations, with 25% of grades awarded at A* for the second year in succession. Almost two-thirds (64%) of results were graded A or better, the best performance of the last five years.

Just under half of the pupils (48%) were awarded three A grades or better and over 40 pupils achieved at least four A grades.

Seven pupils scored four A* grades, with Michael Hutchinson achieving five A* grades.

40% of Cambridge Pre-U grades were awarded at D1 or D2 level (the latter equivalent to the A level A*).

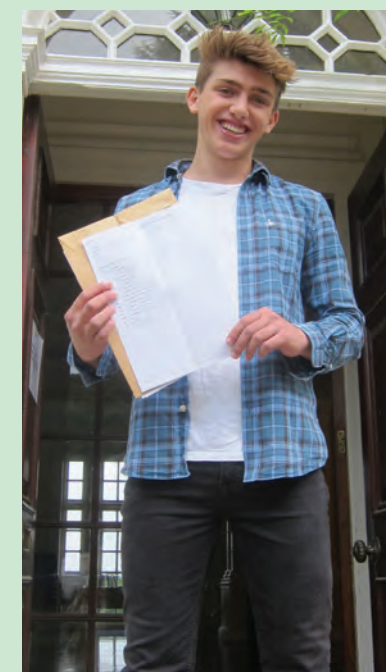
As a result 26 Oundellians have confirmed their places at Oxford or Cambridge Universities, the second highest figure in the last dozen years.

Pupil performance was strong across all subjects, with over 30% of grades awarded A* in the traditional academic disciplines of

Mathematics, English, History and Latin.

Headmaster, Charles Bush said: "Once again Oundle pupils have performed extremely well. These results represent tremendous efforts by both pupils and teachers. We are proud of these achievements and grateful for the academic leadership shown by this group of pupils during their time at School. They deserve real congratulations on their success which has set up some wonderful opportunities for their tertiary education in future.

"In my final year at Oundle I wish to pay tribute to the outstanding teaching that has given rise to increasingly excellent results over the last ten years. Oundle's academic credentials are particularly impressive and stand close comparison with all other co-educational schools in the UK. There is no doubt that the remarkable academic reputation and culture is as a result of the outstanding commitment and expertise of the teaching staff."



Well done to the Year 11 students of Rushden Academy!

Rushden Academy is pleased to announce that the hard work of the Year 11 students this year has produced results to be proud of.

The number of pupils that achieved A and A* grades continues to rise. Special congratulations go to Zachary Spavins Hicks who gained an outstanding 11A* and 1 A grades. Other students with

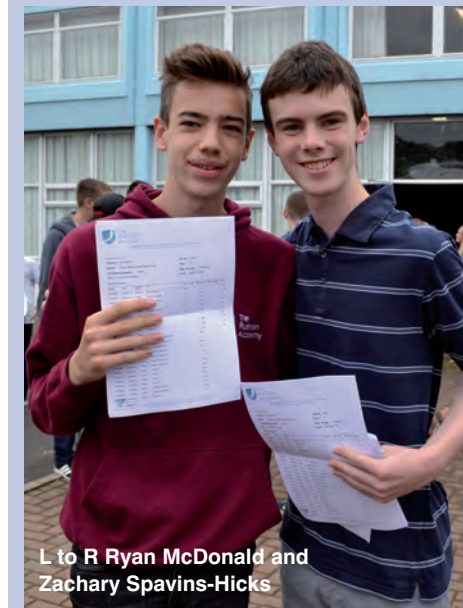
excellent results included Molly McGelliot with 9 A*–A, Alice Plater, Thembi Chihambakwe and Lauren Montgomery with 8 A*–A, and Jessica Renew and Ben Strong with 6 A*–A grades.

Students at the Academy continue to demonstrate excellence in individual subjects with a significant number achieving A and A* grades in Further Maths and Statistics as well as an extremely high proportion of A and A* in Drama.

We are also celebrating excellence in our Vocational subjects and are delighted that so many of our students have met and exceeded targets in different areas of the curriculum including Health and Social Care and Hair and Beauty.

We look forward to welcoming many of our students into The East Northamptonshire College for their Sixth Form Studies and wish those who will be continuing their education and training with other providers every success for the future.

Well done to all our Rushden students from all the staff, Governors and The Education Fellowship!



St Joseph's *Champagne Buffet Luncheon*
AT WADENHOE HOUSE



"Lunch is free, all we require is a little of your valuable time".

Please come and have lunch with us;

If you like interacting with people, and would like to join us at our next informative lunch seminar then this is an opportunity too good to dismiss. Join us on Tuesday the 29th of September.

Asset Management Seminars:

It has always been important to protect your assets, but this is even more important in the current economic and political climate. The good news is that there are still plenty of opportunities to implement efficient investment and retirement strategies.

Whether you're concerned about preserving, growing or passing on your assets to the next generation, or you are worried about disappearing pension plans, care home charges or retiring abroad, you should attend our free lunch seminar.

You will be able to interact with one of our highly qualified asset management specialists, and discuss tips and advice on how to maximize your assets within the new and existing rules.

Our lunch seminars are very popular and spaces are limited, please contact St Joseph's at your leisure to reserve a table at our next event at Wadenhoe House.

Kind regards, St Joseph's

Call or email to book a place – contact details below

Tel: 01832 720052 Email: info@stjoseph-online.co.uk Wadenhoe House, Wadenhoe, Cambridgeshire, PE8 5SR

Have a wild time at the Nene Valley Festival!

From 19th–27th September, the Nene Valley Festival will present an eclectic programme of outdoor family events, guided tours, water pursuits, concerts, cycle rides, local walks, foodie events and much more!

Featuring over 50 events at key locations along the Nene Valley, from Northampton to Peterborough, the festival is a must for wildlife and culture lovers of all ages looking for inspiration, tranquillity and new experiences.

The Nene Valley Festival is being organised through the Destination Nene Valley project, which aims to promote the Nene Valley as a competitive, sustainable destination offering wildlife and heritage to a mixture

A festival which celebrates the unique wildlife, culture and heritage of the Nene Valley is back for its second year this autumn.

of local, national and international audiences.

East Northamptonshire Councillor and Board Member for the Destination Nene Valley project, Sarah Peacock, said: "Our programme is bigger and better this year and we're delighted to be working with such a wide variety of partners who have an in-depth knowledge of the vital ingredients for putting on a successful festival."

Claire Barrett, from the

National Trust and festival partner, said: "The National Trust is delighted to support the Nene Valley Festival, inspiring more people to connect with the wildlife and heritage of the county. Lyveden plays an important part in the history of the Nene Valley and is a major attraction for people to experience the heritage and natural beauty of the area. We hope many visitors will enjoy all the activities on offer this autumn."

Visit www.nenevalley.net and follow @_nenevalley #nenevalley2015 on Twitter for up to date information on the festival programme.

Your ABC guide to driving safely

Driving tips supplied by your local Advanced Motorists Group.

P. Good Planning before your journey will ensure you have a relaxed and stress free trip. Media travel announcements may suggest a different route or adverse weather conditions extending your journey time. As good as satellite navigational systems are, they are not infallible, so consult a map to get a general idea of your route.

Q. Being in a Queue of traffic is annoying but continually changing lanes to move forward may cause stress and danger to yourself and other road users. Patience here is always the best policy.

R. Know your Road Signs. Most warning signs are triangular, advisory signs rectangular but circular road signs are the law and must be obeyed. There may be some variations, e.g. a stop sign is octagonal. Even in inclement weather, when you may not be able to read the sign, its shape may warn you of what hazard you are approaching.

A new course commences on 20th September. For more information visit www.corby-advancedmotorists.org, Facebook: corbyadvancedmotorists or on Twitter @corbyadvanced.

WEA in East Northamptonshire

The WEA (Workers' Educational Association) programme of adult education courses in Northamptonshire for the autumn term is now available and a brochure containing full details can be downloaded from <http://www.weaeastmidlands.org/> brochure or a printed copy can be obtained by calling Bridget Chapman on 01604 813445.

WEA is a national charity and its courses are just that bit different to courses offered elsewhere. Courses are offered in the daytime as well as evenings and all tutors are fully qualified.

Subjects on offer this term in your area are:

Thu 2–3.30pm, 9 weeks starting 24/9/15 with tutor Elaine Rawlinson (also available in Wellingborough on Wed evening)

- **900 years of British Agriculture 1066–1945 in Rushden**, Tue 9.30–11am, 9 weeks starting 22/9/15 Tutor Mike Muncaster
- **1066: More than just a Battle in Nassington**, Tue 2–4pm, 7 weeks starting 6/10/15 Tutor Elaine Rawlinson

Employability

WEA is offering courses on IT at various levels, British Sign Language, and Customer Service in both Kettering and Wellingborough. These are

aimed at those wishing to improve their skills. Courses may be free to those in receipt of certain benefits or on low incomes and WEA can also assist with travel costs for those living outside these towns.

New this year is a course on Lip Reading in Wellingborough on Fridays, 1–3pm which is suitable for anyone who is hard of hearing. Starts 25/9/15 for 10 weeks.

There are courses in all areas of the county – not just the main towns but smaller villages as well. WEA also offer a programme of walks in East Northamptonshire on Thursday afternoons.

For more information contact Bridget Chapman on 01604 813445 or see the county website www.weanorthamptonshire.org

History

- **Shining a Light on the Dark Ages** in Brigstock,

Lovely lean lunches



I'm a bit fed up. My holiday is over, I'm back in the office and my work clothes seem to have shrunk while I've been away. There's nothing for it, I'll just have to treat myself to some delicious lunches I can look forward to all morning and which keep me satisfied and away from the biscuit box all afternoon. Here are some ideas...

Start with a bed of mixed salad leaves and vegetables dressed with cold pressed oil and lemon juice. Add a good portion of something meaty: cheese and ham; tuna, prawns and boiled egg; smoked mackerel; cold roast beef rolled with horseradish; chicken breast cooked wrapped in bacon, then cooled and sliced. Finish with one of these tasty salads which you can prepare in advance and use through the week:

Courgette ribbons with pea and mint

Use a vegetable peeler to go round and round a courgette lengthways to create 'ribbons', mix gently with oil, lemon juice, chilli flakes, sea salt and pepper, add a handful of peas and some fresh garden mint. The flavour of this develops better after a day or two.

Roasted vegetables

Roughly chop a selection of peppers, onions, garlic cloves, mushrooms, courgettes and cherry tomatoes. Toss in olive oil and seasoning. Roast gently until softened and eat cold. Keeps well.

Avocado

Chop an avocado and coat thoroughly with lemon juice. Add a little finely chopped garlic (your colleagues won't thank you too much!) some chopped tomato and chilli. Dress with oil – walnut is especially good with this – and some

By Catherine Burbage



fresh coriander if you have it. Best eaten within a day or so.

Garnish your lunchbox with fresh herbs, some chopped nuts and seeds.

At lunch, make time to pay attention to your salad

as you eat it, go for a walk, then have some natural live yogurt with fresh berries and an apple, and you'll suddenly find it's time to go home and you haven't even thought about biscuits – what could be lovelier!



If you'd like to see a particular recipe or food featured in this article, contact me at: burb1@btinternet.com

Saturday 29th August & Sunday 30th August Bulwick Annual Horticultural Show
Staged in St Nicholas Church, Bulwick
Open to public viewing Sat 2pm–5.30pm, Sun 12noon to 4.30pm.
Teas and stalls in the village centre. No admission fee.

Saturday 29th August NOST Launch Day (Northampton Open Studio Trails)
The Manor House Gardens, situated next to the Alfred East Art Gallery 11am–4pm
Admission free
Contact: Katie Boyce 01536 535608, katieboyce@kettering.gov.uk
Pop-up exhibitions, live demonstrations, free workshops and entertainment throughout the day – there's something for everyone!

Saturday 29th August to Saturday 26th September Central Exhibition and Open Studios
Alfred East Art Gallery and around Northamptonshire
Alfred East Art Gallery open Tuesdays to Saturdays 10am–4.30pm daily. The Open Studios opening times are dependent on the specific venue, as they run all over the county; these times can be found in the NOST Brochures available at the Alfred East Art Gallery. Admission free
Katie Boyce 01536 535608, katieboyce@kettering.gov.uk
Members of the public can encounter some of Northamptonshire's finest artwork and visit artists' studios.

Sunday 30th August Whitefriars Church – All Age Worship
Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden

NN10 9HX
10.15am
Contact: Sharon Clarke 01933 412785
An informal church service open to anyone of any age.

Monday 31st August Elton Village Fete at The Crown Inn
The Crown Inn, Elton
12noon–5pm
Admission free
Contact: 01832 280232 / www.thecrowninn.org
Live Music, Bouncy Castle, Giant Jenga, Pigs in a Pen, Cream Teas, Hog Roast, Stalls.

Thursday 3rd September Nene Valley Astronomical Society presents Methods and Instruments of Medieval Astronomy: A lecture by Seb Falk
Sudborough Village Hall, Main Street, Sudborough, Kettering NN14 3BX
8pm
Tel: Mrs Peta Jellis on 01933 356914 or email: pej@petaj26.me.uk
Astronomers in medieval times invented complex, ingenious instruments. Learn about the Dark Ages ingenuity.

Discovery Walks
Meet at Apethorpe Church 2pm
£1.50, no need to book
Tel: 01780 782747 / www.weanorthamptonshire.org
Exploring Northamptonshire – Apethorpe and Kingscliffe 4.25 miles.

Friday 4th September Whitefriars Church Retireds' Group Quiz
The Bridge Community Office at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
1.30pm–3pm
Admission free
Contact: John & Celia Underwood 01933 676989
A friendly group to which all of retirement age are welcome.

Saturday 5th September Addington's Annual Horticultural Show
The Memorial Hall, Great Addington NN14 4BS
2.30pm
Admission free
Annual Exhibition Vegetables, Flowers, Cakes, Jams, Crafts, Art, Photography. Refreshments and Plant Stall. Including Addington School.

Six-mile Walk
Meet Drill Hall Car Park, Oundle
12.30pm, walk starts 1pm
Tel: Leader Brian Collis 07899 938487
Fermyn Woods Country Park (pay and display) 6 miles.

'La Vie en Rose' concert by the Harborough Collective
All Saints Church, Pilton, Northamptonshire PE8 5SN
7.30pm
Tickets £13
Contact: Sue Thomas 01832 720188 or Carew Treffgarne 01832 720448.
Music for harp, viola and flute by Debussy, Ravel, Faure, Massenet, Ravi Shankar and Saint-Saens.

Rushden's Proms in the Park
Rushden Hall Walled Garden
7pm
Admission £5 incl. flag
Contact: rushdeneventsgroup@gmail.com
Traditional proms entertainment with Rushden Town Band. Proceeds to the Mayor's Charity.

Jumble Sale
St Mary's Church Hall, Rushden
10am–12noon
Admission 50p
Tel: Barrie Collins 01933 353956

Thrapston Town Band performing as part of the Ringstead Feast Concert
St Mary's Church, Ringstead
3pm
Individual tickets are £5, or a family ticket is £12.50 including afternoon teas, Tickets available from Ringstead Post Office or call 01933 624262/624427. Proceeds to church funds.

To all Northamptonshire Dog Watch members... let's meet!
Irchester Country Park
Meet 10am in the bottom car park (near the refreshments area)
Set off 10.15am – Car park charge £3
Planned 'Ironstone Trail' 2.5 miles approx (shorter trails optional).

Sunday 6th September Higham Ferrers Footpath Group
Saffron Road car park, Higham Ferrers for car sharing

9.10am
Free
Tel: 01933 314831
6.25 mile walk starting at Milton Malsor.

Whitefriars Church – Morning Worship
Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
Contact: Sharon Clarke 01933 412785
An informal church service open to anyone of any age.

First Sunday Event: Visit of 60s Brass Band
Rushden Salvation Army, Church Street, Rushden
6pm
Admission free
Tel: Gill Valentine 01933 353528
Brass Band, refreshments at 5pm in the Community Centre free.

Wednesday 9th September Open Evening
Raunds Methodist Church
6.30pm–8pm
Tel: 01933 622168
If you're interested in joining Brownies, making new friends and learning new activities come along!

Hargrave WI hosts St John Ambulance – 'Save a Life'
Hargrave Village Hall, Church Rd, Hargrave
7.30pm
Tel: 01933 623850
St John Ambulance 'Save a Life' Talk and Demonstration.

4.5 Mile Walk
Drill Hall Car Park, Oundle
6pm
Tel: Leader Brian Collis 01832 272659
Walk starts Lyvden Layby 6.30pm – 4.5 miles.

East Northants Faith Group Meeting
1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle PE8 4BG
9.30–11.30am
Admission free
Tel: Andrew Presland 01933 316927
For groups wanting to serve their local community – guest speaker: Linda Hook, Northamptonshire ACRE.

Friday 11th September Film: The Theory of Everything (12A)
Ringstead Village Social Club NN14 4DA
Doors open 7.30pm, film starts 7.45pm
Tickets £4
Tel: 01933 460373
The award-winning film about Professor Stephen Hawking.

Saturday 12th September Thrapston Garage Sale
Around Thrapston
9am–3pm
Admission £5 per Garage



Tel: Lindsey 01832 730019
Maps £1 from The Plaza from 8.30am–12noon
Refreshments/Tombola/Gifts. All proceeds to Spinal Injuries.

Jumble Sale
Islip Village Hall
2pm–4pm
Admission free
Contact: jenniferhetherington@btinternet.com / 01832 734230
Thrapston Bowls Club Jumble Sale. Clothes, Books, Bric-a-brac, Toys, Cake stall, Tea, Coffee and Raffle.

Murder Mystery Evening (including Chinese meal)
Stanwick Village Hall
6.30pm
£15 per person
Tel: 01933 460045
Chinese themed murder mystery play performed around a Chinese meal. Proceeds to British Heart Foundation.

Sunday 13th September Elton Boat Club Annual Open Day
The Clubhouse, Warmington Mill, Warmington (opposite Fired Earth)
Just off the A605 from the Warmington roundabout 12noon–5pm
Admission and parking free
Contact: Paul Weetman, by email: p.weetman@btopenworld.com
Family Fun Day: Cruise to Fotheringhay, listen to a swing band. Barbecue and cream teas.

Family Fun Day
Northampton College, Booth Lane NN3 3RF
12noon–4pm
Admission free
Tel: 0300 126 1000 / summerSENdsation@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Family Fun Day for children and young people up to the age of 25 with SEND and/or disabilities, and their families.

Music in the Park
Rushden Hall Walled Garden
3pm–5pm
Admission free
Contact: rushdeneventsgroup@gmail.com
Incredible Creedence, Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute Band (big rock band in the 60s and 70s).

Whitefriars Breakfast
Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
Admission free
Tel: Simon King 01933 356871
A very informal church – come and share a second breakfast with us, and relax whilst the kids play.

Whitefriars Church Silver Service
The Bridge Community Office at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.30am
Tel: Melvyn Hunter 01933 222910
A traditional church service open to anyone of any age.

Whitefriars Church, Rushden, Countryside Walk – near Pytchley
Meet at West Farm off Orlingbury Road in Little Harrowden NN9 5BA
10.30am
Tel: Andrew Presland 01933 316927
A three-mile walk on footpaths in the countryside followed by a shared lunch.

More events can be found at
www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

To submit your event please contact us via our website in the following format: Date, event, place, time, admission fee (if applicable), contact information, 15 word description.



From the East Northants Council Chairman

My civic year continues at a pace and I am pleased to report another busy month which has seen a considerable amount of money raised for various causes by the hard working Mayors and Chairmen of the towns and districts near and far.

Since my last report I had the pleasure of attending the 9th Business Dragons event, hosted by East Northants Council (ENC). I never expected such a high standard of business ideas to be offered to the Dragons by 14-year-old students – absolutely brilliant.

The teams certainly gave the Dragons a run for their money, each offering a product that was useful, marketable and one I would certainly consider buying. The day saw Rushden Academy win the Best Overall Winner trophy, Huxlow Science College won the Best Presentation trophy and Rushden Academy also won the Best Innovation Trophy.

I had the honour, along with Vice Chairman Cllr Rupert Reichold, in presenting long

service awards to the staff at ENC. Our sincerest thanks to all those who were given awards for their hard work and long service.

Raunds Mayor, Cllr Helen Howell, held her first charity event which raised much needed funds for her firefighters' charity, which offers advice and guidance along with first response callouts in conjunction with the ambulance service. She held a tapas night with live entertainment from local talented barber shop quartet Sepia Tones from Raunds Manor School, who gave a memorable performance. It was an excellent night with a great atmosphere.

We were once again honoured to be invited to open the Irthlingborough Cricket Club Under 9's Kwik Cricket Tournament. Eleven teams competed, with the Finedon team winning and Wollaston coming runners-up.

On 15th August we attended a service of commemoration for the 70th anniversary of VJ Day at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in

Northampton. Veterans and visiting dignitaries attended along with the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and the Mayor of Northampton. It was a very moving service.

I am now in the process of planning my next charity event which will be an East Northants battle of the towns talent contest. The Mayors of the towns taking part will be nominating an amateur act from their towns and will also be part of the judging panel (but will not be allowed to vote for their own town acts – very Eurovision!) I am staging this event to promote the abundant talent we have in our district. This event will take place in November in my home town of Irthlingborough, the date and venue will be announced in the near future with ticket prices. Any amateur acts in Irthlingborough who would like to represent the town, please

write to Mayor Cllr Alan Short at Irthlingborough Town Council, Station Road, Irthlingborough. Mayor Alan Short will be nominating the act to represent Irthlingborough.

I am also planning my Chairman's civic service to be held on 13th December. I am inviting nominations from the whole of the district for residents who have carried out selfless acts for the community or for charities. If you know of anyone who has done amazing work or anything of note to make a difference to others I would be very interested to hear about it. Please write to me at East Northants Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, Northants NN14 4LZ.

Wishing you all the very best.

Cllr Marika Hillson

Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council

Mind celebrates success

Oundle Rural Mind is celebrating the success of one of its Art group members, Mandy Coleman. A regular visitor to the centre in Oundle, Mandy entered the national Mind competition, and her work will feature in their 2016 calendar.

Mandy said: "I've been coming here for about six years now. The Art group is great fun and we get a

chance to do different things all at different levels. I was thrilled to hear my work had been selected and can't wait to see the finished calendar."

Irene Issitt, Manager of the centre, added: "The charity is delighted for Mandy and proud to have played a small part in her success. We enter the competition every year and this is our second

successful contribution in recent years.

"Our aim at Oundle Rural Mind is to help anyone suffering from mental distress with advice, support and other voluntary help."

You can contact Oundle Rural Mind on 01832 275020, email at oundleruralmind@btconnect.co.uk or find them on Facebook.

New adult learning classes

The recent refurbishment of Oundle Library and the redevelopment of Fletton House for Oundle Town Council means that several new Adult Learning classes will be running in Oundle from September.

Two courses – an Introduction to Sign Language and Beginners' Lip Reading – are being held at Oundle Library and Charlotte Williams, one of the library managers, is delighted. She says: "I'm hearing impaired and lip reading classes are a lifeline for me. We all lip read to an extent, but attending classes really improves your skills. Whatever your hearing loss, these classes will help you – and they're fun too!"

Fletton House will be hosting a range of one-day classes over the coming months, including DIY Basics, Beginners' Dressmaking and Silk Painting. There is also a 10-week Drawing & Painting course starting in September, and other classes are being held in different venues around the town.

To find out more about all the Adult Learning classes available, watch out for the printed Autumn/Spring brochure, or visit the Adult Learning website where you can search for courses by category or location: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/adultlearning



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Bonnie McGough will be showing us how to create beautiful **Fimo Clay** jewellery.

Mandy Cameron will demonstrate crochet using **'Sugar & Cream'** cotton yarn.

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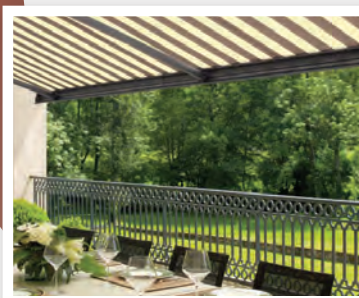
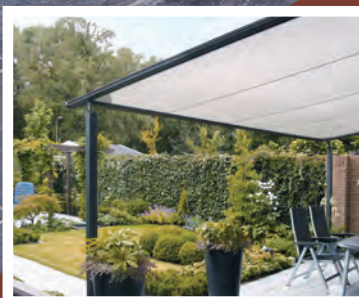


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Chess corner

By Derrick Sims

Earlier this month the 102nd British Chess Championships concluded at the University of Warwick – which rather surprisingly is located in Coventry. This year the Men's Competition was won by Jonathan Hawkins who finished half a point ahead of Danny Gormally, David Howell and Nicholas Pert. The Ladies' Competition was won by Akshaya Kalaiyalahan who also won the prize for the best performance in the Championship by a player graded under 2000.

Chess is a game that may be regarded as rather a gentle pastime; etiquette dictates that even when totally humiliated the loser shakes hands with his opponent. This does not always happen. Back in July I recounted the tale of a fight between the future King John and Fulk FitzWarin over a game of chess. This left both players shaken but otherwise unharmed. This is more than can be said of King Canute's opponent in 1028. The King was playing against Earl Godwin Ulfson, who was married to Canute's sister. The King made a bad move leading to the loss of his knight; he then took his move back and replaced the knight ordering Godwin to play a different move. Godwin reacted

by overturning the chess board and walking away, prompting the King to call him a coward, leading to an acrimonious exchange of words. The next day Canute had him murdered in St Lucius' Church.

In more recent years the Soviet Union experienced some rather boorish behaviour over chess. In 1959 at a Soviet Antarctic research station two of the scientists got into an argument over a game. The losing player became so enraged that he killed his opponent with an axe. After this, rather unsurprisingly, chess was banned at Soviet Antarctic research stations. The Soviet Union can also boast the first fist fight in space when two Cosmonauts came to blows over a game of chess in the 1980s. After this Cosmonauts were banned from playing each other but were allowed to play against the ground crew.

Here at Rushden Chess Club we are a much gentler breed, often congratulating our opponent and insisting on what an honour it is to be beaten by such an excellent player.

The club opens most Mondays from 6pm for Junior players – for details please call the Club Secretary on 01933 625767, or visit the club website <http://rushdenchessclub.com> and for the NCA (County Association) it's <http://www.norchess.lloydbunday.co.uk>.

Diamonds diary



A second date with Community Football

So, where did we leave off two weeks ago? I was telling you that there was more to come from the girls' football start-up. Well our setup now includes an Under 14s team who will also compete in the Northants league, and an Under 9/10s development squad known as the 'Diamondettes'. Very quickly we are becoming the place to be for girls' football. Know someone who wants to come and play? Then email us at k.bull4@btinternet.com

With all these new additions arriving, the Under 12s (who are now the club's Jeanne Calment) set about reclaiming the limelight. After just a few months of training together they thought it would be fun to test themselves in the Wellend Valley Tournament, which was held over the weekend of 4th and 5th July. I think you'll agree that there is no better start than a winning one, and that's just what they did, walking away with the Under 12s title. 1-0 to the Under 12 Girls then.

Kevin Bull, (Girls football lead) and Under 12s coach

Most of our mixed youth teams are involved in pre-season

friendlies at this time of year, with teams testing out new players, new formations and systems or even having to deal with a change to the number of players in their team. Youth football has changed in recent years with the current set up as follows:

Under 7s & 8s play 5 a side,
Under 9s & 10s play 7 a side,
Under 11s and 12s, 9 v 9

The final transition to full-size games (11 v 11) happens with the Under 14 age group.

The idea behind this is that each player on the pitch has more touches, more time on the ball, and hence gets more practice by playing in games with fewer players. Similar formats have been adopted in other parts of the football world for some time. We may have been a little slow in adopting the setup in England but now it's here I think it has been a great success, delivering exactly what it set out to.

Away from the pitch at AFC Youth we have recruited ourselves a new community youth secretary. I had been filling in but now we have someone dedicated solely to performing this role, so a huge note of thanks and a big welcome to Danielle Cawley, another much valued volunteer to add to those

amazing people we have at the club already, guys and gals who give their time freely all year round so that our youngsters can play football each week. I will no doubt introduce you to more of the team as we move through the season.

If you want to watch any of our youth teams, the start of the new season for them is approaching and I'll point you in the right direction when we get under way.

Since the first issue of Diamonds Diary, our first team have been getting their inaugural Step 4 season under way.

See you next time in Diamonds Diary.

Mark Cullen
AFC Rushden & Diamonds
Youth



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