

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



Swimming team makes club history

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Helping local students kick-start their career

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Northamptonshire joins initiative to help tackle doorstep crime and scams

A new scheme to help raise awareness of unwanted distraction, burglary, rogue trading and scams is being introduced by police and trading standards in Northamptonshire to support the ongoing work in the county.

Operation REPEAT was originally developed in Lincolnshire and has

proved a successful way to increase understanding of this type of crime and encourage those who work

with elderly and vulnerable people to share important security and crime prevention advice.



The training is being jointly funded by Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire County Council Trading Standards, and a number of training courses are being planned over the coming months.

The principle aim of the initiative is to train professionals and carers of elderly and vulnerable people in what to look for and the advice they should be giving if they think someone is at risk of becoming a victim of doorstep crime and rogue trading.

The topics covered also

include the different type of scams that fraudsters use to try and con people into handing over cash or divulging bank account details.

By training those who have day-to-day contact with elderly or vulnerable people, the police and trading standards hope to generate greater awareness of how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of this type of crime.

To find out more about the work of Operation REPEAT visit www.oprepeat.co.uk. For more information about doorstep crime and the Northamptonshire Doorstep Crime Action Network (DAN), see the crime prevention pages at www.northants.police.uk.

For help finding a reliable, local trader, take a look at the Trading Standard's 'Buy with Confidence' scheme at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/approvedtraders.

In Brief

Charity cheque presentation

The Happy Feet Line Dancing Group recently presented a cheque for £3,900 in support of the Wellingborough and District Branch of Parkinson's UK. The presentation was made at a line dance at the Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club. The local Parkinson's branch meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month in the Irchester village hall.

Nene Valley team swims to victory

Nene Valley Swimming Club became Leicester Winter League Division 2 Champions on 25th March, in their first year of entering the competition. The club sent a team of 26 swimmers to compete at Hinckley. It was a very close competition all the way through the evening, with Nene Valley securing 1st place at the end of the night by a clear 18 points. The team consisted of swimmers from the ages of 9 years and upwards. If you are are interested in joining email nvscsecretary@hotmail.co.uk or visit nenevalleysc.co.uk



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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.

The Editor,
I have read your editor's notes this week 25th March regarding the potholes on the A605 at Warmington. I actually reported these some 16 days ago through one of many online reporting services for potholes. I also spoke to the Highways Agency direct regarding another large pothole on the A47 and they welcome these reports from road users and actually said that they wished more people would report them so that they can get out and fix them. Can I suggest that you include a message in the Nene Valley News to point

your readers to these online reporting facilities rather than just moaning about them and reporting that they have been fixed.

Regards, Nigel Mercy

Dear Editor,
Once again spring is here. Soon the Nene Valley will display the May blossom and we will marvel at nature's beauty. The market town of Thrapston is looking neat. But there are many empty shops in the town which made me think, what do we need to complement the established shops? A deli, wine merchant, greengrocer, bookshop, an antiques shop and a shoe shop – after all this is Northamptonshire where the best shoes in the world are made. Do other readers agree? Perhaps they have lists of their own.

Sincerely, Glynn D. Parry

Genealogy jottings

We've been a bit morbid in the last couple of articles, talking about gravestones! However, it was not all doom and gloom back in the day. Although there were some rather archaic terms for illnesses and causes of death, there were also many potions and treatments to help remedy ailments. All before the discovery of penicillin.

My great grandfather, John Smith, was working in the fields, scything hay when he managed to scythe through his boot and cut his toe. No limping off to A&E for him – such a thing had not been invented. He tore a piece of cloth from his shirt (I bet that did not please my great grandmother!), bound up his foot and carried on working. He was known as 'Toe-Rag Smith' from that day on. He was lucky – no infection ensued. However, I wonder if the remedy of lily leaves steeped in brandy was used to make a poultice. In the north of England, sphagnum moss was used for dressing wounds. Not much around in Essex where John was, though.

Have you ever used a hot water bottle to aid an aching shoulder or knee perhaps? Before

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

rubber was used, stone bottles were filled with hot water – or warming pans of hot coals could be used to heat up cold beds. However, they would be no good for wrapping round an aching joint. That's where wheat bags would be used. Not a recent invention, cloth bags of wheat – or even cherry stones – would be gently heating in the range or close to the fire, ready to pop around the tenderness.

Herbs played their part in healing and many country folk had a herb garden that they could call upon at a moment's notice. Some of those grown include: scullcap (*Scutellaria baicalensis*), the flowers reputedly being a cure for insomnia; celandine (*Chelidonium*) to treat ailments of the liver, including jaundice; maidenhair fern being used to make a lotion for baldness. I am not sure of the efficacy of this last one!

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Editor's notes

Thanks go to our two letter writers in this edition for their attempts to stimulate discussion on a couple of topics. The question about what additional shops residents would like to see in their local towns is of course valid but success in this area is surely dependent on two primary factors: will locals use the shops and does the business plan provide sufficient evidence for the would-be entrepreneur to launch a business which is probably going to cost them a substantial sum? On the subject of highways and potholes, our earlier comments were intended as observations rather than moans but obviously that comes down to the perception of the reader, so we are only too happy to point you in the direction of the Street Doctor pages of the NCC website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/streetdoctor.

uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/streetdoctor.

The Raunds Civic Service and in particular the awards for local volunteers recognised for outstanding service to the community seems like a great idea. We understand that the awards element has been running for only a couple of years with residents nominating individuals who are then further assessed by Councillors. While there may be a small additional administrative burden related to this activity we wonder whether other local councils might be encouraged to follow the lead set by Raunds.

Finally, without wishing to cause undue alarm, a word or two of warning for lone drivers. It seems that a group of individuals are deliberately stopping sharply in front of other vehicles, particularly at roundabouts, in order

to cause accidents. The police issued a warning about 'cash for crash' incidents a couple of months ago; however, these are considered insurance fraud, and are therefore primarily managed by the insurance companies. Obviously, there is no substitute for careful driving but if you are involved in this sort of incident the advice is to capture as much photographic evidence as possible, providing it is safe to do so. If you believe you are a victim of a 'cash for crash' you should report the incident to the police and notify your insurer at the earliest opportunity, checking that the latter will not automatically pay out a claim without an investigation. More information can be found at <https://www.insurancefraudbureau.org>.

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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 recently signed a two year phone contract with a new network provider

but the reception in my home is terrible. Is there any way I can get out of the contract, or have I just got to stick with it?

This is quite a common problem encountered by our colleagues at the Citizens Advice Consumer Service, and not just for people living in rural areas as you might expect. While poor signal

doesn't give you a right to cancel your contract, you should be able to make a case to your phone company to end it.

If you bought your mobile online or over the phone within the last 14 days, you can cancel the contract without needing a reason by contacting your provider.

But if you bought it in store or have had the phone for longer, you'll need to ask to leave the contract.

Contact the company and explain the problem. They may give you a device which can boost your signal.

If this doesn't work, you can ask to terminate the contract. However, they will usually ask you to pay an exit fee, which can be



By Martin Lord

as much as the remaining cost of the contract.

Paying the exit fee could allow you to terminate the contract immediately, but if you don't want to pay then make a complaint using their complaints procedure.

This can take time, but if you haven't got a resolution after eight weeks, ask an Alternative Dispute Resolution Service to intervene. An adjudicator will make a decision on releasing you from the contract.

To make a start use the national website www.citizensadvice.org.uk – For further help, call the Citizens Advice consumer service helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

citizens
advice

Central & East
Northamptonshire

Raunds Civic Service

Raunds Mayor, Cllr Helen Howell, held her Civic Service on Sunday 19th March at St Peter's Church. Mayors and Chairs from all over the county joined Cllr Howell for her service dedicated to the Raunds community and the great work done by its many volunteers and dedicated workers.

This year the Raunds Mayor presented Citizens Awards to local people who were nominated for the good work they do. Awards went to Michael and Ben Nardone in thanks for their time, dedication and performance at the Mayor's fundraising events; Suzanne Porter in recognition of Library Support and Services to the Community; Geoff Dyne in recognition of his organisation of the Warth Park Opposition Group & Community Spirit; Peggy Day in recognition of Services to the Youth of Raunds; Karen Seamarks in recognition of Caring

provided to her daughter Alexis; Richard Haseldine in recognition of his service and dedication to St John Ambulance and the community; Tracey Barker in thanks for her excellent performances in support of the Raunds Mayor and Shelly Bates in recognition of her contribution in supporting the Mayor in fundraising events. After the service a delicious buffet supplied by Jester's was served in the St Peter's Enterprise Centre.



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Swimming club makes club history

Rushden Swimming Club has made club history in breaking the county record for the Open Female Freestyle Relay.

The final day of the Northants Amateur Swimming Associations' (NASA) County Swimming Competition, on Sunday 26th February, saw Rushden Swimming Club top off a successful season at this year's Long Course Counties by storming through the Open Female 4x50m Long Course Freestyle relay beating the record holders Northampton, to win Gold and achieving a county record with an incredible time of 1:50:23.

The previous county record set by Northampton Swimming Club in March 2014, also at Corby's International pool, was 1:51:74. The team of Molly Britchford (17), Amber Bales (15), Freya Cole (15) and Ciara Usher (14), swam some massive PBs beating Northampton, Wellingborough, Daventry Dolphins and Kettering Swimming Club to the top spot; Molly (28.62), Amber

(27.54), Freya (27.27), Ciara (26.80).

Fifty-six swimmers represented Rushden in this year's NASA County Championships at Corby's International pool, held over three weekends throughout January and February. The team brought in a medal haul of 16 Gold, 33 Silver and 38 Bronze medals, plus three new Regional qualifiers within their Junior Squad.

Rushden Swimming Club is proud of all of its swimmers, who show true commitment, tremendous team spirit and support for each other. Their main club night is Monday evenings 7pm-9.45pm at their home pool Splash, Station Road, Rushden NN10 9SJ. For more information please visit the website www.rushdenswimmingclub.co.uk.



Councillor Stan Heggs receives commendation from Prime Minister

The Annual General Meeting

of Corby & East Northants Conservative Association was held on Friday 24th March at Raunds Conservative Club. During

the proceedings, the Chairman, Councillor Helen Harrison, acknowledged the splendid career of Councillor Stan Heggs.

Cllr Heggs will be standing down at the County Elections on 4th May, but although retiring from front line council work after 16 years on Corby Borough Council and 12 years on Northamptonshire County Council, he continues with his voluntary work for the organisation.

The Chairman had received a letter from the Prime Minister, which she asked to be passed

on to Stan, in which she acknowledged his outstanding contribution to the community. Theresa May particularly mentioned remembering meeting Stan during a visit a few years ago.

In recognition of his work, the members at the AGM agreed with the recommendation of the Management Committee that he should be made an honorary Vice-President of the Association in order that he could continue to be involved in the Executive Committee discussions in the future.



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The curriculum at St Peter's School offers more than just the National Curriculum, with the development of reading and writing skills given high

priority with a strong emphasis on mathematics, English, science and French.

Small classes ensure that teachers know every child's ability and learning style and the classroom atmosphere is bubbling and happy.

The result is that St Peter's School has an excellent academic record, with children leaving well prepared to go on to the schools of their parents' choice.

Whether that choice falls in the state or independent sector, boys and girls are well equipped with academic and social skills and ready to meet the new challenges of secondary education.

St Peter's School warmly welcomes parents to make an appointment to visit and meet the Headmistress who will show you around the school.



The Elizabeth Groome Music Charity grants bursaries to Ferrers School

The Elizabeth Groome Music Charity was founded in 2011 in honour of Elizabeth Groome a talented musician and music teacher whose teaching career centred around the John Lea School in Wellingborough.

The John Lea Swing Band formed by Elizabeth with the assistance of the Northampton School of Music in many ways laid the foundations for the County Youth Big Band. Sadly, after a long illness Elizabeth died in 2015 but the charity in

her name, devised to assist talented young musicians in their ability and career continues.

The Ferrers School has a strong Music Department and for the first time this year has given all Year 7 students the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument for free during their first term at the school. From the second term (beginning in January) those that wish to carry on learning an instrument will need their parents to pay for the lessons. The charity

has agreed to provide up to six bursaries per year to help students whose parents' income falls below a set level and for whom the school is unable to get extra funding.

To be granted a bursary, the parents must apply through the school to the charity and the trustees will make the final decision based upon a set of criteria and information from the school about the individual student's musical progress and dedication. For this

academic year six bursaries of £60 each have been granted to the school to assist six students in continuing their musical education.

In addition to this, the charity has presented the school with two shields;

one for the lower school and one for the upper school. These will be presented at the respective awards evenings to the students, one from each of the levels who have shown the most dedication to the Music Department. The

successful students will also be awarded with a smaller version of the shield to keep and the school will receive a bursary of £50 for each of the two students to assist with their musical education within the school.

Higham and Rushden U3A Sing and Cycle for charity

The University of the Third Age (U3A) movement is a unique and exciting organisation which provides life changing opportunities. Retired and semi-retired people come together to enjoy learning new things (not qualifications) and this in turn enables new friendships to develop. The members organise various groups based on their own lifetime experiences and interests and are willing to share them with others at no, or very little, cost.

Two of these groups are 'Singing for Fun' and 'Cycling'.

The Singing for Fun Group (who literally sing for fun) have decided to put on an 'Old Time Musical Evening' at the Heritage Chapel and Halls, Park Road, Rushden, on Saturday 13th May, 7pm and the proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

The tickets are £5 each and are obtainable from Chris Murdin on 07778836094 or Gerry Burnham on 01933 770756. The group is currently working hard on production and rehearsals to make the evening a very

pleasant and memorable one. Refreshments will be available in the interval.

The Cycling Group organises rides each week for all abilities and from that group there are some cyclists who are currently in training to take part in the London to Brighton charity ride on 18th June raising funds for the British Heart Foundation. At least once a week, come rain or shine, you may see a small band of cyclists working hard to reach their goal.

Whilst they have some sponsor pledges and fundraise at their various social events, they are still hoping for more sponsors as they are looking to raise a considerable sum. Should you wish to become a sponsor, please contact Lynn Gale at lynndiane2004@yahoo.co.uk to pledge an amount (anything from £1 upwards).

If you would like more information on this branch of the U3A go to the website highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk and follow the leads that interest you.

Annual art exhibition

Oundle Art Group is holding its 'Annual Exhibition' in the superb surroundings of St Peter's Church, Oundle, Northamptonshire.

A wonderful display is expected of both contemporary and more traditional paintings, showcasing a rich variety of the members' work.

The show will be open from Saturday 6th May until Friday 12th May, between 10am and 4pm daily (and from 12.30pm on Sunday).

Admission is FREE and all visitors are most welcome.

OAG is a friendly coming together of people interested in art. They meet regularly on a Thursday at Tansor Village Hall between 1.45pm–3.45pm.

The group is made up of accomplished,

enthusiastic amateur and 'just for fun' artists, with their goal being just to enjoy creating and encouraging each other to experiment and develop their interest. They 'dabble' in all mediums of work including watercolour, oil, pastel and sketching.

All newcomers (and returning members) are most welcome. For further information, why not just visit the exhibition and have a chat with one of the stewards or simply drop into Tansor Village Hall during an art session. Chairperson: Jane Sanders, Tel. 01832 226495



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Rushden Nightshelter

The Sanctuary Night Shelter is a six-bed direct access night shelter offering a safe place to recover from homelessness. We average 20 people each quarter.

We work closely with each client to look at why they have become homeless and work with them to move on into appropriate accommodation, being either private rent, social housing, supported accommodation or returning home. We direct them to agencies that can help them with personal issues and we help them with some of their basic support needs.

Statistics for last year (2016)

We provided 76 people with a bed:

Ladies 5
Male 71

Some of the Clients' Issues

Drugs or alcohol 77%
Mental health issues 55%
Debt 46%
Others that presented with no significant issues 13%

Currently we are short of volunteers to cover the 'sleep in duty' nightshift from 10pm – 9am and the evening shift 6pm – 10pm, both shifts supporting our residents.

For more details please contact Helen Allan, 07871 999020. helen.allan@encs.org.uk



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:

Ashton

17/00155/FUL (29/04/2017) (LBRegs) Siting of one moveable shepherd's hut incorporating wood burning stove and solar lighting to provide holiday accommodation at West Lodge Ashton Wold Ashton PE8 5LD

Benefield

17/00385/FUL (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) New conservatory, new dormer windows to match existing and reinstatement of original front door and opening at Lammas Farmhouse Main St Upper Benefield

Clopton

17/00637/VAR (22/04/2017) (Info) Variation of condition 6, (Approved Plans) Access, layout, scale and appearance of the dwellings and landscaping of the development pursuant to 16/02182/REM at Motel Block The Red Lion Inn Main St Clopton NN14 3DZ

Duddington With Fineshade

17/00465/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Demolish existing caravan and construct a timber framed dwelling at Monkton Sidings Stamford Rd Fineshade NN17 3BA

Easton-on-the-Hill

17/00570/FUL (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) Proposed porch to rear elevation, realignment of existing garden wall, new timber entrance gates at 5 The Lane Easton On The Hill PE9 3LP

Higham Ferrers

16/02426/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Ramp and level threshold door. Works to be completed in front of property at 50 Elizabeth Way Higham Ferrers NN10 8JR

Irthlingborough

17/00597/FUL (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) Detached double garage at 13 Nene View Irthlingborough

Kings Cliffe

17/00504/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Disabled works 2 no. bedroomed rear and side extension with a wet room at 89 Wood Rd Kings Cliffe PE8 6XR
17/00649/FUL (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) Single storey extension and replacement windows to rear of property

at 59 West Street Kings Cliffe PE8 6XB
17/00651/FUL (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) Addition of orangery plus minor internal works at 54 West St Kings Cliffe PE8 6XA
17/00652/LBC (29/04/2017) (LBRegs) Alterations to existing kitchen and utility area, blocking up of existing external doorway, addition of orangery and associated works to Grade II Listed Building at 54 West St Kings Cliffe PE8 6XA

Lutton

17/00558/FUL and 17/00559/LBC (22/04/2017) (Info) (LBRegs) Erection of garden wall with gated enclosure and stone archway. Raise height of existing retaining stone wall adjacent to the grounds of St Peters Church (13th Century Grade I Listed Building). Roof material alterations to cottage rear extension (retrospective) at Church Cottage Main St Lutton PE8 5ND

Nassington

17/00387/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Single storey glazed orangery and first floor balcony enclosure on back elevation of property (revised scheme to that permitted by 16/01989/FUL) at 11 Church St Nassington

Oundle

17/00533/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Erection of three bedroom dwelling at Land Adjacent 8 Cotterstock Rd Oundle

Raunds

17/00522/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Two bedroom side extension above existing converted garage at 9 Saddlers Way Raunds NN9 6RS
17/00575/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Rear extension, addition of commercial kitchen, addition of open timber porch and removal of window to toilets at The World Upside Down 8 Marshalls Rd Raunds
17/00655/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Erection of single storey two classroom building along East boundary of the site, adjacent and to the South of previously approved existing classroom buildings (ref: 16/00579/FUL) at Manor School Mountbatten Way Raunds NN9 6ND

Rushden

17/00353/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) To develop a storage facility linking up to existing building at 144 Northampton Rd Rushden NN10 6AN
17/00474/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Side and rear

extensions to single storey dwelling at Brambleside Hayway Rushden NN10 6AQ
17/00517/FUL (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) Change of use from A1 (Bakery Shop) to A3 Cafe Shop with new ducting at the rear at 33 High St Rushden NN10 0QE
17/00536/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Two storey side extension for a disabled person at 6 Lodge Rd Rushden NN10
17/00574/ADV (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) Fascia panel and one projecting sign at 44 High St Rushden NN10 0PJ
17/00607/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Rear two storey extension at 215 Bedford Rd Rushden NN10 0SQ
17/00631/VAR (22/04/2017) (Info) Variation of condition 3 to move the approved house (building footprint) forward to be in line with Plot 1 building line which was approved under 16/01961/FUL, pursuant to 16/01270/REM dated 17.8.16 at Silver Falls Alexandra Rd Rushden NN10 0HY

Sudborough

17/00581/LBC (29/04/2017) (LBRegs) Conversion of a redundant stable to provide garaging and storage at Indoor Riding School Manor Yard Main St Sudborough NN14 3BX

Thrapston

17/00486/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Development of 8 residential units and associated external works at Mill Marina Midland Road Thrapston NN14 4JR

Thurning

17/00572/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Proposed new vehicular access at OP7686 TL0882 Winwick Rd Thurning

Twywell

17/00568/FUL (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) Erection of a freestanding powder coated aluminium glasshouse sited on a dwarf brick wall in keeping with existing brick work within the property at Glebe House Lower St Twywell NN14 3AH

Woodford

16/02099/FUL (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) To install UPVC windows to front elevation (retrospective) at The Dukes Arms 83 High St Woodford NN14 4HE
17/00492/REM (29/04/2017) (LB/CA) Reserved matters - Landscaping, scale, siting, external appearance pursuant to planning permission 15/01776/OUT Development of a single residential dwelling on

the land rear of 7 High St (all matters reserved except for access) dated 13.11.15 at 7 High St Woodford NN14 4HE

Woodnewton

16/02427/FUL (22/04/2017) (Info) Ramp and level threshold door at 2 Sycamore Close Nassington Road Woodnewton PE8 5ED

The reason for applications being advertised is as follows:

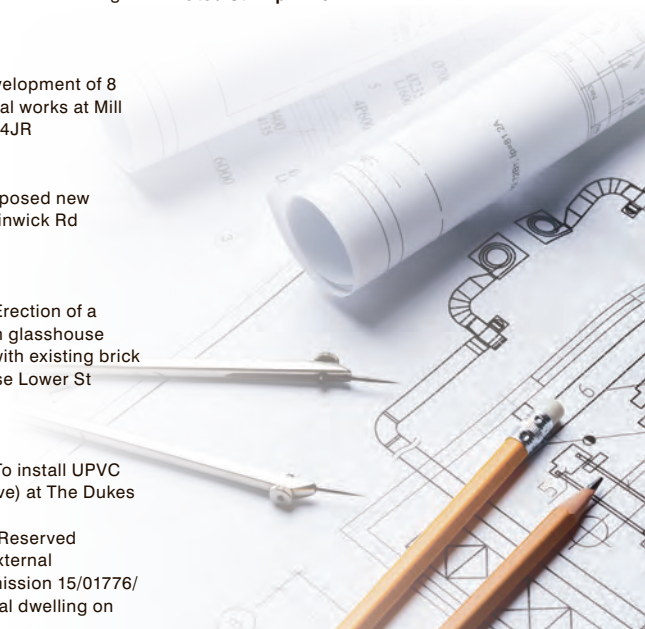
Part3 - Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 2015.

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 8th April 2017**



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

From the East Northants Council Chairman

On 29th March, at the invitation of the Rockingham Forest Trust, I attended a photo shoot to celebrate and publicise the completion of the new children's play fort and pond dipping platforms in and near the central play area at Stanwick Lakes.

This adds to the amenities available to visitors at Stanwick Lakes – a welcome environmental and recreational asset in our East Northamptonshire community. Children, with their parents, will enjoy playing at grand strategy including the defence and the capture of fixed positions! We welcome tourists from home and overseas to East Northamptonshire. Visitors are a valuable means of encouraging international understanding, which is very relevant in present, challenging times.

My year as Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council ends on 17th May. On that day, at the council's Annual Meeting, I will formally pass the chain of office to my successor. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, local government reform laws required that mayors could only serve for one year at a time and this requirement was extended to chairmen of county, district and unitary

councils. This certainly guards against mayors and chairmen becoming complacent or worse still stale in their duty! Over the years, the mayor and chairman roles developed from active leadership of their authorities to a duty much more akin to that of the Speaker of the House of Commons, above the hurly burly of spirited, including political debate, impartial and acting as a referee when necessary. When I step down from the chairmanship, I return to serving on committees of our council where much of the detailed elected members' work is done – refreshed, I hope, by the experience of my chairman's year (the equivalent of an academic 'sabbatical year') and ready for the challenges local government continues to face.

Rupert Reichhold, Cllr & Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council



Collyweston slate

In the far northwest corner of our district is a remarkable and thriving enterprise with a history stretching back to the time of Roman occupation in the UK.

On the edge of the village of Collyweston is the mine of Claude N Smith Ltd, from which the famous local slate has been extracted over many years and their business is growing with some prestige orders on the books.

The main reason for the increased call for slate is that whereas previously there was an adequate and ready supply of recycled material that source is drying up. This is coupled with a simple yet clever acceleration of the process by which the new slate is prepared. Formerly, after extraction from the ground, large chunks of slate were left to weather, allowing frost action to develop the fault lines which the local craftsmen could exploit to produce usable slates. Now the raw slate is passed through a wetting and freezing process, which enables a much quicker production of new slates.

Getting the slate out of the

ground is more complex than it used to be because the vein of usable material is further beneath the surface but modern techniques mean that the mine can continue to be worked safely and effectively. One unexpected complication is the presence of bats but the miners have been able to arrange a workable co-existence through Natural England, which ensures that the bats are safely catered for while mining continues.

The 20 or so staff employed at the mine carry out all the extraction, dressing and installation tasks. And so far as the last of these is concerned, the major task to be undertaken in the near future is the roof of Bodley's Court, King's College, in Cambridge which is expected to take up to 18 months to complete. It's good to see a local business doing so well and we wish the Smiths and their team every success for the future.



WDAC results

As many runners prepare for London Marathon, the Wellingborough and District Athletic Club were out in full force in the beautiful town of Oakley on 2nd April for the 20-mile contest, testing out their legs ready for the big event three in weeks time. With Many members hitting personal bests, it was a successful day out for WDAC. The results were as follows:

Pos, Name, Time:
 10 Greg Spellman 2:08:32 PB,
 35 Jon Kemp 2:15:58
 148 Matt Dickie 2:33:41 PB
 165 Mark Bonham 2:34:59 PB
 186 Katharine Baxter 2:38:51 PB
 190 Andrew Redden 2:38:56
 229 Thomas Warner 2:42:42 PB
 307 Martin Newton 2:50:42
 309 Natasha Wain 2:50:43
 335 Nicola Walpole 2:52:53 PB
 340 Grant Nixon 2:53:04 PB
 384 Neil McDonald 2:56:31
 506 Tom Newton 3:09:20
 705 Evelyn Donoghue 3:35:09 PB
 780 Karen Lower 4:00:09 PB
 785 Kirsty Dodd 4:03:56

Have you been suffering from SPORTS INJURIES OR BACK PAIN? It's time to do something about it and get back to your sport!

Before I went to The Ashgrove Clinic I was unable to do any physical exercise at all. I was struggling to walk more than 100 yards without spasms. I'm now back in training: they fix me when I'm broken!

I Anderton (Boxer)

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13 Lancaster Street, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 8HY

TAURUS Holidays

**Swiss Chocolate Train 13th May
8 days £639 Per Person**

Located in the Vaudoises Alps, Leysin is a sunny alpine resort village at the eastern end of Lake Geneva. Its spectacular views across the Rhone Valley towards the Dents du Midi attract tourists all year round. The beautiful mountains of Mount Blanc and the Berneuse provide a breathtaking panorama. The sun shines here more often than anywhere else which glistens off the snow. There is a cable car and the funicular railway will take you to the main town where all the souvenir shops and cafes are.

**Welsh Wonders 29 May - 2 June,
£365 Per Person**

Llandrindod Wells evolved from a small farming village into a popular tourist resort and Spa town. As the name suggests, the history of the town is linked with the health-giving waters. Hundreds of Victorians flocked to take to the water and you can still try the waters at the Chalybeate Spring in the Rock Park. The architecture around the town dates back to the Victorian era making it feel like you've stepped back in time.

**Bantry & the Wild Atlantic Way
10 - 16 June, £559 Per Person**

Bantry is in the heart of West Cork, it is a region of lush vegetation, palm trees and semi-tropical flowers. Hemmed in by high mountain ridges, an azure blue sea and cascading mountain streams, it is a place of unparalleled beauty where the landscape changes with every mood of wind and sky. In this breathtaking splendour of mountain scenery, hilly pastures, meandering streams, lakes and woods, where megalithic monuments and ruins of monastic settlements dot the countryside, visitors can find peace and tranquillity.

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Sat 15 London Museums
Sun 16 Greenwich Tall Ships
Sun 16 Skegness
Mon 17 Derbyshire & Peak District
Fri 21 Stamford & Downton
Sun 23 Felixstowe Giant Sunday Market
Sat 29 Norwich
Sun 30 Melton Mowbray Cheese Festival

May

Mon 1 Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza
Mon 1 Worcester Bank Holiday Market
Sat 6 Hunstanton
Sun 7 Lincoln
Fri 12 Lichfield & Lunch
Sat 13 Malvern Spring Show
Sun 14 Cambridge
Wed 17 Oxford

Thursday 7th September

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www.rbtravel.co.uk

New leisure centre operators start work

Three local leisure centres in East Northamptonshire are now being operated by newly appointed Freedom Leisure, on behalf of East Northamptonshire Council.

The new contract to manage The Pemberton Centre, The Nene Centre and Splash Leisure Pool commenced on Saturday 1st April, when Councillors Steven North and Rupert Reichhold met with Freedom Leisure's mobilisation team, headed up by Operations Director Matt Hunt, at the Nene Centre.

Freedom Leisure is an experienced operator of leisure facilities, with 72 other centres across the UK. As a not-for-profit, independent provident society the company is able to reinvest financial surpluses over and above

operating costs to improve local community leisure services.

Freedom Leisure has also proposed significant refurbishments which include the installation of new children's fun pool features at The Nene Centre, the reinstatement of the flume at Splash Leisure Pool, the creation of a new gym and fitness area at Splash Leisure Pool, a phased programme of fitness equipment replacement at The Nene Centre and The Pemberton Centre, indoor children's climbing experience at The Nene Centre and a new reception and café, including Costa

Coffee, at The Nene Centre.

In addition, significant investment will be made into energy saving measures which will help to reduce the carbon footprint of the buildings, to greatly reducing running costs while making them kinder on the environment.

Also in the pipeline is a brand new 'Active Community' outreach programme. Freedom Leisure will be working with the Council to devise, develop and implement the brand new programme, which will mean that there really will be something to help everyone in the district to be active.



All three centres have new webpages on the Freedom Leisure website. To find out more about the facilities and keep up to date with the latest news, visit: www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/nene/ or www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/pemberton/ or www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/splash/

Helping local students kick-start their career

A group of Northamptonshire businesses recently came together to help local school students plan for a future career. Organised by Rushden based housing association, Spire Homes, the event was held at Rushden Academy on Thursday, 16th March to promote an innovative employability scheme.

Representatives from Spire contractors, Burleys and Keepmoat, talked about apprenticeships and showcased how they help young people find a career through the Kick-start programme.

Although youth unemployment rates in Northamptonshire are improving, last year more than 1,100 young people were recorded as not in education, employment or training. According to the Department for Education, that accounts for 4.6 per cent of 16-18 year olds living in the county.

Spire Homes, which is part of Longhurst Group, is aiming to help reduce that figure further through the Kick-start programme. Launched in 2015, the scheme provides practical experience to local young people and will be running again this summer.

It gives students an opportunity to learn a broad range of skills within the construction industry, including electrical works, gas engineering, painting, decorating, plastering and gardening. Students are also given extra help, with preparing for job interviews, putting together a CV and filling out application forms.

Sharon Boot, Resident and Community Involvement Officer at Spire Homes, said: "Kick-start has been a huge success in making a positive difference in our local communities. Since it launched in 2015, five students have gone on to earn an apprenticeship with one of our contractors.

"It's a great opportunity for us to work collaboratively with our contractors and ensure the vital skills needed in the construction industry are being developed in the next generation. It's always rewarding to see the students who take part develop their skills and grow in confidence."

Tom Long (18) from Rusden was one of the first young people to complete the Kick-start programme

in 2015. Tom, who lives in a Spire Homes property, was offered an apprenticeship with Keepmoat and hasn't looked back since.

"The Kick-start programme helped me get my apprenticeship which gave me the skills I need to advance my career," said Tom.

"It appealed because it gave me the chance to learn in a working environment. I would encourage others to attend the Kick-start programme and think about an apprenticeship because you learn different trades and skills through the support of highly skilled professionals."

So far, 11 students have expressed an interest in taking part in this summer's programme, which will also be supported by Aaron services and Dulux.

Jo Holmes, Wellbeing and Development Coordinator at Rushden Academy, said: "This is a great chance for students to gain practical skills and talk about the world of work. Kick-start is just that; it gives an opportunity to gain practical experience in a work setting.

"We have a drive to encourage pupils to be in employment or education and want to ensure all students have a destination post-Year 11."



The Kick-start programme is due to start in July. For more information, contact Sharon Boot at Spire Homes on 01933 415393.

How to read water

An Evening with Tristan Gooley, The Natural Navigator: Friday 28th April, 7.45 – 8.45pm, St Peter's Church, Oundle PE8 4AL.

A must-have book for walkers, sailors, anglers, swimmers, photographers, artists and everyone interested in the natural world, *How to Read Water* unlocks the hidden secrets of water. Tristan shares knowledge, skills, tips and useful observations from his experiences – from wild swimming in Sussex to canoeing in Borneo – to reveal the secrets of ponds, puddles, oceans and more to help you enjoy the landscape, giving you the skills, to help you understand the water around you.

Tristan set up his natural navigation school in 2008 and is the author of the award-winning and bestselling books, *The Natural Navigator*, *The Walker's Guide to Outdoor Clues & Signs* and *How to Read Water*, three of the world's only books covering natural navigation. For further information go to: [@NaturalNav](http://www.naturalnavigator.com).

He has appeared on TV and radio programmes in the UK and internationally, including *The Today Programme*, *Night Waves*, *Countryfile*, *BBC Stargazing Live*, *Country Tracks*, *Ramblings*, *Open Country*, *Shipwrecks*, *The One Show* and *All Roads Lead Home*. Tristan is a global authority on natural navigation and has led expeditions in five continents and climbed mountains in Europe,

Africa and Asia. He is the only living person to have both flown solo and sailed singlehanded across the Atlantic and is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation and the Royal Geographical Society.

'Gooley, who has single-handedly been reviving natural navigation in this age of GPS, has the birdwatching skills of Bill Oddie and the deductive powers of Sherlock Holmes. He can make you feel that you've spent half your life walking about with your eyes only half-open. He does it again with this fascinating guide to watching and interpreting water, everywhere from the garden pond to the Pacific.' *The Telegraph*

'The goal of the author is to have his readers never look at water the same way after reading this book. He has certainly achieved his objective and I doubt I will now ever be able to walk past a lake or even a pond without checking for surface patterns.' Thebookbag.co.uk

Tickets £8 (£6), £1 off early bird tickets bought before 21st April, available from the Oundle Box Office, 4 New Street, Oundle. Open hours: 10am-4pm Mon to Fri: Tel 01832 274734, online at www.oundlefestival.org.uk. Any queries call Helen on 07743988181 or email oundlelitfestival@hotmail.co.uk.

Stepping up to the challenge in aid of Cransley Hospice

Prestige & Homeseeker Park and Leisure Homes is one of the largest local employers, employing more than 450 people over two sites in Kettering and Rushden. Every year they raise money for local charities chosen by their staff. For the second year running they partnered up with their key supplier and friends of Midshires Electrical, an independent wholesaler in Northants and raised an incredible £6,725 for Cransley Hospice between them.

Mark Christian, Finance Director said: "I am thrilled to be running the Stanwick Lake run in aid of Cransley Hospice, and wasn't expecting a Personal Best. Knowing we were raising money for a local charity was the best part of all."

Cransley Hospice provides free of charge palliative care to patients with complex needs, and supports patients in their chosen place of care at the end of life, whether

It was a cold wet morning in March but this didn't stop the staff and family of Prestige & Homeseeker and their friends of Midshires Electrical, who took part in the Stanwick Lakes 10K and 5K runs. They were determined to raise money in support of Cransley Hospice and the funds continued to rise after the event – hitting above targets!

this is in a hospice or the patient's home. They rely on companies like Prestige & Homeseeker and Midshires Electrical to raise £1.3 million each year to continue to provide these vital services in the county.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Prestige-Homeseeker-Park-Leisure-Homes>

Pension Wise service celebrates its second anniversary

Central and East Northamptonshire Citizens Advice is celebrating two years of the Pension Wise guidance service by asking over 50s to book a free appointment about their pension options. The team is also celebrating its expansion – and will be taking over the running of services in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk from the end of April.

The average age of people in East Northamptonshire getting help with their pension is 64 despite free guidance being available for anyone over 50, reveals the Pension Wise team based at the Northamptonshire advice charity.

It can add up to a rush at the last minute and Pension

Wise is encouraging people to get smart about their pension as early as they can.

As the Pension Wise service reaches its second anniversary, John Stimpson, a guidance specialist from the team, says it's never too early to start planning for your retirement and is encouraging locals aged 50 and over with a defined contribution pension to book a free guidance session.

In April 2015, rules around pensions changed and for the first time, people were able to decide whether they buy an annuity, cash in their whole pension pot, take a lump sum, or a mixture of these options.

"Now is the time to find out about your future.

Pensions can be worrying things but we are here to help you and explain your options," said John.

"For many 50 year-olds retirement may seem a long way off but it's a good time to start understanding how your pension could support your plans for the future.

"The pension freedoms have given people a lot of options they might not be aware of or fully understand, such as cashing in part of their pension. A Pension Wise guidance specialist can talk you through options and get you on the right track towards a financially secure retirement."

To book a face to face or telephone Pension Wise appointment call 0800 138 3944



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Approaching retirement?

Not sure what to do?

Talk to us about Pension Wise - a free and impartial government service providing guidance and information on the new pension freedoms.

For a local appointment call: 0800 138 3944

Official opening for Irthlingborough skateparks

Thanks to the efforts of local residents and the Town Council, two skateparks have been built in Irthlingborough.

Although the skateparks have been in use for some time, the official opening ceremonies will now take place on 22nd April, officiated by the Town Mayor, Councillor Allan Short.

The events, expected to last two hours each, will commence at the main recreation

ground in the town at 10am and the event at Crow Hill Recreation Ground is timed to commence at 2pm.

Wheelscape, the builders of the parks, will provide demonstrations by professional riders and three sponsored skaters. There will also be prize packages for the best local riders.

This should prove to be a fun day for all skateboarders/scooter riders.



East Northants Snooker League

The East Northants Snooker League, Winter Division, was won by Windmill Mecca. The League is sponsored by the Pumphouse Café Wellingborough. Well done to Darren Fenner, Wayne Gardner, Matt Barcock, Justin Wynne and Colin Buckby. They were very proud to receive their winner's trophy, as you can see from the pictures. Bottom left (left to right): Matt Barcock, Darren Fenner and Wayne Gardner.

Mecca captain Darren Fenner also picked up his trophy for the highest player stats. This trophy is sponsored by Citrus Training Group in Irthlingborough. Wayne Gardner was recognised as the runner-up in the player stats. Wayne also scooped the prize for the highest break thanks to his season best of 70. The high break trophy was sponsored by HCB Plumbing, Wellingborough.

We are now approaching the final stages of the

Winter Tournaments. In the Doubles Competition sponsored by ADP Electrical, Paul Lewis and Richard Wright were knocked out in the semi-final by Sean Wrighton and Marc Brett. Marc played superbly, knocking in several 30 and 40 breaks. Ben Pacan and Steve Williams beat Martyn Hatton and Lee Bunker in a nailbiting match meaning they will be playing Wrighton and Brett in the final.

In the Handicap Singles sponsored by Mastercue Rushden, Marc Brett beat Justin Wynne in their semi-final. In the other semi-final, James Docherty beat Martyn Hatton in a very closely fought match. So Marc Brett now plays Docherty in the final.

Justin Gaggini goes out of the Scratch Singles, sponsored by the Pie Place Rushden, losing 3-1 to Matt Barcock.

Matt played very well knocking in a 66 break on

the way. So Matt will now play Michael Dicks in the final, which should be an exciting match.

All three finals will be played on or before Monday 10th April, and they will be played at the Windmill Snooker Club in Rushden, where a neutral table will be selected. The matches will be refereed and players are encouraged to dress smartly for the occasion. Good luck to each of the finalists.

In the Team Knockout Competition, Windmill G beat Windmill C putting them into the semi-final. This was decided on the final black ball in the very last frame. Anthony Pinard managed to do just enough in his game against Marc Brett. Coopers C are also through to the semi-final after beating Coopers Ball Bashers,

meaning that they will play Windmill G. It was a close match for the most part, and Ball Bashers had the advantage going into the final game between Colin Hinds and Richard Symons. Despite needing to make up more than a 60 point deficit, Colin produced a great performance to win the match overall. Windmill Weapons beat Windmill Warriors very comfortably, thanks to good performances from Ben Pacan and Neil Darling, combined with a good run of the ball. Islip WMC beat Coopers A by a very close margin. So Weapons now play Islip in the other semi-final.

The Summer Division of the East Northants Snooker League is scheduled to commence on Monday 8th May.



If you are interested in joining the League, you can find us via Facebook – East Northants Snooker League. We would welcome more teams.

action2mobility.co.uk



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Monday 10th April**Oundle U3A Monthly Meeting**
Queen Victoria Hall, West Street, Oundle

Doors open 2pm, members £1, non-members £2
01832 275933

'London's Liquid History' - the story of the River Thames with Captain William Wells.

Higham Ferrers WI Meeting

The Adult School, Westfield Terrace
Members and non-members welcome
Jill Walker 01933 387073
We will be having a demonstration on Cake Decoration, given by Lisa Stains. Also we shall have our usual competition. This time on A Painted Egg.

Tuesday 11th April**Arts & Crafts – Beginners Painting: Wildflower Waterfall in Acrylics**

Ringstead Village Social Club
10am-3pm, £22 booking essential
01933 460676

A mass of wildflowers tumbling around the banks by a waterfall.

Passover Meal

Thrapston Baptist Church
6.30pm, adults £5, 5-16 years £3
Available from Neil Mathieson 07977 413424 or Lindsey Burch 01832 730019

Richard Harvey from Jews for Jesus will talk through what Passover would have been like in first century Jerusalem, what it looks like today in Jewish homes, and how Christ is evident in it.

Wednesday 12th April**Oundle Stroller – Free Guided Walk**

Starts Drill Hall Car Park, Oundle
6.30pm
Leader Len Johnson 07796916644
Distance 4 miles

Arts & Crafts – Beginners Potty Painting Day

Ringstead Village Social Club
10am-4pm, £25 includes painting project book booking essential
01933 460676

Bring your own terracotta plant pots and paint simple flowers, bees and bird box designs on them for a spring makeover.

Thursday 13th April**Easter Coffee Morning**

Headway East Northants, Irthlingborough
10.30am-12.30pm
Claire Phillips 01933 652311
Handcrafted items, jewellery and cakes for sale. Easter raffle. All welcome.

Raunds WI

The Saxon Hall
7.30pm, £4
Mary Harber 01933 624271
Members Evening but all welcome.

Tiddlers Group for 0-3 year olds

Thrapston Baptist Church
9.30am-11.30am
NO Tiddlers this week – Easter break.

Friday 14th April**Fusion for 7-11 year olds**

Thrapston Baptist Church
6.30pm until 8pm
NO Fusion this week – Easter break.

Creative Kids – Family Craft Afternoon

Rushden Mission Church, Wellingborough Road
2pm-4pm, free
Gill 01933 413112

Come and join in and get a free Easter Egg. Refreshments served.

Sunday 16th April**Easter Sunday Morning Service**

Thrapston Baptist Church
10.30am
Preacher: Allan Pope.
Theme: The Cross.

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park Higham Ferrers for car sharing
9.15am, free
01536 483687
6 mile walk from Keysoe.

Sunday 16th & Monday 17th April**Easter Bunny Express**

Rushden Station, Station Approach, Rushden, Northants NN10 0AW
Trains from 11am-4pm, adults & children £4. Children accompanied by an adult will receive an Easter egg. Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Arts & Crafts, Model Railway, Refreshments, Real Ale, Gift Shop.

Monday 17th April**Cowslip and Fritillary Day**

St Peter's Church, Newton Bromswold
2pm-4pm
Helen Lines 01933 315864
Plants for sale and Afternoon Teas.

Stanwick 10K Road Race and 2K Fun Run

Stanwick High Street
10.30am, entry fee: 10km £12 attached Runners, £14 unattached. 2K Fun Run £4
Graham Cutmore 01933 622593 or Les Marchant 01933 624820
10K Road Race for ladies and men over 15. 2km Fun Run for boys and girls under 15.

Southwick Hall Open Day

Southwick Hall, Southwick
2pm-5pm, adult £8, child £3.50
01832 274064/
southwickhall@hotmail.co.uk
Medieval/Elizabethan manor house open with exhibitions, grounds, refreshments.

Thursday 20th April**Tiddlers Group for 0-3 year olds**

Thrapston Baptist Church
9.30am-11.30am
Friendly and welcoming with lots of toys and play equipment for the little ones to enjoy. £1 per carer – as many toddlers as you like!

Celebrating Shakespeare

Oundle Library
10.30am-12.30pm, free to attend
Celebrate Shakespeare's birthday with poetry, prose, music by Oundle U3A. Hosted by Friends Oundle Library.

Friday 21st April**Fusion for 7 to 11 year olds**

Thrapston Baptist Church
6.30pm-8pm
Lively and fun group with games, songs and bible based illustrations.

Talk on Black Hairstreak Butterflies by Dick Smith

The Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane, Oundle
7.30pm, £3
Keith Alvey 01832 272666
Talk by reserve warden on black hairstreak butterflies at Glapthorn Cow Pastures.

Rushden & District History Society

South End Junior School, Wymington Road, Rushden NN10 9JU
7.30pm, members £1.50,

non-members £2.50

01933 350038

David Bond: 'The Story of Church Towers'.

Saturday 22nd April**Singles Night at the Beeswing**

226 Rockingham Road, Kettering NN16 9AL
7.30pm till late, £5 booking essential
Andrea 07856810165/
www.lovelinkevents.co.uk
Held in a private room for singles 40-60. Welcome drink, introduction, optional speed dating, mix and mingle.

Quiz Night

St Peters Catholic Church Parish Hall, Hayway, Rushden NN10 6AG
7.30pm, entry on the door is £7 including sausage & chips supper.

Spring into Action Wellbeing Day

Higham Ferrers Library
10am-2pm, free but with small charge for holistic therapy
A family fun day with crafts, children's treasure hunt, hot soup and healthy snacks, holistic therapy, raffle and health advice.

Thrapston and Islip Community Garage Sale

All over Thrapston
9am-1pm, £5 to register your garage, forms from Jollys Toys
High St Thrapston
01832 730019/
theburchbunch@uwclub.net
Maps on sale from Plaza Thrapston from 8.30am till 10am (A3) £2. Money to charity.

Sunday 23rd April**Morning Service**

NO service at Thrapston Baptist Church – we will be joining with the Thrapston Churches Together service at St James's Parish Church 10.30am

St George's Day Concert Rushden Town Band

St Peter's Church, Midland Road, Rushden
7.30pm, tickets £10 including a glass of wine and nibbles.
From Osbornes Sports and Toys, 118 High Street Rushden In aid of Rotary Charities.

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
01832 770010/
office@oundlebaptist.org.uk

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**Islip Ladies Choir**

Thrapston Church Hall
2pm-3.30pm
Barbara 01536 394431

Yoga Classes

Denford Village Hall
9am-10am, £4 per session
Anita Hackney 01832 733274

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

Baggypants Yoga

Masonic Hall, Wellingborough Road, Rushden
10am-11am, £5 per session
01933 382837/07873 743256/
carole.wyatt@virginmedia.com

Spanish Tuition

The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Oundle
9am-8pm, £25 per class
01832 776336/
info@anterlanguages.co.uk

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

Finedon Irthlingborough & District Branch Royal British Legion Branch Meeting

Finedon Bowls Club
7.30pm
Peter Eames 07434328237

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**Short Mat Bowls**

Islip Village Hall
10am-12noon, £3
Barbara Finch 01832 733154

Phoenix Gaming Club (Age 12+)

The Rushden Scouts Hall, Brooke Close behind Orbit Tyres (Skinners Lane, Rushden NN10 OXH)
7pm-11pm, membership £5 pa
Aron 07739563657/
aron.phoenix@virginmedia.com

Art Classes (10 weeks)

Knuston Hall, Knuston
7-9pm, 10 Lessons £100
Jamie 07899 676769

East Northants Classic Motorcycle Club

New Inn Public House, Wymington
Meet around 7.30pm

Sling Walk

11am
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. 01933 410112

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
01832 770010/
office@oundlebaptist.org.uk

Tuesday Toddlers

No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle
9.15am, free
Judith Brashaw 01832 770010

1st Tuesday of every month

Great Companions (singles 55+)
Rushden Bowls Club,

Northampton Road
7-9pm, yearly membership £6
Pat Bazeley 07931 964360

2nd Tuesday of the month**Woodford WI Meeting**

Woodford Sports and Social Club
7.30pm
Lynn Sortwell 01832 732740

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.fiftyplus
northants.adventureclub.org.uk

Every Tuesday & Thursday**Health Walks Stanwick Lakes**

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

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

Dog Training and Socialisation and Ringcraft

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

Rainbow Cafe for Tots

Stanwick Lakes
10.30am-12noon and 1.30pm (term time only), £2.50 per child – car park charges apply.
01933 625522/
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk

Club Night
Apethorpe 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 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 01933 622316/rbc-rsc@
angeladavis.net

Jelly Babes Toddler Group
Rushden Independent
Wesleyan Church
9.15am

Yoga Class
Masonic Hall, Rushden
9.30am-10.30am, £5 per session.
Pay as you come.
07873743256/
carole.wyatt@virginmedia.com
Starting soon. Suitable for
beginners, all ages and abilities.

**Every Wednesday (term time)
Community ICT Classes**
Needham Building, Oundle School

SciTec, Glapthorn Road, Oundle
2.30pm-4pm
01832 277267 to enrol

Tiny Tots
Oundle Cof E Primary School,
Glapthorn Road
1.45pm

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

**Allegra Singers –
Three-part ladies choir**
Music room, Sports Pavilion, Islip
7.30-9.30pm, £3 per session
Veronica 01832 732611/
07753 472225

**Every alternate Wednesday
Psychic & Spiritual Awareness
Development Group**
Rushden
1pm-3pm or 7.30pm-9.30pm,
£7 per session
Renalta Hall 07712 740495

**1st Wednesday of the month
Raunds Ladies Group**
The Saxon Hall, Raunds
8pm-10pm, Visitors £3.50

**1st & 3rd Wednesday
of the month
Thrapston Country Dancers**
St Johns Ambulance Hall
2pm-3.30pm
G Hearnden 01933 622827/
ghearnden@tiscali.co.uk

**2nd Wednesday of the month
Coffee Morning**
Raunds Methodist Church
10am-12noon
01933 383378

**2nd & 4th Wednesday
of the month
Northants Model Makers**
Windmill Primary School,
Raunds NN9 6LA
Main meeting starts 7.30ish
First couple of meetings free
Bob Humpage 07960 054405/
modelmaker@tiscali.co.uk

**NWR – linking lively
minded women**

Dovedale, 1 Herne Park,
East Road, Oundle
7.30pm-7.45pm
Carol 01832 270061

**3rd Wednesday of the month
Wellingborough Flower
Arrangement Society**
St Mary's Church Hall, Knox Road,
Wellingborough NN8 1HU
7.30pm, £5
Chairman 01933 222326/
Secretary 01604 870275

Higham and Rushden U3A
Pemberton Centre, Rushden
2pm-4pm, £2 for visitors
Membership Secretary
01933 418653

**4th Wednesday of the month
Rushden Pensioners Forum**
St Peters Church Hall,
Midland Road, Rushden
2pm-4pm
Mary Morby 01933 312476/
e.m.m@btinternet.com

**Wednesday & Thursday
Free Counselling**
No.1 St. Osyth's Lane Oundle
By appointment 0793 6015965

**Wednesday & Saturday
East Northants Athletics Club
– ‘Getting Kids Into Athletics’**
The Ferrers School, Higham Ferrers
Wed 6-7pm, Sat 9-10am, £4 per
session or Wed & Sat £7
Graham Bufton 07788 698883/
grahambufton.ena@gmail.com

**Every Thursday
Rushden Folk Dance Club**
St Mary's Church Hall, Rushden
8-10pm, first visit free,
£2 thereafter
Val 01933 387327

**The Silver Fox
Woodturning Club**
Dale End Scout Headquarters,
Croyland Rd, Wellingborough
10am-1pm, £2 all members
Mick Webb 01933 682517

Move to Health
No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle
2.15pm-3pm
office@oundlebaptist.org.uk/
01832 770010

Thursday Drop-In
No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle
10am-2pm
01832 770010/
office@oundlebaptist.org.uk

**Little Ducklings Pre-School
Stay & Play ‘Tea & Tots’
Sessions**
1.30pm-3pm, £1.50 per family.
01832 358085

Short Mat Bowls
Wymington Memorial Hall
1.45pm-4pm, £2 admission
Mrs Smith 01933 355960

Olde and Sequence Dancing
Woodford Sports and Social Club
7.30pm-9.30pm, £2
Dorothy 01832 732534 or
Keith 01832 731896

**Every Thursday (term time)
Music Makers**
Titchmarsh Pavilion
9.30am-10.15am, £4 per child,
£2 for siblings
Naomi Cooper on
musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com

Music Makers
Joan Strong Centre, Oundle
11.15am-12noon, £4 per child,
£2 for siblings
Naomi Cooper on
musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com

Little Treasures Tots Group
St Laurence's Church, Stanwick
9.30am-11am,
donations to cover costs
Nicki 01933 625658

Music Makers
Stanwick Village Hall
2pm-2.45pm, £4 per child,
£2 for siblings
Naomi Cooper on
musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com

Community Art Classes
Oundle School Art Department
7.30pm-8.30pm, free classes for
people with a disability.

**Coffee/tea and biscuits
in the Bede House**
St Mary's Church, Higham Ferrers
10am-12noon, no charge just a
donation to cover costs.

Adult & Child Swim Sessions
Oundle School Swimming Pool,
Milton Road Oundle
9.15-9.45am, booked in advance
as a block (£4.75 per lesson)
01832 277208/277195

**1st Thursday of the month
Raunds District History Society**
Saxon Hall, Raunds
7.30pm-9.30pm
£3 each, includes refreshments
Secretary 01933 461480

**3rd Thursday of the month
Painting Class with Nick Baldwin**
Chelveston Village Hall,
10am-4pm, £17 per session
Janet Lowe 01933 389647.

Ise & Nene Valley Turners
Counties Community Centre,
Hertford Rd, Kettering NN15 6LG
7pm, members free, visitors £7
Peter Bond 01933 741835/
peterjbond@btinternet.com

**Thursday Market Day
No.1 Cafe - Free Drop-In**
No.1 St, Osyth's Lane
10am-2pm
01832 770011

**Every Friday
Walk and Chat**
Rushden Hall Park, under flag pole
10am
Sue Mckay 07739 327022/
sue.mckay@groundwork.org.uk

Music Makers
Nene Centre, Thrapston
12.45-1.30pm & 1.45-2.30pm,
£4 per child, £2 for siblings
Naomi Cooper 07815 293893/
musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com

French Beginners
The Old Town Hall,
Market Place, Oundle
6pm-7.30pm, £25 per class
01832 776336/info@
antlerlanguages.co.uk

**Every Friday (term time)
Over 60s FREE swim**
Oundle School Swimming Pool,
Milton Road, Oundle
3pm-3.45pm
01832 277208/277195

Pre-School Swimming Lessons
Oundle School Swimming Pool,
Milton Road, Oundle
1.55-2.25pm & 2.30-3pm
Booked in advance as a block
(£6.75 per lesson)
01832 277208/277195

**Most Fridays
Local Focus ‘explorations’**
Various East Northants locations
9.30am-12.30pm/2.30pm
£3 per re-usable map
01933 461480

**1st Friday of the month
(Check before travelling)
Craft Cafe**
Stanwick Lakes
10.30am-1pm, modest charge for
some materials – car park charges
01933 625522/
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk

Oundle Evergreen Club
2.30pm in the Victoria Hall for tea
and cakes plus entertainment.
01832 273826/272340

**3rd Friday of the month
Raunds Tea Dance**
Saxon Hall, Raunds
2pm-4.15pm, £3 (50p for raffle)
Mrs Wicks 01933 312623

U3A Branch Meeting
The Plaza, Cosy Nook,
Thrapston NN14 4PS
10am-12noon, £2 (visitors), £1
(members) includes
refreshments

Former Carers Group
No 1 St Osyth's Lane,
Oundle PE8 4BG
2pm-3.30pm, free
01832 770010/
office@oundlebaptist.org.uk

**3rd Friday of the month (Check
before travelling)
Stanwick Stitchers**
Stanwick Lakes
10.30am, free, car park charges.
01933 625522 or Pauline on
01933 229817/
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk

**1st Saturday of the month
Coffee Morning**
St Mary's Church, Ringstead
10am-12noon
01933 624262

Thrapston Farmers' Market
Thrapston High Street
9am-1pm
www.thrapstonfarmersmarket.
moonfruit.com

**2nd Saturday of the month
It's All Greek to Me –
Greek cookery classes**
Fletton House, Oundle
9am-3pm
Andreas Panos 01832 720043

Coffee ‘n’ Cakes
Oundle Methodist Church,
Drummingwell Lane
(behind the Talbot Hotel)
10am-12noon
John Hewitson 01832 272209

WE Watch
Stanwick Lakes
01933 625522/
wewatchstanwick@hotmail.co.uk

Oundle Farmers' Market
Market Place, Oundle
8am-1.30pm
Oundle Town Council
01832 272055

**3rd Saturday of the month
Greek cookery classes &
pop up Taverna**
Wadenhoe Village Hall,
Church Street, Wadenhoe
PE8 5ST
11am-11pm
Andreas Panos 01832 720043

Phoenix Group
Stanwick Lakes
01933 625522/
wewatchstanwick@hotmail.co.uk

Messy Church
Rushden Salvation Army,
Church Street, Rushden
4pm
George Ellitson 01933 313106

**Last Saturday of the month
(except December)
Farmers' Market**
Market Square, Higham Ferrers
9am-1pm
danielle@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk

**Every Saturday & Sunday
Coffee & cakes/Sunday worship**
Rushden Independent Wesleyan
Church (Entrance Queen St)
Saturday coffee & cakes
10am-11.30am, Sunday worship
10.45am with children's activities
2nd Sunday in the month 4pm.

**Every Sunday
Morning Worship
Rushden Mission Church**
Wellingborough Road
10.45am
Alan 01933 355302

Morning Church Service
Rushden Heritage Chapel Hall,
Park Road, Rushden NN10 0RG
10.30am

Church Service
The Heritage Chapel and Halls,
Park Road, Rushden NN10 0RW
10.30am
Cheryl 07969 603958/
cheze49@gmail.com

Ringstead Shared Church
10.30am
Angela Davis 01933 622316/
rbc-rsc@angeladavis.net
Service for All (Communion first
Sunday each month) led by
Revd Robert Shehane

**1st Sunday of the month
Priceless – for young children
and their families**
St Laurence's Church, Stanwick
9.30am-10.15am

**Every 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday
Pete's Pack**
St Peter's Church,
Newton Bromswold
10am-11am
Helen Lines 07917001924
Bible based activities for children
aged 3 years and over.

**3rd Sunday of the month
All Age Worship**
St Laurence's Church, Stanwick
9.30am

Leisurely, Sociable Strolls
Pub start – if not lunching do
not use pub car park
10am for 10.30am start.
Guests £2 or join for year £8
secretary@northamptonshire
shamblers.org.uk

**4th Sunday of the month
(except December)
King's Cliffe Heritage Centre**
Bridge Street. (Hanging sign when
we're open). Open 2pm-5pm

**Last Sunday of the month
(Check before travelling)
Local Producers' and
Farmers' Market**
Stanwick Lakes
10am-2pm, free, car park charges.
01933 625522/
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk

**Ongoing
Drawing & Painting Classes**
Ecton Village Hall, Chelveston
Village Hall, Warkton Village Hall &
Kingsthorpe Community Centre
£65 per term
Derek Geater 01933 381848/
dgartweb.sharepoint.com

German Tutorials
Oundle area
Gudrun 07710 189906/
gudvolk@gmail.com



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www.wellandcallconnect.co.uk

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or please book an appointment
email: ocweavers@gmail.com / www.oundlecarpetweavers.com

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Saturday 10am to 4.30pm
or please book an appointment.



IRTHLINGBOROUGH
TOWN COUNCIL

SKATE PARK OPENING EVENTS



CENTRAL REC PARK OPENING

Central Recreation Ground, Irthlingborough NN9 5TS
SATURDAY 22nd APRIL, 10-12:00noon

COMPETITIONS - PRIZES - MUSIC



CROW HILL SKATEPARK OPENING

Crow Hill Park, Irthlingborough NN9 5XH
SATURDAY 22nd APRIL, 2-4:00pm

Nene Valley Railway Children's events

- Easter egg hunt 15th 16th 17th April
- Teddy Express 27th 28th 29th May Half price for children with Teddy

Thomas events

- Thomas and Travelling Post Office April 29th, 30th & May 1st Thomas pulls the Travelling post office
- Thomas' branch line weekend events 10th & 11th June, 8th & 9th July.
- Thomas summer holiday 12th & 13th August. Summer fun.
- Half term specials 21st & 22nd October. A less frantic weekend, just Thomas and the big train.

All main fares are fully inclusive and include the ride behind Thomas, ride on the main service and FREE use of any additional activities such as bouncy castle, face painting and platform games.

Pre-booking advisable for all events
www.nvr.org.uk



Book online **www.nvr.org.uk**
or call on **01780 784444**

Nene Valley Railway, (A1) Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6LR

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and information please call 01522 513515
or visit www.nenevalleynews.co.uk



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Continued from page 14

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (MIDLAND ROAD, RAUNDS)
(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 Midland Road, Raunds as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Midland Road, Raunds from Brooks Road to Butts Road.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of major drainage scheme.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 1st April 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 until 20th June 2017.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Hargrave Road, Station Road, Raunds Road, Toll Bar Lane, A14, A45, London Road and Brick Kiln Road.

Dated this 8th day of April 2017
QUENTIN BAKER, Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T17/135

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

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Chess Corner



Silver King League

As the League season winds towards its conclusion Division I is turning out to be a contest between Kettering and Northampton.

Kettering A are currently basking in a two point lead over Chess Mates A. This would have been a three point lead and the Championship if Rushden A hadn't held them to a draw in their recent game. There now remains only one match to play and as luck would have it Kettering A will be hosting Chess Mates A at the Toller Rooms in Kettering. The home fixture favours Kettering and it will take a good win by Northampton to spoil their party. At the other end of the table

Corby's poor showing this year ensures that Rushden A will spend at least another season in League I.

League II was decided some time ago with Oundle School taking the honours in what has been a barnstorming season from them. Ironically their only defeat was at the hands of Rushden C who are now languishing at the bottom of the table with just the two points gained from this victory. Rushden's B team on the

other hand has had a good season and fully deserve their runners-up position finishing ahead of Chess Mates C.

Silver King League I

The captain James Gardner provided the following report:

Rusden's top player, Hugh Murphy, built up a promising position against black's King's Indian Defence but wasn't able to convert the early pressure and the game ended in a draw. On board two a complex Anti-Moscow gambit was played out which saw white exerting pressure down the f-file against the uncastled black king of Rushden's James Gardner during the middle game, but some accurate defence meant black was able to stave off the pressure and create a winning endgame, following a speculative knight sacrifice by white in extreme time pressure.

On board three Saj picked up a very good win against a strong opponent, showing nerves of steel despite having many of his pieces confined to his back three ranks during the middle game.

On boards four and five John and Bob struggled respectively, being considerably out-graded by their opponents, and so both of these games ended in defeat, leaving the match tied at the end of the night.



By Derrick Sims

Monday 13th March

Rushden A 2½ - 2½ Kettering A

Bd1: Hugh Murphy (189) ½ Michael Meadows (177)

Bd2: James Gardner (167) 1-0 Peter Jaszkiwskyj (174)

Bd3: Sajan Ganger (134) 1-0 Jonathan Martin (163)

Bd4: John Gardner (U) 0-1 Chris Keech (155)

Bd5: Bob Ellam (108) 0-1 Romilly Ileric (154)

Silver King League II

Tuesday 21st March

Oundle 4 - 1 Rushden C

Bd1: James Low (95) 1-0 Jeff Owen (106)

Bd2: Jeremy Leong (U) 1-0 Thomas Murts (61)

Bd3: Thomas Caskey (67) 1-0 Eddie Francolini (34)

Bd4: Oliver Gibbard (71) 0-1 Nigel Wren (44)

Bd5: Brandon Ingle (88) 1-0 Alan Stewart (U)

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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