

Nene Valley news

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9-13th October 2017 Contact: 01536 512 066



Spotlight on Oundle

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Council bid to save historic charters

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In Brief

Meadows Practice holds fundraiser

On Thursday 28th September the members of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) at The Meadows Practice, Thrapston held an Afternoon Tea fundraising event at the surgery during the flu clinic. Delicious homemade cakes were provided and the PPG raised £110.60 for charity.

Pub up for sale

A statement from Ei Publican Partnerships: 'As part of our ongoing business, we do from time to time identify a pub that may no longer have a long-term future in our estate. After careful consideration, the decision has been made to sell the freehold of The Angel Inn, Oundle. Anyone interested in purchasing the property should contact our retained Agent Warren Drake of Drake & Co on 020 7495 7500.' The Angel is listed at £350,000.

Oundle Sleepout

For one night, pupils had a taste of the reality experienced by the thousands of people in this country who sleep rough night after night. It is hoped that as well as raising awareness of the plight of homeless people, the Sleepout will raise in excess of £10,000 for

this very worthy charity. Various talks on the work of St Basils were given throughout the evening by organisers and residents.

Pupil, Phoebe Hornor (15) commented: "I found the Sleepout a real eye-opener about the hardships that some young people face daily. It

was also a great opportunity to raise money and awareness about the amazing work that St Basils does, not only in Birmingham, but around the whole of the UK."

Head of Oundle School, Sarah Kerr-Dineen commented: "It was clear from watching the pupils setting up their shelters for the night that they were by the minute gaining a better understanding of the lives of others. The Sleepout had a profound educational impact as well as enabling the pupils to raise money for such an important cause."

Fundraising Organiser at St Basils, Steve Rainbow commented: "Oundle School has been involved with the St Basils Sleepout for many years and has helped develop it into the event it is today. This latest branch of Sleepout has been tailor-made to suit the requirements of the School in fulfilling its community

On Saturday 23rd September, 125 Oundle School pupils and nine members of staff headed to Birmingham to experience a night under cardboard in a car park at St Basils, one of the largest and most successful agencies in the United Kingdom working with young homeless people.

work programme and it is something that could be rolled out to other large schools who wish to raise awareness of homelessness to their pupils. Oundle hopes to raise over £10,000 from this venture and in doing so, continues the support it has given St Basils in their fight against youth homelessness."



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Oundle Neighbourhood Plan

The Oundle Neighbourhood Plan will shortly be presented to the residents of the town under what is called the Regulation 14 Public Consultation Stage. This is considered a preliminary draft plan and the purpose of presenting it is so that public opinion can shape and influence the eventual outcome.

The plan Designation Date was 17th June 2013. Since that time an enormous volume of work has been done by a number of volunteers to prepare the huge amount of background evidence which is needed before 'The Plan' can become an effective planning document.

During 2014 and 2015 a number of focus groups were surveyed to obtain their opinions. In late 2014 a questionnaire was hand delivered to every household in Oundle to enable the public to participate in providing the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group with detailed information across a wide spectrum of topics on how the people wanted their town

to evolve. A number of events then followed at the Courthouse to present the results of this questionnaire to the public and to receive their reactions to it.

A public meeting to present The Plan to the public in July 2015 had to be postponed and a long period of intensive review followed. The Plan is now nearing the stage where a first draft can be taken to the public in a series of events. Once again the public will get their chance to influence the future development of the town.

The Neighbourhood Plan is vital if residents are to have their say on how rapidly the town grows, where housing, green spaces, roads and cycleways are to be located and what leisure and sporting facilities are to be provided.

It is intended that the Nene Valley News will be given regular updates. Information will also appear on the Town Council websites (oundle.gov.uk and oundle.info) and social media to keep everyone informed.

Genealogy jottings

I have been wittering on about names a lot recently. Hardly surprising as it is the backbone of family trees! However, what if your ancestors came from foreign climes? It was fairly common for immigrants to anglicise their names for various reasons. The German 'Braun' might become 'Brown' for instance. As an aside, back in 1916 if you were an 'enemy alien' here, you were forbidden to change your name. This rule was extended to all foreigners in Britain in 1919 and continued up to 1971. The only way round it was to apply for a Royal Licence or obtain special permission from the Home Secretary. Mind you, women could achieve it through marriage!

Talking of marriage, have you ever looked for a marriage record but have been unable to find it? Yes, me too! As divorce was difficult to obtain, it is possible to find a couple living together, sharing a surname without the benefit of public record. Children could be produced as a result of the union and

then, years later, the couple wed. Why later? Probably because a spouse from a previous marriage had died. Also, bear in mind that a marriage might also take place whilst one of the parties was still married to someone else. The vicar would only go by what the couple told him – easier if it took place where the couple were not known. 'Bigamy – the poor man's divorce!'

My great grandmother was born six months before her parents wed and can be found under her mother's maiden name (Cowling), her father's name (Mascall) and on one census, under her father's father's name (Webb) – yes, he was illegitimate as well!

You certainly have to take those blinkers off when searching!

By Jan Pearson

Genealogy Specialists, Tracing Our Past, Discovering Our Genes (TOP DOG)
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Editor's notes

A particularly well-paid job at Northamptonshire County Council has suddenly become available. The Council's Chief Executive has resigned and will be leaving in less than 10 days. Dr Paul Blantern took the post in 2007 and has subsequently overseen a succession of Council Tax freezes while managing an anticipated £500m in cuts during the 10 years from 2010. Dr Blantern said that he would serve a short notice before leaving: "It would be better for the longer-term decisions the council needs that I leave sooner, and have agreed the date of 13th October, this will enable a quick transition. An announcement regarding the management of the organisation from the 16th will be made shortly." A fortnight ago Dr Blantern co-authored a joint report with the Council's Leader, Councillor Heather Smith, calling for the Government to iron out local authority funding inequalities across the country.

Residents of Bulwick and the surrounding area need to be aware that Northamptonshire's emergency plans will be tested this weekend. On Sunday the 8th October there will be an exercise to assess how well emergency response organisations and volunteers deal with a situation as it develops. The scenario will have Forces cadets taking part in a march through woodland near Bulwick

but the alarm will be raised when bad weather sets in and the cadets fail to report at their designated meeting point. Councillor André Gonzalez de Savage, Northamptonshire County Council Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Strategic Infrastructure and Economic Growth, said: "We hold emergency response exercises like this on a regular basis to make sure we are as prepared as we can be for a range of emergency scenarios. This training incident will unfold like a real emergency, testing agencies' abilities to cope with casualties, search and rescue, and communicating key information." The exact details of the exercise are being kept quiet in order to test the agencies' emergency response. It is expected that the emergency services will be supported by volunteers including the British Red Cross, St John's Ambulance, Northamptonshire Search and Rescue, Northampton Emergency Aid Team, Northamptonshire 4x4 Response Team and RAYNET.

As shown opposite, there has been a significant amount of further work on the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan. However, given the time lapse from the disbanding of the former NP Working Party and the changes of personnel since then, the Town Council won't be able to further consult residents for another month or 2.

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Local MP enjoys a visit to Barnwell Country Park

The MP for Corby, Tom Pursglove, spent the afternoon at Barnwell Country Park on Sunday 17th September helping to open the new North Lake Path.

After years of putting up with a mudbath of a path, entirely inaccessible to disabled visitors, the decision to improve matters was taken at a Friends of Barnwell Country Park AGM several years ago.

Mr and Mrs Mike Hoskin, who were present at the opening, had initially raised concerns that they couldn't use the North Lake Path and so, with help from the Big Lottery and First for Wellbeing, the Park's active voluntary group, the Friends of Barnwell Country Park, raised over £8,500.

Tom was introduced by the Chair of the Friends, Mary James, who thanked him for

finding the time to visit this wonderful Park near Oundle. Mary explained the many plans for the future of the Park saying: "We're delighted this has been a success and are hugely grateful to all those who helped to realise what was an ambitious project for us."

Tom responded: "I feel really privileged to be asked to help celebrate the opening

of North Lake Path and to meet such generous donors. It reflects so well on the local community working together for such a worthwhile cause."

Mike Hoskin said: "You can't believe what a joy it is to be able to get around the North Lake now – this is a great day for the Park."

The opening of the path dovetailed nicely with the Park's first Kingfisher Food Festival which the Park organised in association with Made in Northamptonshire. Together with Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, Philip Stearn and Nick Bould (Barnwell Parish), Tom

spent time talking to the Festival stallholders and enjoying their food. He said he is always excited by the quality and diversity of great products made in Northants by small businesses.



New in Higham Ferrers – Saffron Moat interpretation board

A new interpretation board has been installed by the Saffron Moat on Saffron Road Recreation Ground, Higham Ferrers. Despite its name, Saffron Moat is actually a medieval fishpond built in the 15th century to supply Chichele College with fish, and is a registered Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Chichele College was founded in 1422 by Henry Chichele. He was born in Higham Ferrers in 1363 and was made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1414.

The interpretation board was part funded by the last tranche of the former County Councillor Derek Lawson MBE Councillor Empowerment monies and the Town Council.



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Spotlight on Dundfe

Grand Opera comes to Oundle

Verdi's opera 'A Masked Ball' comes to the Queen Victoria Hall in Oundle at 7.30pm on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October.

Peterborough Opera's production, sung in English, involves a number of local people from the Oundle and Thrapston area, including recent joiners Alex Steel, Odette Eldred, June and Vincent Davy.

Musical Director, Kate Wishart is delighted that children from Oundle Primary School will be taking part in the children's chorus, and some students from Oundle School will be part of the orchestra.

Tickets are £14 (adults) and £10 (under 19s), and available from Oundle Box Office, online at www.oundlefestival.org.uk or 01832 274734.

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The established Oundle office, which employs 18 people from trainees to dedicated long-serving members, recently congratulated Allison Davies on reaching 25 years' service with the firm. Allison is the fifth member of staff from the office in Oundle, one of eight Bulley Davey offices across the eastern region, to achieve the 25 years' service award. In addition, Senior Secretary, Hannah Bartram, reached 15 years' service in June and Lisa Boyes from the Tax & Accounts Team recently celebrated 10 years.

David Webb, Director at the Oundle office, spoke about Allison's service: "We want to thank and congratulate Allison on her 25 years at Bulley Davey. She has been a consistently dedicated

and supportive member of staff throughout and her experience continues to serve not only our clients but those members of staff around her.

"Seeing the other milestones being reached in the Oundle office, and across the company, I think shows the experience and expertise that Bulley Davey has on hand to serve and support our clients."

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Notice of planning applications received

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

Apethorpe

17/01977/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA)
Re-roofing concrete tiled roof with new bradstone tiles. Replacing a small section of Collyweston slate with new bradstone tiles at The Courtyard 2 Manor Farm Apethorpe PE8

Brigstock

17/01905/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA)
Replacement timber framed window to ground floor elevation. Increased width from 1200mm to 1480mm at 6 Stable Hill Brigstock NN14 3HN
17/01906/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/Regs)
Replacement timber framed window to ground floor elevation of Grade II Listed Building. Increased width from 1200mm to 1480mm at 6 Stable Hill Brigstock

Bulwick

17/01991/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/Regs) Works to strip existing water reed thatch from main roof (more than 60 years old) and fully re-thatch in water reed: Essential repairs. Additional section of rear extension to have corrugated sheet roof stripped and thatched to match at Top Farm House Main Street Bulwick
17/02025/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/Regs) (LB/CA) Replacement of existing rainwater gutter and downpipe to the front elevation with matching materials - layout adjusted to enable dormer windows to be opened at Mill House Main Street Bulwick NN17 3DY

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott

17/01910/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Two-storey side extension and alterations at 28 Duchy Close Chelveston NN9 6AW

Collyweston

17/01934/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Single storey side extension at 19 Main Road Collyweston PE9 3PF

Easton-on-the-Hill

17/01929/FUL and 17/01930/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/CA) (LB/Regs) Double garage with associated storage areas and new vehicular

access from High Street at 2 Stamford Road Easton On The Hill PE9 3NS
17/01942/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA)
Alterations, renovation and extensions to the main house (listed asset). Renovation, extension and conversion of 2 existing barns. Subdivision of existing plot into 3 smaller plots by means of park rail fencing and hedges. Forming of new site access to serve converted barns and paddocks beyond at 37 West Street Easton On The Hill PE9 3LS
17/02021/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/Regs) (LB/CA) Replace and relocate central heating boiler system. Remove existing conventional heating boiler and replace with new efficient Combi style boiler and associated works. Boiler to be relocated to different room due to size constraints at 58 High Street Easton On The Hill

Hargrave

17/01925/VAR (21/10/2017) (Info) Removal of condition 3 and 4 pursuant to application 04/0338/FUL - Change of use from agricultural buildings to food processing, office, storage and education at Bottom Farm Buildings and Land Brook Street Hargrave NN9 6BP
17/02000/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) New fence railings to boundary wall at Loakes Farmhouse Brook Street Hargrave NN9 6BP
17/02001/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/Regs) New fence railings to boundary wall at Loakes Farmhouse Brook Street Hargrave NN9 6BP

Higham Ferrers

17/01853/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Demolition of existing detached outbuilding and erection of 1 detached dwelling with garage at 3 Stanwick Road Higham Ferrers NN10 8JG
17/01854/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Replacement and re-positioning of existing fencing to front of property built to same specification as existing, replacement fence to extend out over existing border retaining a small grass area to allow for visibility splay at 38 Ullswater Close Higham Ferrers NN10
17/01938/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Two-storey side extension at 100 Northampton Road Higham Ferrers NN10 8AN
17/01941/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA) Change of use to B1 and A3. Central distribution centre for Bewitched Coffee, food storage, basic food

prep, coffee roasting will take up 66% of the floor space. Small coffee shop to front taking up 34% of the floor space at 20 High Street Higham Ferrers NN10 8BL
17/01988/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Ramp and level threshold to include handrail to both sides of ramp and platform at 66 Elizabeth Way Higham Ferrers NN10 8JR

Kings Cliffe

17/01921/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Single storey rear extension and minor internal alterations at 54 West Street Kings Cliffe PE8 6XA
17/01922/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/Regs) Single storey rear extension and minor internal alterations at 54 West Street Kings Cliffe PE8 6XA
17/02012/FUL (28/10/2017) (Art8) Construction of 65m x 35m manege at land south of Hall Farm Hall Yard Kings Cliffe

Laxton

17/01996/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA) Oak framed pool house and new garage (retrospective) at Stafford Knott House Main Street Laxton NN17 3AT
17/01997/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/Regs) Oak framed pool house and new garage (retrospective) to outbuildings at Grade II Listed dwellinghouse at Stafford Knott House Main Street Laxton NN17 3AT

Oundle

17/01903/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA) Retrospective application for lowering an existing stone garden wall with modified stone copings and the replacement of the garden gate and posts at The Gascoigne Building 3 North Street Oundle PE8 4AL
17/01904/LBC (28/10/2017) (LB/Regs) Lowering an existing stone garden wall with modified stone copings and the replacement of the garden gate and posts at The Gascoigne Building 3 North Street Oundle
17/01962/VAR (21/10/2017) (Info) Variation of condition 2 - external appearance pursuant to planning permission 16/01837/FUL dated Erection of two storey front and side extension, single storey rear extension and partial garage conversion at 1 Seymour Place Oundle PE8 4QB

Raunds

17/01757/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Installation of perimeter fencing and vehicle access gates (part replacement of existing fence and gates) at Avenue House Enterprise Road Raunds NN9 6JE
17/01951/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Two storey rear extension, additional two windows and door in front elevation at 35 Rotton Row Raunds NN9 6HU

Rushden

17/01856/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Single and two storey front extension at 18 Larkhill Rushden NN10 6BG
17/01949/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Single storey rear extension with external access ramp at 54 The Hedges Rushden NN10 6DN
17/01976/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) To convert one half of an existing double garage into a family room at 15 Ballantyne Road Rushden NN10 9FJ

Stanwick

17/01712/REM (21/10/2017) (Info) Reserved Matters - Appearance, Landscaping, Scale and Layout pursuant to planning permission 15/02190/OUT dated 1.2.16 Outline application: Single detached dwelling (all matters reserved except Access) at land adjacent 51 West Street Stanwick NN9 6QY

Thrapston

17/01898/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA) Installation of new roof to existing building, and erection of single storey side extension including new access and car parking (resubmission of 16/01635/FUL) at land rear of 22 and 23 Cottingham Way Thrapston NN14 4PL
17/01907/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA) (Art8) Change of roof material from lead to Terne Coated Stainless Steel on Vestry roof at St James Parish Church Church Walk Thrapston NN14 4NP
17/01913/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Single storey rear and side extension at 82 Oundle Road Thrapston

Titchmarsh

17/01849/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of two storey rear extension, replacement of front entrance

door with additional glazed side panels and replacement of existing UPVC cladding to dormer, eaves and soffits and installation of roof window to rear elevation at 8 North Street Titchmarsh NN14 3DH

Warmington

17/01758/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) Single-storey rear extension, addition of a chimney to rear elevation and replacement and reduction in size of front window at 14 School Lane Warmington
17/01999/FUL (21/10/2017) (Info) New dwelling to rear of property at 21 Big Green Warmington PE8

Yarwell

17/01891/FUL (28/10/2017) (LB/CA) Dismantle, rebuild and widen existing bridge over mill stream at Yarwell Mill Mill Road Yarwell PE8 6PS

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.
LB/Regs - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990.

Paul Bland, Head Of Planning Services
Dated 7 October 2017

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

From the ENC Chairman

Within the past weeks I have attended the opening of the new housing development in Allen Road, Rushden, whereupon a variation of both bungalows, houses and flats have enhanced the area and provided good living accommodation for many people...

I was also delighted to open the Nene Valley Festival of 2017, where over nine days people had the opportunity to celebrate the unique heritage, wildlife and culture within the 'hidden gem' of the Nene Valley. I'm pleased to say it will return next year, 15th-23rd September 2018!

Can I thank those that participated in my golf charity day, both those that played and those that sponsored the holes. We had a great day and

raised £1,031 for my two nominated charities – Dogs Trust and the Swivel Club.

In my last column the place where the picture was taken was Woodnewton which lies to the north of a small stream, the Willow Brook, in Rockingham Forest. At the time of the 2011 Census the parish's population was 450 people.

Woodnewton is home to 'Clownfest', a fundraising operation inspired by Coco the clown. There is a

woodcarved statue of Coco in the Woodnewton village park. The clown is buried in the graveyard of St Mary's parish church, which is situated to the eastern end of the village. Clownfest raised enough money to pay for the building of the current village hall, which is a central hub for the village.

So where was this picture taken? Let me know on Twitter @ENCChairman

Chairman,
Cllr Colin Wright



Summerhouse provides natural workspace for florist owner

A Northamptonshire company which specialises in leisure summerhouses has recently sparked interest of a different nature.

Scotts of Thrapston recently released a range of larger summerhouses, the 3.6m Burghley summerhouse, 3m Newhaven summerhouse, and 3.9m Sun Ray Garden Room.

The firm provided a 3.6m

Burghley to one customer only to discover that its use was for business, not pleasure. Vicki McDavid from Leicestershire has been running her floristry business from a Scotts of Thrapston summerhouse.

The summerhouse

belongs to Vicki's mother and was originally bought for her enjoyment last summer, but Vicki identified an opportunity to use the summerhouse for her business, Paisley Flowers Co which she started up two years ago.

Vicki uses the

summerhouse for storing, conditioning and arranging her bouquets on a workbench which she has had fitted.

Scotts of Thrapston is one of the country's leading suppliers of summerhouses and specialist timber products, including equestrian buildings, roof structures, pavilions, garages, education buildings and bespoke joinery.



For more information, visit www.scottsofthrapston.co.uk. To find out more about Paisley Flower Co or to contact Vicki, visit www.paisleyflower.co.uk

BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician of the Year nominee to play in Thrapston

Three-time nominee for BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician of the Year, harmonica player Will Pound and talented accordion player Eddy Jay will make a highly anticipated visit to the Church of St James, Thrapston on Saturday 11th November at 7.30pm as part of the Oundle International Festival's Music in Special Places series.

Will is one of the world's top harmonica players, he has taken the instrument to new places and plays it in a way that is completely his own. Playing both diatonic

and chromatic harmonicas, he creates sounds not usually heard on this little instrument in styles varying from bluegrass, folk, jazz and Arabic to blues, rock, pop and funk. His partner in music Eddy is a maestro of the accordion. His playing of this extraordinary instrument is unique and exhilarating. Together they fill a venue with music full of emotion and atmosphere – listen and watch 'Floating Candle' on www.poundandjay.co.uk for a sound of things to come.

Described by BBC Radio 6 Music DJ Tom Robinson

as 'one of the most breathtaking live acts I've ever witnessed' advance booking is recommended to secure your seats at what is sure to be a wonderfully enjoyable performance.

Further information and tickets (£14/£12/£4) are available from Oundle Festival Box Office, 4 New Street, Oundle PE8 4EA, 01832 274734 or www.oundlefestival.org.uk. Find us on [facebook.com/oundleinternationalfestival](https://www.facebook.com/oundleinternationalfestival) or on twitter @oundlemusic

Creativity : Self-confidence : Friendship : Respect

Come along to our Open Days!

17th, 18th, 19th October

9:30am-12pm and 1:30pm-3pm

We are a forward thinking rural school within an idyllic village setting. Our caring church ethos is central to our curriculum delivery and is carefully tailored to meet the needs of every individual. Come anytime, see the school, meet our friendly staff and pupils and find out what we can offer your child.

- Small class sizes
- High academic standards
- Specialist music provision
- Forest School
- Range of extra-curricular sport and art based activities
- Spacious sports field
- Fully equipped library

Places Available Now

Polebrook CE Primary School, Main Street, Polebrook, Peterborough, PE5 8LN
01832 272319 www.polebrook.northants.sch.uk

Regent Wrought Iron Ltd The Regent Street Wrought Iron Works
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High Quality Gates and Fencing Hand Made on the Premises since 1963

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www.regentiron.co.uk

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- Highest Quality Equipment
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We can automate your existing gates (if suitable) or upgrade old equipment to meet BS 12453 safety regulations

Beat The Burglar

Free security locking bolts
Fitted to all our side entry gates
Or full range of mortise locks fitted

Has your garden wall / fence had it? Replace it with wrought iron!
LASTS A LIFETIME USUALLY FITTED IN A DAY.

"Aspire, achieve, acclaim"

Prospective students and parents are invited to attend an

OPEN EVENING at The Ferrers School

QUEENSWAY, HIGHAM FERRERS, NN10 8LF

Monday, 16th October, 6.00pm-8.15pm

Presentations by the Head Teacher at 6.00pm, 6.45pm and 7.15pm

An Academy Trust, The Ferrers School is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, number 08621334.

We look forward to welcoming all prospective students and their parents to Our Open Evening on Monday 16th October. This is a fantastic opportunity to view our much improved facilities following a recent £2million investment programme which incorporated an all-weather FIFA standard sports pitch and improved eating areas for students. We encourage you to visit all of the Learning Centres and participate in the activities that are taking place. These will not only provide you with a flavour of how we learn at The Ferrers School but also an insight into the wide-ranging enrichment activities that we offer our students. Our student leaders will be on hand to escort you to any areas that you would like to see.

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Council bid to save historic charters

Higham Ferrers Town Council, supported by Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business and Community Partnership has submitted a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding in an effort to conserve the ancient and precious Royal Charters belonging to the town.

The charters are important documents relating to the social and political development of the town, charting a series of historical events marking new phases in the progress of self-government.

Higham Ferrers owns five Royal charters dating from the reigns of Philip and Mary (1556); James I (1604); Charles II (1664 and 1684); and Queen Victoria (1886) and one ancient byelaws document. Unfortunately, due to inadequate storage facilities and past unsuitable restoration, the parchment of the documents is deteriorating and in urgent need of restoration.

In recent years few people have seen the charters as they are too delicate for permanent display in the Town Hall, due to damaging light issues. The bid, if successful, will address the present problems by professional restoration of the charters and seals. Once complete, the charters will be stored and accessible to the public at Northampton Record Office until such time as a suitable venue in Higham Ferrers is available. The bid

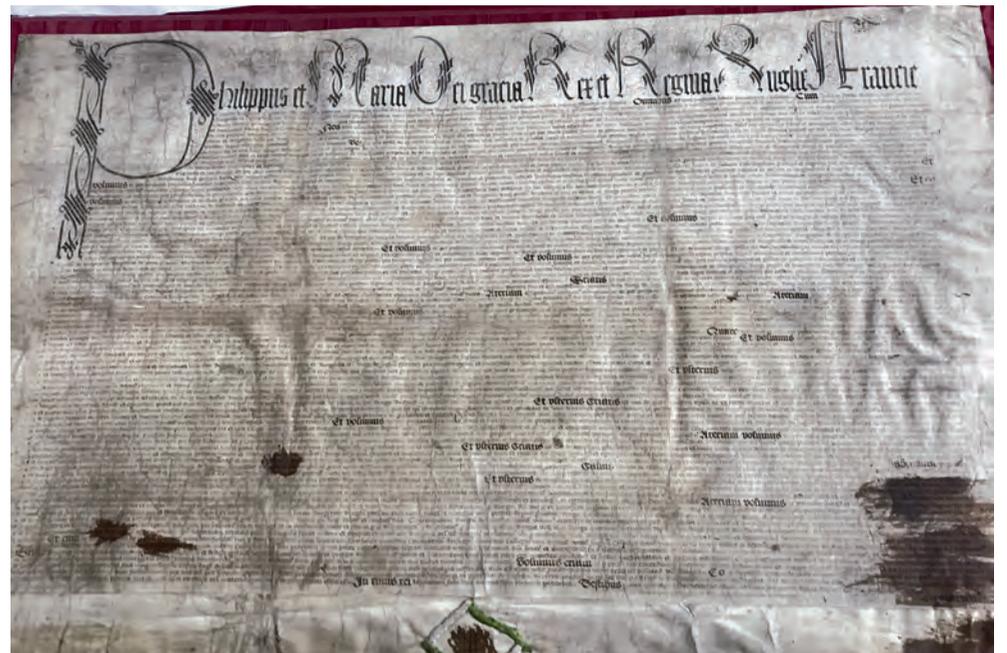
also includes funding for full-size replicas of the charters with interpretations which can be moved to various venues, including schools and other display areas within the vicinity as well as digitally, making them accessible to all.

The Council is keen to share the importance of the documents to the town's heritage with the community and with the support of Higham Tourism a series of events is planned to match fund the bid by providing a series of events and entertainments. Schools are joining in by linking the charters to aspects of the curriculum with a programme designed by local educationalists.

Once the bid is granted and conservation complete there will be a Grand Launch with a celebration event day in 2018.

Higham Ferrers Town Councillor Anna

For further information about the charters go to: www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk
For further information on Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business and Community events: www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk/ or [facebook.com/highamferrerstourism](https://www.facebook.com/highamferrerstourism)



Saunston said: "Higham Tourism have worked with the Town Council for many months on this exciting project. We hope that the Heritage Lottery will grant funds to preserve these historical documents which belong to our town and future generations. I should like to pay tribute to the charter working party for their hard work in reaching this final stage."

Business fined for illegal advertising

A local estate agent and its director have been ordered to pay more than £2,500 in fines and costs for illegally advertising its business in Raunds.

Simpson and Partners Ltd were found guilty of illegal advertising on lampposts along Andrews Way in Raunds when they appeared at Northampton Magistrates on Tuesday 19th September.

Despite previous warnings about displaying unauthorised signs, Andrew Simpson, director of Simpsons and Partners Ltd, pleaded guilty to flyposting on behalf of the firm. They were fined £1,500 and were ordered to pay costs of £1,080 and a victim surcharge of £120 meaning that the prosecution was achieved at no cost to the taxpayer of East Northamptonshire.

Paul Bland, Head of Planning Services, said: "An investigation, following a complaint from a member of the public, confirmed that this company had broken the law by illegally advertising its business. Enforcement officers had spoken with representatives of the business on a previous occasion to explain the laws and consequences of flyposting but these warnings had been ignored and so we pursued a prosecution."

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North, adds: "The guilty verdict and the decisive fine of £2,500 should send a very clear message to anyone considering displaying an advertisement in East Northants without consent – we will not hesitate to act against fly posters, whose activities cause such a blight to the district."

Unlawful advertising is an offence under S.224 Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

What's On
AUTUMN
2017

CASTLE
THEATRE
Wellingborough

Franks
COMEDY CLUB

Fri 13 Oct, 8pm
£12.50 (£10.50)

WIZARD PRESENTS
Why the Whales Came

Wed 18 Oct 6pm
£11 (£9 Under 16s)
Family £36 for 4

The Tiger Who Came to Tea

Sat 21 Oct, 1pm & 3.30pm
Tickets: £12.50;
Family £42 for 4

Buddy Holly & The Crickets
25 years of Rock 'n' Rolling the world!

Thu 26 Oct, 7.30pm
Tickets £18 (£16.50)

Box Office 01933 270 007

castletheatre.co.uk

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Castle Theatre, Wellingborough

@castle WEL

Rushden Podiatry

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We offer treatment and advice for a wide range of foot and lower limb conditions including:

- Corns and calluses
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- Verrucae
- Heel pain
- Arch & ball of foot pain
- Bunions & other toe deformities
- Fungal infections
- Nail surgery for ingrown nails

We also offer biomechanical examinations for both adults and children and can prescribe insoles and orthotics, where appropriate.

Knights Farm, Newton Road,
Rushden NN10 0SX
Tel: 01933 353732
Mob: 07786 265192
rushdenpodiatry.co.uk

Saturday 7th October

Afternoon Tea
St Peters Catholic Church Hall
Higham Road, Rushden NN10 4AG
2.30pm-4pm
01933 413290
Donations for Mary's Meals.

Monday 9th October

Arts & Crafts: Autumn on a scalloped wooden wreath
Ringstead Village Social Club
10am-4pm, £28 booking essential
01933 460676
A lovely design of autumnal flowers, berries and leaves to hang on your door. Complete beginners to painting welcome.

Thursday 12th October

Arts & Crafts: Painting of a forest clearing
Ringstead Village Social Club
10am-2pm, £19 booking essential
01933 460676
Beginners to painting will achieve a lovely scene of a forest clearing using easy acrylics.

Tiddlers Group for 0-3 year olds

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

Raunds WI

The Saxon Hall, Raunds.
7.30pm, £4
Mary Harber 01933 624271
AGM followed by Fish & Chip Supper.

Lunchtime Concert – Strings

St Peter's Church, Oundle
1pm, free admission
Concerts in this beautiful church setting in Oundle. Lunch is provided for £3.50.

Thursday 12th & Friday 13th October

The Importance of Being Earnest
The Stahl
7.45pm, £6
Perhaps Oscar Wilde's best-loved farcical comedy performed by Oundle School's boys of Laundimer in the House's Centennial year.

Friday 13th October

AFC Rushden & Diamonds Quiz Night
Social Club, Rushden & Higham Football Club, Hayden Road, Rushden NN10 0HX
£2 each
To book a table please contact Glenis on 07870 332606
Raffle, retiring bucket collection for Cransley Hospice.

Massed Young Musicians' Day

Venues across Oundle School
10am arrival, registration and rehearsals. 1pm Lunch. 1.30pm Rehearsals and Concert.
Tickets: To register email music@oundleschool.org.uk.
Please bring packed lunch.
Oundle's Heads of Instruments and experienced tutors will lead workshops and performances for all grades, ages and abilities, working towards a final presentation.

Folk It Delicate Lace

Ringstead Village Social Club
10am-12.30pm, £18 booking essential on 01933 460676
The class costs include the kit with DVD for complete beginners to achieve an easy result using simple techniques.

Fusion for 7-11 year olds

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

Saturday 14th October

Barbara Cousins: 'Making Sense of Healthy Eating Advice'
Oundle Library, Glapthorn Road
3pm, tickets £2 available from Oundle Library or White Vanilla, Market Place, Oundle.
The Friends of Oundle Library present local author Barbara Cousins talking about healthy eating advice.

Fish & Chip Supper

Rushden Transport Museum and Railway
Pre-booking essential (www.rhts.co.uk/events to book)
Experience riding behind our diesel locomotive whilst enjoying a classic locally prepared fish and supper.

Sunday 15th October

Morning Service
Thrapston Baptist Church
10.30am
Preacher: Graham Timson

Whitefriars Church – Morning Worship

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

Rushden & Higham Ferrers Churches Together in Prayer and Praise

Highfield Community Baptist Church, Highfield Road, Rushden
7.30pm
Andrew Presland 01933 316927
An informal time of prayer and praise.

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park Higham Ferrers for car sharing
9.35am, free
01933 387991
9 mile walk from Titchmarsh.

A Taste of Spring Harvest

Thrapston Baptist Church
7pm
Second of a series of DVD talks by Simon Ponsonby of St Aldates, Oxford, recorded at Spring Harvest.

Wednesday 18th October

dOCs+: Estate, A Reverie
Fletton House, Fletton Way, Glapthorn Road, Oundle PE8 4JA
7.45pm, admission: £8/ or £18 for all 3 dOCs+ films
Oundle Festival, 4 West Street, Oundle, PE8 4EA. Tel. 01832 274734 www.oundlefestival.org.uk, information@oundlefestival.org.uk
"One of the most spectacular aspects of the film are the court hearings as they are simultaneously almost unbelievable and yet lifted, verbatim, from the records."

Thursday 19th October

Oundle Cinema: The Young Offenders (15)
Stahl Theatre, West Street, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4EJ
7.45pm, £6/£3 under 18s
Oundle Festival, 4 West Street, Oundle, PE8 4EA. Tel. 01832 274734 www.oundlefestival.org.uk, information@oundlefestival.org.uk
"It is the most perceptive comic portrait of the adolescent male since The Inbetweeners, but with a naturalism that is unexpectedly disarming."

Tiddlers Group for 0-3 year olds

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

Friday 20th October

Rushden & District History Society
South End Junior School, Wymington Road, Rushden NN10 9JU
7.30pm, members £1.50, non-members £2.50
01933 358218 for more information
Steve Dimmer: 'Horrible Halloween Histories'.

Fusion for 7-11 year olds

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

Saturday 21st October

Autumn Fayre
Barnwell Village Hall
10.30am-1pm, entry 50p which includes refreshments. Children enter free. Pat Rutterford 01832 272496 for details.
Refreshments, books, bric-a-brac, games, plants, raffle, cakes, model railway, Barnwell Bake Off.

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd October

LMS Branch Line at War
Rushden Station, Station Approach, Rushden, Northants NN10 0AW
10am-4pm, adults £2 seniors £1.50 children Over 5 £1
Drift back in time with vehicles, music and fashion. Take a ride behind our steam hauled train. www.rhts.co.uk

Sunday 22nd October

Morning Service
Thrapston Baptist Church
10.30am
Preacher: Mat Hussain
Theme – Making Jesus known: This is my story.

Whitefriars Church – Morning Worship with Holy Communion

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

Rushden 6 Week Community Singers – First Meeting

Heritage Centre, Rushden NN10 0YW
Afternoon, first session free.
Linda 01933 387892. spidar.girl@btinternet.com for time details.
New voices for non-profit making group. Rehearse 6 x 2hr sessions then put on a show.

By Appointment

Counselling & Listening Service
No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle, Northants PE8 4BG
These services are free
Marilyn 07936 015965

Housing, benefits and employment advice

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

Half-Term

All-age Touch Typing Club
Mon-Fri, 9.30am-10.30am, learn or refresh your skills, £15 course intro with coffee.
Diane Gifford 07432 123438

Every Monday

Baggy pants Yoga Class
Masonic Hall, Wellingborough Road, Rushden
8.30am-9.30am, £5 per class
07873 743256/
carole.wyatt@virginmedia.com

Islip Ladies Choir

Thrapston Church Hall

2pm-3.30pm
Barbara 01536 394431

Yoga Classes

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

Titchmarsh Folk Dance Club

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

Oundle Ladies Running Group

Oundle pool car park
6.45pm
Jane Walker 01832 272898/
janewalkercakes@icloud.com

Baggy pants Yoga

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

Spanish Tuition

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

Every Monday (term time)

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

Aqua Aerobic Classes

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

Every Monday, Friday & Saturday (term time)

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

1st Monday of the month

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

Oundle & District Royal British Legion Meeting

The Talbot Hotel, Oundle
7pm
Les Starks 01832 270073

Finedon Irthingborough & District Branch Royal British Legion Branch Meeting

Finedon Bowls Club
7.30pm
Peter Eames 07434 328237

Every 2nd Monday (except January & August)

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

2nd Monday of the month

Royal British Legion Rushden Branch Monthly Meeting
Rushden Football & Social Club, Hayden Road, Rushden
7.15pm, annual fee £17
Jake Baker 07525 441267

2nd & 4th Monday of the month

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

3rd Monday in month (except December)

Oundle Munch Club at Oundle Primary School
Come for a roast lunch and hot pudding
£4, book your place on 01832 275353, 16th October (book/cancel by 11th October) 20th November (by 15th November) 4th December (by 29th November).

Monday once a month

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

Every Monday & Thursday

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

Every Tuesday

Pensioners Club – Men Only
Rushden Hall
2pm-4pm
Secretary – David Robinson
01933 313729 or 07391 562772
New members needed.
Speakers, bingo and whist, annual Christmas dinner.
Also coach outings.

Slimming World Group

Oundle CE Primary School, Cotterstock Road PE8 5HA
5.30pm and 7.30pm, £4.95 plus membership fee. Come along and start your Slimming World journey and be greeted with the warmest welcome and a room full of friends.

Short Mat Bowls

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

Phoenix Gaming Club (Age 12+)

The Rushden Scouts Hall, Brooke Close behind Orbit Tyres (Skinners Lane, Rushden NN10 OXH)
7pm-11pm, membership £5 pa
Aron 07739 563657/
aron.phoenix@virginmedia.com

Art Classes (10 weeks)

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

East Northants Classic Motorcycle Club

New Inn Public House, Wymington
Meet around 7.30pm

Sling Walk

11am, first Tuesday of the month there is Sling Library at 10am prior to the walk. Second Tuesday meet at Rushden CC Hayway instead of Higham Ferrers. 01933 410112

Rushden Mission Training Band

Mission Church, Wellingborough Road, Rushden

7.30pm-8.45pm
Alan Richardson 01933 355302

Short Mat Bowls

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

Yoga Class

Whitefriars Infant School, Boughton Drive, Rushden
7.15pm-8.15pm, £5 per session
Carole 07873 743256/
carole.wyatt@virginmedia.com

Ringstead's Jolly Good Company

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

Every Tuesday (term time)

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

1st Tuesday of every month

Great Companions (singles 55+)
Rushden Bowls Club, Northampton Road
7-9pm, yearly membership £6
Pat Bazeley 07931 964360

2nd Tuesday of the month

Woodford WI Meeting
Woodford Sports and Social Club
7.30pm
Lynn Sortwell 01832 732740

Tea Dance

Pemberton Centre, Rushden
Dancing to 'Music Box'
2pm-4pm, £3 per person including tea/coffee & cake

Higham Ferrers Guided Tour

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

Wildlife Trust Little Bugs Club

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

50+ Adventure Club

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

Every Tuesday & Thursday

Health Walks Stanwick Lakes
10am-11am, free, car park charges
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Tree planting marks the completion of 46 new affordable homes in Rushden

Local VIPs, including Peter Bone MP, recently planted a tree to mark the completion of a new 46-home development in Rushden that has transformed a brownfield site and regenerated the area.

Allen Road, which previously hosted a historic shoe factory, is the result of a successful partnership between Spire Homes – part of Longhurst Group – and East-Midlands developer Westleigh Partnerships.

Peter Bone, MP for Wellingborough, was joined by the Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council, Cllr Colin Wright, on Friday 15th September at a celebration event that also comprised a tour of the scheme.

Longhurst Group Chief Executive Julie Doyle, said: "Everything we do at Longhurst Group is about improving the lives of our customers and Allen Road, with its range of fantastic affordable homes, is another shining example of how we as a Group continue to do that.

"This type of development will really make a difference to the area and the people living here and it would not have been possible without the Homes and Communities Agency and the support of East Northamptonshire Council, helping to

bring about much-needed investment to this part of the town.

"We're very proud of Allen Road and were delighted to showcase what it has to offer at this celebration event."

Comprising two sites that span Allen Road, the scheme received £1.15m from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and has redeveloped the former Grenson's shoe factory site into 32 homes for affordable rent and 14 shared ownership properties.

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North added: "Through working in partnership, an attractive new development has been delivered which provides a great place to live and is an asset for the local neighbourhood."

While the majority of the former factory site has been cleared, some of the factory buildings are listed and have been retained and incorporated within the impressive development.

This includes the two-storey façade facing onto Cromwell Road, which now forms the

frontage of eight new homes.

There is also the single storey façade of the original buildings on the smaller site that faces onto Allen Road, which provides the frontage for four bungalows.

Development and New Business Manager, John Henderson, added: "This development has completely transformed a former brownfield site, bringing it back into use for the benefit of the immediate area and surrounding community.

"Through sensitive and high-quality design, we have retained an important connection to the history and heritage of the site of which we are very proud.

"This scheme provides much-needed affordable housing in this part of Northamptonshire, offering a wide variety of homes, from flats for single people through to family homes and bungalows.

"It is another illustration of our strong relationship with Westleigh Partnerships, with whom we've worked closely on a number of developments throughout the East Midlands. Their knowledge, expertise and professionalism has been key to delivering this impressive project."

Westleigh's Partnerships & Investment Manager, Dan Gooch, added: "We are proud to have worked with our partners at Longhurst Group on this unique regeneration project and it is fantastic to see our shared vision for this development having been realised.

"The Grenson factory was a hub for the local community in years gone by, before it was vacated and sadly fell into disuse, so we are delighted that the site of the factory is now home to a vibrant and growing community once more."

The Homes and Communities Agency was unable to attend the event but a spokesperson said: "We are very proud to have played a vital role in supporting this development – not only is it providing much-needed affordable housing for Rushden, but is also preserving an iconic part of the town's history."

A video featuring further reaction, including interviews with Peter Bone MP and Cllr Colin Wright, can be viewed at youtube.com/watch?v=ioqprq68BRc. For more information on Longhurst Group visit longhurst-group.org.uk.



Classifieds

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Nene Valley Community Action (NVCA) has been running a successful befriending project for a couple of years now. This project, HOME @LONE, provides volunteers to visit elderly and frail adults, who may be isolated from the community, in their own homes giving them something to look forward

to, a purpose to get up and dressed and most importantly someone to talk to and interact with.

Our Befrienders tell us that they find it a very rewarding and worthwhile opportunity too and make some lovely friendships out of their visits. It gives them a real opportunity to learn all about somebody else's life journey giving them an insight into years gone by. Training and support is provided by NVCA and travel expenses are reimbursed.

We are looking for more people to join us in this interesting volunteering so if you think that this might be 'up your street' please give call 01933 396382 to arrange an appointment to discuss further.

NVCA also runs Volunteer Brokerage for Wellingborough and the surrounding areas and has a large number of wide ranging opportunities for volunteering, so if Befriending is not what you want but you still feel that you want to volunteer do get in touch with us.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Anthony Binns trading as A B Automotive Ltd of 31 Lindisfarne Way, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, NN14 4US is applying for a new licence to use Newbrook Farm, Titchmarsh, Northamptonshire, NN14 3DG as an operating centre for 8 goods vehicles and 8 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners office.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (LATHAM STREET, BRIGSTOCK)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

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

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Latham Street, Brigstock from High Street to outside number 12.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 30th October 2017 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted until 10th November 2017.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Mill Lane, Hall Hill and High Street.

Dated this 7th day of October 2017
QUENTIN BAKER, Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T17/402

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

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Nene Valley news

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Mayor joined by Team GB handball sports star at official opening

The Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Cllr Peter Tomas, officially opened the innovative new facilities at the Multi Use Games Area at the Saffron Road Recreation Ground in Higham Ferrers on Tuesday 26th September.

Children from Higham Ferrers Junior School joined with the Mayor, The Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council, Cllr Colin Wright, and Play Innovation, the company who designed and supplied the facilities to the Town Council.

The Multi Use Games Area now has custom goal ends and basketball hoops and the innovative

'Street Snooker'.

Children from school year groups 4, 5 and 6 learnt about the Street Snooker game and had a go themselves. They were led in their sessions by Mark Hawkins who represented Team GB at the Olympics in handball.

Street Snooker might be inspired by the famous traditional cue sport of snooker but there are no cues or

snooker balls in this outdoor target game. The game is supported by a free mobile app download from Apple iOS and Google Play which teaches the basic rules of the game and has an online leaderboard so players in Higham Ferrers can compare their scores to other players across the world. To learn more go to <http://www.playinnovation.co.uk/>

The new facilities have been part funded by the Town Council with support and the balance of the funding received from East Northamptonshire Council Community Facilities Fund.

Colin Wright, Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council said to the children at the opening: "It has been great to see you playing the street snooker today with such enthusiasm. I can see that you have all enjoyed yourselves thoroughly. You have a wonderful facility here and I am glad that East Northamptonshire Council has been able to play a part in providing it."

For further information regarding the new facilities go to <http://www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk/>



Wildlife News

However you like to judge it (temperature, length of daylight, number of flowers in the garden, etc.) summer is over for this year. Birds which came for the season are now on their way to warmer and sunnier climes, to be replaced by those others which find our winter a warm time, and plants are shutting down after the mid-year growth. It was an odd coincidence that as September came in it brought, in our garden at least, a sudden increase in the number of spiders' webs, each with its builder and owner sitting in the middle waiting hopefully for their next meal.

Those webs are, of course, what these creatures use to catch their food; there are several other methods which some species use. The webs in our gardens are made by one of a group known as 'orb-web' spiders; their plump little bodies sit still, waiting for their prey to discover that the 'glue' coating on the web is too strong, then they can feast at their leisure. Those webs are a striking sight if we see them covered in

dewdrops or even, on colder days, a coating of hoar frost on a late autumn morning. The threads look incredibly thin but have been shown to be as strong as steel at a similar thickness. The basic design looks rather like the pattern of the metal frame on a dartboard, If the 'catch' turns out to be too big to handle by injecting their venom to quieten it, they will cut through their own handiwork to let the prisoner go free.

Why are so many people frightened of spiders? There are millions of them, of different sizes, all around us, doing a grand job of keeping down the hordes of small flying insect pests. Some of the large ones do look rather menacing if they run across the room in the evening, but although they carry poison for paralysing their prey the fangs of those in our countryside are too weak to pierce human skin. Nevertheless that fear of spiders has been part of our folklore for centuries – remember the old nursery rhyme about 'Little Miss Muffet'?

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