

# Nene Valley NEWS

Your local independent community newspaper for East Northamptonshire

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We want to hear from you, so please submit your news story or event at [www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk)

Inside...



**Raunds up in lights**

**Page 6**



**Bowls club receives special accreditation**

**Page 7**

## In Brief

### Beauty Room raises funds

The ladies at the Beauty Room in Oundle have helped to raise £170 for the charity Hospital at Home as a result of their annual Christmas event. Locals and clients enjoyed treatments, refreshments and the chance to win prizes. Hospital at Home offers patients hospital level care in their own homes. To contact the Beauty Room call 01832 273989 or email; [bookings@beautyroomoundle.co.uk](mailto:bookings@beautyroomoundle.co.uk).

### Ringstead Christmas lunch

The magic of Christmas came to Ringstead when Jackie Farden and her team of gnomes and fairies created a spectacular Christmas lunch for over 100 guests. A long established top village attraction organised by the village Social Club, this year's OAP lunch was voted the best ever. A carol singing session preceded a roast turkey meal prepared by the volunteers. Entertainer Stacey Woods ended the happy and successful day with songs.

# Nene Valley Business News Christmas Special...

This month I have a magical Christmas business feature to get readers in the Christmas spirit. I made a special trip to see farmer Nick and his reindeer, a trip which offered so much more than I expected.



On arrival at Woodbine Farm I was surprised to see not only a beautiful herd of reindeer but also other rare animals which included emus, rheas, ostriches and alpacas.

Woodbine Farm is owned by Nick and Steph and it was a busy time of year, as the reindeer were in training for Christmas.

#### Celebrity reindeer

The reindeer are celebrities in their own right as the farm has regular visitors like Sir David Attenborough's film crew who have featured the animals at the farm three times in Planet Earth. The reindeer have also appeared in Made in Chelsea and Come Dine With Me,

when they greeted the guests in their Christmas finery.

They were also filmed for CBBC, Countryfile and Springwatch, and were the main attraction at an Oxford Street, London Christmas extravaganza.

They have been very popular at local Christmas events and I will never forget the sight of the reindeer, Santa Claus and his elves walking up Church Street in Irthlingborough with St Peter's Church in the background on a dark and frosty night, when we held our I-Grow Christmas event. It was pure magic!

#### Santa's helpers wanted

Farmer Nick could do with more helpers to assist with the reindeer at Christmas events. If you have experience in handling large animals and would like to assist, contact Nick, you could find yourself on the

Santa's elf payroll.

The farm has also assisted veterinary and work experience students. If you have aspirations to work with animals and need a work experience placement, Nick and Steph would be pleased to assist you.

My special thanks to Nick and Steph for an amazing experience.

If you wish to give your event a truly magical touch, the reindeer are available to hire along with their experienced handlers.

Contact details: Nick & Steph, Tel: 01933 460894, email: [info@woodbinefarms.co.uk](mailto:info@woodbinefarms.co.uk), like on Facebook (ReindeerHire), or visit [www.woodbinereindeer.co.uk](http://www.woodbinereindeer.co.uk)

Wishing all our Nene Valley News readers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*From your local business champion*  
*Marika Hillson-Iacobucci*

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## Youngsters get healthy and active at council conference

Over 30 young people in East Northamptonshire got together to take part in a healthy and active lifestyles conference in Rushden recently.

East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) organises a Youth in East Northamptonshire (YEN) conference each year to bring together students from secondary schools across the district. This year's conference was all about the benefits of eating healthily and the importance of being active. It saw young people from Rushden Academy, Huxlow Science College and the Ferrers School engaging in fun and physical activities, including a warm up exercise routine and a

heart racing spin class!

Led by Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, the young people were involved in Eat Well activities. The students got to taste test unusual fruits and vegetables and even make their own healthy smoothies.

They also had the chance to find out more about and talk to ENC Councillors, Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Freedom Leisure, Service Six and Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs.

Information about services for young people can be found at: [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/YEN](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/YEN)

## Genealogy jottings

So far, we have looked at obtaining copies of certificates for birth, marriage and deaths in England and Wales. These copies currently cost £9.25 each. Civil Registration started from 1st July 1837 for all three events but the dates are different for certificates from Scotland and Ireland.

Civil registration in Scotland only started on 1st January 1855, so you will not be able to find such certificates prior to this date and will have to rely upon Parish Registers. However, the information held in them is extremely helpful! They are also downloadable from Scotlands People (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>) at a cost of 6 credits bought in advance, which works out at £1.50.

Those early birth certificates in 1855 contained the following information:

- date, place and time of birth
- full name
- sex
- the parents' names (including maiden surname of mother)
- father's occupation
- name of informant and relationship to child
- information on siblings

By Jan Pearson

*Genealogy Specialists, Tracing Our Past, Discovering Our Genes (TOP DOG)*  
[www.genealogy-specialists.com](http://www.genealogy-specialists.com)

- the ages and birthplaces of both parents
- the parents' usual place of residence
- the date and place of the parents' marriage.

However, by the following year, the information on siblings was removed, as were ages and birthplaces of parents and date and place of parents' marriage. But by 1861, the date and place of the parents' marriage was being recorded again. This is fantastic news if you discover that a couple had moved to Scotland from Ireland but then had children in Scotland. I found a couple recently whose son's Scottish birth certificate stated the date of his parents' marriage and that it took place in Letterkenny, County Donegal. That certainly has helped trace the couple as the censuses just stated that they came from Ireland – which is a big place!

Scottish marriage and death certificates are also a lot different to those from England and Wales, which I will explain next time.

## Want to place an advertisement or submit an article?

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## Editor's notes

It was a beautiful early winter Sunday afternoon, ideal for a walk in the country. Duly kitted out for an off-road stroll, all was peace and quiet 'til a group of motorcyclists came into view, in fact they were audible long before they came into sight. Obviously, one of the hazards of walking along footpaths or bridleways is the uneven and soft going but, as long as one is careful, the only damage is likely to be muddy boots. However, the approaching bikers were not concerned with their own sartorial state nor, as it turned out, with that of anyone else; no slowing down and no attempt to avoid the standing water in their path. The consequence was the proverbial 'early bath' for the walkers – home and rev up the washing machine. The relatively recent increase in the number of 'green-laning' motorcyclists means an increased level of use of those areas and the need for all to recognise that sharing them and showing consideration for others is paramount; in this case the bikers still had to learn that lesson.

What are the odds on a white Christmas this year? The recent cold snap, including significant snowfall across the District, has caused many to wonder whether a traditional white Christmas might be in the offing. Surprisingly perhaps, Met Office records show that at least one snowflake has fallen on Christmas Day in the UK 38

times in the last 54 years, which means that statistically there is a 'white' Christmas at least once every two years. However, single drops of snow don't constitute what most think of as the white Christmas of our imaginings, where there is a good covering on the ground; this is much more unusual and has happened only four times in the last 51 years. The Met Office say it's difficult to accurately predict snow more than five days in advance but some bookmakers have already released their odds and for London they are offering 3/1. The official prospects for snow in our area currently stand at 25%.

We must add our congratulations to the team at the Fox Inn in Thrapston after they were voted the Northants Pub of the Year. The pub, which is in Thrapston's High Street, was one of just 10 to make the final shortlist. Landlady Katie Buncombe was delighted to hear of their win and she was joined by staff last week as they were presented with the trophy and certificate which they can display to share their success with customers. For more information call the pub on 01832 732235 or search for @thefoxthrapston on Facebook.

This is our last edition before the Christmas and New Year break, so from all at the Nene Valley News we wish you a merry and peaceful holiday and a prosperous New Year. Our next edition will be published on 13th January 2018.

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### AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS MENOTTI

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# Many happy returns as young stand-up joins comedy legend on stage

Rushden Academy Sixth Form student Joe Brady has been developing his talents as a stand-up comedian from a young age. Recently he was given a special opportunity to share the stage in Blackpool with his hero and friend, Sir Ken Dodd OBE.

From the age of 7, Joe has been performing stand-up comedy to audiences across the country and his hero is one of Britain's most famous comedians, Sir Ken Dodd OBE.

Joe's unlikely friendship with his hero started four years ago when he went to watch him perform and then managed to speak with Dodd after the show, a conversation which lasted for hours! They have stayed in touch ever since. To celebrate his 18th birthday, Sir Ken gave Joe the unique gift of being the only person ever to have a work placement with him. The 90 year old, whose career has spanned more than six decades, invited Joe along to the Grand Theatre in Blackpool. On arrival,

Joe stood on the stage and watched in awe as the curtain rose to reveal the theatre in its full glory. It holds an audience of 1,100 and no one is more than 60 feet away from the stage, which means performers can make eye contact with everyone. As part of the placement, Joe was in the spotlight for 10 minutes during one of Sir Ken's shows, where he performed various solo sketches and routines. At the end of his spot, Sir Ken joined him on stage, where they sang a duet of 'Happiness' followed by an impromptu comedy routine involving audience participation.

The experience was so much more than Joe expected. He said: "Blackpool is the best place

on the planet and I got to perform alongside my hero! The audience was so happy that I didn't get nervous and it seemed as if they were all friends. I felt they appreciated

the fact that I am a new young comedian on the scene who doesn't swear and isn't rude, offensive or derogatory."

Joe said of his hero:

"Although Ken is 90 years old, once he gets on stage its like he is 20 years old again and his singing voice is amazing. He is completely mad and doesn't stop talking! I've watched so many comedians perform live but no one else can touch him, he is in a league all of his own."

After his A Levels, Joe is planning to either go to

University/Drama School or go on tour across the country with his stand-up comedy show.

Lifetime Achievement award winner, Sir Ken Dodd OBE, said of his protégé: "I want to wish Joe a very happy 18th birthday. I am a huge fan of his work and I have no doubt that he will be a future star."

## Ise & Nene Valley Turners – Moving to a new venue for 2018

Local woodturning club Ise & Nene Valley Turners are moving to a new venue in January 2018. After two and a half very successful years at their current location they are to relocate to Cranford Village Hall, Grafton Road, Cranford, Nr Kettering NN14 4JE.

The move is due to an increasing membership and will continue to provide suitable access for all its members.

The club will continue to meet on the third Thursday of every month and has a full calendar of demonstrations by well-known professional

woodturners for 2018.

The club likes to be involved within the community and is willing to provide stands and working demonstrations at local events and if requested will attend local groups to show and talk about the craft and art of woodturning.

Annual membership is £75, which entitles members to free entry to all evening meetings (with refreshments) and includes an annual subscription to the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain.

We are pleased to welcome visitors to any evening meeting with a small

entrance fee of £5, which will be refunded if they become a member.

As a club we aim to promote a friendly inclusive atmosphere at our meetings and members are on hand to provide specific help, advice on equipment, and general assistance to anyone interested in the art and craft of woodturning.

We will be very pleased to see anyone that has an interest in this fascinating and worthwhile hobby.

*Peter Bond, Chairman*  
[peterjbond@btinternet.com](mailto:peterjbond@btinternet.com)  
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# Alex's charity Kilimanjaro climb challenge

In the summer of 2017 Alex Harpin made the decision to climb Kilimanjaro. She had visited South Africa in 2015 and wanted to go back to see a more traditional side of Africa.

Kilimanjaro is in Tanzania, close to the Kenyan border. It's the tallest mountain in Africa as well as the tallest free standing mountain in the world, at 5,985 metres/19,340 feet.

Alex decided to undertake this challenge for national charity Dogs for Good, based in Banbury, which was previously known as Dogs for the Disabled. Their main aim is to train and provide autism assistance dogs for children, as well as assistance dogs for children and adults with a range of disabilities.

Alex's fundraising target was £4,100 and with such a large target she had to rack her brain as to how to raise money. It involved lots of early mornings, late nights and cold evenings at many craft and Christmas fairs. Alex is a keen baker and so did lots of bake sales

for her workplace, as well as for many others within her circle of supporters.

With much support from her family and friends and other contributors Alex achieved her target and went beyond.

She had the wonderful opportunity to meet someone who had been supported by the charity. The lady she met had developed a number of health conditions which meant she had to move to sheltered accommodation to allow carers to come in and help.

With the support of Dogs for Good and the support of Tula, her new dog, she no longer needed carers to help her, as Tula was able to help on a day-to-day basis. Tula also provided a form of support that wasn't expected; she helped reduce social isolation and improved the

whole family's wellbeing and positive mental health outcomes. Seeing the impact that Tula had, Alex was more determined than ever to achieve her fundraising target and reach the top of Kilimanjaro.

On 12th October Alex set off for Tanzania. It was much tougher than she had expected and unfortunately altitude sickness got the better of her. However, she did manage to get to 4,300 metres and is incredibly proud of her achievement.

Alex's total fundraising amount now stands at £4,205.22 and her fundraising page is still open. If you would like to sponsor her charity, you can find out more at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alexandra-harpin>

For more information on 'Dogs for Good' please visit [www.dogsforgood.org](http://www.dogsforgood.org)



## Your Health – Fitbit sleep monitors

Hoping to get a little bit of rest and relaxation over the Christmas period? Thinking of catching up on sleep? If you do get some rest between family meals and washing up you may well be monitoring that rest with a Fitbit or something similar.

The notions of 'clean sleep' and 'sleep hygiene' are very fashionable at the moment. Now, we provide training to osteopaths, chiropractors and physiotherapists around the world and recently interviewed sleep expert Dr Neil Stanley. We asked him about Fitbits and other sleep monitors, and were surprised at the answer.

He told us that sleep monitors do NOT give any meaningful data on the quality of your sleep. That doesn't mean they can't count your daily footsteps, or measure

the calories you burn, but when it comes to sleep, they're hopelessly inaccurate (35% at best). This is hardly surprising – measuring the different stages of sleep is amazingly complex. Really it can only be done accurately by monitoring brain activity. I should add that Dr Stanley set up the largest sleep research facility in Europe at the University of Surrey. He is one of the world's experts in sleep, so he knows what he's talking about.

This doesn't mean that activity monitors are useless, of course. The very fact that they get us fired up to do more exercise is a great thing. One patient even reported having mown the lawn in

order to get his number of steps up to 10,000. Sadly, it wasn't my lawn, nor did he offer to fix that monster lawnmower I broke in the summer.

One of the other interesting things we got from Dr Stanley was confirmation that blue light (from iPads, phones and Kindles) suppresses melatonin. This means you take longer to fall asleep and have worse sleep if you look at them late at night.

So, if you want to get good sleep over Christmas, try curling up with a book rather than an electronic device.

*Have a restful and fun-filled Christmas!*  
Claire

Claire Short is a Registered Osteopath, and runs The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers. Send your questions to [claire@ashgrovehealth.co.uk](mailto:claire@ashgrovehealth.co.uk) or Tweet to @AshgroveClinic

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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:

### Brigstock

**17/02460/LBC (06/01/2018) (LBRegs)**  
Single storey extension to extend existing kitchen. Limewash to rear elevation (Not including existing brick kitchen or proposed extension) (resubmission of 17/01297/LBC) at 2 Lyveden Road Brigstock NN14 3HE

### Deenethorpe

**17/02465/LBC (06/01/2018) (LBRegs)**  
Partial rebuild of decorative stone arch

following vehicle impact damage at Porters Lodge and attached wall Deenethorpe

### Oundle

**17/02389/LBC (06/01/2018) (LBRegs)**  
Retrospective development to rear grounds of Grade II Listed Building: Erection of timber and pantile Gazebo roof over existing stone garden walls and associated works at 6-7 Mill Road Oundle PE8 4BW

### Wadenhoe

**17/02392/LBC (06/01/2018) (LBRegs)**  
Remove fence element from existing stone wall to south west of main house and construct stone wall to fill gap (resubmission of 17/01731/LBC) at

Wadenhoe House Church Street Wadenhoe PE8 5SR

### 17/02395/LBC (06/01/2018) (LBRegs)

Erection of a post and rail timber fence at Wadenhoe House Church Street Wadenhoe PE8 5SR

### Yarwell

### 17/02344/LBC (06/01/2018) (LBRegs)

Conversion and alteration of 2 No. attached outbuildings to extend habitable accommodation, to include first floor extension to existing store and dual pitch roof extension to existing garage; installation of seven additional roof lights; and alterations to existing openings at 71 Main Street Yarwell PE8 6PR

The reason for applications being advertised is as follows:

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

**Part16 - Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 2015.**

**Info - Non-statutory - included for information only.**

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

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

**Paul Bland, Head Of Planning Services  
Dated 16 December 2017**

Consultation deadlines will differ for each application. Please go to [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications) for details.

## Council protects residents from untrustworthy taxi driver

An Irthlingborough taxi driver was fined nearly £4,000 for a number of offences including lying and driving without a licence.

Mr Shahid Ahmad, owner of Easy Cars, was licensed with East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) to run a private hire business from an address in Irthlingborough.

In May, a member of the public made a complaint when Easy Cars failed to fulfil a booking she had made.

This instigated an investigation by ENC officers which led to proof that Mr Ahmad did not operate his business from Irthlingborough but instead from his home address in Wellingborough.

Mr Ahmad had lied to

obtain the correct licences required to run his taxi business. He was operating illegally, putting the public at risk and so an ENC licensing panel revoked Mr Ahmad's licences (his operator's licence, private hire vehicle licence and driver's badge).

Given the seriousness of the offences uncovered during the investigation and the fact that Mr Ahmad misled officers at ENC to obtain his operator's licence, ENC decided to prosecute.

On 28th November at Northampton Magistrates Court, Mr Ahmad was found guilty under the Local Government (miscellaneous provisions) Act 1976.

He was fined £750 for lying to obtain an operator's licence, £500 for operating a vehicle without a valid

operator's licence and £500 for failing to keep correct paperwork. He was also ordered to pay £2,000 towards costs and a £75 victim surcharge.

Leader of ENC, Councillor Steven North, said: "The safety of our residents and visitors is important to the authority and where that safety is compromised, as it was in this case, it was important to ensure all enforcement measures were utilised. We hope this serves as a warning to all who believe they can lie to get a licence.

"With the festive period upon us, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to only get into licensed taxis and ensure your journeys are planned in advance."

You can find out if a taxi is properly licensed by checking the ENC public register at [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/taxi](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/taxi)

## Raunds up in lights

Raunds Town Council hosted a fantastic festive afternoon for the Christmas lights switch-on event on Sunday 26th November. The Square was impressively illuminated and residents have given the Town Council great feedback.

Cllr Helen Howell, Chairman of the events committee said: "I am delighted with the success of our Christmas lights and the positive feedback again this year, we always try to improve the event and light displays. I would like to thank the staff, committee members and volunteers for all their hard work, without their help and dedication we could not achieve such an amazing event. Please take the time to walk through our town and see the lights for yourself."

Queues of children kept



Father Christmas and Raunds Mayor Cllr Nick Beck

Father Christmas busy while others enjoyed the fair rides which lined the streets! There was a fantastic assortment of stalls selling Christmas gifts and crafts and tempting cuisine for all appetites.

There were performances from St Peter's and Windmill School choirs, Manor School bands as well as music and dances from Raunds Temperance Band and Ruby's Ballet School. The day finished off with the fantastic voice of Nigel Adair with his festive songs which

really got everyone in the Christmas spirit! Cllr Nick Beck, Mayor of Raunds said: "The weather was very cold but thankfully the town still came out in force to support us. This event always brings the town together. Thank you to all of the volunteers and thanks to Steve and Trisha from The World Upside Down who very kindly provided them with warm food at the end of a long day."

For details: [www.raunds-tc.gov.uk](http://www.raunds-tc.gov.uk)

# From the ENC Chairman

**It is the time of year when there is not enough time to get everything done – Christmas pressure to ensure we have got all the presents and additional food, despite the fact that shops will be open soon after Christmas day.**

I have over the past few weeks attended a Thanksgiving event at the American Airbase at Alconbury, where a feast of various pies were available to increase the waistline.

I was pleased to accept an

invitation to the Caring and Sharing Charity Trust, a locally based organisation which is a national charity and whose day centre provides a range of therapy programmes for adults with learning difficulties, challenging

behaviour and complex emotional needs.

My last 'Where am I?' spot was at Blatherwycke, which lies in the northern part of the district. I strongly recommend that those of you who are not familiar with

this area take time out and see the beauty within.

Blatherwycke is a village with a reported population of around 55 people (2001 census) and is grouped with the nearby village of Laxton for administrative purposes. The total population for both is 160 (68 male and 98 female).

No official meaning of the name has been found but some suggestions include 'bladder-plant specialised-farm' or even some form of the name 'black-thorn.' The

village appears in the Domesday Book as 'Blarewiche' and is nestled in a valley, which is home to the babbling Willow Brook.

I will continue to bring you photographs of our district within the New Year, but for this edition conclude by wishing you and your families a happy Christmas and hope good health and happiness comes your way for 2018.

*Councillor Colin Wright,  
Chairman of East  
Northamptonshire Council*

# Bowls club receives special accreditation

Rushden Town Bowling Club is pleased to announce that it has secured Clubmark accreditation.

**A** presentation evening was held on Thursday 30th November, when the certificate in recognition was presented to the Club President, Hubert Dickens, by Felicity Howlett of Northamptonshire Sport, who was accompanied by Alex Le Guevel, Lecturer in Sport for SCL Education Group, who was responsible for the assessment.

Rushden is only the second club in the county to receive this accreditation, following Wellingborough BC, and these join just 22 bowls clubs in the country to be so recognised.

The occasion was marked by the attendance of Her Worship the Mayor of Rushden, Councillor Barbara Jenney, and

her consort, husband David Jenney, and in her comments after the certificate had been presented, Mrs Jenney spoke highly of the value of the club to the Community of Rushden & District.

Before making the presentation to Club President Hubert Dickens, Felicity Howlett referred to the great efforts that the club had to put in to get the accreditation. Clubmark is the only national cross sports (not just bowls) quality accreditation scheme for clubs with junior sections, and it is built around a set of core criteria which ensure that accredited clubs operate according to a set of consistent, accepted and adopted minimum operating standards.



Club member Brian Langton, who was principally responsible for leading the efforts to secure Clubmark, made a short speech in which he gave credit to all those who had worked on the scheme on behalf of the

club. As a matter of interest for our bowls clubs in the county, accreditation means that there are many benefits for clubs, in

addition to the principles contained within it, including discounted rates for attendance at Sports Partnership courses covering such subjects

as: Sports first aid, equity in coaching, coaching the disabled, recruiting new volunteers, attracting new sponsorship, marketing your sport and web design.

Further information on how to achieve accreditation is available via Northamptonshire Sport, the English Indoor Bowling Association and Bowls England.

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

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

I Anderton (Boxer)

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May		
Mon 21	Warner's Littlecote – 5 days	£489
Sat 26	Austria & Bavarian Adventure – 8 days	£619
June		
Sat 9	Steam & Mooreland – 5 days	£379
Mon 25	Beautiful Guernsey – 5 days	£579
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Mon 30	Brighton up your week – 5 days	£459

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### January

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 Wed 24 Seasonal Mystery Tour  
 Wed 31 Elvis on tour exhibition at 02

### February

Mon 5 Leamington Spa & Guide Dogs  
 Tue 13 Cadbury & Sealife  
 Wed 14 Man Utd & Trafford Centre  
 Wed 14 Trafford Centre  
 Thu 15 London Museums  
 Tue 20 Melton Mowbray  
 Wed 21 Seasonal Mystery Tour  
 Sat 24 Emmerdale Studio Tour  
 Sat 24 Leeds

### March

Thu 1 Lunch & Mamma Mia  
 Sat 3 Knitting & Stitching Show  
 Sun 4 Orchids at Kew  
 Tue 6 Spalding-Market day, Springfields  
 Wed 7 Seasonal Mystery Tour  
 Thu 8 Cotswold Tour  
 Thu 8 Neil Diamond tribute with lunch  
 Sat 10 National Railway Museum, York  
 Wed 14 Kia Oval Tour Afternoon Tea & Beefeater Tour  
 Fri 16 Jane Austen Museum & Chawton House  
 Tue 20 Derbyshire & Peak District  
 Wed 21 St Albans  
 Fri 23 Ideal Home Show  
 Tue 27 Saffron Walden

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## Tresham Garden Village project secures £275k in Government funding

**A project to develop the old Deenethorpe Airfield site into a garden village has received a funding boost from the Government to help move plans forward.**

This is the second year of capacity funding since Tresham (previously referred to as Deenethorpe Airfield Garden Village) was selected as one of 14 garden village projects that the Government is supporting through capacity funding and assistance from the Homes and Communities Agency. This support is helping East Northamptonshire Council and the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit to work with the landowner in preparing a detailed masterplan and delivery strategy.

Andrew Longley, Head of the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, explains the benefit of the funding to the development of the project: "This funding will pay for extra staff capacity, specialist advice including design and viability, community engagement, and various studies. It is allowing us to work with the landowner

to prepare a masterplan which will give a broad overview of what will go where including housing, employment, schools, green space etc. as well as basic details on access and movement across the site, and how the site will connect with the wider area. The masterplan will go out for consultation early in the New Year so people can give their views on the proposals. If it is agreed by the Council, it will provide the basis for a planning application later in 2018."

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said: "This funding is a strong endorsement of our work so far on Tresham. It will help us to ensure that the Garden Village proposal is of the highest possible standard of design and sustainability, with the mix of housing, employment and community facilities needed to develop a new high-quality community, not just new housing estates."

## Police urge people to take note of safety advice this festive season

With the Christmas party season now in full swing, Northamptonshire Police is encouraging people to plan ahead for a safe night out.

As towns across the county get busier with Christmas shoppers and festive party-goers, officers are keen to share useful crime prevention tips and personal safety advice to help everyone have a safe and enjoyable time.

### On a night out:

- If you're having a night out, plan how you're getting home before you go
- If you intend to take a taxi, either book it in advance or take it from the taxi rank
- Always keep the number of a reliable firm with you and know where the taxi ranks are
- Avoid minicabs or private-hire cars that tout for business – they should always be pre-booked
- When the taxi arrives, check it's the one you booked. If in doubt, don't get in
- Stick with your friends and choose a meeting point where you'll wait for each other if you get separated
- Never accept a lift from a stranger – there are plenty of licensed taxis in our towns
- Be aware of what you are drinking – if someone offers to buy you a drink, go with them to the bar and watch the drink being poured
- If you notice someone who appears vulnerable, tell someone such as a door supervisor, street pastor or police officer,

or call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

- Stay together and travel together. Don't go off on your own and keep an eye out for your friends. It may sound obvious, but avoid walking through unlit areas, such as alleyways or churchyards.
- It's also sensible to keep a charged mobile phone with you and if you get separated, use it to call one another. If you feel at risk, call 999.

### General advice:

- When out in your car, look out for Park Mark car parks and remove all items from your vehicle when you leave it
- Don't leave your key in the ignition, even when filling up with fuel or popping into the shop
- De-clutter your handbag – take only what you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- When you're out shopping, keep all bags firmly closed and on your person at all times
- Carry wallets in inside pockets of jackets or coats, not in the back pocket of trousers
- When using your credit or debit card, shield your PIN and take the time to make sure you safely put away your purse or wallet
- Never leave your bag unattended on the back of trolleys or pushchairs
- Don't be tempted to return to your car and drop off your shopping bags – keep them with you or take them home

## Drink and drug drive campaign arrests: week one

The first week of Northamptonshire Police's annual drink and drug driving operation saw 15 people arrested for driving under the influence.

Between 1st and 7th December, there were 12 arrests for drink driving and three for drug driving on the county's roads.

The results include a static operation in Northampton on Friday 1st December, where two people were arrested for drink driving and three for drug driving.

A second operation on the Corby-bound carriageway of the A43 in Kettering on Saturday 2nd December, saw one drink drive arrest and one drug drive arrest.

A total of 91 breath tests were recorded that evening, with eight positive results, of which one was over the legal limit of 35 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. Another driver who blew 34mg, just below the legal limit, was not allowed to continue his journey, but agreed to have his car

parked up and make his own way home.

More than 350 checks were carried out on vehicles, occupants and licences on the night. A total of 20 motoring offences were dealt with, and three vehicles were seized for offences including no insurance and no tax.

The other arrests made between 1st and 7th December took place during routine policing operations, including roadside checks following road traffic collisions or other incidents.

## Take care with your Christmas decorations

The festive season is meant to be a time of celebration with your family, close friends and colleagues.

Regardless of whether you decorate your home for an intimate or bustling party, remember to decorate safely or you could expose yourself and guests to potential injuries.

On average, 1,000 people are injured each year while decorating their homes during the Christmas and New Year period, according to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. To ensure that you and your family can celebrate the festive season without concern, adopt the following guidance: avoid using artificial snow because it can irritate lungs if inhaled; inspect each strand of fairy lights before you string them up to identify any

potential damage in the wire coverings, or light bulb sockets, which could cause an electrical fire; all lights should conform to the British Standard for luminaires; in addition, plug all cables into a surge protector; use a timer for your fairy lights to help control electricity usage; hang fairy lights away from any tissue paper or other flammable materials; place all fairy light strands and other electrical decoration cables away from common areas with any amount of foot traffic to prevent slips, trips or falls; use a stable ladder when hanging decorations in high places and be sure to have another person hold it to keep it balanced; and finally, always decorate with at least one other person – in addition to making the experience more enjoyable, it helps avoid unnecessary risks.

## Traffic chaos

There was a good deal of traffic chaos in Oundle on 2nd December when the town held its Christmas Market. The event encouraged hundreds of visitors to the town for whom special traffic and parking arrangements had been made because of the necessary town centre road closures. However, shutting the A605 south of Oundle at the same time, which caused additional drivers to try to get through the town, led to traffic chaos.

A spokesman for Northamptonshire County Council said: "We have extensively communicated re: this work and anyone using Oundle was doing so independently of our diversion as we did not recommend or sign this. Northamptonshire Highways letter dropped affected local residents and contacted the parish councils affected by the A605 works and made them aware of the works being carried out. We did not receive any challenges against the works being carried out.

"With regards to the closures, these have been advertised for a number of weeks with the digital signs that have been in place on

the route since September. There were also individual signs in place prior to closing the specific sections. The works last Saturday involved the major re-construction of the A605 to the Barnwell Junction (approximately 3 miles from Oundle High Street) with the diversion route running on the A14 to the A1(M). No diversion information sent traffic through Oundle. There may have been traffic trying to bypass the closure by using an unpublished and illegal route, which we try to stop wherever possible, but is a difficult task as drivers will determine their own best route. This is particularly prevalent where local people choose their known best route.

"The works being carried out are essential and had to be carried out within our works programme. Having now completed them the improvements will be in place for many years to come. Northamptonshire Highways do all we can to mitigate any inconvenience and to ensure road users are aware of the works in advance and the recommended diversion route."

# Wildlife News

**Wildlife in our countryside can surprise us in many ways, particularly when the animals (or plants) have managed – by accident or design! – to get themselves into an unexpected situation. A few days ago we found a good example.**

**A**t first sight it looked like a thin, black, dead leaf which might have come from a willow and been picked up on footwear and brought unknowingly into the house. Closer examination before removing it showed a much more unexpected 'find'.

It had four legs on a dark tapering body, slowly dragging itself across the floor. We were being treated to a visit from a newt!

There are three species likely to be found round here: the great crested, smooth and palmate newts. At this

time of year they are not too easy to identify, but size and colour suggests it was probably a female palmate.

How it came to be there remains a puzzle. It clearly came from the reserve only a few yards away, where vegetation and areas of water make ideal breeding areas for an animal which, while not yet rare, is finding that local developments are making suitable living areas increasingly scarce. But to reach the middle of our floor would have meant negotiating a significant doorstep at either front or

back door, probably too much of 'a mountain to climb'. It almost certainly did come in very much as a dead leaf could, by sticking to a shoe, or even the bottom of a trouser leg, before dropping off.

A more important question, from the newt's point of view at any rate, would be "Why?" did it come to be there. All species of newt will have been feeding up during the summer, eating plenty of minute animals, possibly too small for us to see, because they are among our hibernators, who go to sleep through the winter until food becomes available again. Yet here was one who had not buried herself deeply enough into the decaying leaf litter to be protected fully; let's just hope that she found a suitable place to settle in for her winter sleep.

*Roy Burrell*



## Volunteers sought for Oundle's Festival 100

**T**he organising team of Oundle Festival of Music & Drama is gearing up for a very special year. The 2018 Festival is not only the 100th competitive Festival to be held in Oundle, but also marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of Speech and Drama classes.

This year the Festival is hoping to recruit First Aiders. Minimum commitment is a three-hour session during the five days of the Festival, which runs from 21st to 25th March.

Of course the team is always delighted to welcome new volunteers in other roles.

You can find out how to be part of Festival 100, as a competitor or volunteer, at [www.ofmd.org.uk](http://www.ofmd.org.uk) or contact Gwen Radcliffe, Tel: 01832 273191.

Syllabus download and online entry system at [www.ofmd.org.uk](http://www.ofmd.org.uk) open until 20th January 2018. Postal entries must be in by 17th January. Syllabuses are also available at Oundle Bookshop, Market Place; Oundle Box Office, 4 New St; Oundle Town Council, Fletton House and EMM, Rectory Farm, Warmington.

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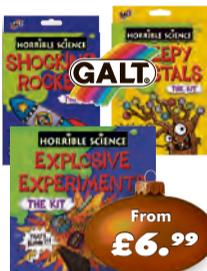
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# Become a Beanstalk reading hero in 2018 and help ensure no child is left behind

**Life is better when everyone can read well and express themselves confidently. However, low levels of literacy continue to be a persistent problem both nationally and locally.**

way. Reading helpers are able to tailor resources to individual interests to ensure the activity is relevant to the child.

Beanstalk also has opportunities for volunteers to get involved as part of its Story Starters programme, helping children aged 3-5 become ready to read by developing language skills and introducing them to the magic of books. As a Story Starter volunteer you will be working one-to-one with children in two 20-minute sessions a week at a local early years setting. All volunteers receive professional training and support to ensure that they are best able to support young children and feel comfortable in a modern nursery setting.

Beanstalk is a national literacy charity that transforms children's life chances by recruiting and supporting volunteers and placing them in local primary schools. These volunteers work with children who have either fallen behind with their reading, lack confidence, or struggle with their fluency, comprehension or vocabulary.

a Beanstalk reading helper in a local school you will work with three children at a local primary school and spend 30 minutes with each child twice a week, during term-time, for at least one academic year.

Very importantly, Beanstalk sessions are meant to be relaxed, informal and fun. By having this one-to-one time with each child the reading helper can help to develop the child's reading skills and wider language acquisition in a fun and engaging

As the New Year begins, the charity is searching for members of the community in Northants who would like a new challenge and can spare a few hours a week supporting children in local primary schools. As

To apply for either volunteering role in Northamptonshire, please visit the website at [www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk](http://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk) or call Beanstalk on 0845 450 0301.



## Higham Gateway Christmas party

Higham Gateway members and staff enjoyed an evening of entertainment at Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club recently, courtesy of the Swivel Club charity. The fabulous Johnny Red compered with festive songs and disco. The evening included a pizza supper and Father Christmas arrived with presents for all the members and staff. A great evening was enjoyed by all who attended.



**Monday 18th December**

**Carol Singing**  
The Swan  
7.30pm

**Thursday 21st December**

**RSPB Mid-Nene Local Group Indoor Meeting**  
Saxon Hall, Raunds  
7.30pm  
Penny 01933 350404  
AGM Followed by Illustrated talk on Local Ringing by Ian Wrisdale. Meeting is open to everyone.

**Tiddlers Group for 0-3 year olds**

Thrapston Baptist Church  
NO Tiddlers this week – Christmas break.

**Friday 22 December**

**Fusion for 7-11 year olds**  
Thrapston Baptist Church  
NO Fusion this week – Christmas break.

**22nd & 23rd December**

**A Very Christmassy Concert at Christmas**  
The Stahl  
3.30pm & 6.30pm,  
adults £16.50, children £14.50  
A fantastic variety show that's sure to get everyone in the family ready for Christmas.

**Saturday 23rd December**

**Higham Ferrers Christmas Farmers' Market**  
Market Square, Higham Ferrers  
NN10 8BT  
9am-1pm  
01933 312075  
Our Christmas Farmers' Market has fantastic, local produce with a Brass Band and Father Christmas.

**Sunday 24th December**

**Christmas Eve Morning Service**  
Thrapston Baptist Church  
10.30am  
Preacher: Mat Hussain  
Theme – Prepare... Greatest News.

**Midnight Mass**

Church of St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Warmington PE8 6TE  
11.30pm  
Come and join us for Holy Communion at the very start of Christmas.

**Whitefriars Church – Christmas Eve Crib Service**

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

**Monday 25th December**

**Whitefriars Church – Christmas Day Service with All Age Holy Communion**  
The Bridge Community Office at Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX  
10.15am  
Chris Youngman 01933 551769  
An informal church service open to all.

**Special Family Service**

Thrapston Baptist Church  
10am  
Preacher: Mat Hussain  
Theme – Has it been worth the wait?

**Tuesday 26th December**

**RSPB Mid-Nene Local Group Local Walk**  
Stanwick Lakes, Northamptonshire  
10am  
Bob 01933 460644  
Normal car parking charges apply.

**Thursday 28th December**

**Tiddlers Group for 0-3 year olds**  
Thrapston Baptist Church  
NO Tiddlers this week – Christmas break.

**Mince Pie Specials**

Rushden Station, Station Approach, Rushden Northants NN10 0AW  
Trains start 11am fares apply [www.rhns.co.uk](http://www.rhns.co.uk), 01933 353111  
Eaten too much turkey? Come for a ride on our diesel hauled train and have a mince pie and a drink.

**Sunday 31st December**

**Whitefriars Church – New Year Celebration: All Age Worship**  
Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX  
10.15am  
An informal church service open to all

**NO service at Thrapston Baptist Church**

10:30am  
We join with St James's parish church.

**Monday 1st January 2018**

**Higham Ferrers Footpath Group**  
Saffron Road car park Higham Ferrers for car sharing  
9.45am, free  
01933 386839  
6.5 mile walk from Rushden.

**Thursday 4th January**

**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 5th January**

**Fusion for 7-11 year olds**  
Thrapston Baptist Church  
6.30pm-8pm  
Lively and fun group with games, songs and bible based illustrations.

**Sunday 7th January**

**Higham Ferrers Footpath Group**  
Saffron Road car park Higham Ferrers for car sharing  
9.30am, free  
01536 483687  
6 mile walk from Upper Dean.

**Morning Service**

Thrapston Baptist Church  
10.30am  
Preacher: Mat Hussain  
Why are we here?

**Tuesday 9th January**

**Woodford WI Meeting**  
Woodford Sports and Social  
7.30pm, cost for visitors £4 including refreshments.  
Eileen 01832 732077  
The speaker will be Steve Pateman who will be talking about Kinky Boots.

**Thursday 11th January**

**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 12th January**

**Fusion for 7-11 year olds**  
Thrapston Baptist Church  
6.30pm-8pm  
Lively and fun group with games, songs and bible based illustrations.

**Oundle Historical Society – Oundle on Film**

Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane, Oundle  
7.30pm, members free, non members £2  
Perdita Cawthorne 01832 270372  
Presentation by Alan Rayden.

**Film: A Street Cat Named Bob (12A)**

Ringstead Village Hall, High Street  
Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm, admission £5  
01933 460373

True story of a cat transforming drug addict and Big Issue seller James Bowen's life.

**Sunday 14th January**

**Communion Service**  
Thrapston Baptist Church  
10.30am  
Preacher: Mat Hussain  
Trusting God in tough times James 1:1-4, 12-18, 5:7-11

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:titchmarshfdc@gmail.com)

**Oundle Ladies Running Group**

Oundle pool car park  
6.45pm  
Jane Walker 01832 272898/  
[janewalkercakes@icloud.com](mailto:janewalkercakes@icloud.com)

**Baggy pants Yoga**

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

**Spanish Tuition**

The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Oundle  
9am-8pm, £25 per class  
01832 776336/  
[info@antlerlanguages.co.uk](mailto:info@antlerlanguages.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 Irthlingborough & District Branch Royal British Legion Branch Meeting**

Finedon Bowls Club  
7.30pm  
Peter Eames 07434 328237

**Every 2nd Monday (except Jan & Aug)**

**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](mailto:office@oundlebaptist.org.uk)

**Monday once a month**

**Woodturning Club**  
Hardwick Village, nr 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 0XH)  
7pm-11pm, membership £5 pa  
Aron 07739 563657/  
[aron.phoenix@virginmedia.com](mailto:aron.phoenix@virginmedia.com)

**Art Classes (10 weeks)**

Knuston Hall, Knuston  
7pm-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](mailto: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](mailto: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 including tea/coffee & cake

**Higham Ferrers Guided Tour**

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

**50+ Adventure Club**

For further information  
01536 505548/[www.fiftyplusnorthantsadventureclub.org.uk](http://www.fiftyplusnorthantsadventureclub.org.uk)

**Every Tuesday & Thursday**

**Health Walks Stanwick Lakes**  
10am-11am, free, car park charges  
01933 625522/  
[www.stanwicklakes.org.uk](http://www.stanwicklakes.org.uk)

**Ladies Crochet Group**

Irthlingborough  
2pm-4pm, £10 per session  
Contact Ros 07722593637

**Every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday**

**Partner Whist Drive**  
Rowlett Close, Higham Ferrers (Tuesday & Friday)  
Windmill Club, Rushden (Thursday)  
7.30pm, £2  
01933 313714.

**Every Tuesday & Saturday**

**Coffee Mornings**  
St James Church, Thrapston  
10am-12noon  
01832 730019

**Every Wednesday**

**Weekly Wildlife Wanders**  
Meet at Nene Wetlands Visitor Centre  
10.30am, £3 per person  
[katie.king@wildlifecbn.org](mailto:katie.king@wildlifecbn.org),  
01933 779587  
Informal 90-minute guided walk. (Call Visitor Centre to confirm walk is taking place.)

**Wednesday Morning Yoga Class**

Masonic Hall, Rushden  
10am-11am, £5 per class  
Carole 07873743256  
[carole.wyatt@virginmedia.com](mailto:carole.wyatt@virginmedia.com)

**Yoga classes**

Masonic Hall, Rushden  
1pm-2.30pm  
[www.awakenwithyoga.co.uk](http://www.awakenwithyoga.co.uk)  
Daisy 01536 724113

**Ladies Archery Pemberton Maid Marions**

The Pemberton Centre, H E Bates Way NN10 9YP  
Diane 01933 314032 or  
Nicki 01933 395913

**Tai Chi**

Chelveston Village Hall  
2pm-3pm, £5

**Dog Training, Socialisation and Ringcraft**

Halefield, Woodnewton, nr Oundle  
Classes from 6.45pm  
01832 293432/[oundledogs@aol.com](mailto:oundledogs@aol.com)/  
[www.oundledogs.co.uk](http://www.oundledogs.co.uk)

**Rainbow Cafe for Tots**

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

**Club Night**

Apehorpe Tennis Club  
From 6pm

**Returners to Work**

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

**Art & Craft Class**

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

**Inflatable Fun Session**

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

**Cambridge First Certificate in English**

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

**French Tuition**

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

**Jelly Babes Toddler Group**

Rushden Independent  
Wesleyan Church  
9.15am

**Every Wednesday (term time)**

**Community ICT Classes**  
Needham Building, Oundle School  
SciTec, Glaphorn Road, Oundle  
2.30pm-4pm  
01832 277267 to enrol

**Tiny Tots**

Oundle C of E Primary School,  
Glaphorn Road  
1.45pm

**660 Club (Age 60+)**

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

**Allegra Singers –**

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

**Every alternate Wednesday**

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

**1st Wednesday of the month**

**Raunds Ladies Group**  
The Saxon Hall, Raunds  
8pm-10pm, Visitors £3.50

**1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month**

**Thrapston Country Dancers**  
St Johns Ambulance Hall  
2pm-3.30pm  
G Hearnden 01933 622827/  
[ghearnden@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ghearnden@tiscali.co.uk)

**2nd Wednesday of the month**

**Coffee Morning**  
Raunds Methodist Church  
10am-12noon  
01933 383378

**2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month**

**Northants Model Makers**  
Windmill Primary School,  
Raunds NN9 6LA  
Main meeting starts 7.30ish

First couple of meetings free  
Bob Humpage 07960 054405/  
[modelmaker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:modelmaker@tiscali.co.uk)

**3rd Wednesday of the month**

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

**Higham and Rushden U3A**

Pemberton Centre, Rushden  
2pm, visitors always welcome to  
attend (£3 charge)  
[www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk)

**British Korean Veterans**

The Old Grammarians Club  
Oxford Street, Wellingborough  
11.45am  
Mary Morby 01933 312476 or  
[e.m.m@btinternet.com](mailto:e.m.m@btinternet.com)

**Raunds & Dist' British Legion**

Conservative Club, Raunds  
8pm  
01933 625333 for more details  
You do NOT have to be ex-services.

**4th Wednesday of the month**

**Rushden Pensioners Forum**  
St Peters Church Hall,  
Midland Road, Rushden  
2pm-4pm  
Mary Morby 01933 312476/  
[e.m.m@btinternet.com](mailto:e.m.m@btinternet.com)

**Wednesday & Thursday**

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

**Wednesday & Saturday**

**East Northants Athletics Club –  
'Getting Kids Into Athletics'**  
The Ferrers School, Higham Ferrers  
Wed 6-7pm, Sat 9-10am,  
£4 per session or Wed & Sat £7  
Graham Bufton 07788 698883/  
[grahambufton.ena@gmail.com](mailto:grahambufton.ena@gmail.com)

**Wednesday & Sunday**

**Ferrers & Rushden Tennis Club**  
Higham Ferrers Recreation  
Ground, off Wharf Road  
10am-12noon (Sun); 6.30pm-8.30pm  
(Wed). Per club session £2 adults/  
£1 junior (youngest aged 10)  
Steve Roberts 01933 461028/07960  
846092

**Every Thursday**

**Drop-in Service**  
Rushden Council Office,  
Newton Road NN10 OPT

1pm-4pm  
Amanda 07977 224574  
We offer advice and support to  
people affected by domestic abuse.

**Tai Chi for beginners  
& improvers**

All Saints Church Hall,  
Midland Road, Wellingborough  
10am-11am, £6  
[dominicrushmore@live.co.uk](mailto:dominicrushmore@live.co.uk)  
Improve your strength and balance  
with these gentle and relaxing  
exercise. Suitable for all.

**Rushden Folk Dance Club**

St Mary's Church Hall, Rushden  
8-10pm, first visit free, £2 thereafter  
Val 01933 387327

**The Silver Fox Woodturning Club**

Dale End Scout Headquarters,  
Croyland Road, Wellingborough  
10am-1pm, £2 all members  
Debbie 01604 751019.

**Move to Health**

No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle  
2.15pm-3pm  
01832 770010/  
[office@oundlebaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@oundlebaptist.org.uk)

**Thursday Drop-In**

No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle  
10am-2pm  
01832 770010/  
[office@oundlebaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@oundlebaptist.org.uk)

**Little Ducklings Pre-School**

**Stay & Play 'Tea & Tots'  
Sessions**  
1.30pm-3pm, £1.50 per family.  
01832 358085

**Short Mat Bowls**

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

**Olde and Sequence Dancing**

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

**Every Thursday (term time)**

**Music Makers**  
Titchmarsh Pavilion  
9.30am-10.15am, Joan Strong  
Centre, Oundle 11.15am-12noon,  
Stanwick Village Hall, 2pm-2.45pm,  
£4 per child, £2 for siblings  
Naomi Cooper on  
[musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com](mailto:musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com)

**Little Treasures Tots Group**

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

**Community Art Classes**

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

**Coffee/tea and biscuits  
in the Bede House**

St Mary's Church, Higham Ferrers  
10am-12noon, no charge just a  
donation to cover costs.

**Adult & Child Swim Sessions**

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

**3rd Thursday of the month**

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

**Ise & Nene Valley Turners**

Cranford Village Hall, Grafton Road,  
Cranford NN14 4JE  
7pm, members free, visitors £5  
Peter Bond 01933 741835/  
[peterjbond@btinternet.com](mailto:peterjbond@btinternet.com)

**Thursday Market Day**

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

**Every Friday**

**Over 60s Club Bingo**  
Working Men's Club,  
Higham Ferrers  
2-4pm  
01933 741286  
Come and Enjoy a game of Bingo.

**Walk and Chat**

Rushden Hall Park,  
under flagpole  
10am  
Sue Mckay 07739 327022/  
[sue.mckay@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:sue.mckay@groundwork.org.uk)

**Music Makers**

Nene Centre, Thrapston  
12.45-1.30pm & 1.45-2.30pm,  
£4 per child, £2 for siblings  
Naomi Cooper 07815 293893/  
[musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com](mailto:musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com)

**French Beginners**

The Old Town Hall,  
Market Place, Oundle  
6pm-7.30pm, £25 per class  
01832 776336/  
[info@antlerlanguages.co.uk](mailto:info@antlerlanguages.co.uk)

**Local Focus 'Explore by bus'  
Group (January 2018)**

Link up from a local library.  
10am-1pm/3pm, also group  
bookings, from £10 per month  
including unique booklets  
01933 461480,  
[susanthewalker@hotmail.com](mailto:susanthewalker@hotmail.com)  
Join the friendly group for all ages &  
abilities, discover more via bus/  
walking.

**Every Friday (term time)**

**Over 60s FREE swim**  
Oundle School Swimming Pool,  
Milton Road, Oundle  
3pm-3.45pm  
01832 277208/277195

**Pre-School Swimming Lessons**

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

**Friday Once a Month**

**Wildlife Trust Little Bugs Club**  
Nene Wetlands Visitor Centre,  
Rushden Lakes  
10-11.30am, £3 per child (intro rate)  
Booking essential, 01933 779587  
[viktoria.marta@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:viktoria.marta@wildlifebcn.org)

**1st Friday of the month**

**(Check before travelling)  
Craft Cafe**  
Stanwick Lakes  
10.30am-1pm, modest charge for  
some materials – car park charges  
01933 625522/  
[www.stanwicklakes.org.uk](http://www.stanwicklakes.org.uk)

**Oundle Evergreen Club**

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

**3rd Friday of the month**

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

**U3A Meeting**

The Plaza, Cosy Nook,  
Thrapston NN14 4PS  
10am-12noon, £2 (visitors), free for  
members, includes refreshments.  
Guest Speakers each month.

**Former Carers Group**

No 1 St Osyth's Lane,  
Oundle PE8 4BG  
2pm-3.30pm, free  
01832 770010/  
[office@oundlebaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@oundlebaptist.org.uk)

**3rd Friday of the month**

**(Check before travelling)  
Stanwick Stitchers**  
Stanwick Lakes  
10.30am, free, car park charges.  
01933 625522 or Pauline  
on 01933 229817/  
[www.stanwicklakes.org.uk](http://www.stanwicklakes.org.uk)

**1st Saturday of the month**

**Coffee Morning**  
St Mary's Church, Ringstead  
10am-12noon, 01933 624262

**Thrapston Farmers' Market**

Thrapston High Street  
9am-1pm  
[www.thrapstonfarmersmarket.moonfruit.com](http://www.thrapstonfarmersmarket.moonfruit.com)

**2nd Saturday of the month**

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

**WE Watch**

Stanwick Lakes  
01933 625522/  
[wewatchstanwick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wewatchstanwick@hotmail.co.uk)

**Oundle Farmers' Market**

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

**3rd Saturday of the month**

**Phoenix Group**  
Stanwick Lakes  
01933 625522/  
[wewatchstanwick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wewatchstanwick@hotmail.co.uk)

**Messy Church**

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

**Every Saturday & Sunday**

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

**Every Sunday**

**Short & Sweet**  
St Mary's Church Rushden  
2-3pm  
Sue Merrifield 01933 358218  
Short worship for people with  
additional needs followed by tea,  
cake and crafts.

**2 Course Sunday Lunch**

Rushden Bowls Club  
12noon, £10 per head  
07850864537 to book.

**Sunday Tea**

Fotheringhay Village Hall  
3pm-5.30pm, £2.50 for tea & cake  
Alexandra Mitchell 01832 226440.

**Morning Worship**

Rushden Mission Church,  
Wellingborough Road  
10.45am  
Alan 01933 355302

**Morning Church Service**

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

**Church Service**

The Heritage Chapel and Halls,  
Park Road, Rushden NN10 0RW  
10.30am  
Cheryl 07969 603958/  
[cheze49@gmail.com](mailto:cheze49@gmail.com)

**Ringstead Shared Church**

Service for all (Communion first  
Sunday each month), 10.30am  
Mike Freeman 01933 389796/  
[rbc-rsc@angeladavis.net](mailto:rbc-rsc@angeladavis.net)

**1st Sunday of the month**

**Priceless – for young children  
and their families**  
St Laurence's Church, Stanwick  
9.30am-10.15am

**Every 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday**

**Pete's Pack (For children 3+)**  
St Peter's Church,  
Newton Bromswold  
Bible based activities, 10am-11am  
Helen Lines 07917 001924

**3rd Sunday of the month**

**All Age Worship**  
St Laurence's Church, Stanwick  
9.30am

**Leisurely, Sociable Strolls**

Pub start – if not lunching do not use  
pub car park. 10am for 10.30am  
start. Guests £2 or join for year £8.  
[secretary@northamptonshireshamblers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northamptonshireshamblers.org.uk)

**4th Sunday of the month and**

**Bank Holidays (except Nov-Jan)  
King's Cliffe Heritage Centre**  
Bridg Street. (Hanging sign when  
we're open). Open 2pm-5pm

**Ongoing**

**Drawing & Painting Classes**  
Ecton Village Hall, Chelveston Village  
Hall, Warkton Village Hall &  
Kingsthorpe Community Centre  
£65 per term  
Derek Geater 01933 381848/  
[dgartweb.sharepoint.com](mailto:dgartweb.sharepoint.com)

**German Tutorials**

Oundle area  
Gudrun 07710 189906/  
[gudvolk@gmail.com](mailto:gudvolk@gmail.com)



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.



# THE WINTER SALE

## Starts Tuesday 2nd January 2018

### FANTASTIC REDUCTIONS ACROSS ALL OUR RANGES OF CARPETS, VINYL & WOOD FLOORING

100% Wool Natural Rib One colour only  
4 & 5 metre wide Heavy Domestic  
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**Nene Valley news**

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Deadlines for all classifications: 5pm Monday prior to issue date. A complete version of our Terms and Conditions can be found online at [www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk). Pay by credit/debit card or cheque. All major credit/debit cards accepted. For help and information please call **01522 513515** or visit [www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk)

**Family notices**

Nene Valley News can help you make those important family announcements.

**Happy 1st birthday**

Walker, Aaron/  
Hunt, Nicola  
Married on April 2 2014, at St Andrews Church. The couple had their honeymoon in Paris.

Love from Mummy, Daddy, Nanna & Grandad xxx

For help and information to place your notice please call **01522 513515** or visit [www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk)

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

**THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC BYWAY MF16 (PART) - PARISH OF BARNWELL)**

**(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2017**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit all pedestrians, equestrians, cyclists and motorised vehicles from proceeding along that length of Public Byway MF16 in the Parish of Barnwell as specified below. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said length of byway is unaffected.

**RIGHTS OF WAYS TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** The existing route to be closed starts at point A at National Grid Reference ('NGR') TL5046 8559. The route travels generally east for approximately 80 metres to point B at NGR SP0454 8560. The route to be closed is shown by a solid black line between points A - B.

**REASONS FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required to facilitate works on adjacent Barnwell Road

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The Order will come into effect on 18th December 2017 and will continue in force for a period of six months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for this Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such extent as is indicated by the display of notices.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** There is no suitable alternative route.

Dated this 16th day of December 2017  
QUENTIN BAKER, Director of Law & Governance  
PKG/ROW/304

If you require any further information please contact Tom Stockley on 07841 523987.

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Email:- [carol@volunteeractionoundle.org.uk](mailto:carol@volunteeractionoundle.org.uk)

The closing date for completed applications is 05 January 2018 and interviews will be held on 12th January 2017.  
The hourly rate for the post is £11.84 + 25 days annual leave plus bank holidays (pro rata to hours worked)  
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To advertise in Nene Valley News call  
**01522 513515**

# East Northants Snooker League

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

Week 9, and the half-way point, for the East Northants Snooker League. A surprise defeat for top of the league Warriors as they were overthrown 5-1 by the

aply named Windmill Underdogs. Michael Dicks was beaten 2-0 by Kevin Freeman. Richard Wright battled Scott Rose in the next game to win one frame with the help of a 48

break, his third forty-plus break in just two weeks. The Warriors Captain, Paul Lewis struggled in the final game due to a damaged cue, helping Neal Vaughan to win both frames and wrap up an impressive victory.

to overcome tough opposition from Justin Gaggini and give Mecca their second win of the season, 4-2.

## Player Statistics Winter 2017/18 - Sponsored by Citrus Training

#	Player name	Team	Current H/Cap	New H/Cap	Played	Won	Lost	% Won
1	Stewart Brown	Windmill C	20	20	18	13	5	72%
2	Neal Vaughan	Windmill Underdogs	15	13	14	10	4	71%
3	Adam Philpott	Windmill Mecca	31	29	10	7	3	70%
4	Marc Brett	Windmill C	-8	-10	16	11	5	69%
5	Michael Dicks	Windmill Warriors	-5	-3	18	12	6	67%
6	Richard Wright	Windmill Warriors	4	4	18	12	6	67%
7	Craig Savage	Windmill Warriors	26	26	6	4	2	67%
8	Tony Jupp	Windmill B	34	32	18	12	6	67%
9	Richard Symons	Coopers Ball Bashers	39	39	8	5	3	63%
10	Billy Druce	Coopers Ball Bashers	26	26	8	5	3	63%

This left rivals Windmill C rubbing their hands together and they took advantage. Marc Brett beat Ian Wiggins in a close first frame and then he safely won the second, knocking in a 36 break. Stewart Brown, Richard Symons, Martin Hatton and James Rawlins shared the next four frames to give the Windmill C a 4-2 victory as they continue their unbeaten run.

Windmill Mecca played Coopers A and it was Adam Philpott who got the Mecca boys off to an early 2-0 lead as he defeated an out of sorts Martin Dalton. Darren Fenner continued his poor form as Steve Biggs eased past him to level up the scores at 2-2. Matt Barcock, with the help of a 30 break, pinched both frames

Higham SAS were on fire as they played one of the favourites for the title in Windmill G. Mike Wilson and Dave Tennant played impeccably as they beat Anthony Pinard and Jay Thomas to give the SAS a 4-0 lead. Pete Belg easily won the next to make it 5-0. Down to the final frame and, for the second week in a row, it was left to Craig Back to salvage something but, despite taking it to the black ball, Belg won the frame, giving SAS a deserved 6-0 victory.

## Results for week 9:

Coopers Ball Bashers 2-4 Windmill C  
Windmill Mecca 4-2 Coopers A  
Windmill Warriors 1-5 Windmill Underdogs  
Windmill Weapons 1-5 Windmill B  
Higham SAS 6-0 Windmill G

## High Breaks Winter 2017/18 - Sponsored by PrintFast

Position	Player Name	Team	High Breaks (30+)
1	Matt Barcock	Windmill Mecca	70, 68, 49, 39, 36, 30
2	Dave Tennant	Higham SAS	55
3	Neal Vaughan	Windmill Underdogs	51
4	Michael Dicks	Windmill Warriors	50, 34, 31
5	Jay Thomas	Windmill G	49, 35
6	Richard Wright	Windmill Warriors	48, 47, 44, 30
7	Marc Brett	Windmill C	45, 42, 36, 36, 34, 34
8	Craig Back	Windmill G	43, 33, 32
9	James Rawlins	Windmill C	43
10	Billy Druce	Coopers Ball Bashers	42

## East Northants Snooker League - Sponsored by Pumphouse Café Wellingborough

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Windmill C	9	6	3	0	34
2	Windmill Warriors	9	4	4	1	33
3	Coopers Ball Bashers	9	5	1	3	29
4	Windmill Underdogs	9	4	1	4	28
5	Higham SAS	9	3	1	5	27
6	Windmill G	9	4	1	4	26
7	Windmill B	9	3	2	4	25
8	Windmill Mecca	9	2	4	3	24
9	Coopers A	9	1	3	5	23
10	Windmill Weapons	9	2	2	5	21



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