

Nene Valley news

Your local independent community newspaper for East Northamptonshire

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Richard James wins top award at prestigious estate agency event

Local estate agent Richard James Estate Agents is celebrating being crowned the 2016 Relocation Agent Network Agent of the Year



Richard James received their award at this year's Relocation Agent Network Awards Dinner held on Friday 18th November at the Sofitel Hotel and Conference Centre, Heathrow.

The Agent of the Year Award is the most coveted

prize Relocation Agent Network, the national network of selected estate agents, can give. Nominees are selected for the award because of the outstanding service that they have provided to their customers. They are judged on all aspects of estate agency,

from marketing to customer care, professionalism to experience and reputation to commitment, which are all analysed in detail to decide the winner.

The black tie evening Awards Dinner was hosted by comedian and actor, Miles Jupp, who presented Richard

James with their award. In addition to collecting the night's top prize, Richard James was also awarded two more accolades, the Best Agent Regional Award – Central and the Customer Relocation Award.

The Best Agent Regional Award recognises a member's overall contribution to Relocation Agent Network, their ability to achieve customer satisfaction and a strong market share locally. The Customer Relocation Award recognises members that have generated the greatest number of referrals over the past year.

Referrals are an important element of Relocation Agent Network: if a customer plans to relocate to another area of the country, their Network agent will recommend that the relocating area's local member assist in their move to the new location.

Co-founder and Director

James Rota said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have been named Relocation Agent Network's Agent of the Year. This is the Network's top award, so the accolade really does highlight the true determination, hard work and professionalism of every member of the Richard James team. It's a clear message to all of our buying and selling customers – the service that Richard James provides is the very highest in the Wellingborough, Irthlingborough and Rushden areas and across Relocation Agent Network."

Richard Tucker, Relocation Agent Network's Managing Director said: "We are so proud to name Richard James as our 2016 Agent of the Year. The team's commitment to outstanding customer service has been demonstrated time and time again and they truly are the Network's leading estate agent."

In Brief

Safety alarm offer

Local Police have issued a warning to Raunds residents to keep their property safe during the festive season.

The Town Council therefore wants to encourage everyone to be vigilant and keep their property secure. So that it can offer practical support the council has purchased a number of shed alarms to give away to local residents.

To claim your free alarm please call at the Town Council, 9.30am–2pm Monday to Friday. The alarms are available on a first come first served basis and are limited to one per household.

Primary school proves maths skills

Children and staff at Oundle CE Primary School are celebrating after recording a brilliant series of results in a national competition to identify the country's top mathematicians.

Twenty-eight pupils from Years 5 and 6 at the school in Cotterstock Road took part in the annual UK Primary Maths Challenge – achieving five golds, two silvers and two bronzes.

richard james

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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,
We read with interest A.T. Newman's comments regarding Rushden, 3rd December issue. Rushden Town Council treats all comments from local residents with great importance.

The Town Council adopts a positive approach for Rushden and is proud to have the backing of a supportive and caring community. Nationally shopping habits have changed significantly over the last ten years and this has sadly reflected on all High Streets. We are continuing to support our High Street traders and are

actively seeking retail opportunities where possible. The town offers a variety of things to see and do and by working together with our strategic partners we are making continuous improvements to both the daytime and night time offer in the town. The task of monitoring evening activity is not always an easy one and constant vigilance from all parties is required.

The councillors and staff at Rushden Town Council appreciate constructive feedback and seek to take action where necessary, the town clerk and town manager have scheduled some evening monitoring in the town.

Please do not hesitate to contact Rushden Town Council by email info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk or by telephone 01933 316216 if you require any further information.

Genealogy jottings

A few weeks ago I mentioned how important it was to keep a note of your source material. There is nothing worse than wanting to verify or explore some information further when you cannot for the life of you remember where you found it!

This leads on to... how do you keep your family history records? Scraps of paper littering the dining room table? Notebooks? Ring binders for each branch of the family? Shoeboxes? It may be that you prefer to keep all of your records on your computer/laptop/iPad etc.

I have a ring binder for each surname in my family. Yes, there are rather a lot... However, I do know where to find information if I need to check something out. It is also great to see photographs of how my ancestors changed as they got older. I was very lucky in that a few years ago, I was presented with a cardboard suitcase full of photographs and have managed to identify who most of the people in them are. They are now filed in their

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

appropriate folders. However, I do have some items out in my 'office'. On one wall I have a sampler that my great grandmother made in 1866 when she was just 10 years old. I also have a photograph on my wall of my grandfather (who died 10 years before I was born), my uncle and my mother – all since passed away – so that I can see them and enjoy them. My father has a plaster cast of his hand that was made by a renowned sculptor when he was three years old – not tucked away out of sight, but displayed in a cabinet for visitors to see. Whilst it is great to have wonderful records stashed away, some things need to still be enjoyed. Have a rummage amongst your mementos and records, seeing what you can enjoy.

Have a wonderful Christmas and peaceful 2017.

Want to place an advertisement or submit an article?

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Editor's notes

A recent return trip to north Wales, which Satnav suggested would be three plus hours each way, turned into a very extended day because of roadworks, accidents and collapsed drains! It's not unnatural to have an aversion to going anywhere near the M25 because of the potential for delays, especially on Fridays, but in this case the M6 in Staffordshire on a Tuesday was just as bad. This leads to conjecture about the state of the nation's infrastructure and in particular the cost to the economy of delays on our roads.

Reputable studies have put the cost of vehicle delays caused by congestion in London alone at between £2bn and £4bn per year, with up to £750 million of this due to roadworks, around £2,000 per road work per hour.

Obviously, the works are necessary for longer-term improvements but the 'jam tomorrow' seems to be a long time coming. Perhaps we should reconsider increasing the use of waterways, and rail, for freight and do our bit towards reducing the number of vehicles on the roads by not shopping on the web! Any

views?

It's a year now since the ownership of the Nene Valley News changed hands and hopefully you will agree that we are still delivering the services you require from your local newspaper. In this edition we cover a couple of personal financial issues with advice from the Citizens Advice Service for those struggling to make their money go round and an opportunity to investigate savings on energy bills, thanks to East Northants Council (ENC). The latter are also seeking small local projects to which they can allocate funding, so if you believe you have something which fits the bill, get your local council to make an application or work directly with your ENC Councillor.

This will be the final edition of the Nene Valley News for this year. We'll be back in mid-January, so all of us at the newspaper wish all of you a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. And remember, the shortest day of the year is 21st December, so we are on the way to lighter nights and spring!

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East Northants Snooker League

If you are interested in joining the League, you can find them via Facebook – East Northants Snooker League.

As we approach the halfway point of the season, things are getting very competitive in the League. The top spot has changed round on an almost weekly basis for the past month. Windmill G, having led for two weeks, lost their first match of the season, suffering a 1-5 defeat to Windmill C who are now slowly climbing the table, having been at the bottom just three weeks ago. Windmill Mecca have now really found their form, winning 6-0 over Coopers A, which puts Mecca in the top spot and sends Coopers A all the way down to 5th position.

In the Player Stats, Craig Back continues his impressive run of form; he has won 12 of 16, 75% of his games, putting him number one in the rankings. However, as Craig has lost a couple of frames recently, this makes it possible for another player to claim the number one spot. Darren Fenner and Richard Wright are close behind on 71%. All player handicaps are to be reviewed on Monday 19th December,

ready for the second half of the season in 2017.

Matt Barcock stole the show this week, with his comprehensive win over Justin Gaggini, thanks to a new high break of 63. During the same match Darren Fenner also knocked in a 32 break. On the neighbouring table Colin Hinds showed how formidable he can be, claimed a 2-0 win over Frank Perkins, including a cool 38 break.

The draws have now all taken place for the three winter competitions – the H-Cap Singles, Scratch Singles and H-Cap Doubles which must be played over the course of December. There are some exciting matches lined up. Good luck to all players.

Results for week 8:

Coopers A 0-6 Windmill Mecca
Windmill B 4-2 Islip WMC
Windmill C 5-1 Windmill G
Coopers B 3-3 Windmill Weapons
Coopers C 4-2 Windmill Warriors

East Northants Snooker League - Sponsored by The Pumphouse Café, Wellingborough

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Windmill Mecca	8	5	2	1	32
2	Windmill G	8	3	4	1	29
3	Windmill Warriors	8	4	1	3	26
4	Windmill Weapons	8	2	4	2	25
5	Coopers A	8	4	1	3	24
6	Coopers Ball Bashers	8	1	5	2	23
7	Windmill C	8	2	4	2	23
8	Islip WMC	8	2	2	4	21
9	Coopers C	8	2	2	4	21
10	Windmill B	8	2	1	5	16

High Breaks 2016/17 -

Sponsored by HCB Plumbing, Wellingborough

Position	Player Name	Team	High Breaks (30+)
1	Matt Barcock	Windmill Mecca	63, 33, 31
2	Mark Brett	Windmill C	57, 39
3	Wayne Gardner	Windmill Mecca	49, 47, 42, 39
4	Jay Thomas	Windmill G	47
5	James Docherty	Islip WMC	41
6	Colin Hinds	Coopers C	38, 33, 30
7	Justin Gaggini	Coopers A	34
8	Craig Back	Windmill G	33
9	Darren Fenner	Windmill Mecca	32
10	Paul Lewis	Windmill Warriors	32
11	Richard Wright	Windmill Warriors	31
12	Alan Jupp	Windmill B	31
13	Ben Pacan	Windmill Weapons	30

Monday Munch Club

Oundle's Monday Munch Club for elderly and disabled residents in Oundle and surrounding villages is planning to move from strength to strength going into 2017.

The lunches, which take place on the third Monday of every month except August, have become a firm fixture in the local calendar and are staged at Oundle CE Primary School in Cotterstock Road.

With support from Waitrose, the club recently hosted scores of people at its annual Christmas party with the school's pupils providing festive musical

accompaniment.

"It's been a wonderful to see so many folk coming along to these communal mealtimes to spend quality time eating and chatting together," commented the club's organiser Mrs Sarah Lee. "We feel sure the club will keep on growing and we are keen to engage as many locally based elderly and disabled people as possible."

The next club lunch will take place on Monday 16th January 2017. To book your place, please contact Patricia Bird on 01832 275353.

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Islip 8-9pm starts 27th Feb

Tuesday

Rushden 10.30-11.30am starts 31st Jan
Rushden 1.15-2.15pm starts 31st Jan
Barton Seagrave 6.30-7.30pm starts 7th Feb
Barton Seagrave 7.45-8.45pm starts 7th Feb

Wednesday

Personal Training 10.30-11.30am - available
Yelden 6-7pm starts 11th Jan
Raunds 7.30-8.30pm starts 11th Jan

Thursday

Oundle 9.45-10.45am starts 12th Jan
Rushden 6.15-7.15pm starts 12th Jan
Rushden 7.30-8.30pm starts 12th Jan

Friday

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Venue: Manor School Sports College, Mountbatten Way, Raunds, Northants, NN9 6PA

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Advice Column

The Citizens Advice service is a network of charities, local and national, that between them provide advice to millions of people each year. Here, experts from Central and East Northamptonshire Citizens Advice provide answers to typical questions.

Readers willing to have their enquiry anonymously published (editor's decision final) can email Nene Valley News direct.news@nenevalleynews.co.uk. Please mark such enquiries

'Citizens Advice Column' in the subject.

I've been struggling with my finances for a while, and now it's got to the point where I can't afford bills like council tax or my mortgage. I'm worried that

if I can't find a solution soon, I might have to sell my home. What can I do?

The month after Christmas can be particularly tough, with extra expenses over the festive period putting even more pressure on household

budgets. If you are facing New Year debts don't panic. With the right help there are ways to get on top of your outstanding bills.

Firstly, the earlier you get help with debt problems, the easier it is to get them sorted. Trying to carry on as if everything is normal can make things worse, as debts can pile up quickly. Letting your creditors, like your mortgage company or local council, know if you will be unable to pay them is key. Creditors should consider reasonable repayment plans and may be able to offer you more time to pay.

It is important that you prioritise paying certain debts, such as the rent, mortgage or energy bills, first to keep a roof over your head and the heating on. Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to get support through benefits, so it is worth checking this with the Department for Work and Pensions. If you are unable

to pay your council tax debt the local authority may agree to let you pay a reduced payment over a longer period or even in exceptional circumstances write off the debt, but you will have to keep paying your ongoing bill going forward.

Drawing up a proper budget of your expenses can help identify areas you can cut down on. Before you turn to a loan to cover

costs, think carefully and find out what this means for any future repayments and interest that will be due on the loan. Citizens Advice Bureaux offer free, confidential and independent advice, can help work out costs and negotiate with your creditors, and may be able to help you get debt-free by looking at appropriate options available for you.

By
Martin Lord



Winter blues? Try a new sport

Pemberton Maid Marions Ladies Archery Club is over 10 years old and we enjoy a relaxed shooting regime, with time to socialise over tea or coffee. We invite women of all ages to 'Come and Try' sessions on the 18th and 25th January 2017 between 11am and 12.30pm at the Pemberton Centre, H E Bates Close, Rushden. Admission to the Pemberton Centre is £4.

Should you decide to join you will be

given full training during a six-week course and free use of equipment for six months. In the coming year we will be holding club competitions to recognised Archery GB rules and also fun shoots where our own rules tend to apply!

For more information please contact Diane on 01933 314032 or Nicki on 01933 395913.

**citizens
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To make a start use the national website www.citizensadvice.org.uk – or if you think you need additional support contact the local support line on 03444 889 629.

ENTERTAINMENT IS BACK!



Wed 14 - Fri 30 Dec



Thu 5 Jan, 7pm



Wed 18 - Sat 21 Jan, 7.30pm
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Notice of planning applications received

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

Apethorpe

16/02277/FUL and 16/02278/LBC (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) (LBRegs) Two storey rear extension at 6-7 Bridge St Apethorpe PE8

Ashton

16/02205/FUL and 16/02206/LBC (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) (LBRegs) Erection of private car garage and formation of vehicular access at Honeybee Cottage 8 The Green Ashton PE8 5LD
16/02239/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Proposed single storey extension and new dormer window to rear with internal alterations to ground and first floors at 4 Laxton Drive Oundle PE8 5TW

Clopton

16/02214/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Erection of single two-storey dwelling at 16 Main St Clopton NN14

Collyweston

16/02307/FUL (07/01/2017) (Art8) Demolition of existing building and erection of offices and visitors centre at Gadsby Field Main Rd Collyweston PE9 3PQ

Deene

16/02223/REM (07/01/2017) (Art8) Reserved Matters: Temporary haul road to access zone 3 pursuant to planning permission 04/01326/OUT- Mixed use: Urban extension to Corby dated 10.2.12 at Priors Hall Site Kirby Lane Deene NN17 3EJ

Hargrave

16/02254/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Conversion of existing stone barn into two accommodation units to provide Bed and Breakfast accommodation and erection of a new four bay detached timber framed garage with games room above at Top Farm Church St Hargrave NN9 6BW

Higham Ferrers

16/02238/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Single storey rear extension at 14 Celtic Close Higham Ferrers NN10 8NX

Irthlingborough

16/02096/FUL (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 7 dwellings at site of 97 & 99 College St Irthlingborough

16/02311/OUT (31/12/2016) (Info) Outline: Erection of three dwellings with off road parking and private amenity space (all matters reserved except access) at 176 High St Irthlingborough NN9 5RD
16/02336/FUL (07/01/2017) (Art8) (LB/CA) Erection of 2 No retail units (1 No. Class A1 retail unit of 930 square metres, subdivided into 3 units, and 1 No mixed use class A1/A3 unit of 103.55 square metres) and 20 No two storey dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping at former factory site Church St

Nassington

16/02303/FUL (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) Single storey rear extension at 55 Station Rd Nassington PE8

Oundle

16/01972/FUL (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) Change of use of second floor rooms from storage ancillary to A3 (coffee shop) use to C3 (residential) use to form part of the existing flat (no external alterations to the building) at 1 New St Oundle PE8 4EA
16/01973/LBC (07/01/2017) (LBRegs) Alterations to second floor rooms to form part of the existing flat and alterations to form an en suite shower room (no external alterations) at 1 New St Oundle
16/02272/FUL (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) Change of use from retail (A1) to light industrial/commercial (B1c) - (reversal of 0/01852/FUL) at Unit 3 Mill Rd Oundle PE8 4BW
16/02281/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Two storey rear extension and internal alterations at 53 Benefield Rd Oundle PE8 4EU
Pilton
16/02235/FUL and 16/02236/LBC (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) (LBRegs) Alterations and extension to dwelling at The Chestnuts Main St Pilton PE8 5SN

Raunds

16/01753/ADV (31/12/2016) (Info) Erection of signage around the site at ASDA store Michael Way Raunds
16/02244/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Rear first floor extension on top of existing ground floor and internal alterations at 88 Hill St Raunds NN9 6NN

Ringstead

16/02273/FUL and 16/02274/LBC (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) (LBRegs) Rebuild low stone boundary wall to an increased height of 2.25 metres at 5-7 Denford Rd Ringstead NN14 4DF
Rushden

16/02081/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Conservatory to rear of house (retrospective) at 7 Croft Way Rushden NN10 0ES
16/02283/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Single storey front extension at 95 Allen Rd Rushden NN10 0DY
16/02302/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Erection of first floor side extension and single storey rear extension at 11 Poppy Close Rushden NN10 0TX

Southwick

16/02322/VAR (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) Reserved Matters - condition 5 to be removed as residential occupancy of the dwelling should not be tied in to the commercial activities (Gun shop) of an adjacent site pursuant to planning permission 11/02054/FUL dated 9.8.12 Change of use to the existing shop from commercial to residential use. Demolition of the existing cottage and shop and construction of a replacement dwelling and new garage building. Perio Mill Cottage Cotterstock Rd Fotheringhay PE8 5HU

Stanwick

16/02334/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Demolition and rebuilding of garage to side of dwelling with ancillary accommodation over at 18 Raunds Rd Stanwick NN9 6PP

Sudborough

16/02250/LBC (07/01/2017) (LBRegs) Replace a set of wooden garage doors with a like for like replacement and repair of garage pointing at The Round House Main St Sudborough NN14 3BX

Thrapston

16/02293/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Ground floor side extension and first floor rear extension above existing ground floor at 21 De Vere Rd Thrapston NN14 4JN

Warmington

16/02320/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Two storey extension to side and loft conversion at 32 Big Green Warmington PE8 6TU

Woodford

16/02224/FUL (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) Demolition of existing garage and erection of two bedroom dwelling and associated access at 1 Rectory Lane Woodford NN14 4HS

Woodnewton

16/02189/FUL (07/01/2017) (LB/CA) Change of land use and construction of a hard surfaced tennis court

with surround fencing at 49 Main St Woodnewton PE8 5EB

16/02230/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info)

Erection of a new oak framed double garage with store room at 7A Main St Woodnewton PE8 5EB

Yarwell

16/02352/FUL (31/12/2016) (Info) Installation of patio doors to replace existing window to dining area and construction of gazebo in the garden at 75 Main St 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.

**Paul Bland, Head Of Planning Services
Dated 17 December 2016**

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

From the ENC Chairman

On 7th December, making an early start to the day, I visited the Thrapston Royal Mail Delivery Office. Mr Kevin Moss, Delivery Office Manager, introduced me to his staff, who were all engaged in the work of organising the delivery of letters and parcels to all addresses that the office covers.

With Christmas ahead, their workloads are much larger than usual. I was glad of this opportunity to meet the Royal Mail staff and was impressed by their application to their work. This work is done so well that we sometimes take it for granted; we should remember to appreciate it.

On Sunday 11th December I was the guest of the Mayor of Corby at her Civic Service at St John's Church, Corby. The Mayor's tea party after the church service was a useful opportunity for informal discussions with councillor colleagues from neighbouring authorities about

mutual concerns.

On Friday 16th December I was the guest of the Mayor of Wellingborough, Cllr Malcolm Waters, at his Mayor's Christmas party night, where we enjoyed an excellent dinner. The profits from the sales of tickets for the dinner went to the Mayor's charity, Contact the Elderly, an important and valuable voluntary organisation whose work is increasingly relevant as more people live longer. Society as a whole needs to cooperate effectively in looking after older people when they can no longer live fully independently. It is a coincidence that

Cllr Waters and I, when we were also Northamptonshire county councillors, served on the County Council's Social Care Scrutiny Committee during our first term. I recall that our Committee did some very constructive work which, I hope, helped pave the way towards further achievement.

This will be my last column before Christmas. Before signing off for the year by wishing all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I take this opportunity to support and draw your attention to the Government's anti-hate campaign, launched on 1st December. Summed up briefly, hatred is wrong, we should treat other people as we would want to be treated, whether in Britain or overseas. So, enjoy your Christmas and New Year's break!

*Councillor Rupert Reichhold
Chairman of East Northamptonshire
Council*



Collyweston to stage new survey

A survey is gathering ideas and support for the future of one of our most historic villages.

‘Shaping Collyweston’ is at the first stage of a two-year project aiming to create a robust Neighbourhood Plan that will give planners, residents and people who work there clear guidelines for future development in and around the home of Collyweston stone slates.

Fiona Cowan, who leads the project, said: “We’re asking people to think in a bit of detail about where they live and how they feel about it. Not everyone can have strong feelings about absolutely everything – but it would be great if people can share what they do care deeply about.

“In the past, it has felt as if the people who

actually live or work here don’t have any real say in what can or can’t be built in Collyweston. Over the years we’ve lost bus services, our primary school, shops, youth club, the post office and a number of public houses. There have been threats to remove grit bins that people rely on in the worst weather, and we expect to be told soon that our red telephone box isn’t cost-effective.

“But we’ve also gained a village shop run by volunteers, playground equipment and a multi-use sports area, a mobile library, a pocket park and a regular Wellbeing Bus – and recently a toddlers group has sprung up, running

alongside our Friday Café in the village hall. The hall itself was extended and refurbished by volunteers, who worked hard to find sponsorship and grants, as well as doing a lot of the work themselves. And we have Permissive Footpaths and a Right of Way, opening up safer walking routes in the area.

“Looking back further, it was local craftsmen who funded and built our stone bus shelters, and who have looked after many of the traditional drystone walls that surround our public spaces. Today, it’s volunteers who keep our church and village hall going, despite the never-ending pressures of modern life.”

Survey forms are available from the community village shop on Collyweston High Street, from the village hall if you are visiting, or can be delivered (contact Fiona on 07989 306389 or collywestonnp@gmail.com). Free envelopes are provided to ensure confidential replies. Forms should be returned by 6th January 2017. Details of the project and an online survey are at shapingcollyweston.wordpress.com.

New year wetland wildlife walk

Ever wondered the difference between a tufted duck and a teal, or a gadwall and a great crested grebe? If so, why not kick-start 2017 by joining the Wildlife Trust for a guided walk at Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows Nature Reserve on Sunday 15th January, 11am–1pm. The walk will be led by local bird expert Neil McMahon and will be a great way to counter the excesses of the festive season.

Winter is one of the best times to visit

Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows, as it will be full of wintering wetland birds such as wigeon, pochard and lapwing that migrate here from colder climes. Located at the heart of the Nene Valley, Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows forms part of a network of wildlife sites which is internationally important for its winter bird populations. Owned and managed by the Wildlife Trust, the nature reserve is home to all kinds of other wildlife too, including otters, Kingfishers and orchids.

Places on January’s walk are limited so booking is essential. To book a place (£3 per person, payable on the day), or for further information, please contact the Wildlife Trust on 01604 405285 or email northamptonshire@wildlifebcn.org. www.wildlifebcn.org. Registered charity no: 1000412.

Getting a Garage Door has never been easier

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3. Would you like to have a maintenance free material?
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6. How would you prefer it to open: upward, outward around the corner, on side hinges or otherwise?



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Monday-Friday 8.30-5.30,
Saturday 9.00-4.00

Nene Valley Business News

Welcome to my December business column, the last one of the year. This month I am featuring one of our local high street shops, which is based on High Street South in Rushden and will be of particular interest to our dog loving readers.

We all need to support our precious high streets and town centres, which offer a variety of goods and services often within walking distance, and also play a key part in keeping the community together, especially in these internet times. So it really is a case of 'use it or lose it'.

My new puppy, Kira, and I made a visit to the award-winning Pooch Parlour Scruffies, based in the heart of Rushden and which has easy access for us dog owners, with a small car park located less than one minute from the shop if you are visiting from out of town.

The first thing you notice when entering the shop is the impressive amount of awards displayed on the wall and the friendly welcome from the proprietor, Mr Ashley Pedly. After Kira settled down, one of her first outings since her vaccinations, Ashley, a fellow schnauzer enthusiast made friends with my pup, which if she was coming to be groomed would be an essential part of the service.

Ashley and his wife Charlie have been grooming dogs since the year 2000 and established the business in Rushden in 2010. Impressively Charlie last year qualified as an International Certified Master Groomer, with the IPG (International Professional Groomers) and is one

of only 33 groomers in the country qualified to an international level.

To qualify, Charlie had to pass practical and written exams for five different dog groups, so is an expert groomer for most breeds of dog.

She has also entered various grooming competitions winning many places including Reserve Best in Show at the Extraordinary Grooming Show 2016, first prize in the Northern Groomers Clip and Scissor Class 2014 and interestingly took fourth prize in the Asian Fusion class at the Grooming Show 2016, in Coventry.

Asian Fusion grooming is a mixture of conventional and traditional styling with Asian styles and techniques, which will give your much loved pooch a different look.

Did you know: This year's Crufts winner was a West Highland White Terrier, Ch Burneze Geordie Girl, pet name Devon. Her owner, Marie Burns, is also Devon's groomer, which certainly paid off in this year's Crufts final.

I asked Ashley what he would advise when you are looking for a good groomer for your beloved pooch. He advised there are a number of great groomers in East Northants; check their qualifications and experience, as

the dog grooming industry is not regulated and anyone can set up as a dog groomer. Not good news when you hand over your furry friend to someone with clippers and scissors! I also asked him how I keep Kira's white beard free from staining. Ashley advised to check that what you are feeding your dog doesn't contain food colourings, which can cause staining.

If you wish to book the expert services of Scruffies dog grooming, "where all scruffies leave as cuties" contact details are as follows:

Website: scruffiesdoggrooming.co.uk/about

Telephone: 01933 419555

Email: charlie@scruffiesdoggrooming.co.uk

Does your business qualify for a Government grant?

The Government are offering a Rural Development Programme for England: LEADER funding is available to local businesses, communities, farmers, foresters and land managers. Find out how to apply for funding through Local Action Groups (LAGs)

You can apply to your Local Action Group (LAG) for funding for projects that create jobs, help your business to grow, and benefit the rural economy, under the LEADER scheme. LEADER funding is



delivered via LEADER LAGs and is available to local businesses, communities, farmers, foresters and land managers.

A total of £138 million is available in England between 2015 and 2020 under the scheme.

What projects are eligible?

A LAG is made up of people from the local community and the local public and private sectors. Each LAG decides which projects they will fund in their area. This depends on their priorities but all projects must support one or more of the six LEADER priorities. These are to:

- support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- boost rural tourism
- increase farm productivity
- increase forestry productivity
- provide rural services
- provide cultural and heritage activities

If you want to know more details contact the following:

Telephone: William Dalimore, 07802 411040

Email: william.dallimore@ngagesolutions.co.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-development-programme-for-england-leader-funding

It could make a significant difference to your business.

Next month, for all you Top Gear and The Grand Tour fans, do I have a treat for you! My other half has offered to carry my notebook and pen for next month's feature, which I am really looking forward to sharing with you.

I would like to finish the year with a big thank you for all the great comments I have received throughout the year from the Nene Valley readers for my business column. I wish all the Nene Valley readers and the residents of East Northants a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. My best wishes to you all from your local business champion.

Marika Hillson

Lasting legacies left by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown

To end a busy year celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the Northamptonshire Gardens Trust were delighted to have gifted trees to all those groups from Wellingborough and East Northants who visited the wonderful Brownian landscape at Castle Ashby in July. These visits were part of an ambitious project aiming to encourage a wider, more diverse audience to visit, learn about and enjoy Brown's landscapes as part of the Capability Brown 2016 Festival. This festival was managed by the Landscape Institute and funded with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

On a beautifully sunny morning on Monday 28th November, five trees were delivered to a variety of sites and in the very capable hands of 'Capability' Brown two Rowan trees were planted at Rowangate

School and the Warwick Academy in Wellingborough and a Hawthorne at Southwood House for adults with disabilities, also in Wellingborough.

Owing to limitations of space, Rowangate School in Rushden and the SERVE Therapy Centre in Higham Ferrers received crab apple trees in pots to brighten their urban environments. Each tree was ceremoniously planted with the help of pupils, residents and of course, 'Capability' Brown.

Carol Fitzgerald, a spokesperson for the Northamptonshire Gardens Trust explained that "all participating groups in the July trips to Castle Ashby now have a fitting reminder of a special visit to a 'Capability' Brown landscape and the great man himself. It has been a very exciting and enjoyable year and we are delighted to end the project with a lasting legacy."

Oundle Festival of Music and Drama

"Thank you for inviting me to adjudicate at the Oundle Festival," wrote John Pomphrey, Choral Adjudicator 2016.

"I found the day completely absorbing with fine singing and an excellent, friendly and competitive atmosphere in every class.

"The hospitality was excellent, the clerks most helpful and there seemed to be enthusiasm and smiling faces throughout the day. Wonderful!"

The 2017 Festival, which runs from Wednesday 29th March to Saturday 1st April, provides performance opportunities for amateurs of all ages. Experts in their field offer encouragement and suggestions for improvement to all who take part: from

the child reciting a poem before an audience for the first time, to the more mature musicians.

Entries are welcomed from individuals, parents, teachers and schools. Entries close on 16th January, so there is just one month left to decide to take part and be part of this wonderful event.

You can find the 2017 syllabus at Oundle Bookshop, Oundle Box Office, Oundle Library and Fletton House. It is also available at www.ofmd.org.uk. The syllabus includes details of the prestigious Oundle Young Musician, Oundle Young Singer and Oundle Town Council Drama prizes.

The organising team of the Oundle Festival of Music and Drama were delighted

to be awarded a grant by the Central England Co-operative Community Dividend Fund to buy an all-in-one printer to speed up their admin work. The thirteen-year-old photocopier had long outlasted its expected life and was in urgent need of replacement.

As a registered charity the Festival aims to keep entry fees as reasonable as possible, but income has not kept up with rising costs in the last two years. The continued support of Oundle Town Council, who this year are helping with the costs of the Saturday choir classes, and all the sponsors from the retail, business and professional community of Oundle and surrounding villages is much appreciated.

Reindeer pay a flying visit to Stanwick

Santa's reindeer proved a huge hit at this year's Stanwick Primary Christmas Bazaar – and helped to raise a grand total of £2,520.36.

The reindeer were a new attraction at the Bazaar, an annual event organised by FoSS, the Friends of Stanwick School, a charity that raises funds for the benefit of school pupils. As well as the opportunity to pet the reindeer, school pupils, parents and friends visited

Santa's Grotto, plundered craft and gift stalls, enjoyed fresh cake and hot drinks, and took part in a raffle and tombola – both of which featured grand prizes, ranging from £200 in cash to a Christmas meat hamper.

"We always like to support the Bazaar," said

Vernon Frost, proprietor of Old School coffee shop and bistro, plus Shop @ Stanwick. "This year, rather than donate a prize, we sponsored the reindeer visit."

Other sponsors – all local businesses – included CR Potter the butcher, GT Commercials, DB

Shoes, Shires Cookery School, Barrett and Coe photography, the Santa Pod Festival of Power, Pacesetters, Rock-It Promotions and (via the Rushden branch) Waitrose.

"We're so pleased to have been able to raise this money, which will directly benefit pupils at the school," said Amy

Watts, chair of the FoSS committee. "I'd like to thank all the FoSS volunteers, who worked so hard, plus our sponsors and donors

– as well as all those who visited the event, without whom it wouldn't have been such a fantastic success."

The next major event is the summer Village Evening, to be held on Friday 14th July. Meanwhile, FoSS regularly organises fundraising coffee mornings at the school. For more details, see www.facebook.com/FriendsOfStanwickSchool.



Your Health Matters

Are carol singers a health risk?

Has Health and Safety gone mad? Please read this list to the end:

- Indoor Christmas lights need a portable appliance test (PAT) every year
 - You can't throw out sweets at pantos
 - Santa needs a seatbelt in his sleigh
 - Secondhand toys can't be donated for 'health and safety' reasons
 - Carol singers are a health and safety risk
 - Children are banned from throwing snowballs
 - If you clear snow from outside your business or home you are likely to get sued
 - Health and safety prevents people putting coins in Christmas puddings
- According to the government's health and safety website page, all of these are MYTHS.

However, the following are injuries that are seen every year in A&E:

- Children who have eaten glass baubles
- Injuries (and deaths) from watering Christmas trees when the tree's lights are on
- Falls from putting up decorations
- Stabbings from people using knives

instead of screwdrivers to assemble new toys

- Broken arms from pulling crackers (I have no idea how this is possible!)
- Back injuries from lifting the turkey out of the oven (every year we treat someone who has 'turkey back').

I have no intention of being a health fanatic and kill joy, but stay out of A&E this year by thinking before you water the tree and checking the ladder isn't broken before you step onto it to put up the decorations.

Don't give yourself 'turkey back' – if the turkey is too heavy ask someone else to lift it.

And don't water the artificial tree! Top Tip: If writing your thank you letters gives you pain in your wrist or arm, try circling your wrists to stop muscle fatigue.

Have a fun-filled time and a Merry Christmas!

Claire

Claire Short is a Registered Osteopath, and runs The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers. Send your questions to claire@ashgrovehealth.co.uk or tweet to @AshgroveClinic



SATURDAY 7th & SUNDAY 8th JANUARY

This is **The Biggie!** We will have lots of superb bargains for you on **Saturday 7th (8.30 to 5.00) & Sunday 8th January (10.00 to 4.00).**

In addition to **half-price Christmas themed products** we will have other clearance lines & **will be offering an unprecedented 30% off all non-sale items & 20% off all books.** Be there!



And there's more . . . on Saturday Sharon Bramley will be demonstrating a range of dies for cardmaking. Claire Boyd is going to show us how to decorate MDF products and Ellie Durante, our Quilling expert will be passing on her hints & tips.

Unit 6, Brindley Close, Rushden, Northants., NN10 6EN T: 01933 355530
E: craft@colemangroup.co.uk www.colemans-online.co.uk

£40k council funding for local projects

East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) is helping more communities in the district with £40,000 of funding for local projects.

Each district councillor is allocated £1,000 per year for small community-based projects. Money can be awarded to parish/town councils, community groups, voluntary organisations and charities working in East Northamptonshire.

Thanks to ENC's Member Empowerment Fund (MEF), these types of projects can be funded:

- Community events, fayres and carnivals
- Community/Neighbourhood Planning activities
- Activities that promote participation in physical activity/healthy lifestyles
- Environmental improvements e.g. tidying up, new planting

schemes

- Community facility improvements
- Support for new groups e.g. first aid, committee skills training
- Equipment for use by the local community
- Young people projects, including equipment for youth groups
- Safer communities e.g. parking schemes, speed reduction measures

Since the scheme began in June 2011, communities have benefitted from over £168,000 of grant funding to support their projects, including:

- Purchasing/installing a picnic bench in Riverside Park, Higham Ferrers
- Litter picking equipment for clean up days

in Chelveston and Caldecott

- Creating a multi-functional learning space for the schoolchildren and the wider community in Glapthorn
- Installation of a defibrillator for the benefit of the residents of Barnwell and the surrounding area
- Arts and craft equipment for the 1st Irthlingborough Scouts group
- Training programme and course materials to provide counselling sessions to young people in Oundle and the surrounding area
- Volunteer support and refreshments for the Rushden Hall Park health walk sessions
- Installation of a gated entrance to the village of Hargrave to visually improve road safety

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council,

Steven North, said: "This is a great small fund that allows our councillors to support capital projects

in their area, either as an individual or working with other members to support larger projects. If you need

a bit of financial help to make your project a reality, have a chat with your local councillor."

Oundle YFC kick off festivities in charitable style

Oundle Young Farmers celebrated another successful year at their annual Christmas Dinner and Dance, donating £138.17 in the process for RABI, a charity which supports farming families in difficulty.

The evening kicked off with a look back at what has been achieved this year, by chairman Richard Lee. It has been a busy few months with numerous successes for members and the club as a whole. After welcoming many new faces to the club, a good showing at this year's County Rally and lots of money raised at the Annual Charity Clay Shoot, the club has much to be proud of.

Following a lovely meal from hosts for the evening, the Elton Furze Golf Club, games were played, prizes were won and

money raised for a worthwhile cause.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) are a welfare charity who help farming people, both young and old who are in difficulty or need of support. This can be through providing grants, equipment or training to working farms in need; or supporting retired or disabled people who need a helping hand.

If you would like to find out more about RABI please go to: www.rabi.org.uk/ or donate at www.justgiving.com/rabi If you want to find out more about Oundle Young Farmers search for them on Facebook or on twitter @OundleYF for details of the next Wednesday meeting.

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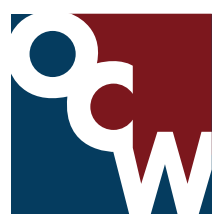


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Sunday 18th December Whitefriars Church – Carol Service

Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
Chris Youngman 01933 551769
A fairly traditional carol service, open to all.

19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd December Cinderella

The Stahl
7.45pm
Admission: £15.50
Join the beautiful Cinderella at the ball and make it a Christmas to remember for the whole family.

Sunday 25th December Breakfast at Whitefriars

The Bridge Community Office at Whitefriars Junior School, Rushden NN10 9HX
8.30am–10am
Free admission
Chris Youngman 01933 551769
Food and friendship at the start of Christmas day – open to all.

Whitefriars Church – Christmas Celebration service including Holy Communion

Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
Chris Youngman 01933 551769
An informal church service open to all.

Wednesday 28th December Mince Pie Specials

Rushden Station, Station Approach, Rushden, Northants NN10 0AW
Train times: 11.00; 11.45; 12.30; 13.15; 14.00; 14.45; 15.30; 16.00
Fares apply
Come for a ride on our diesel hauled train and have a mince pie and a drink.

Thursday 29th December Oundle Cinema: The Jungle Book (PG)

Stahl Theatre, West Street Oundle Peterborough PE8 4EJ
6pm
Admission: £5 / £3 under 18s
Oundle Festival, 4 West Street, Oundle, PE8 4ED. Tel: 01832 274734 www.oundlefestival.org.uk, information@oundlefestival.org.uk
Orphaned boy, raised by wolf pack, enlists help of animals to return him to the man village.

Sunday 1st January 2017 Whitefriars Church – New Year's Celebration

Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
Chris Youngman 01933 551769
An informal church service open to all.

Ringstead Shared Church

NN14 4DA
10.30am
Cafe-style service
Come and share in an informal setting
www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park Higham Ferrers for car sharing
9.30am
Free admission
01933 386839
6 mile mystery walk.

Wednesday 4th January Ringstead's Beat Bugs for Mums and Tots (6 months to

school age)

2pm–2.45pm Ringstead Shared Church
£21 / 6-week term (£3.50 per week) Language, confidence, social skills through music, rhymes and puppets.
www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk

Friday 6th January Whitefriars Church Retireds' Group

The Bridge Community Office at Whitefriars Junior School, Rushden NN10 9HX
1.30pm–3pm
Free admission
John & Celia Underwood 01933 676989
A friendly group to which all of retirement age are welcome.

Film: Eddie the Eagle (PG)

Ringstead Village Social Club
Doors open 7.30pm film starts 7.45pm
Tickets £5
01933 460373
The true story of Eddie's fight against the odds to represent Britain at the Winter Olympics.

Sunday 8th January Ringstead Shared Church

NN14 4DA
10.30am
Communion Service led by Revd Robert Shehane Children's group. A warm welcome to all.
www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk

Ringstead Shared Church

NN14 4DA
5pm
Tea Time Talk 'Worship through Music'. Sharing around the tea table.

Whitefriars Church Silver Service

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

Whitefriars Café Church

Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
Free admission
Simon King 01933 356871
A chance to eat, chat, read, reflect, create, listen and explore the Bible together.

Whitefriars Church, Rushden, Countryside Walk – at Irchester Country Park

Start and finish at the lower car park
10.30am
Andrew Presland 01933 316927
A walk of about three miles in the country park.

Monday 9th January Basic Brushstrokes Painting Class

Ringstead
11am–1pm
£12 Booking essential
01933 460676
Perfect your brushstrokes for Leaves (inc. wriggle style) and Daisies. Two-hour class includes use of all painting materials.

Thursday 12th January Basic Brushstrokes Painting Class

Ringstead
11am–1pm
£12 Booking essential
01933 460676
Perfect your brushstrokes for Honeysuckle, Dahlias and

Carnations. Two-hour class includes use of all painting materials.

Friday 13th January Basic Brushstrokes Painting Class

Ringstead
11am–1pm
£12 Booking essential
01933 460676
Perfect your brushstrokes to paint cuddly cute Teddy Bears. Two-hour class includes use of all painting materials.

Oundle Historical Society – Talk by Jon-Paul Carr

John Clare Collection, Northants Central Library
Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane, Oundle
7.30pm
Members free, non members £2
Perdita Cawthorne 01832 270372

AFC Rushden & Diamonds Quiz Night

Rushden Bowls Club, Northampton Road, Rushden NN10 6AN
7.30pm
£2 each
Raffle, Retiring bucket collection for Cransley Hospice. All quiz players welcome. To book a table please contact Glenis on 07870 332606.

Sunday 15th January New Year Walk

Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows (meet in St Peter's Church car park)
11am–1pm
£3 per person - booking essential
Northamptonshire@wildlifebcn.org / 01604 405285
Join us for our ever-popular walk around the nature reserve to discover the winter birds!

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park Higham Ferrers for car sharing
9.20am
01832 731998
6.3 mile walk from Titchmarsh.

Ringstead Shared Church

NN14 4DA
10.30am – Morning Service and children's group
6pm – Communion Service.
Revd Robert Shehane's last services in Ringstead. Come and share with us.
www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk

By Appointment Counselling & Listening Service

No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle, Northants PE8 4BG
These services are free
Marilyn 07936015965

Housing, Benefits and Employment Advice

No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle, Northants PE8 4BG
office@oundlebaptist.org.uk or 01832 770010

Half-Term

All-age Touch Typing Club

9.30am-10.30am Mon-Fri
Diane Gifford 07432 123 438
Learn or Refresh your skill £15 course intro with coffee.

Every Monday

Titchmarsh Folk Dance Club
The Club Room, High Street, Titchmarsh NN14 3DF
8pm-10pm, £1 inc tea/coffee
Kev Prigmore 01536 514023/titchmarshfdc@gmail.com

Oundle Ladies Running Group

Oundle pool car park
6.45pm

Jane Walker 01832 272898/janewalkercakes@icloud.com

Baggy pants Yoga

Studio 2, Pemberton Centre, HE Bates Way, Rushden
10am-11am
01933 382837/07873 743256/carole.wyatt@virginmedia.com
£5 per session.

Every Monday (term time) Praise and Play

St James' Church Thrapston
1.30pm-2.45pm, refreshments available
Anita 735443

Aqua Aerobic Classes

Oundle School Swimming Pool, Milton Road, Oundle
8.45-9.30am, £25 for 5 sessions
01832 277208/277195

Every Monday, Friday & Saturday (term time)

Otters Swim School Lessons
Oundle School Swimming Pool, Milton Road Oundle
Mon 3.55pm-6.10pm, Fri 3.55pm-6.10pm, Sat 8.30am-12noon, booked in advance as a block (£5.50 per lesson)
01832 277208/277195

1st Monday of the month

Oundle Wives
Methodist Church, Oundle
7.45pm, £3 refreshments/raffle
01832 272178

Oundle & District Royal British Legion Meeting

The Talbot Hotel, Oundle
7pm
Les Starks 01832 270073

Every 2nd Monday (except January & August)

Thrapston & District Royal British Legion Branch Meeting
The Thrapston Centre, High Street, Thrapston
7.30pm
Veronica McCurdy 01832 735206

2nd Monday of the month Royal British Legion Rushden Branch Monthly Meeting

Rushden Football & Social Club, Hayden Road, Rushden
7.15pm, annual fee £17
Jake Baker 07525 441267

2nd & 4th Mondays of the month

StitChat
No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle
1.30pm-3.30pm
01832 770010/office@oundlebaptist.org.uk

Monday once a month Woodturning Club

Hardwick Village, Near Wellingborough NN9 5AL
7pm-10pm
Paul Lawman 01933 674260

Every Monday & Thursday Oundle Bridge Club

Fletton House, Fletton Way, Oundle PE8 4JA
7pm start
01832 273044

Every Tuesday

Coffee Stop
Rushden Mission Church, Wellingborough Road NN10 9TA
10am-12.30pm
Alan Richardson 01933 355302

East Northants Classic Motorcycle Club

New Inn Public House, Wymington
Meet around 7.30pm

Sling Walk

11am
01933 410112 First Tuesday of the

month there will be Sling Library at 10am prior to the walk. Second Tuesday meet at Rushden CC Hayway instead of Higham Ferrers.

Rushden Mission Training Band

Mission Church, Wellingborough Road, Rushden
7.30pm-8.45pm
Alan Richardson 01933 355302

Short Mat Bowls

Saxon Hall, Raunds
1.45pm-4pm, £3
01933 624545

Yoga Class

Whitefriars Infant School, Boughton Drive, Rushden
7.15pm-8.15pm, £5 per session
Carole 07873743256/carole.wyatt@virginmedia.com

Ringstead's Jolly Good Company

Ringstead Shared Church
10am-11am, £4
Music & Movement for over-55's.

Every Tuesday (term time) Toddlers' Drop In

No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle
9.15am-11.30am, free
office@oundlebaptist.org.uk or 01832 770010

Tuesday Toddlers

No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle PE8 4BG
9.15am, free
Judith Brshaw on 01832 770010

1st Tuesday of every month

Great Companions (single people 55+)

Rushden Bowls Club, Northampton Road
7-9pm, yearly membership £6
Pat Bazeley 07931 964360
2nd Tuesday of the month
Tea Dance
Pemberton Centre, Rushden
Dancing to 'Music Box'
2pm-4pm, £3 per person including tea/coffee & cake

Higham Ferrers Guided Tour

Groups of 6 minimum. Trained guides. Tea & cakes, optional.
01933 411191

Wildlife Trust Little Bugs Club

10am-11.30am, £1 per child (adults are free)
Louise Tuffin 01604 774043/louise.tuffin@wildlifebcn.org

50+ Adventure Club

For further information
01536 505548/www.fiftyplusnorthantsadventureclub.org.uk

Every Tuesday & Thursday Health Walks Stanwick Lakes

10am-11am, free, car park charges
01933 625522
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls

Saxon Hall, Raunds
1.45pm-4pm, £3
01933 624545

Every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Whist Drive
Rushden Bowls Club
Northampton Road, Rushden
7.30pm, £2
01933 313714

Every Tuesday & Saturday Coffee Mornings

St James Church Thrapston
10am-12noon
01832 730019

Every Wednesday

Short Mat Bowls

Islip Village Hall
2pm-4pm, £3
01832 733154

Tai Chi

Chelveston Village Hall
2pm-3pm, £5
Tai Chi for health, fitness and self defence. All ages (18+) welcome.

Dog Training and Socialisation and Ringcraft

Halefield, Woodnewton, near Oundle
Classes from 6.45pm
01832 293432/oundledogs@aol.com
www.oundledogs.co.uk

Rainbow Cafe for Tots

(aimed up to 5 and their adults)
Stanwick Lakes
10.30am-12noon, £2.50 per child – car park charges apply.
01933 625522/www.stanwicklakes.org.uk

Club Night

Apthorpe Tennis Club
From 6pm

Returners to Work

No.1 St. Osyth's Lane
10am-12noon
01832 770011

Art & Craft Class

Oundle Rural Mind, 1 Herne Park, East Road, Oundle PE8 4BZ
Irene Issitt – Manager
01832 275020

Inflatable Fun Session

Oundle School Swimming Pool, Milton Road Oundle
5-6pm (May vary during school holidays), £3 adult & £2.25 child
01832 277208/277195

Cambridge First Certificate in English

The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Oundle
9.30am-12.30pm, £25 per week
01832 776336/info@antlerlanguages.co.uk

French Tuition

The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Oundle
From 6pm, £25 per week
01832 776336/info@antlerlanguages.co.uk

Ringstead's Beat Bugs

Ringstead Shared Church
NN14 4DA
2pm–2.45pm, £21/6-week session (£3.50 per week)
Angela – rbc-rsc@angeladavis.net or 01933 622316
Language, confidence, social skills through music, rhymes and puppets for mums and tots (6 months to school age).

Every Wednesday (term time)

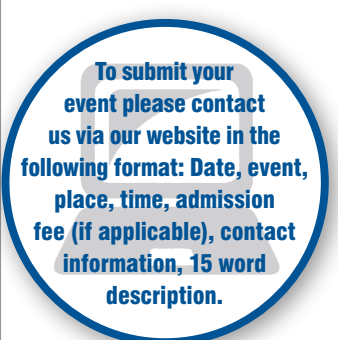
Community ICT Classes
Needham Building, Oundle School SciTec, Glapthorn Road, Oundle
2.30pm-4pm

Yr 7 & 8 Sports Club

Sports Hall, Milton Rd, Oundle
7.45pm-8.45pm

660 Club

Two Acre Club, off Milton Road
2.15pm-3.45pm
Afternoon tea and entertainment for 60+ hosted by Oundle pupils.





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14th January - Spotlight on Rushden
28th January - Valentine's & Weddings
11th February - Spotlight on Higham Ferrers

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Web: www.nenevalleynews.co.uk



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (FREEMANS LANE, DENFORD)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Freemans Lane, Denford as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Freemans Lane, Denford from High Street to Chapel Lane.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of new gas connection.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 16th January 2017 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to four days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use High Street, Pegs Lane and Chapel Lane.

Dated this 17th day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T16/525

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604 883400.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (CHURCH STREET, WOODFORD)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Church Street, Woodford as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Church Street, Woodford from Bakers Lane to Club Lane.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of new gas connection.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 10th January 2017 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to four days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Bakers Lane, Whittlesea Terrace and Club Lane.

Dated this 17th day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T16/524

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604 883400.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (HIGH STREET, BRIGSTOCK)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of High Street, Brigstock as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of High Street, Brigstock from Latham Street to Benefield Road.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of BT underground ducts.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 11th January 2017 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to four days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Stanion Road, A6116, Sudborough Road and Church Street.

Dated this 17th day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T17/013

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604 883400.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DISTRICT) (WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2009 (AMENDMENT No. 12) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council intends to make an Order under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 32, 35 to 39 and Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") to amend "The Northamptonshire County Council (East Northamptonshire District) (Waiting and Loading Restrictions and On-Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009" as specified in the schedule below.

A COPY of the proposed draft Order, together with plans showing the exact lengths of roads to which it relates and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected at Oundle Library, Glaphorn Road, Oundle during normal opening times or at Riverside House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton during normal office hours.

OBJECTIONS to the proposed Orders, stating the grounds on which they are made should be sent in writing to the Traffic Orders Section, Riverside House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton, NN1 5NX by 14th January 2017.

Dated this 17th day of December 2016

QUENTIN BAKER,
Director of Law and Governance
LGSS LAW LTD
DSW / 1629

SCHEDULE

PROPOSED DOUBLE YELLOW LINES (NO WAITING AT ANY TIME)

LAUNDRY ROAD, APETHORPE – BOTH SIDES – BETWEEN MAIN STREET AND THE ACCESS TO APETHORPE PALACE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH UE18 (PART) – PARISH OF IRTHLINGBOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit all pedestrians from proceeding along that length of Public Footpath UE18 in the Parish of Irtlingborough as specified below. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said length of footpath is unaffected.

RIGHT OF WAY TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: The existing route to be closed begins at National Grid Reference ("NGR") SP9463 7036. The route travels generally south west for approximately 45 metres to point B at NGR SP9459 7033. The route is shown by a solid black line between points A – B.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for sewer replacement works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The Order will come into effect on 3rd January 2017 and will continue in force for a period of six months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for this Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such extent as is indicated by the display of notices.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: The alternative route starts at point A at NGR SP9463 7036. The route travels generally north along Meadow Vale and along part of UE18 and into The Close for approximately 149 metres to point C at NGR SP9462 7048. The route then heads generally south west along UE18 for approximately 120 metres to point D at NGR SP9452 7042. The route then heads south east then south west along the highway footway of Park Road for approximately 142 metres to point E at NGR SP9449 7029. The route then travels south east along UE17 for approximately 54 metres to point F at NGR SP9454 7026. The route then travels north east along the highway footway of Crouch Road and Meadowvale for approximately 94 metres to point B at NGR SP9459 7033. The alternative route is shown by a broken black line between points A – C – D – E – F – B.

Dated this 17th day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/ROW/271

If you require any further information please call Gary Parsons on 07947 961642 or Ian Lewis 07903 980455.



JOBS BOARD



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Closing date: 3 January 2017 (9am)

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.



Ad 1600

Kimbolton School

Kim Club Play Assistant/Early Years Nursery Nurse/ Teaching Assistant
2 positions – job share
27.5 hours per week, Term Time only (34 weeks initially)
Position 1 – 7.30am to 1.00pm
Position 2 – 12.30pm to 6.00pm

We are seeking two people to job share with a minimum Level 3 NVQ in Childcare qualification (or equivalent) to join our friendly and committed team in providing support primarily to the School's "Out of Hours" Club at the Preparatory School. The ideal candidates must be flexible around hours and weeks of working as the School is looking to expand the current service to cover holiday childcare.

For further details about this exciting opportunity, please visit www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/vacancies to view the job description and to apply. Closing date for applications: 9.00am 9th January 2017.

Kimbolton School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants will need to display commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Disclosure Enhanced DBS check and provide evidence of proof of right to work in the UK.

Kimbolton School Charity No: 1098586

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KIMBOLTON SCHOOL



GROUNDSPERSON GRADE 1

Full-time – 37.5 hours per week (52 weeks)
Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings during term time. Salary up to £17,000 per annum dependent upon experience

We seek to appoint an experienced Groundsperson to join our small and committed team at Kimbolton School to care for our beautiful parkland and sports facilities. You will need to have an understanding of the complexities of the changes in sporting seasons and have a minimum of 2 years' experience of groundsmanship. A qualification in Groundsmanship (NVQ 2) or equivalent is essential.

For further details about the role, please visit www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/vacancies to view the job description and to apply.

Closing date for applications: 9th January 2017

Kimbolton School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants will need to display commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Disclosure Enhanced DBS check and provide evidence of proof of right to work in the UK.



EVENING SITE DUTY MANAGER

Initially 30 Hours per week over 52 Weeks
Initially 6 month contract

NJC Pay Scale Points Range: 19 to 22
Salary: £18560-£20456 (The salary quoted is the full time equivalent)

The position would ideally suit an energetic and enthusiastic person able to work using his/her own initiative and take pride in their work. A previous knowledge of the building/decorating industry would be an advantage. Good communication skills, timekeeping and being a team player are essential.

Key Duties:

- To ensure all evening activities run safely & efficiently
- To undertake decoration and small maintenance works
- The preparation of furniture and equipment for key Academy events
- Locking and alarming up of site

Hours of work:

Monday – Friday: 14.30hrs – 2100hrs
(to include a 30 minute break)
Saturday: 08.00hrs – 1530hrs **on a rota basis**
this will be paid as extra to the above

Closing date for applications Friday 6 January 2017.

See our website www.rushden-academy.net for an application pack and further information regarding this position. Alternately contact Mrs K Lloyd Tel: 01933 350391.

Rushden Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.

To advertise in
Nene Valley News call
01522 513515

Chess Corner

Regular readers will be aware that Rushden Chess Club (RCC) has been an enthusiastic exponent of junior chess in the area. In previous years regular competitive games have been organised between the Club and a local school. The benefits of chess for young people have long been recognised and those familiar with the film 'Knights of the South Bronx' will be aware of the work carried out by David MacEnulty among poor students in New York. As a result of chess, significant improvements were seen in the educational attainments of the students.

In an effort to spread the reach of chess in the area, the idea of a junior league for local schools was proposed. This has been supported with a grant provided by Rushden Town Council. We are therefore now seeking potential entrants for the league. Whilst places are limited we would try to accommodate all

applicants, thus anyone interested in entering their school or local group can contact us. A contact number can be found at the end of this article.

In this time of celebration, when families take time together, I am saddened to report that the family of Russian Grandmaster Yuri Yeliseyev will be mourning his passing. The 20-year-old chess maestro fell from a 12th floor Moscow flat in what appears to have been a tragic accident. Yuri was a keen fan of the urban sport known as freerunning, this activity includes climbing/jumping up walls, across roofs and over fences and other buildings. Yeliseyev won the world junior chess championship in 2012 and also this year's Moscow Open. He became a grandmaster in 2013.

As I look out the window at the frost on the ground, I feel glad to be inside in front of a roaring fire. At this time of year thoughts

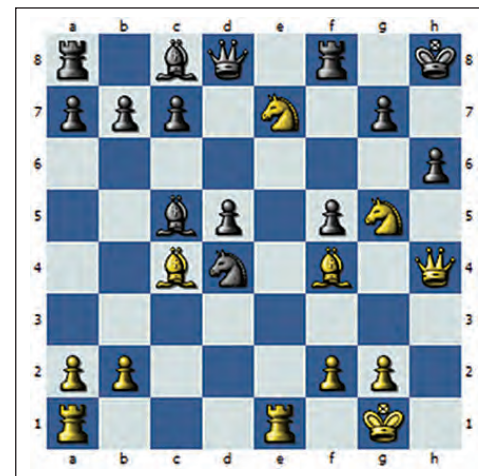
are very much focussed on the coming Christmas and the year past. In many ways 2016 has been a very positive time for the Club, with a continuing increase in the number of members. The junior section of the Club continues to grow and we were particularly pleased to host players from the Rushden Academy who pitted themselves against our youngsters. RCC acquitted themselves well in this inaugural competition despite Rushden Academy's age advantage. We have also seen the advance of the ladies with the C team now regularly fielding at least two female players in League competition.

As has become the tradition at this time of year, I am including a chess puzzle to mull over during a quiet time in the holiday period. So why not get that chess board out from



By Derrick Sims

wherever you last saw it and have a go! The solution will be published in the next edition of the Nene Valley News.



White to move, mate in three

Chess is a game for people of all abilities, disabilities, and lifestyles. Rushden Chess Club loves welcoming new members, so do come along to a meeting if you're interested in playing chess in a very friendly environment. 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>



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