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NEWS IN BRIEF

Change of principal at Rushden Academy

Mark Lester, Principal of Rushden Academy, has relinquished his position at the Academy having been off work for some time due to illness.

Lizzie Rowe, Deputy CEO of The Education Fellowship who sponsor the Academy, said: "We have supported Mark throughout the year to ensure that he could recover fully. We'd like to thank him for all his work at Rushden and wish him well for the future. We will be seeking to appoint a permanent Principal as soon as possible but in the meantime Mrs Jude Goodacre will continue as Acting Principal."

Parents and carers at the Academy were informed of these developments at the end of last week.

New Mule for Stanwick Lakes

The Ranger team at Stanwick Lakes were pleased to welcome the delivery of a multi-purpose 'Mule' vehicle recently, thanks to a £5,000 grant from the Eric Stanton Charitable Trust.

The money was given to the Rockingham Forest Trust, who manage Stanwick Lakes, to more quickly and easily gain access to all parts of the 750 acre site and continue their vital conservation work across the nature reserve.

STRIVE-ing for glory in the Dragon(flie)s' Den

Spire Homes have backed three tenants' bright business ideas with the trio collectively receiving £1,500 towards their businesses.

The grants were awarded following a Dragons' Den style presentation about their ideas, which have been refined over a 12-week business start-up course during which tenants could hone their business skills and build a brilliant business plan.

The Strive course was run by Enterprise Cube in partnership with Spire Homes, Daventry & District Housing and South Northants Homes, who each had entrepreneurial tenants taking part. In total, 18 tenants took

part in the course. Experience ranged from people taking a chance on their skills and passion whilst others had already set up businesses and wanted support to expand.

The pitches were given to the six 'Dragonflies':

- Lynn Stubbs, Director of Business Services at Spire Homes
- Samantha Wylie, Head of Customer Services at Spire Homes.
- Paul Calland, Managing Director at South Northants Homes,
- Alan Humphrey, Chief Executive at Grand Union Housing Group,
- David Leathley, Tenant Board Director at Daventry & District

Housing,

• Rob Emery, Assistant Director at Daventry & District Housing
The three Spire Homes tenants who each received the full £500 grant were:

- Claire – her environmentally friendly domestic cleaning company, Clean & Green, has been going for four years and after a lot of success, is looking to expand into cleaning commercial premises with an expanded staff. The grant will go towards buying uniforms for staff, recruitment advertising and buying equipment. Spire Homes have also offered support from their HR team to help Claire in her personnel hunt.
- Denis – an experienced entrepreneur, Denis is still keeping busy at 82 by setting up an online skin cosmetics retailing company. The grant will be put towards setting up the website and purchasing stock.
- Nada – after looking for work for some time, Nada is taking things into her own hands and launching a pop-up Tunisian restaurant in the hopes of building up finances to buy some premises for a fully-fledged restaurant in Rushden. The grant will go towards buying pots and pans as well as training for HSE and food hygiene certification.

"We were really impressed with all the business ideas that people had come up with" said Lynn Stubbs, Director of Business Services at Spire Homes.

"During the pitches it was very clear that everyone is passionate about what they are doing and what they want to achieve; there are some really high aspirations and I hope that the course and our support will help our tenants achieve their goals."

"This is the first time Spire Homes have taken part in the Strive programme and we're very glad that we have done!" said Helen Mead, Customer Engagement Team Manager. "The tenants who've taken part have gotten so much out of the course. We're always looking for ways that we can make a difference for our tenants and this is a really unique way to support people. Helping our tenants into work is a big part of what we do. It can be really tough to go it alone setting up a business and by taking part in Strive we've been able to help our tenants realise their ambitions. A huge thank you also needs to go to Aaron Services and Keepmoat Property Services for their contribution towards our tenants' businesses; we're all looking forward to what next year's course!"



Strive participants

We want to hear from you, so please submit your news story or event at www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

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From the East Northamptonshire Chairman

I cannot believe that 2014 is over already. It has been a very busy year and very interesting. As I look back I have some wonderful memories of the last seven months as your Chairman. The most rewarding part of



the job is meeting so many wonderful people around the district who do so much for the community.

Recently, I attended carol services in Market Harborough, Daventry, St Neots and Huntingdon, South Northants, Raunds and Rushden. It is good to see the support that these services get in their respective communities.

I love to see the children singing. It was a privilege to attend Sing for Serve, a carol service showcasing the children of Rushden schools raising money for Serve, a charity which does a fantastic job in Rushden and surrounding areas.

Rushden Hall was the perfect setting for a Victorian Christmas evening. Many people dressed for the occasion in Victorian costume and we were royally entertained by a juggler, magician and the RATS (Rushden Amateur Theatrical Society) with festive poems and stories.

A visit to the Christmas Market in Oundle meant lots

of lovely produce to sample and I even got to play on the bongo drums – something I hadn't anticipated! I was there to promote the Police Crime Awareness initiative and support councillors Reichhold, Stearn and Vowles, who have used their Member Empowerment Fund to buy timer switches for residents to help protect their homes whilst away. These were being given out free at the market to residents.

My visit to the Royal Mail offices was an eye-opener and was fascinating to see the efforts made to deliver all your Christmas cards and parcels to loved ones all over the world.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. This is a time for families and, like most people, I spent my time with my family. New Year was spent in Austria with my daughter and her family attending my grandson's christening. I hope that you have all had special times like this.

ENC Chairman, Cllr Gill Mercer

Don't fall foul of cold weather

With cold and icy weather not far away, it's important to be prepared and remind ourselves of safety advice in relation to snow and ice.

Snow and ice on footpaths can be hazardous, but the following points will help to reduce the chance of slip hazards on your property:

- **Clear paths quickly:** it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow than hard, packed snow which has been walked on. If you clear snow quickly, the sunshine during the day should clear any ice on the ground, and you can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.
- **Keep steps and steep pathways clear:** it's particularly important to clear snow and ice from steps and steep paths as these pose a greater risk – use extra salt on these areas if necessary.
- **Use salt or sand, not water:** using water to melt snow can result in black ice, which

is invisible and very slippery. Table or dishwasher salt will work to clear ice – a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should be enough.

- **Don't block other people's property:** take care where you put the snow you have cleared from your own paths. Shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides, making sure not to block neighbours' paths or drains.
- **Check on your neighbours:** if you've got elderly or disabled neighbours, offer to clear their paths of snow and ice if you can, and check that they are alright in the cold weather.

STEER CLEAR OF FROZEN WATER

As the weather gets colder, it's also important to remember to stay away from frozen waterways and ensure that children and animals are kept away from the water's edge. Dog owners should take particular care to

avoid throwing sticks or balls near to the ice.

If you see someone fall through the ice:

- Call the emergency services
- Do not attempt to go out on to the ice yourself.
- Tell the person to stay still to maintain heat and energy.
- Try finding something which will extend your reach, such as a rope, pole or branch.
- Throw the object out and, once ensuring you are stable on the bank either by lying down or having someone hold on to you, pull them in.
- If you cannot find something to reach with, try finding an object that will float and push that out to them.
- Ensure that you keep off the ice at all times during the rescue, continue to reassure the



casualty and keep them talking until help arrives.

- Once the person has been rescued, keep them warm and take them to hospital even if they appear to be unaffected.

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

Rushden Resident in your issue of 22nd November says that she has contacted Warwickshire and Northants Air Ambulance offering to donate saved bottle tops but "they don't want them". I also live in Rushden and donate mine to that same charity via a friend of mine who lives in Warwickshire. She has no problem with them being accepted.

I would be willing to collect them from Rushden Resident and take hers as well if she would still like them to go to this charity. I agree that local charities should benefit from our efforts.

Another Rushden Resident contactable via email: carolclarke6871@gmail.com

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Santa's little helpers do their 12 good Christmas deeds

Spire Homes and Keepmoat donned their Santa hats in the run-up to Christmas, to deliver their 12 Good Christmas Deeds. Those nominated by the community were whittled down to a chosen few.

First on Spire Homes' and Keepmoat's 'nice' list was Nina who runs Rush2the Den Youth Club in Rushden. She was nominated by Joanne, whose children attend the club, to receive a Christmas tree for people who use the hall for events to enjoy.

"Nina does so much for the community," said Joanne. "It's lovely to be giving her something to help make the club a bit more festive. When I saw that Spire Homes and Keepmoat were doing good deeds, I knew that they could help Nina get decorations; she'd mentioned it before but she wasn't sure how much she'd be able to get. Decorating the room will be a great activity that everyone can get involved with and I know that she's really grateful."

Another good deed was delivered to Hannah, who for the second year running opened up her house on Christmas to those in the area who are less fortunate.

Hannah was nominated by her neighbour, Kate. "Opening up your home on Christmas Day is such a generous thing to do. She does it all out of her own pocket

and never asks for anything in return. I think the hamper is a lovely way to give Hannah some recognition and reward for her charitable deed." Spire Homes Chairman, John Farrar, presented Hannah with a cheese and wine hamper for her to enjoy.

Julie was the third recipient of a good deed. Having run Barnwell Youth Club for over 20 years. She was nominated by Sharon Boot, Customer Engagement Officer at Spire Homes, and received a bouquet of flowers. "We awarded Julie a grant earlier this year to help with the club and we've been really impressed with how well it's going. Julie's been working really hard over the last year to keep attendance high and make sure there is some money coming in so she can keep giving the children fun activities to do. She's done a brilliant job so we wanted to do something special for her."

The Monday Munch Club at Oundle Middle School was also on the good deed list. Mel submitted a good deed request for the club after seeing the 12 deeds in the paper. "We meet once a month to give people a nice roast dinner. We started in September 2013 and it's been really popular with the locals. It was lovely to get some chocolates from Spire Homes and Keepmoat for everyone; it may be small but

we're very grateful, it's a lovely finishing touch."

Julie Baker, Community Liaison Manager at Keepmoat, said: "The Monday Munch Club is clearly very popular – 100 elderly or disabled people from in and around Oundle attend it every month and we think that's more than deserving of a good deed. We're glad everyone had a lovely meal and enjoyed the chocolates."

Later on, Santa's little helpers from Spire Homes and Keepmoat delivered another good deed to Sue who works for Serve but also volunteers her time at the hospital to give what help she can to patients as well as helping her mum and grandchildren. She received a bunch of seasonal flowers in recognition of her dedication to supporting others.

She was nominated by her mother, Marion: "Sue is always out and about helping people, it's hard to figure out when she actually has some time for herself! She really does go the extra mile and I'm delighted that she's received a good deed."

The organisers of the Rushden Swimming Club received several nominations from parents at the club, who wanted to give them something special for their dedication to teaching.

Helen, Alison, Karen and Lynda who coach teams were given bath sets and wine

as a thank you and Chris, who gives up 15 hours a week to organise the club, on top of attending galas and swimming meets, was given a hamper of ales and festive food.

Em, one of several parents who nominated the team said: "There are nearly 100 children who attend the Swimming Club every week and these guys give up a lot of their time to coach the kids so we wanted to do something special for them. We think the gifts are a great way to help us show our appreciation for all their hard work. Everyone really enjoys going to the club which speaks volumes about how things are run."

The final deeds were planned for delivery on 16th December in Rutland. "We were finding it a little tough to get down to just 12 deeds from all the nominations, so [we] decided to do a few extra good deeds." said Sharon Boot. "This is a great way to recognise our unsung community heroes and spread some extra Christmas cheer, so we wanted to give out as much as we could."

"It's been great giving out these deeds," said Julie Baker. "There are so many people who deserve to be recognised for their hard work and we're very pleased to be continuing our work with Spire Homes to make a difference where we work."

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King, Starlight Express, or 42nd Street to come and give workshops to our students. The children really do get spoiled by such talent coming in to teach them!

We like to showcase each year, with our students working towards not only our end of year show, which is held at The Lighthouse Theatre, but dance festivals held across the county and other showcases such as at The New Theatre Oxford.

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Body Balance

Ferdi's Kitchen

By José Ferdi Tavares – ferdis.kitchen@gmail.com



Cauliflower & Potato Mash – Serves 4–6

I was wanting a lighter and lower-carb alternative to regular mash and started experimenting with a variety of vegetables. This recipe hit the spot. It is full of flavour and much lighter than just a potato-only mash.

Ingredients

- 500g cauliflower (approx. ½ cauliflower)
- 500g floury potatoes peeled and cubed

- 1 tbsp butter
- 100g mascarpone
- 100ml crème fraîche (alternative to mascarpone)
- 1 tbsp Parmesan cheese finely grated (optional)
- 1L light chicken stock
- 2 tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- Salt and ground black pepper

Instructions

- Break the cauliflower into florets and cook in the chicken stock until tender – approximately 10 minutes.
- Remove from the stock with a slotted spoon and set aside to dry.
- Cook the potato in the same stock until tender – approximately 15 minutes. Add a bit more boiling water if needed.
- Whilst the potatoes are cooking, place the cauliflower in a bowl and puree with a stick blender or blend in a food processor until smooth.
- Add the mascarpone or crème fraîche and stir in.
- Once the potatoes are cooked, remove from stock and hand mash or mash with a potato ricer. Don't mash with a blender as this tends to make the potato gloopy.
- Mix the cauliflower and potato together.
- Add the butter, Parmesan (optional), parsley and season to taste with salt and black pepper.
- Stir until well mixed and the mash is smooth.
- Sprinkle with chopped chives.
- If you are serving the mash later, don't sprinkle the chives on until the mash is reheated. A minute or two in a microwave oven is a good way to re-heat.

Chef's notes:

I have also made it with cauliflower on its own, which was lovely and light. Also try the recipe by adding broccoli for a pleasingly vivid green mash, or replace the potato with celeriac, which gives it a wonderful anise flavour that is perfect with seafood.



National Citizen Service

Calling any 16–17 year olds or their parents. You may be interested in a very exciting scheme called the National Citizen Service. It is a brilliant and life-changing offer represented locally by the Groundwork Trust.

National Citizen Service (NCS) is open to all 16 and 17 year olds in England.

It helps you build your skills for work and life, while you take on new challenges and meet new

friends.

It runs in the spring, summer and autumn. You'll have a short time away from home and take part in a team project that will help your community.

NCS brings together young people from different backgrounds and helps them develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. It encourages personal and social development by working on skills like leadership, teamwork and

communication.

Participants develop a social action project to deal with a local issue they're passionate about, and spend time putting the project into action in their community.

If anyone is interested contact Gina Caprio and Charmain Taylor – gina.caprio@groundwork.org.uk, charmain.taylor@groundwork.org.uk, 07889 112365 and 0708 303905 or the Groundwork office on 01536 526453.

Oundle School's Frobenius Organ celebrates 30 years

The Music Department at Oundle School is extremely fortunate to have the Frobenius Organ in the heart of the School, located in the School's Chapel which was built as a memorial to staff and pupils who lost their lives in the First World War.

Built by Frobenius of Denmark in 1984, the inaugural recital was given by the legendary Carlo Curley in January 1985.

Director of Music, Quentin Thomas commented: "We are celebrating fine craftsmanship and the diverse uses our Frobenius instrument offers in the form of six recitals that encompass the 'straight organ recital', via organ duets and organ concertos, to works written for organ and brass, and the much-loved Snowman with Organ and Narrator. We conclude by launching our appeal to clean and restore the stop heads and display case. Thomas Trotter comes to Oundle to offer an Open Masterclass and Recital, preceded by a talk on the design and installation of our Frobenius Organ by James Parsons."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN OUNDLE SCHOOL CHAPEL:

Sunday 25th January

Thomas Trotter

4pm Open Masterclass

5.45pm Talk with James Parsons

7pm Thomas Trotter: Celebrity Organ Recital

Tickets: £10 from The Stahl Theatre Box Office or on the door.

OUNDLE SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Oundle School's Music Department is a vibrant place with around 900 music lessons being taught each week, over 30 ensembles, bands and orchestras rehearsing each week, well over 150 performances a year, with regular tours, musicals and recordings.

Recent events include performing Mahler's No 8 at the Royal Festival Hall, conducted by Bernard Haitink, and alongside the New London Orchestra at St John Smith's Square. The school's musicians have recently been working with Nicholas Daniel, Simon Channing, the SKAMPA Quartet, Lewis Kaplan, Francesca Deigo and Francesca Leonardi with the Chamber Orchestra performing Mendelssohn's Concerto for Piano and Violin. There are many forthcoming concerts and performances.

Oundle School's partnership with The Royal College of Music was launched in January 2012 with the aim of enabling talented musicians from Oundle to work with RCM professors and students for the mutual benefit of both institutions. Professors from RCM give masterclasses and judge the School's annual Hepburn Music Competition.

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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:

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14/02274/FUL (17/01/2015) (Info)
Construction of a building to house wood-chip fired biomass generator to power the surrounding properties at Bulwick Hall Main St Bulwick Corby NN17 3DZ

Deene

14/02272/LBC (24/01/2015) (LBRegs)
Alterations of existing outbuilding to form additional toilets and alterations to existing internal WC, new internal doorway, door and lintel over at Deene Hall Deene Park Deene Corby NN17 3EW

Stoke Doyle

14/02079/FUL (17/01/2015) (Info)
The installation of external lighting to illuminate the outside fabric of the church together with the entrance gate area and associated pathways at St Rumbolds Church Church Lane Stoke Doyle PE8 5TH

Yarwell

14/02284/FUL (17/01/2015) (Info)
Removal of existing porch canopy and extension of existing reception/office at 1 The Millhouse Yarwell Mill Rd

Yarwell PE8 6PS
14/02285/LBC (24/01/2015) (LBRegs)
Removal of existing porch canopy and extension of existing reception/office at 1 The Millhouse Yarwell Mill Rd Yarwell Northants PE8 6PS

14/02315/FUL (24/01/2015) (LBRegs)
Demolition of attached outbuildings and garage and construction of extension to existing dwelling with attic room at 71 Main St Yarwell Northants PE8 6PR
14/02316/LBC (24/01/2015) (LB/CA) (LBRegs)
Demolition of attached outbuildings and garage and construction of extension to existing dwelling with attic room at 71 Main St Yarwell Northants PE8 6PR

The reason for applications being advertised is as follows:

Art8 – Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

Info – Non-statutory – included for information only.

LB/CA – Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990.

LBRegs – Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990.

David Reed
Head of Planning Services
Dated 3 January 2015

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

Warwick Primary School pupils support Wellingborough's Daylight Centre this Christmas

Pupils at Warwick Primary School spent two weeks collecting food to take to the Daylight Centre and Wellingborough and District Foodbank. They were delighted to have amassed several boxes full of jars, packets and tins of food to be distributed to help families in particular need this Christmas.

The idea, originated by members of the Parents' Council, was eagerly taken up by the children on the School Forum. Parent Suzanne House said: "We thought it would be nice to help other families who might struggle at Christmas. It's a great way to teach children that some people are not as fortunate as them and that it's just as nice to give as to receive."

Katie, 11 years old, Chair of the Children's Council, said: "It's an amazing idea, easy to administer and great for those who are struggling over the festive season." Vice Chair, Zara, 11 years old, said: "Not everybody will be looking forward to Christmas shopping for gifts, for some families putting food on the table is the biggest challenge." Kye, 10 years old, added: "I agree it's good for us to think of others and not just ourselves. If we can help even a few families we can feel proud of our achievement."

Katie summed it up by saying, "I've loved watching children arriving at school with their contributions. My muscles have

grown collecting from the classes each day! Everybody has pulled together with a common goal to make a real difference."

Bill Hoten, Principal, said: "I'm so impressed by the incredible effort the children and school community have put into this Christmas project. Not only have they collected a significant amount of food, the children have learnt again the importance and value of giving and how good it feels to think of and do something special for others in need."



Warwick Primary School collect for Daylight charity

MyClub Lotteries set to rekindle community spirit

A new Oundle lottery scheme, aimed at bringing communities together with local business and sports groups has recently been launched.

MyClub Lotteries has been devised by Oundle businessman Aaron Mildren and provides local sporting and social clubs the ability to raise funds whilst also offering lottery participants an additional incentive of discounts through local independent retailers.

Director, Mr Mildren said: "This local initiative not only allows local sports and social clubs to raise funds collectively, but also enables participants

to invest in their community. This means that participants not only benefit from a chance to win substantial cash amounts in the lottery draw but also to interact with their local retailers, through a cheaper pint at the local or a reduced price for a steak at the local butcher, for example.

"For local businesses, this initiative is a great way for them to further contribute to the local community and help keep that interest in the local high street. All they need to provide is a small discount to Lottery Card Participants and in return they get great publicity locally, adjoined with an increase of business

revenue."

For lottery ticket purchasers, a simple £7 per month subscription provides entry into a weekly draw and discounts on over 30 local businesses in the Oundle area, including pubs, restaurants and shops. Lottery cards are available from local leisure and sports clubs, although you do not have to be a member to take part.

For further information on this story or MyClub Lotteries, please contact Aaron Mildren on 01832 771835 or via email at info@myclublotteries.com. There is also a bespoke website at www.myclublotteries.com



Bad weather not bad driving

With winter approaching drivers need to remember that colder, sometimes icy conditions can lead to dangers on the road.

Drivers are advised to prepare for journeys by checking the weather forecast and traffic news for current conditions to ensure they are ready for any emergency that may arise. Drivers are also urged to start checking for problems with their vehicles now before they happen in winter :

- Add anti-freeze to the radiator of your car
- Keep your battery fully charged
- Make sure your car has had a service and is well maintained
- Make sure the lights are working and are clean
- Check that your tyres have the correct amount of air in them, and have plenty of tread depth
- If your blades on your windscreen wipers are worn then change them

- Clear your windows and mirrors so that it is easier to see out. The glare of the low winter sun can make it difficult to see through dirty windscreens

Keep an emergency kit in your car which should contain:

- Ice-scraper and de-icer
- Torch
- Warm clothes and blanket
- Food and drink
- Boots
- First-aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- Spade – to dig your car out of snow

If weather conditions are that severe, the best advice is to stay off the road. Should you need to drive then always follow the advice given and remember bad weather doesn't mean bad driving.

For more information visit www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk; www.reducingroadcasualties.com or call the free helpline on 0800 327252.

THE WINTER SALE STARTS 3rd JANUARY



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Lano Pembridge Twist 4 colours 4m wide	£16.20	NOW ONLY £8
Brockway Aspen 50oz Wool Twist 3 colours 4m wide	£35	NOW ONLY £18
OCW 45oz Wool Stripe 6 colour ways 4m wide	£29	NOW ONLY £16
OCW 45oz Wool Twist 6 exciting colours 4m wide	£29	NOW ONLY £18
Telenzo 100% Wool 2 colours 4m wide Scotchgard	£38.25	NOW ONLY £10
HEAVY CONTRACT WOOL AXMINSTER 2 DESIGNS	£65	NOW ONLY £20

WE HAVE 250 Carpet & VINYL END OF ROLLS

All priced to clear. Just look at these prices.

	NORMAL PRICE	CLEARANCE PRICE
Heavy Domestic Twist Pile 2.07m x 3.53m	£124	NOW ONLY £53
Heavy Domestic Brown Twist 3.93m x 4m	£254	NOW ONLY £125
Heavy Domestic Beige 100% Wool Natural 2.92m x 5m	£259	NOW ONLY £130
100% Wool Natural Heavy Domestic Beige 2.92m x 4m	£443	NOW ONLY £159
Tintawn, Simply Natural Heavy Duty 3.65m x 5m	£693	NOW ONLY £222
OCW Wool Twist Heavy Duty Grey 3.77m x 4m	£302	NOW ONLY £185
OCW Wool Twist Heavy Duty Cream 4.23m x 4m	£508	NOW ONLY £210
Tintawn, Simply Natural Heavy Duty 6.92m x 4m	£1051	NOW ONLY £323

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Nene Valley News – Make Believe News

Competition winners' stories

First in the 10–12 age group, Sammy Harrison aged 10. Judges comments: 'A populist topic taken to the extreme – potential to become a fiction/horror author combining good visual effects as well as a topical subject to great effect.'

MEERKATS OVERRUN TOWN

World security forces are coming together today to discuss a recent infestation of evil Meerkats. The infestation started only a week ago after six Meerkats were being delivered to London Zoo by cargo plane. The animals managed to escape using force by hijacking the entire plane and landing it in Birmingham airport. Security forces had to negotiate with the Meerkats after they threatened to kill the pilot. In return for a tank the Meerkats let the pilot free.

"It was a very distressing experience," says Mike Johnson, pilot of the aircraft. "They all had crowbars and baseball bats." Luckily no one was hurt in the incident.

Unfortunately, the Meerkats have also



raided a G4 summit meeting that included many world leaders. They are currently being held hostage and ransom notes have been sent out. Security forces have now assessed the situation as critical. The Meerkat forces have also joined forces with various terrorist organisations such as the Italian Mafia. They are armed and dangerous, and don't approach them. If you see one of the Meerkats, call the police on 999.

These notorious Meerkats not only have the brawn, but the brains as well! The Meerkats have been raiding science labs to create a gas that turns everyone into Meerkats. We recommend you stay inside at all times and try to have the least amount of ventilation possible. A message from home security also recommends that you arm yourselves. Rolling pins or even a stick. Anything that you can find. Keep your eyes peeled, readers, there are Meerkats hiding everywhere.

This story by Owain Derbyshire was first in the 13–15 group. The judges said:

'A very strong story line presented in compact but expressive prose with a surprising twist at the end.'

SURVIVOR FINDS ARTEFACT. RUINS FINALLY NAMED.

As we know life since the fall has been hard. Technically there is no one left alive that remembers what happened. Only rumours are left. The old and mysterious ruins, of what used to be a town had kept many secrets from us until now. The streets remain buried in thick snow, the temperatures too cold to survive in howling winds that never rest.

Our colony is deep underground and hidden from above by the snow covering it; it is warm and safe, unlike the desolate and empty streets of the weathered ruins above. It is also full of life, inhabited by hundreds of people commonly referred to as 'The survivors'.

On the day of my discovery I woke to the friendly smile of Celina, my life partner, her hand stroking the dark hair upon my head. I gave a quick smile, washed and dressed in my clothes, jeans, T-shirt and many thick layers of jumpers and socks. This day was set to be momentous but I was yet to know.

This complex was originally an old storage area, the town above had once kept everything here from clothes to tinned food, after the grange quarry had emptied out, leaving tunnels pre-dug into the stone work. So when the fall happened it became a safe haven that provided everything to support a small community. Life down here was boring, but safe for those that obeyed the rules.

My job was hunting above ground; we took anything and everything we could find to feed the survivors that remained. My job was more a pleasure than a chore as I would occasionally look up to the stars above, a true beauty to behold, when all you normally see is a ceiling of chiselled rock.

This day was no different as the gate door was opened, normally heavily guarded and bolted at all times to prevent colonists from leaving and predators from coming in, and four of us Jack, Celina, Ben and me, John, ventured out into the wilderness.

Freezing wind whipped across my cold and pale cheek as we split up to find as much food as possible each of us heading in a different direction than the other. I walked for hours but I found nothing.

Then suddenly, crunch, I turned around and a blizzard met me. I dove for shelter in an old pipe as the blizzard howled over me. As it passed I looked around and realised I was lost. I walked seeking landmarks and stumbled over a piece of metal that had laid preserved deep in the snow. I dug the mysterious metal object out; as metal can be used for many things in the complex and can be valuable. It was then I noticed the old writing on its surface along with a picture of a tall rocket shaped building. I mouthed the words in wonder reading it aloud. The ruins finally had a name... 'Raunds'.

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Saturday Matinee 2.30pm

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Box Office 01933 270007 or www.thecastle.org.uk

Prices:
Tues evening & Sat Matinee £14
Wed to Fri and Sat evening £16

This Amateur production is presented by arrangement with R & H Theatricals Europe Ltd. Music by Richard Rodgers. Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein 11. Book by Oscar Hammerstein 11 and Joshua Logan. Adapted from The Pulitzer Prize Winning Novel 'Tales of The South Pacific' by James A Michener.

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Sunday 4th January
Whitefriars Church
Morning Worship
 Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden. NN10 9HX
 10.15am
 Free admission
 Tel: Andrew Presland 01933 316927
 An informal church service open to anyone of any age.

Thursday 8th January
Discovery Walks
 Meet at Nassington Church 2pm
 £1.50, no need to book.
 Tel: 01780 782747
www.weanorthamptonshire.org
 Exploring Northamptonshire – Nassington and Elton – 4 miles.

Lunchtime Concert
 St Peter's Church, Oundle 1.15pm
 Free / Lunch can be purchased
 Nicholas Ho, Violin diploma programme.
 Concerts in this beautiful church setting in Oundle. Lunch is offered in the form of soup and bread rolls from 1pm for £3 provided by The Little Soup Kitchen.

Friday 9th January
Saving Mr Banks (PG)
 Ringstead Village Social Club, High Street NN14 4DA.
 Disabled access from rear car park.
 Doors open at 7.30pm film starts 7.45. Bar available.
 Tickets £4.
 Tel: 01933 460373 for details
 The story of the making of the Walt Disney film Mary Poppins. Starring Emma Thompson and Tom Hanks

Sunday 11th January
Wildlife Trust New Year Walk
 Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows Nature Reserve. Meet at St Peter's Church, Irthlingborough 11am–12.30pm
 Free, donations welcome
 Claire Wylde 01604 405285 claire.wylde@wildlifebcn.org
 Join the Wildlife Trust for a guided walk with a local bird expert. Booking required.

Thursday 15th January
Lunchtime Concert
 St Peter's Church, Oundle 1.15pm
 Free / Lunch can be purchased
 Charlotte Ma, Piano diploma programme.
 Concerts in this beautiful church setting in Oundle. Lunch is offered in the form of soup and bread rolls from 1pm for £3 provided by The Little Soup Kitchen.

Thursday 15th January
RSPB Indoor Meeting
 Saxon Hall, Raunds at 7.30pm
 Admission £3 (children free)
 Tel: Graham on 01536 725924
 illustrated talk on 'Bird Migration' by Professor Ian Newton.

Friday 16th January
Scout The Scout – An Evening with Rod Cousins
 Manchester City FC Scout Oundle Middle School 7.30pm
 £8 includes hot meal with pudding and coffee. Please bring your own drinks.
office@oundlebaptist.org.uk 01832 770010 or stpetersoundle@yahoo.co.uk 01832 275675
 An informal chance to hear about Rod's 30 year career in professional football. His time with Manchester City, Wolves, Oldham & Chesterfield and his work with Managers from Kevin Keegan to Sven Goran Eriksson.

Sunday 18th January
The New Year Concert
 Oundle School Chapel 4pm
 £5 to include refreshments
 Oundle School's annual and popular concert features many of Oundle's Bands that congregate so purposefully each week. Guests are warmly invited to join this early evening concert of vibrant music making.

First Monday of month
Wildlife Trust Little Bugs Club
 Irthlingborough Library 1.30pm–3pm
 Free, donations welcome
 Tel: Louise Tuffin 01604 405285 louise.tuffin@wildlifebcn.org
 A fun monthly session for under 5s and their parents to discover local wildlife.

Every Monday
Wesley Centre Art Class
 Irthlingborough Methodist Church 2pm–4pm
 Tel: 01933 650195
 Experienced teacher, all abilities welcome.

Every Tuesday and Thursday (except Christmas and New Year)
Health Walks
 Stanwick Lakes 10am–11am
 Free – normal car park charges apply.
 Tel: 01933 625522
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk
 Regular walking can help improve your health. Join us in our regular walks.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Fridays
Exploring Northamptonshire by bus (refreshments optional)

Various villages & countryside
 From 10am
 £2.50 per map.
 Tel: 01933 461480 (answerphone available)
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 Various journeys just to see more; short stroll or a longer walk.

Every Wednesday evening
Dog Training and Socialisation and Ringcraft
 Halefield, Woodnewton, near Oundle
 Classes from 6.45pm
 Tel: 01832 293432
oundledogs@aol.com or website www.oundledogs.co.uk
 Dog training classes following the KC Good Citizen Scheme and Ringcraft. New members always welcome.



Alternate Wednesdays
U3A Country Dancing
 St James's Church hall Thrapston 2pm–3.30pm
ghearnden@tiscali.co.uk
 Tel: 01933 622827
 The U3A Country Dance Group meets on alternate Wednesdays. All are welcome. Non-U3A members are welcome for a taster.

Third Wednesday of month (different date)
Higham and Rushden U3A
 Pemberton Centre, Rushden 2pm–4pm
 £2 for visitors
 Tel: Membership Secretary 01933 314425
 Monthly speaker followed by beverages and mixing for social chat.

Third Thursday of each month
Painting Class with Nick Baldwin
 St John Ambulance Hall, Raunds 10am–4pm
 £15 per session
 Tel: Kathy Gyngell 01933 389936
 Friendly class seeks new members to learn painting with mixed media. All abilities welcome.

Every Wednesday (except December)
Rainbow Cafe for Tots

(aimed at up to age 5 and their adults)
 Stanwick Lakes 10.30am–12noon
 £2 per child – normal car park charges apply.
 Tel: 01933 625522
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk
 Make new and exciting crafts then join Lisa from Music and Movement to play, sing and dance.

Every Thursday
Folk Dancing
 St Mary's Church Hall 8pm–10pm
 First visit free, £2 per night thereafter.
 If you enjoy folk dancing come and join us.

Every Thursday
The Silverfox Turners Club
 Dale End Scout Headquarters, Croyland Road, Wellingborough 10am–1pm
 £2 all members
 Secretary Trevor Rhodes
 Tel: 01933 382790
 Newly formed wood turning club. Open to all levels of wood turners.
 Warm welcome guaranteed.

Every Thursday during school term time
Music Makers
 Titchmarsh Pavilion 9.30am–10.15am
 £4 per child and £2 per sibling.
 Naomi Cooper on musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com
 Funky music and movement group for 0–5 years with parachute, puppets, balls, bubbles and more.

Music Makers
 Joan Strong Centre, Oundle 11.15am–12noon
 £4 per child and £2 per sibling.
 Naomi Cooper on musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com
 Funky music and movement group for 0–5 years with parachute, puppets, balls, bubbles and more.

Little Treasures Tots Group
 St Laurence's Church, Stanwick 9.30am–11am
 Donations to cover costs
 Tel: Nicki 01933 625658
 For pre-schoolchildren and their adult carer – Bible story, song, craft and fun. All welcome.

Third Thursday of the month
Painting Class
 St John Ambulance Hall Raunds 10am–4pm
 £15 per session
 Phone 01933 389936
 Drawing and painting class using mixed media.

Very friendly class - all abilities welcome.

First Friday of the month (recommend checking before travelling)
Craft Cafe
 Stanwick Lakes 10.30am–1pm
 Modest charges for some materials – normal car park charges apply.
 Tel: 01933 625522
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk
 Learn new craft skills, share your experience and meet up with crafty friends.

Third Friday of the month
The Poetry Group
 Raunds Library 2.30pm
 Free, donations welcome.
 Tel: 01933 622151

Third Friday of the month (recommend checking before travelling)
Stanwick Stitches
 Stanwick Lakes 10.30am
 Free entry – normal car park charges apply.
 Tel: 01933 625522 or Pauline on 01933 229817
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk
 Come and join this informal friendly group of stitchers to chat, stitch and eat cake!

Second Saturday of the month
WE Watch and Phoenix Group
 Stanwick Lakes
 For more information email wewatchstanwick@hotmail.co.uk
 Tel: 01933 625522
 Two clubs for keen young nature lovers. WE Watch for ages 8–3 and Phoenix for ages 13–18. Supported by RSPB and Wildlife Trust.

First Saturday of the month
Thrapston Farmers' Market
 Thrapston High Street 9am–1pm
 Free
www.thrapstonfarmersmarket.moonfruit.com
 Every first Saturday of the month. Local meat, beer, cider, cheese, eggs, deli, preserves etc.

Second Saturday of every month (Same Saturday as Oundle Farmers' Market)
Coffee 'n' Cakes
 Oundle Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane (behind the Talbot Hotel) 10am–12noon
 Tel: John Hewitson 01832 272209
 Filter coffee, tea, squash. (free refills) homemade cakes.
 Warm welcome.
 Proceeds to various charities.

Last Saturday of the month except December
Farmers' Market
 Market Square, Higham Ferrers 9am–1pm
danielle@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk
 Aberdeen Angus beef, organic eggs, vegetables, Italian peppers, organic pork and lamb, free range poultry, beer, pork in all its forms in addition to pickles, pies, herbs, fresh fish, fruit and honey, preserves, traditional bread, plants & cheese.

Last Sunday of the month (except December) (recommend checking before travelling)
Local Producers' and Farmers' Market
 Stanwick Lakes 10am–2pm
 Free entry to market – normal car park charges apply.
 Tel: 01933 625522
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk
 Browse through tempting treats and gifts made and farmed by local businesses.

Every first Sunday
Priceless – for young children and their families
 St Laurence's Church Stanwick 9.30am–10.15am
 Join Tanya and Nicki for 45 minutes of fun, craft and prayer.

Every third Sunday
All Age Worship
 St Laurence's Church Stanwick 9.30am
 Join us for our All Age Worship designed for people of all ages. Teas/ coffees served after the service.

Ongoing
Drawing and Painting Classes
 Ecton Village Hall, Chelveston Village Hall, Warkton Village Hall, Kingsthorpe Community Centre
 Various (see my website) dgartweb.sharepoint.com
 £65 per term
 Tel: Derek Geater 01933 381848
 Drawing and painting, mainly working in watercolour with some soft pastels.

More events can be found at
www.nenevalleynews.co.uk
 To submit your event please contact us via our website in the following format: Date, event, place, time, admission fee (if applicable), contact information, 15 word description.

Classifieds

Deadlines for all classifications:
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jon@essamca.co.uk www.essamca.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
 (PILTON ROAD, LILFORD-CUM-WIGSTHORPE / THORPE ACHURCH AND LILFORD ROAD, PILTON)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along those lengths of Pilton Road, Lilford-Cum-Wigsthorpe / Thorpe Achurch and Lilford Road, Pilton as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: Those lengths of Pilton Road, Lilford-Cum-Wigsthorpe / Thorpe Achurch and Lilford Road, Pilton from the junction of Pilton Road to Main Street, Pilton.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required to repair a bridge parapet.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 5th January 2015 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 2002.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted until 16th January 2015.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: Use Oundle Road, Stoke Doyle Road, Wadenhoe Road, Oundle Road, Stoke Doyle Road, Stoke Hill, Mill Road, Barnwell Road and A605.

Dated this 3rd day of January 2015.
 QUENTIN BAKER, Director of LGSS Law JCM/T14/383

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604 364359.



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Chess corner

By Derrick Sims



The Christmas period was a busy time for the club, having entertained Rushden Academy in the Intergenerational Chess Challenge during November/December. This gave us an opportunity to play our two youngest players in a competitive situation.

Nine-year-old Lily Boulton has been a regular player at the club for some time and displays an enthusiastic approach to the game. Under the coaching of Club Secretary Nik Puryer she is showing some promise, even managing two draws in her games against the Rushden Academy.

An even younger player is Fortis Diksas who, although only a recent addition to the Club, is showing a steady and thoughtful approach to the game. It was good experience for him to play against the much

older opponents from Rushden Academy. The Junior section of the Club is now starting to show some strength in depth which bodes well for the future.

Rushden B again travelled to Northampton, this time to play Chessmates C in the League. The Northampton Club fielded a strong team, with most of their players being higher graded than Rushden's. They were in for a shock with Rushden pulling out all the stops to produce a 4-1 victory.

Nik Puryer played well to draw against John Warnes on board 1 and board 2 produced an unusual game in that Dave Curran and Keith Bristow managed to play the whole game without the loss of a single piece, and both players ended up equal on time. Captain Bob Ellam played a bold move in sacrificing a piece to gain

advantage and an ultimate win. Rushden's draw-meister, Jeff Owen shocked everyone with a blitzkrieg performance to beat Reg Tomalin. Newish boy, Tom Murts continues his winning way having only lost one of his last five league games. Rushden now move into second position in League II, just behind East Northamptonshire rivals, Oundle.

Tue 9th Dec, B-Div:

Chess Mates C 1-4 Rushden B

- Bd1: J. Warnes (134) ½ N. Puryer (127)
- Bd2: D. Curran (U) ½ K. Bristow (117)
- Bd3: M. Buswell (114) 0-1 B. Ellam (106)
- Bd4: R. Tomalin (90) 0-1 J. Owen (100)
- Bd5: T. Bayes (81) 0-1 T. Murts (64)

Xmas Chess Puzzle solution

- 1. Re8 Kxh1 2. Kf2 e1=Q+ 3. Re1#

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 – for details please call the Club Secretary on 07810 474969, or visit the club website <http://rushdenchessclub.com> and for the NCA (County Association) it's <http://www.norchess.lloydbunday.co.uk>.

New chess club in Oundle

There's a new chess club in Oundle, which meets at the Library on the first and third Wednesday each month during school term time.

Open to players of all ages and skill levels, the club is the brainchild of two young volunteers, Adithya Menon and Kyle Lo, who are pupils at Oundle School. "Both of us love playing chess and we quickly

realised the library was the perfect place to start a new chess club," said Adithya. "We're happy to teach people to play, as well as organise matches."

The club's youngest player is just eight years old and the oldest member (so far!) is Jack Duckworth, aged 81. He said: "You never stop learning with chess and I've enjoyed some cracking games here. The

Library is a great place to meet. It's all very well playing chess on a computer but nothing beats facing your opponent across a board."

Adithya and Kyle are delighted that the club is growing and are keen to welcome new members.

The Chess Club's first meeting in 2015 will be on Wednesday 7th January at 3.30pm and the club will meet every fortnight after that.



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