

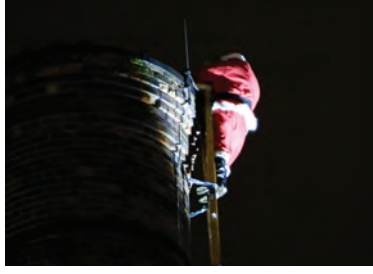
Nene Valley NEWS

Your local independent community newspaper for East Northamptonshire

Telephone:
01522 513515

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

Inside...



Santa goes up the chimney at Nene Court

Page 3



Christmas recipe from Catherine Burbage

Page 8

In Brief

Poppy Appeal Collection

Oundle & District Branch of the Royal British Legion has announced that the provisional Poppy Appeal collection figure for their area this year is £9,167.21.

"Thank you to all those who contributed and also those who helped with the collection. We are always looking for new collectors."

Please contact Appeal Co-ordinators, Andrew and Mary Prosser, on 01832 205055 if you are interested.

Rushden branch thanks supporters

The Royal British Legion Rushden Branch Poppy Appeal organiser Barbara Clark and her dedicated army of fundraisers wish to thank everybody from Rushden and the surrounding villages for their generous donations in this year's Poppy Appeal. So far the Appeal has raised £41,571.19 and there is still more money to come in. Schools in Rushden have been particularly supportive.

Roadside checks under way in Christmas crackdown on careless driving

As part of Northamptonshire Police's annual Christmas drink-drive campaign, officers are carrying out regular roadside operations across the county to find people who are driving with alcohol in their system. As well as breath tests, officers

are also carrying out new tests to see if people are driving after taking drugs. PC David Lee, from the force's Safer Roads Team, has already led an operation in Northampton town centre. He said: "Most people recognise now that drink-driving is

socially unacceptable. "Unfortunately, we do still get people who drink and drive and a lot of those are people who think it's alright to get back in their cars after drinking heavily the night before.

"They may have done the right thing on the night and got a taxi or organised for somebody to give them a lift, but they don't realise they're still over the limit the following morning."

Officers taking part in the annual drink-drive campaign are this year using drug testing kits for the first time.

Within hours of the new pieces of kit being introduced, arrests were made when people were found to be driving with illegal drugs in their system.

Those who are found guilty of drink-driving face up to six months in prison, a large fine or a driving ban for at least a year.

Drivers who are found guilty of causing death by careless driving

while drunk can get up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or a driving ban for at least two years.

Those convicted of drug driving face a minimum one year driving ban, an unlimited fine and up to six months in prison.

Fortunately, of the 226 drivers stopped during the Safer Roads Team's recent operation in Northampton, none were found to be over the drink-drive limit.

To help raise awareness of the dangers of drink-driving, dozens of pubs across the county will this year display warning posters over the festive season and bar staff will wear anti-drink-driving T-shirts.

A new text line has also been set up for people to send information about drink-drivers to.

People who have concerns about drink-driving can send a text to 0780 000 5554. Alternatively, they can call Northamptonshire Police on 101 or dial 999 in an emergency.



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Letters to the editor

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

Dear Editor,
Here in Rushden, we are lucky enough to have the Greenway, a nice tranquil walk that takes us from Asda to Lidl, or by the side of the railway station, along the train tracks all the way to Higham Ferrers. That's where I live. I stroll down the Greenway daily and see how frequently it's being used. By keep-fitters, by dog walkers, by students and everybody else, from young children and mummies with buggies, to professionals and pensioners. We all love the Greenway because it's green and clean and full of flowers and berries...and litter.

It really is a shame that there are bins at each end of the path, but some of us feel the need to drop whatever

wrapper on the ground, into the bushes, onto the grass. And don't get me started on dog poo.

There are two elderly ladies that walk their dogs there quite often. Not only do they always pick up what their pet has left behind (despite their weary backs), they actually come for their walk with a plastic bag and pick up all the litter they can find. If you ever wonder, why is the Greenway so nice and

clean and green, then yes, it's only thanks to these two ladies. They really inspire me and I hope they will inspire you too. No, there is no need to walk along with a bag and do what they are doing. Just make sure to take your wrapper home with you or stick it in a nearby bin. Be an example to your children and help us keep our living environment pleasant and clean.

See you at the Greenway!



Fit4Her hosts Food Drive!

After seeing so many homeless people this year in Wellingborough and Rushden on our drive to and from work, it made us think about how fortunate we are and how some people aren't so lucky. We felt compelled to help in anyway we can; after all, everyone deserves a decent meal and warmth, especially at Christmas.

This December, Fit4Her Ladies Gym is asking the

local community to get together and donate any non-perishable food items they can spare to help the Rushden Food Bank, who are extremely low on supplies this year.

We will be collecting in both of our gyms (38 Little Street Rushden NN10 0LS and 50a Market Street Wellingborough NN8 1AA) all the way up to Christmas Eve, and then taking anything collected to the

Food Bank.

Some examples of food items that are so desperately needed are: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, pasta and pasta sauces, tinned fish, soup and spaghetti and long life milk. However, anything you could donate would be so greatly appreciated.

We really want to make a difference this Christmas, and we believe with your help we can.

For more information please contact Fit4Her Gyms on 01933 778228.

Want to place an advertisement or submit an article?

If you wish to contribute or have any comments please email news@nenevalleynews.co.uk or call 01522 513515. To advertise, call 01522 513515. Alternatively you can email advertising@nenevalleynews.co.uk

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If you would like to receive this publication as a download, Nene Valley News is available online as a pdf at www.nenevalleynews.co.uk.

You can also subscribe to Nene Valley News for £39 per annum.

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Editor's notes

The end of another year and our last Nene Valley News of 2015! The usual question at this point is, "Have you done all your Christmas shopping?" If not, don't fret, by the time this edition is published there will still be at least five shopping days left before the big day.

To help you through the holiday season we're carrying notices about Christmas Services in the Events Section as well as a range of options for New Year activities aimed at helping to keep everyone entertained and giving you the option of breaking away from the armchair and the TV! We also have Christmas greetings from a number of our advertisers wishing you, their customers, a merry Christmas. And, if you like to try cooking something different to the usual fare, there's a recipe for cheesy Christmas pastry that you might like to try.

Many people are particularly generous

with their time and their money at this time of year and we're glad to be able to carry reports on some of the charitable fundraising activities going on in the District. Santa really seems to have gone to extreme measures with his preparations at the Nene Court, Wellingborough, chimney event and I understand that the Oundle Rotarians are raising an average of around £350 per day taking Santa's sleigh around the town. To these and all the other folk who have given so generously to support others we add our own heartfelt thanks.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Look out for our first edition of 2016 on 16th January and remember that we need your stories, not to mention your advertisements, in the coming year so that we can continue to do our bit for the community of East Northamptonshire.

Glistening Diamonds at Rushden Sea Cadets

Everyone had an amazing night at TS Diamond, when promotions, skills awards and enrolments were in abundance. Presentations were made by Lt Commander T Crisp (MTC) and Lt Commander J Webb (SCC). The cadets also prepared training sessions where parents were given the opportunity to take part.

PO Telford Commanding Officer, was also proud to announce that there were five new members and that the unit was

going from strength to strength. It is a busy time for her and her unit, she is currently organising a 'Shoe Box' appeal for local veterans and planning the Christmas trip to the bowling alley.

The Unit meets on a Friday night 7pm-9.15pm. Please contact the Commanding Officer on ocrushden@gmail.com if you would like details on joining the Unit - both young people and adults welcome.

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For non - golfers

- Join as a social member. Free membership gives you a calm clubhouse to enjoy a lunch time get together with friends. Our special lunchtime 2 for £10 menu is available daily.

For more information please contact
Ellie Williams on 01933 418511 option 1

Rushden Golf Club, Kimbolton Road,
Chelveston, Wellingborough, Northants, NN9 6AN
www.rushdengolfclub.org

Santa goes UP the chimney at Nene Court!

Christmas got off to a spectacular start at Nene Court where Santa went up the chimney rather than down, much to the delight of the crowds who turned out for the seasonal stunt.

To launch Nene Court's festive season of events, Santa-turned-steplejack scaled the 80ft historic chimney. As a one-off, he abandoned his sleigh and trusty reindeer and instead made the solo ascent of the Victorian chimney, a long-established landmark on the Wellingborough skyline.

Hundreds of families turned out to watch Santa's antics, which signalled the official start of the festive season at Nene Court, home to a range

of independent businesses and bespoke boutiques. All went according to plan, aside from one hairy moment when Santa got his beard entangled in the ladder fixed to the side of the towering brick chimney!

Hundreds of pounds were raised on the night by Northamptonshire's Boobs and Brass, as the all-female brass band hit all the right notes in aid of Breast Cancer Now.

They entertained the

crowds with festive tunes and Christmas carols, raising more than £300 in donations.

Real reindeer, sparkling Christmas lights, mince pies and mulled wine all added to the festive atmosphere at the

former Victorian Gas Light Factory.

Margaret Betts, Co-Founder of Boobs and Brass said: "The Nene Court Christmas launch party raised a fantastic £344.29! The weather wasn't kind but it didn't stop everyone enjoying themselves. Plus my family is still talking about Santa climbing the chimney! We all really enjoyed it."

Rodney Binley, owner of Nene Court said: "I'm really pleased with how well the event went and I'd like to thank all the families who turned out in the wet weather to support us. Santa scaling the chimney was truly spectacular and really captured the children's imaginations, which was lovely to see."

Don't worry if you missed

the extravaganza, there is still plenty happening at Nene Court this Christmas. Frozen Fever is running up until the Saturday before Christmas, go along and meet Anna, Elsa, Kristoff and Olaf in person. Visit the website www.nenecourt.com for a full run down on events and competitions with amazing prizes £750 which still have to be won.



Record number of attendees flock to 2015 show

Daro has been listening to its stockists' feedback at their hugely successful Preview Show, which has helped shape their stunning 2016 range.

As a leading name in quality cane and rattan furniture for the home and garden, Northampton-based Daro always takes the comments from its stockists onboard and that is why this exclusive show is so important to the 40-year-old company.

The 2015 show boasted a record attendance by stockists. They flocked to the show and were impressed with what Daro had proposed for 2016. The show generated lots of enthusiasm and positive feedback, with many compliments directed at the Laura Ashley fabrics, which are exclusive to Daro products.

Terry Head, Head of Retail at Stewart's Garden Centre, Christchurch, who attended the show said: "The Daro Preview Show is very useful and to see the full range on the floor is very helpful when it comes to planning 2016. We can view the indoor and outdoor ranges and spend time with the Daro team, which is very beneficial. James always gives us a lot of information; his knowledge is second to none. When you attend an event like Glee or Solex it gives you a snapshot

but this is a full day to look around and take it all in."

James Brown, Daro Director said: "We are pleased all our hard work has paid off. The show was a roaring success with lots of positive comments from our stockists, all of which we have taken on board. I'm really happy with our new range and I think when the stockists see it they will be pleased too as they know they have had input into it."



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NDNA

Grace Homes scores a hat trick at the LABC Warranty National Site Manager Awards

It's been an incredible year for Grace Homes. Firstly their White Lodge Farm development in Burton Latimer was named 'Development of the Year' at the Worcester Bosch Eco 2020 Awards; the same development received Highly Commended in the 'Development of the Year' Award at the LABC Warranty awards event, The Bricks; and on 10th November Site Manager, Andy Redgwell, was Highly Commended in the 'Site Manager of the

Year' category of the LABC Building Excellence Awards. The LABC Warranty Site Manager Awards provide recognition and reward for site managers who achieve the highest standards of construction. They are the industry's way of showing appreciation for those who excel at forming positive working relationships and are able to provide new solutions through their creativity and vision. Grace Homes says: "We are particularly proud that

Andy has been given this award as these are qualities he has demonstrated time and time again. "Andy, who has worked for Grace Homes for over eight years, was awarded 'Site Manager of the Year' for the Central Region earlier in the year. He has since faced 15 other finalists in the LABC Grand Finals. The award was assessed from 3,000 registered sites, and so to be awarded highly commended in the final really is a great achievement. "Despite building hundreds of new homes and conversions in many locations over the years, we remain a small business. Every member of our team shares the same desire: to create perfect homes for our customers. Since 1997 we have developed a reputation for creating high quality, distinctive homes. Some are conversions of existing

buildings; others are one-of-a-kind new builds. In every case we work with what the locality has to offer, then add our own unmistakable stamp

of individuality. Andy has helped us to build homes in Great Easton, Woodford, Burton Latimer, and Gretton, among other locations.

We are currently building homes in Oundle, Brigstock and Burton Latimer with a project we hope to start soon at Finedon.



Find out more about Grace Homes by following them on Twitter (@GraceHomesHQ), or liking their Facebook page www.facebook.com/GraceHomesHQ. To view their current developments and homes for sale please visit www.gracehomes.co.uk or call us on 01536 740019.

Genealogy jottings

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

Have you ever read Dickens' A Christmas Carol – or at least seen the film? Those with money had wonderful Christmases: lots of food and drink and making merry. However, for much of the population, many meals were the same as they had been for the other 364 days of the year – meagre, to say the least. At the beginning of the 19th century, Christmas was hardly celebrated – certainly not in the way that it is today, or even 100 years ago. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, brought the idea of a Christmas tree over from Germany and so that fashion grew, with the tree being decorated with nuts, fruits and homemade sweets. Gifts had traditionally been given at New Year, but the Victorians were responsible for moving that tradition to Christmas. These were usually homemade and could be embroidered picture frames, keepsake boxes or a doll that had been made from local wood. None of the commercialism that we see today! However, Christmas Day was often the one day – or part thereof – that many people did not have to work. Therefore, do not

be surprised if you find a Christmas Day wedding or baptism. Also, some churches married people for free on public holidays. I have heard of one record where there were at least nine marriages on one Christmas Day! It could be interesting to find out what happened in your own local church in the past. So, this Christmas, take a moment to think back to days gone by. How might your ancestors have celebrated Christmas? Would they have gone to church? Probably. Would they have exchanged presents? They may have. Would they have eaten well? Not always the case. I do hope that you and yours have a good Christmas and I wish you happy hunting of your ancestors for the New Year. See you in 2016.



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E: craft@colemangroup.co.uk www.colemans-online.co.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:

Brigstock

15/02155/FUL (09/01/2016) (LB/CA) Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of two storey rear extension at 16 Hall Hill Brigstock NN14 3EZ

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott

15/02139/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Erect an aluminium greenhouse on brickbase, erect an oak framed workshop on brickbase (retrospective) at Duchy Farmhouse Bidwell Lane Clopton
15/02127/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Change of use from agriculture to residential gardens at land rear of properties 14-19 Main Street

Clopton

15/02137/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Retrospective resubmission of 14/01258/FUL for the conversion, alteration and extension of existing outbuilding ('The Wash Room') to create granny annexe / guest accommodation ancillary to the use of the house at Clopton Manor Main Street Clopton NN14

Fotheringhay

15/02082/FUL (09/01/2016) (LB/CA) Existing driveway gate opening to be increased and opening at stable to be made higher at The Old Vicarage Main Street Fotheringhay PE8 5HZ
15/02089/LBC (09/01/2016) (LBRegs) (LB/CA) Enlargement of entrance gate opening, increase height of existing opening to stable block and associated work at The Old Vicarage Main Street Fotheringhay

Glaphthorn

15/02079/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Erection of five dwellings following demolition of the existing dwelling from the site including the demolition and removal of all associated outbuildings, structures,

equipment, machinery and vehicles at Braesby Southwick Road Glaphthorn PE8 5BD

Islip

15/02135/FUL (09/01/2016) (LB/CA) Resubmission of lapsed planning permission 10/01463/FUL - Proposed alteration to existing single storey element to the rear of the property at 6 Toll Bar Road Islip

Nassington

15/02136/FUL (09/01/2016) (LB/CA) Side extension to replace lean to and reconstruction of garage at 61 Station Road Nassington PE8 6QB

Oundle

15/02119/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Proposed single storey garage, single storey extension, second storey bedroom extension, alterations to fenestration and new rendering and cladding finish to exterior at 94 Glaphthorn Road Oundle PE8 4PS

Raunds

15/02095/FUL (09/01/2016) (Art8) Development of foodstore with access, service area, car parking, petrol filling station, and landscaping at Land Off A45 London Road Raunds NN9 6EG

15/02133/VAR (09/01/2016) (Art8)

Variation of condition 31 (Occupation of development) pursuant to application 11/01747/OUT: Outline: proposed sustainable urban gateway to Raunds comprising employment (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8); residential (Use Class C3); new vehicular and pedestrian access and associated road infrastructure, public open space and landscaping, including flood alleviation measures. (All matters reserved except for access). Dated 07.12.12 at West End Land North Of Brick Kiln Road

15/02157/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Detached dwelling to replace withdrawn application 15/01267/FUL at Land Adjacent 2 Midland Road Raunds NN9 6JF

Rushden

15/01828/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Erection of four dwellings and accesses at 65 Northampton Road

Rushden NN10

15/02052/FUL (09/01/2016) (LB/CA) New vehicular access to rear garden onto Co Operative Row at 25 Griffith Street Rushden NN10 0RL

15/02084/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Proposed single storey extension to front of existing dwelling, infilling gap between dwelling and existing double garage and new higher fence to north boundary to mask adjacent industrial unit at 10 Saxonlea Close Rushden NN10 6BF

Stanwick

15/02148/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Single storey rear extension with balcony area at first floor level at West Point Higham Road Stanwick Wellingborough NN9 6QF

Thrapston

15/02108/FUL (02/01/2016) (Info) Change of use of land from agricultural use to horse and pony paddocks to include associated permanent structures. (Retrospective). At Land End Of Washington Court Thrapston

Wadenhoe

15/02126/FUL (09/01/2016) (LB/CA) Proposed first floor extension, over the existing garage to include dormer to front elevation at Holly House Church Street Wadenhoe PE8 5ST

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.

Sharn Matthews, Executive Director Dated 19 December 2015

Council conference an "awesome experience"

Young people in East Northamptonshire got together to talk about employment at a council conference in Rushden last month.

East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) organises a Youth in East Northamptonshire (YEN) conference each year to bring together students from the five secondary schools across the district.

The theme of this year's conference was employment and, based on student feedback, it was a resounding success.

Students took part in a variety of activities looking at how jobs have changed over time and how they might look in the future, as well as learning about job requirements and interview skills.

They had the chance to meet representatives from Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, East Midland Ambulance Service, Kettering Borough Training and Service Six to learn more about their services and opportunities for young people.

There was the opportunity to speak to ENC's apprentices to learn about their roles and how the apprenticeship scheme works. District councillors were also on hand to inform students about their roles in the community and how they can act as a voice for young people.

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive with comments such as: "Discussions were great. Fun and educational", "I loved all of the activities, they definitely boosted my confidence" and "It was an awesome experience."

Shaun Sannerude, Community Development Officer at ENC, organised the conference. He said: "Each year we hold this conference on a different theme and it's always good to get such positive input and feedback from our younger residents."

Young people in the district can learn about different services available to them by visiting the YEN webpage at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/yen

ENC jobs and apprentice opportunities are advertised online at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/jobs

Consultation deadlines will differ for each application.

Please go to www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications for details.



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Titchmarsh Village Hall reopens after £100,000 investment



Titchmarsh Village Hall, more commonly referred to as 'The Clubroom', has re-opened following a £100,000 investment in a new meeting room and improved toilet facilities.

The refurbishment, consisting of the addition of a self-contained meeting room to hold up to around 15 people, and the modernisation and redevelopment of the toilet facilities, was made possible by the support from a number of funding partners and cash from the Village Hall reserves.

Geoff Love, Chairman of the Clubroom commented: "We are delighted to have been able to modernise the ageing toilet facilities and to add on a new meeting room for use by smaller groups. We are very lucky to have such a

modern and usable facility in the village, and the reaction to the new facilities has been overwhelmingly positive."

Sarah Fortescue, Chair of Titchmarsh Pre-school and one of the Clubroom's major hirers added: "The new facilities provide us with great additional facilities. We now have the capacity to take on more children, and provide a wider range of activities across all age groups. The staff and children are already taking advantage of the improved facilities and we are confident these, and our Good Ofsted rating, will encourage parents

to come and see the pre-school for themselves."

Funding for the redevelopments was made available through grants from a number of funding bodies. The single largest grant came from Wren, with a donation in excess of £36,000. Other funders included Garfield Weston Foundation, Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, Maud Elkington Charitable Trust, the Empowering Councillors Fund, and Section 106 Grant Funding linked to the development of affordable housing in Titchmarsh.

Activities already taking place throughout the week include Folk Dancing on a Monday, kickboxing on Tuesdays, Zumba on Thursdays, and alternate Fridays Youth Club.

The new meeting room is now available for hire at a cost of £6 per hour for village residents, and £10 per hour for commercial, and non-village hirers.

For more information on Titchmarsh Pre-school please email TitchmarshABC@hotmail.co.uk.

To enquire about bookings for the Clubroom for ongoing activities, or parties (including the use of the bouncy castle!), receptions or meetings, please contact Val Sorrell on v.sorrell@tiscali.co.uk

Win at Air Squadron National Trophy Finals

On 29th November, the Oundle School Combined Cadet Force RAF section were victorious at the Air Squadron Trophy Regional Competition held at RAF Cranwell.

Fifteen cadets from all four year groups (Years 10-13) took part in the event. The competition comprises seven events: Drill, Aircraft Recognition, RAF Knowledge, Shooting, First Aid, Fitness and Command Task.

The Oundle cadets performed very well,

winning the Drill, Aircraft Rec and RAF Knowledge competitions, coming second in the Shooting and fourth in the First Aid. As a result, they were placed first in the region, beating Kimbolton, who have won the Regionals for the last four years and who are current National champions. The Oundle cadets are now through to the National Finals in March.

Captain of the Oundle team, Sergeant Peter Anson (18) commented: "This year, we exceeded our own expectations, breaking the

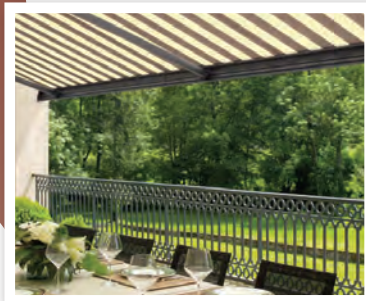
victory chain Kimbolton CCF had enjoyed for four years, and not only winning overall, but coming first in Drill, the most competitive aspect of the competition, first in Knowledge, first in Aircraft Recognition and second in Shooting. In addition, I was fortunate enough to win the award for the highest scoring cadet in Aircraft Recognition."

The Team:

Sergeant Peter Anson
Flight Sergeant Jemima Burgess
Cpl Hayley Harris
Cpl Ian Ostojic
Cpl Christian Monaghan
Cpl Ben Joseph
L/Cpl Chris Lane
L/Cpl Jasper Poon
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Swivel Club '40s night

On Saturday 7th November The Swivel Club held an event at Rushden Bowls Club, where The Mainline Big Band entertained over 300 guests with a nostalgic night of '40s music and dance.

The Swivel Club is a local charity, helping individuals and good causes in the Rushden and Higham Ferrers area, with 'Turning Lives Around'. This event was a resounding success with many people passing on their thanks both for the entertainment and good venue, but also helping the Royal British Legion to carry on with their excellent work.

Lt. Col. (retired) Glenn Harwood MBE, Chairman of the Higham Ferrers Branch said "This is a fantastic

boost to the Higham Ferrers Branch, which will help us carry out good work in our local community, thank you to the Swivel Club."

Geoff Goss, Vice Chairman Higham Ferrers Branch said: "Thank

you Swivel Club for your generous donation and for providing such a great fundraising night. It gave us the opportunity to raise not only money, but the profile of the Royal British Legion in our local community."

The Swivel Club provides a range of entertainment at Rushden Bowls Club throughout the year. It is very well supported by regulars, and welcomes all newcomers see what the Club has to offer. More details can be found online at www.swivelclub.org.uk where next year's events are available to see, including an event for the Royal British Legion next November.



Volunteer action is on the move

These are exciting times for Volunteer Action in Oundle. This locally based charity has moved to fine new offices in Fletton House, which will help it to serve the community even better.

"Moving to Fletton House enables us to be part of the local hub in Oundle whilst still providing services to Thrapston and the 47 surrounding villages in North East Northants," says Manager Carol Underwood. "We shall be joining other important community services like the Library, the Surgery, the Pre-School, PHAB and the Town Council. Even the Police! And there's a wonderful friendly café too, so do drop in."

What does Volunteer Action do?

Volunteer Action is a local charity that provides a Community Car and Befriending service to people living in the north of East Northamptonshire. The service helps ensure elderly, infirm and disabled people in the community to access some of the vital services they need to remain independent and prevent feelings of isolation.

It serves a large rural community in East Northamptonshire from Oundle to Easton on the Hill in the north and to Thrapston in the south. The volunteer drivers, who give up their own time to help the community, drive those with no other reasonable means

of transport to appointments to maintain their health and wellbeing. The Befriending service supports individuals in their own home by providing a visiting service that offers companionship and a listening ear.

Interesting facts

Last year our volunteer drivers drove over 80,000 miles between them. Over 11,000 trips were undertaken, the majority of which were medically related. Without this service many local people would struggle to attend appointments vital to their health and independence. For some passengers their volunteer driver may be the only person they see or the person who facilitates contact with the community, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Volunteer Action has an average of 30 Befrienders at any one time and between them they provided over 1,500 hours of support last year. This can range from sharing a cup of tea and a chat to supporting visits to local places of interest.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for Volunteer Action please call 01832 275433 or email admin@volunteeractionoundle.org.uk.

You can also visit the website www.volunteeractionoundle.org.uk



Cheesy Christmas wheat-free pastry

Trying to avoid wheat at Christmas can be as difficult as trying to avoid tinsel, with so many of our festive treats encased in pastry. This 'pastry' is really tasty and can be used in place of most savoury shortcrust. Here, I've wrapped it around sausages to make a rather cheesy Christmas Wreath and added chilli, herbs and sundried tomatoes to make cheese bites, but you could try it with quiche and pie recipes too.

Ingredients

120g to 150g mozzarella – grated
200g cheddar – grated
100g cream cheese
175g ground almonds
2 large eggs – beaten
Seasoning
For the wreath, 12 cooked chipolata sausages, with red pepper and watercress to garnish
For cheese bites, add ½ a tspn of mustard powder to the mix, then chilli, herbs, olives, sundried tomatoes or whatever takes your fancy

Method

Put the cheeses in a microwaveable bowl and heat in 30 second bursts,

stirring in-between, until all the cheese is melted. Stir in the ground almonds, eggs and seasoning. For the bites, add the flavourings at this stage. Allow to cool as this makes the pastry more manageable. With damp hands, tear off small portions of the pastry and shape into a rough small square – think squishing



If you'd like to see a particular recipe or food featured in this column, please email me: nenevalleyfood@btinternet.com

By Catherine Burbage
(with help from Nelson the dog)



playdough rather than rolling out pastry - wrap around half a chipolata or shape as required for the bites. Bake in a medium oven for 10 to 15 minutes.

Allow to cool then arrange and garnish as you like. Any nearby dog who is trying to look particularly good deserves a piece of leftover sausage.

Merry Christmas!

Local French tutor aims to help you die less stupid!

A new book about French expressions by a local author has just been released on Amazon as a paperback and an eBook.

Two Raunds businesswomen, French tutor Clare Jones, and artist Tamsin Edwards, have joined forces again to produce a delightfully illustrated book of French idioms, 'Je mourrai moins bête: 200 French expressions to help you die less stupid.' Clare and Tamsin are pleased with the results of their three years' hard work and are hoping the book will prove popular with students of French and language lovers in general.

"I'm not trying to insult people!" said Clare. "Je mourrai moins bête is how the French say 'You learn something new every day'. It literally means 'I'll die less stupid'."

The book is ideal reading for anyone who is

already fairly fluent in French but who gets tripped up by figurative language. It is perfect for anyone who spends time living in France or working with the French. It is also an entertaining book just to dip into even if your French is not great, as Tamsin's sense of humour shines through her illustrations. You can laugh and learn at the same time! Clare didn't want to write just a phrase book. "I hope people will enjoy reading about how the idioms came into the language and will enjoy learning about how they are used, for example in famous French films." You can download the first chapter for free at www.figureoutfrench.com.

Clare and Tamsin have previously produced an iPhone app together and the enterprising couple are already working on their next book which will be out in 2016.



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From the East Northants Chairman

I am pleased to report the total funds raised from the Syrian refugee aid church service held in Irthlingborough on 25th October was £1,176.54. This includes a donation from the caring children of Great Addington School. Thank you to everyone who donated money and/or items.

I have been very busy promoting East Northants at various events, including the opening of a new clinic at RAF Croughton where my guest was former Councillor Eleanor McGibbon.

I had the honour of opening the Youth in East Northamptonshire (YEN) conference, which brought together young people from the district's five secondary schools to discuss employment. I bumped into a parent of one of the children who attended and her son told her it was a brilliant experience, which was excellent feedback. Congratulations to Shaun Sannerude, Community Development Officer at ENC, who organised the conference.

I attended the Sports

Awards at Sywell, where my guest was Cllr John Farrar. The Sports Awards were inspirational and nominees ranged from 10 to 69 years of age, achieving notable sporting feats which were worthy of recognition and well-deserved awards.

We attended Thrapston Mayor, Cllr Val Carter's charity fashion show at Thrapston Plaza which was great fun and very well supported by the residents of the town. Well done Thrapston, great community spirit.

The British Legion held a remembrance concert at St Mary's church in Rushden where we were treated to a great performance from the prize-winning Rushden Brass Band. The local British Legion this year has raised over £38,000, an astonishing amount of money which will go towards helping our veterans.

Tony and I have also attended several balls and dances held by the Kettering, Wisbech and Daventry Mayors and Chairman, all of whom have raised funds for well deserving charities.

Now Christmas is approaching we have also enjoyed attending several carol services which have brought various communities together, which is always a joy to see, especially the children who take part in the programmes and give heartwarming performances.

I had the pleasure of being invited, by the good people of Royal Mail, to the Rushden delivery office and I have to say I was hugely impressed with the efficient operation and quality of the service they literally deliver. Well done to them all and a pleasure to meet you too.

I would like to conclude my report with my thanks to the Vice Chairman, Cllr Rupert Reichhold, for attending the opening of Fletton House in Oundle which was a significant occasion for the community of Oundle.

On behalf of Tony and myself I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year.

God bless you all.

Cllr Marika Hillson
Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council



Cllr Hillson with Royal Mail staff at Rushden delivery office

New Year Wetland Wildlife Walk

Ever wondered the difference between a tufted duck and a teal, or a gadwall and a great crested grebe? If so, why not kick-start 2016 by joining the Wildlife Trust for a guided walk at Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows Nature Reserve on Sunday 17th January, 11am-1pm. The walk will be led by local bird expert Neil McMahon and will be a great way to counter the excesses of the festive season.

Winter is one of the best times to visit Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows as it will be full of wintering wetland birds such as wigeon, pochard and lapwing that migrate here from colder climes.

Located at the heart of the Nene Valley, Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows forms part of a network of wildlife sites which is internationally important for its winter bird populations. Owned and managed by the Wildlife Trust, the nature reserve is home to all kinds of other wildlife too, including otters, Kingfishers and orchids.

Places on January's walk are limited so booking is essential. To book a place, or for further information, please contact Louise on 01604 774043 or email louise.tuffin@wildlifebcn.org.
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We wish all our customers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year !

**Saturday 19th December
I-Grow's Christmas on the Green**

Parsons' Green (by The Cross), Irthingborough 3pm-7pm
Stalls, Santa, hog roast, steel band, community singing, jugglers, clown, mince pies and more. Children of Irthingborough, Father Christmas has lost his reindeer. Can you help him find them?

Baby and Kids Nearly New Sale

10-12noon.
Lots of stalls to browse! Refreshments available. Entrance £1, kids free. To book a stall please call 07577701161 or email karen_aves@hotmail.co.uk

Raunds Temperance Band Christmas Concert

The Heritage Chapel and Halls, Park Rd, Rushden NN10 0RW
7.30pm
No tickets needed, donation. Sparkling sets of seasonal music in the beautiful setting and wonderful acoustics of the Heritage Chapel. Christmas refreshments available.

**Sunday 20th December
Corps Carol Service**

Rushden Salvation Army, Church Street, Rushden 4.30pm
Admission free
Carol Service including Messy Church Nativity when all are welcome.

**Thursday 24th December
Christingle Service**

Rushden Mission Church, Wellingborough Road 4pm
Everyone welcome to this enjoyable service.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service

The Heritage Chapel and Halls, Park Rd, Rushden NN100RW
11.30pm
Church Service led by Keith Davies to welcome in and celebrate Christmas Day, all welcome.

Whitefriars Church - All Age Nativity Service

Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
4.30pm
Chris Youngman 01933 551769
An informal church service for Christmas Eve.

**Friday 25th December
Whitefriars Church - Christmas Celebration followed by optional Holy Communion**

Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
An informal church service for Christmas Day.

Christmas Day Morning Service

Rushden Mission Church, Wellingborough Road 10.30am
Alan 01933 355302
Everyone welcome to this informal service.

Christmas Day Church Service led by the Rev David Womersley

The Heritage Chapel and Halls, Park Rd, Rushden NN10 0RW
10am-10.30am refreshments from 09.30am
Celebration Service for Christmas Day with refreshments and fellowship, all welcome.

**Sunday 27th December
Whitefriars Church - Informal Worship (café style)**

Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Junior School, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
An informal church service to which all are welcome.

Morning Service

Rushden Mission Church, Wellingborough Road 10.45am
Alan 01933 355302
Everyone welcome to our informal all-age service with the Music Group.

**Monday 28th December
The Swivel Club have ABBA REVIVAL show supported by BACK BEAT**

Rushden Bowls Club, Northampton Road, Rushden NN10 6AN
8pm
Tickets £15 available at www.swivelclub.org.uk or Tel. 07738 080470 or The Bowls Club 01933 312680.
The Swivel Club will be drawing 'The £2,000 Grand Holiday' raffle at this event.

**Friday 1st January
Whitefriars Church Retireds' Group: some musical entertainment**

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

**Sunday 3rd January
Whitefriars Church - Morning Service with activities for children and young people**

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

First Sunday Event

The Salvation Army, Church Street, Rushden 6pm
Admission free
Songs of Praise including our Praise Chorus.

Hot Chocolate Morning

The Heritage Chapel and Halls, Park Rd, Rushden NN10 0RW
10am-11.30am
Bacon rolls, cake, book, bring & buy stalls and Christian library, donations of items welcome.

**Thursday 7th January
Discovery Walks: Lowick, Drayton & Slipton**

Meet at Lowick Church 2pm

£1.50
Tel: 01780 782747
4.5 mile walk

**Friday 8th January
Oundle Historical Society Meeting - A Tale of Two Towns: Oundle and Stamford, talk by David Bond**

Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane, Oundle 7.30pm
Members free, non members £2.
Perdita Cawthorne 01832 270372

Film: Gone Girl (18)

Ringstead Village Social Club
Doors open 7.15pm, film starts 7.45pm
Tickets £4
01933 460373
A psychological thriller about a missing wife whose husband is accused of her murder.

**Sunday 10th January
Whitefriars breakfast**

Whitefriars Junior School, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am
A very informal church - come and share a second breakfast with us, and relax whilst the kids play.

**Wednesday 13th January
Oundle Branch of the Northamptonshire Family History Society - A Journey with my Family.**

Oundle Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane 7.30pm
Members free/ Visitors £2
www.northants-fhs.org/ Jenny 01832 272061
Join Kelsey Coles travelling with her ancestors from Oundle to Northampton.

**Friday 15th January
Oundle Golf Club Monthly Quiz Night**

Oundle Golf Club, Benefield Road, Oundle PE8 4EZ
7pm
£10 per person entry fee to include light supper
01832 273267 for enquiries
Music quiz plus live music from The Acoustic Supper Club. No need to book.

**Every Monday
Headway East Northants Craft Club**

The Baptist Chapel, Meeting Lane, Irthingborough 1.30pm-3.30pm
£1 admission
Claire Phillips 01933 652311, claire.phillips@headwayeastnorthants.org.uk
Informal, friendly group making small items for fundraising purposes (knitting/crochet/cards). Materials can be provided.

Titchmarsh Folk Dance Club

The Club Room, High Street, Titchmarsh NN14 3DF
8pm-10pm
£1 inc tea/coffee
Julie Bubbles 01536 726858 or email.bubbles.folksinger@hotmail.com
Country dancing from the 1600s to the modern, sociable and fun. No partner needed.

Oundle Ladies Running Group

Oundle pool car park 6.45pm
Jane Walker 01832 272898,



janewalkercakes@icloud.com
All levels welcome. Come and give us a try, it's free.

Wesley Centre Art Class

Irthingborough Methodist Church
2pm-4pm Monday
01933 650195
Experienced teacher, all abilities welcome.

**First Monday of the month
Oundle Wives**

Methodist Church, Oundle 7.45pm
01832 272178
£3 for refreshments and raffle. New members very welcome. Friendly, social group.

**Second Monday of the month
Royal British Legion**

Rushden Branch Monthly Meeting
Rushden Football & Social Club, Hayden Road, Rushden 7.15pm
Annual Fee £15
Jake Baker 07525 441267
Not necessary to have served in the Armed Forces to be a member.

**Once a month on a Monday evening
Woodturning Club**

Hardwick Village, Nr Wellingborough NN9 5AL
7pm-10pm
Paul Lawman 01933 674260
Friendly woodturning club, established in 2000 to promote and develop wood turning skills in Wellingborough, Kettering and surrounding areas.

**Every Monday and Thursday
Oundle Bridge Club**

Fletton House, Fletton Way, Oundle PE8 4JA
7pm Start
Tel: 01832 273044

**Every Tuesday
Coffee Stop**

Rushden Mission Church, Wellingborough Road NN10 9TA
10am-12.30pm
Alan Richardson 01933 355302
A warm welcome awaits all, for a drink, snack and chat.

East Northants Classic Motorcycle Club

The Crown public house, Wellingborough
Meet around 7.30pm
No fee, just an interest in classic motorcycles. A warm welcome awaits.

Sling walk

11am
Tel: 01933 410112
First Tuesday of the month there will be Sling Library at 10am prior to the walk. Second Tuesday meet at Rushden CC Hayway instead of Higham Ferrers)
One-hour walk with our kids in carriers. Bumps, buggies and walking siblings welcome, tea and coffee after the walk.

**Every other Tuesday
Hidden History: Talk, Coach Trip & Walks**

Start from Raunds Library at 11am
Pick-up at Stanwick and Higham from 11.45am
Free coach, small charge for exclusive maps.
Return to Raunds by 2.15pm.
Booking Advised.
Susan 01933 461480
Suitable for all ages.

**Second Tuesday of the month
Tea Dance**

Pemberton Centre, Rushden
Dancing to 'Music Box' 2pm-4pm
£3 per person including Tea/ Coffee & Cake

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Irene Hawkins - Tourism
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**Wildlife Trust Little
Bugs Club**

10am-11.30am
£1 per child (adults are free)
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louise.tuffin@wildlifebcn.org
A fun monthly session for under 5s and their parents to discover local wildlife.

50+ Adventure Club

Tel: 01536 505548 for further information or visit: www.fiftyplusnorthantsadventureclub.org.uk
Adventures and activities for the over fifties who want more from life. Informal pub evenings to find out what we do.

**Second and fourth Tuesday of the month
Social group for widows and widowers in their 50s and 60s**

Rushden Bowls Club,

Northampton Road, Rushden 7.30pm-9.30pm
£1 per meeting
Jayne 01933 315030 / Rose 01933 315756
Social group for widows/widowers in their 50s and 60s. Meals out, day trips etc.

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

10am-11am
Free - normal car park charges apply.
01933 625522
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk
Regular walking can help improve your health. Join us in our regular walks.

**Every Wednesday
Dog Training and Socialisation and Ringcraft**

Halefield, Woodnewton, near Oundle
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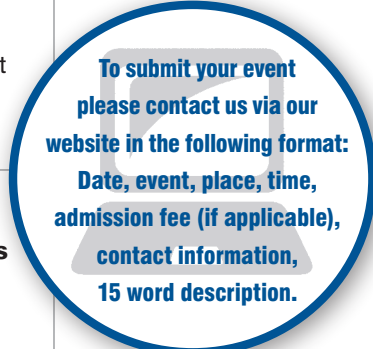
(aimed at up to age 5 and their adults)
Stanwick Lakes
10.30am-12noon
£2 per child - normal car park charges apply.
01933 625522
www.stanwicklakes.org.uk
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30th January - Valentine's & Weddings
13th February - Spotlight on Higham Ferrers

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LOOKING FOR DECENDANTS

FURNESS

I would like to contact any relatives who have information on the links between Mr George Furness, of New Wymington, Rushden, Private Robert Furness (number 22554 of the Northamptonshire Regiment and husband of Frances Gertrude Furness) who died in World War 1 and Robert / George's mother / father.

Please contact Ken (a direct descendant)
on ksbrown@yahoo.co.uk.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

East Northamptonshire Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL
GAMBLING ACT 2005
STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

NOTICE is hereby given that the East Northamptonshire Council intends to publish a revision to its Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling Act 2005). The revision was resolved by the East Northamptonshire Council (the Council) at its meeting on 14 December 2015. It will:

1. be published on 31 January 2016
2. come into effect on 31 January 2016
3. be published on the Council's website www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk
4. be available for inspection at East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, NN14 4LZ

Dated 15 December 2015

Mike Deacon
Head of Environmental Services
East Northamptonshire Council

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH UF5 - PARISH OF OUNDLE & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ME2 - PARISH OF ASHTON)

(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit all pedestrians from proceeding along those lengths of Public Footpath UF5 in the Parish of Oundle and Public Footpath ME2 in the Parish of Ashton as set out below. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said lengths of footpaths is unaffected.

RIGHT OF WAY TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: The existing route of UF5 to be closed begins at point A at National Grid Reference ('NGR') TL0499 8813. The route travels generally north east along footpath UF5 to the parish boundary with Ashton where it continues as footpath ME2 for a total distance of approximately 224 metres to point B at NGR TL0518 8824.

The route is shown by a solid black line between points A - B.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required during maintenance works to bridge.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The Order will come into effect on 4th January 2016 and will continue in force for a period of six months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for this Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such extent as is indicated by the display of notices.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: There is no suitable alternative route.

Dated this 19th day of December 2015
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of LGSS Law
PKG/ROW/235

If you require any further information please call Colin Wilkinson on 01733 715960.

Oundle pupils move towards national science prize

On Wednesday 25th November, four pupils from Oundle School, James Duckitt (15), Gordon Lin (15), William Parker Jennings (14) and Alice Sze (14) took part in the Regional Heat (Northants, Beds, Herts and Cambs) of the annual Royal Society of Chemistry Top of Bench competition, held at Kimbolton School.

The 10 teams competing tackled two experiments on ion analysis and an iodine clock reaction followed by a chemistry quiz.

At the end, it was announced that the Oundle team had won the competition with a score of 47 marks out of 69, performing particularly well in the ion testing section.

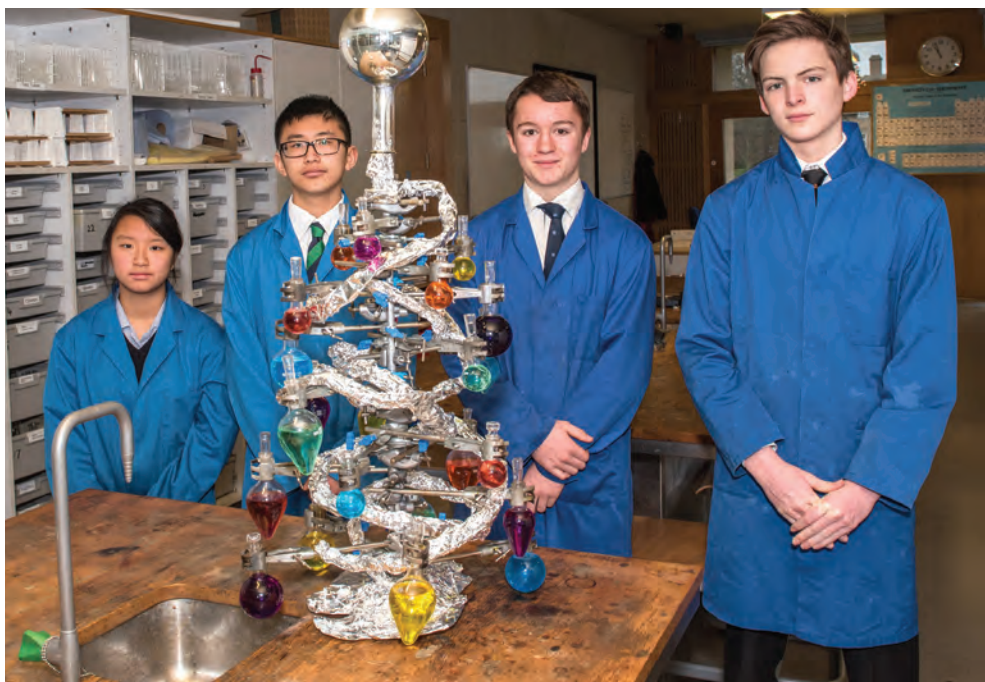
Chemistry teacher, Robin Hammond commented: "This is the fourth time that Oundle have won this heat since 2009. The four pupils were excellent company and were

very good ambassadors for the School."

The team will now represent the region in the National final in March, which will involve over 30 regional teams.

James commented: "In the first practical, we had to carry out various ion tests on unknown substances and then use a table to work out what those substances could be from the results that we had obtained. We also had a short general knowledge quiz with questions ranging from how did Antoine Lavoisier die (Answer: he was guillotined during the French Revolution) to questions on electrolysis."

Robin added: "The team will hope to reproduce the level of performance of the previous three Oundle School teams in the competition, who have managed 13th, 6th and 2nd position in the final."



Huxlow students host Christmas party

Huxlow Science College students have hosted a Christmas Party for the over 60 residents of Irthlingborough and Finedon. The guests were treated to singing from the college choir, drama students performing a piece from 'The Polar Express' and a poetry reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. During the interval the students

served sandwiches, mince pies, tea and coffee. The second half featured the choir singing wonderful festive favourites such as 'Silent Night' and 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas'. Everyone joined in with the Christmas Sing-along, and John Farrar from the Salvation Army thanked the students and staff for a wonderful afternoon.



New dog programme looking for volunteers

Channel 4 Features has commissioned a new three-part series called Rescue Dogs to Super Dogs. The series will see homeless dogs from the UK's largest dog welfare charity Dogs Trust, given new homes as they are paired with people struggling with mental, physical or neurological disabilities and then trained over 12 weeks to be able to assist their new owners in their everyday lives.

The bond between dogs and humans is like no other. Dogs can feel empathy, read and react to human emotions, smell and sense chemical changes in bodies and most importantly, they love their owners unconditionally.

Most people are aware of guide dogs but in Rescue Dogs to Super Dogs these eager canines will be trained to help people with a

wide range of other debilitating conditions, from OCD to Tourette's, Narcolepsy and Paraplegia.

The series was commissioned by Helen Cooke, Channel 4 commissioning executive for features. Helen Cooke said: "This groundbreaking training is extremely rare in the UK, so Rescue Dogs to Super Dogs will give dogs an opportunity to find a loving, permanent home and in return they will change their owner's lives for the better."

Channel 4 are now looking for people in the area to take part. To find out more about this potentially life changing opportunity then please get in touch ASAP by calling: 0117 3072307 / 0117 3072328 or email: casting3@plimsollproductions.com

How to have your say on council's budget proposals

Council leaders are encouraging as many people as possible to take part in Northamptonshire County Council's budget consultation, which follows the recent launch of its 2016/17 budget proposals.

Cabinet member for finance, Cllr Bill Parker said: "This has been the toughest budget we have ever had to put forward so it is more essential than ever that people take their time to read through the proposals and use any of the number of ways we have set up to ensure they have their say about them.

"These proposals are really just that – they are proposals and none of them are in any way set in stone. What is more definite is the amount of savings we are required to make, so if anyone has any further ideas on how we might hit that target rather than through the proposals we have put forward, we would be very keen to hear them."

There will be a variety of ways for local people and organisations to have their say about these proposals during the council's six-week consultation period which ends on Tuesday 19th January 2016. These channels include:

- Visiting the Draft Budget and Council Plan Consultation webpage and completing the online survey www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/draftbudget

- Emailing consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk
 - Writing to Draft Budget and Council Plan Consultation, Northamptonshire County Council, County Hall, Northampton NN1 1DN
 - Using social media: Tweeting @mycountycouncil or posting comments on the county council Facebook page
 - Using the toolkit to hold their own discussions and feeding back to the council
 - Signing or submitting a petition or e-petition
 - Customer and user groups will also be able to hold their own discussions by using the Budget toolkit available on the Draft Budget and Council Plan Consultation webpage
- In addition to the channels of consultation, local people and organisations are invited to take part in Budget Scrutiny meetings.

Scrutiny involves councillors reviewing the draft budget proposals, looking at their aims and how delivering these may affect Council services. Members of the public and representatives of community groups can contribute to budget scrutiny by giving councillors their views about which proposals they should scrutinise, and about how particular budget proposals may

affect services.

There will be meetings during January 2016 to scrutinise selected budget proposals relating to different Council service areas. Members of the public can speak at these.

- Monday 4th January at 9am in the Blue Room at County Hall - This meeting will focus on children's social care and education issues
- Monday 4th January at 1.30pm in the Blue Room - This meeting will focus on adult social care issues
- Tuesday 5th January at 1.30pm in the Blue Room - This meeting will focus on environment, development and transport issues
- Tuesday 5th January at 4.30pm in the Blue Room - This meeting will focus on public health, wellbeing and community services issues

If you wish to attend and speak at any of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group meetings listed above, or if you want any further information about budget scrutiny, please email: Democraticsupport@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Members of the public wishing to speak are asked to give advance notice to assist with managing the meetings. Please email 48 hours in advance of the particular meeting that you wish to attend, giving your name and address and the point you wish to raise.

Football scouts spot Pitsford School talent

It's certainly a hat-trick success at Pitsford School with three junior school pupils having been scouted by professional football clubs.

Six-year old Raffi Oliveti has been playing football since he was two-and-a-half years old. After being spotted playing for his local team by an Aston Villa scout, Raffi has been invited to train with Aston Villa's Elite Development Centre. Raffi, whose favourite player is Cristiano Ronaldo, was also recently scouted by Leicester City meaning he now trains with two Premier League sides.

"I enjoy the skill games that we practice and also playing with the older boys to make it harder to score," said Raffi who also plays for the Brixworth FC Northampton and District Youth Alliance

League on Saturdays.

Leonard Padde is seven years old, and has had an interest in football from a young age, having started playing football at the age of four. Leonard occasionally attends Northampton Town football matches with his father and, earlier this year, was invited to attend a skill assessment day by the club's coaches, resulting in him now training with Northampton Town Academy's U7s Elite twice a week.

An avid supporter of Northampton Town and Swansea FC, Leonard's favourite football player is Bafetimbi Gomis. "Training with Northampton Town is fun and exciting. I always look forward to learning new skills during the training sessions, making new friends and

playing games against other teams," said Leonard who also plays for Kissingbury FC in the Northampton District Youth Alliance League.

Niko Simic, who is six years old, has been playing football since he was four. Niko went along to a Northampton Town Trial last summer, where he was selected to play for the U7s Northampton Town Development Centre.

There are currently six boys in the group including Niko and training consists of different attack and defence exercises; individual ball control and skill exercises as well as training games. Niko also plays for the Moulton Magpies and attends the Freestyle Football Development Academy. Niko, whose favourite team is Liverpool, said: "Training is



Leonard Padde in action



Niko Simic



Raffi Oliveti

always fun and I love learning new skills and playing against lots of teams."

Pitsford School's Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Mr Fabrice Vié, who is also the ISFA Girls' U18 Midlands Coach commented: "I am delighted to hear that we have three very promising

footballers in the Junior School and am very much looking forward to seeing them in action in a few years' time when they join us in the Senior School."

Mr Vié has recently started to work with the Sixth Formers during their games lessons and there is already enough

potential in the squad to play some competitive football. With the construction of Pitsford School's new £2million Sports Centre, due for completion next year, Mr Vié intends that the school will be able to host the U18 Girls' Midlands Trials in the near future.

Chess Corner

As we approach Christmas, it is a good time to review the past year. The highlight for Rushden was the promotion of the B team from the Silver King League II to League I, which was a fantastic achievement for all concerned. With the increasing membership numbers it has been possible to field a C team in League II for the first time. We were also able to play one of our young ladies in the league; Sarah Collins has made a solid start for the C team.

Additionally, the youngsters in the club are developing nicely and junior player Dominik Druzowski made his inaugural appearance for the C team in October.

In the hectic run-up to Christmas it's very easy for chess to take a back seat. As has become tradition I have included a chess puzzle for the readers to solve as they digest their Christmas dinner and sip a celebratory drink. The diagram shows that white has the possibility of achieving mate in two moves. Shouldn't be too hard to work out should it? So dig that chessboard out from wherever you last saw it and have a go! The solution will be published in the next edition of the Nene Valley News.



Rushden C travelled the A6 to Kettering, to take on their B team. This was a tough fixture with Kettering holding an average 83

point grading difference. Any victory against such a highly ranked team would indeed be a tremendous achievement. Your erstwhile reporter was first Rushden man down after failing to counter James Brutus' aggressive King's Gambit, leading to checkmate after only 15 moves. I'd barely got the kettle on for my post-match cuppa when I was joined by Tom Murts, who'd been despatched by a rampant Chris Keech. Eddie Francolini was making a better fist of it on board 5, the game was closely matched until Eddie managed to get a fork on Ron Cooper's Rook with his



By Derrick Sims

Queen in a superbly executed check. Ron battled bravely on but was never allowed to recover from the loss of his Rook and finally resigned. With the score standing at 2-1 to Kettering, everything rested on Rushden's James Wicks and Nigel Wren. James fought well against the much higher graded Graham Arch but was unable to prevail in the end, with Kettering taking the game and the match. Nigel Wren was rather unlucky in his game against Kettering's Keith Ball. Keith had obviously been on the Red Bull before the game, as his Bishop mysteriously developed wings and flew over his own pawn. This was only picked up in the post match analysis and was influential in the Kettering captain's victory in what was a closely fought game.

Northants SKL Division II Match Monday 30th November

Kettering B 4 - 1 Rushden C
Bd1: Chris Keech (151) 1-0 Tom Murts (61)
Bd2: Graham Arch (142) 1-0 James Wicks (64)
Bd3: James Brutus (142) 1-0 Derrick Sims (49)
Bd4: Keith Ball (121) 1-0 Nigel Wren (U)
Bd5: Ron Cooper (102) 0-1 Eddie Francolini (33)

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> and for the NCA (County Association) it's <http://www.norchess.loydbunday.co.uk>.

Mitchell steps up at Wellingborough

Jon Mitchell has been appointed as manager of Wellingborough following Dave Williams' decision to stand down through work commitments after the win over Eynesbury on 10th November.

Williams had been in charge for just eight matches, after taking over from Craig Adams.

Mitchell was a popular player with the club, having been part of the side which won promotion in its first season in the league. He plans to concentrate on his managerial duties although still registered as a player at the Dog & Duck.

Stuart Goosey will assist Mitchell in the management team, which sees Brian Mapley continue as goalkeeping coach.

The new management's first signing is striker James Tricks, who has been playing in the Southern League for Daventry.

Tricks made his debut in the win at

Rothwell Corinthians on 21st November, which lifted the Doughboys out of the Premier Division drop zone for the first time since the start of September.

Dan Spaugton reached a milestone for the club in the win over Eynesbury, making his 250th appearance for the Doughboys.

The club was stunned on 16th November when an arson attack at the Dog & Duck saw significant damage done to the clubhouse. The structure remains sound but the inside was gutted. Fortunately no major damage was done to the dressing room area. The club is converting its hospitality room into a bar for the short term.

More sad news to report is the death of Ernie Drage, a club vice president and behind-the-scenes stalwart at the Dog & Duck both with the current club and its predecessor.

Walker returns after Scott's shock Thrapston exit

Richard Scott has resigned as manager of Thrapston. The former Birmingham and Peterborough pro took the Chancery Lane reins in December 2013. Assistant Kevin Fox has also stepped down from his post.

Chairman Gary Petts made the briefest of dugout returns, taking charge for the match against Oakham on 28th November, but it proved a one-off for the Chancery Lane legend, who was also a successful manager at Sileby.

December kicked off with the club announcing the return to the helm of Ian Walker, who had left Chancery Lane to take

charge of Premier Division Desborough in November 2013. Walker resigned at the Waterworks Field at the end of September. Walker's first spell at the Thrapston helm started in May 2012.

Walker has completed his management team from within, promoting reserve manager Gavin Cullum to an assistant manager role, with Dom Berardi appointed coach.

Early signings by the new manager are former Kettering and AFC Rushden & Diamonds defender Mason Thomas from Woodford and Romanian, Marius Paraschiv, whose most recent club was Sportul Studensc.

Medals galore for Rushden swimmers

On 21st & 22nd November, 27 swimmers from Rushden Swimming Club spent the weekend in Wolverhampton at the Northgate PB Buster. It was a fantastic weekend with many PBs - 102 in total. The swimmers also had a superb medal tally, 25 gold, 33 silver and 18 bronze.

Tamzin Rowthorn (9yrs), Amber Bales (14/15yrs), Hannah Hawkins (16/over) and Nathan Jones (14/15 yrs) all were presented with Top Girl/Boy placings and with Molly Britchford, Mollie Chapman, Freya Cole, Gracie Ridout and Callum Proddy-Gibbs all finishing in the top 3.

The club topped off the weekend by claiming the award of 'Top Visiting Club'.

Congratulations to all RSC swimmers: Tamzin Rowthorn, Megan Rowthorn, Ashleigh Bales, Evette Kabi, Caitlin Hopkins, Gracie Ridout, Mollie Chapman, Amy-Kay Beasant, Ryan Proddy-Gibbs, Aiden Kabi, Philipe Oram, Olivia Snook, Olivia Beasant, Freya Cole, Amber Bales, Lydia Pouncey, Phoebe Snook, Molly Britchford, Hannah Hawkins, Philipa Kabi, Callum Proddy-Gibbs, Nathan Jones, Jack Chapman, Marcus Eaton, Callum McDermott, Jamie Hooks, Harris Hoyte.

A brilliant start to the season!

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