

Nene Valley

NEWS

Your local independent community newspaper for East Northamptonshire

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In Brief

Christmas concert

The Singing for Fun group of Higham and Rushden are putting on their annual Christmas concert on Friday 13th December at the Hall of the Catholic Church of St Peter the Apostle, Higham Road, Rushden. There will be carols and Christmas songs which everyone will be encouraged to join in with as well as some other audience participation. In addition there will be solo performances. It is a fun evening so do come along. All proceeds will be given to The Full Gospel Church Food Bank and Night Shelter.



Tickets are £5 which includes refreshments. There will also be a raffle. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets are available from either Chris on 07778836094 or Gerry on 07494808431.

Nene Court creates winning formula

A courtyard right here in Northants has found a truly independent approach to creating a successful shopping and leisure environment.



Nene Court, Embankment, Wellingborough NN8 1LD, www.nenecourt.com
*source PWC

The first half of 2019 saw a record net 1,234* stores disappear from Britain's top 500 high streets, with retailers and leisure operators continuing restructuring activity and services increasingly moving online. The UK also saw a total of 2,868* store closures, equivalent to 16 per day and the most for five years.

But in a little corner of Wellingborough, a shopping courtyard that has been established for over 25 years has reacted quicker than most and created a unique proposition when it comes to the leisure and retail mix. Focusing purely on independent local retailers and shutting out the big shops was a bold move but one that has paid off. Shops have still come and gone but with a number of the outlets celebrating 10 and 15 year anniversaries, perhaps local government should be looking a little closer to home when it

comes to what to do with our high streets.

Nene Court was derelict in the mid-eighties when the current owners purchased the site. The buildings, some dating back to 1833, now play host to a fantastic mix of local businesses including a gluten free bakery, a gym, a small batch coffee roaster and even a Wellingborough-based charity, Golden Years. Add in a few places to eat, a camping and outdoor shop and a mix of other indies and even a Yoga studio and you have something a little bit special. As with the theme for the town, parking is completely free. The case for Nene Court being something to celebrate is made more compelling when you consider Rushden Lakes, and the large retailers, is less than five minutes away.

If you really want to celebrate something this Christmas, shop local.

CHRISTMAS SORTED.

 NENE COURT

Beacon Wealth Group celebrates 10 years with Pudsey

This year Beacon Wealth Group were joined by the BBC as they celebrated 10 years of escorting Pudsey Bear round the local area.

For the 10th year running Beacon Wealth Group teamed up with the BBC on Thursday 7th November and took Pudsey Bear out, having a fun day creating a party atmosphere at the places they visited in St Neots and surrounding areas.

For over half a century BBC Children in Need has been raising money for young people in the UK who need help. This is the message that was pushed throughout the day on Pudsey Bear's visit.

The team at Beacon arranged for Pudsey Bear to meet the Mayor of St Neots, Gordon Thorpe, visit the Old Vicarage Care Home, and had a party with dancing to the Conga, Baby Shark, the Hokey Cokey and more with

children at Kimbolton Primary Academy, Hail Weston Pre-school, Great Paxton Church of England Pre-school, Kester Pre-school, Priory Park Infant School, Cracker Jacks Day Nursery and Pre-school and Great Staughton Piglets Pre-school. Beacon Wealth Group also supplied all the children with flags to wave, creating an extra party atmosphere.

One of Beacon Wealth Group's key goals is to help support the local community. Teaming up with the BBC allows them to raise awareness for an amazing charity whilst bringing the community together.

Usually behind the scenes, the BBC joined Beacon Wealth Group on their trip this year as they wanted to share the efforts they and the community have made over the past 10 years.

Collectively the Beacon Wealth Group and the local community have raised over £32,500.

Genealogy jottings

My 2 x great grandfather was John Webb Mascall, the illegitimate son of William Webb and Sarah Mascall. John was married twice – first to Amy Baynes and then to my 2 x great grandmother, Lydia Cowling. Why am I telling you this? Well, John and Amy had a son – John Webb Mascall – who married Phoebe Day (his second wife) on 10th November 1855 whilst his father married Lydia on 16th December the same year. Both of their marriage entries in the Parish Register said that they were widowers and it took me ages to work out which one was mine! The moral of this is to not make assumptions that the first person you find with the right name is yours. The two Johns also had the same marriage reference in the General Record Office (GRO) – Linton, December quarter 1855, volume 3b, page 1173. Although both Lydia and Phoebe are also listed in the index, it is easy to assume that John had been recorded twice and that the husband of one of the women was missing.

Then we get on to children. Another branch

of my family has the father as Caleb Goldsmith. Amongst his children, he had William, Louisa, Caleb, Eliza, Ernest and George. William married and had children William, Louisa, Ernest, George and Arthur. Caleb married and had children (you guessed it!) William, Caleb, Louisa, Ernest and Eliza. So, we have two each of William, Louisa, Ernest and Eliza all of the same generation and living in the same town. How on earth do you sort them all out?

One suggestion to help you is to do the maths. Apart from a third cousin who managed to have two daughters just eight months apart, most folk back in the day would have children at the earliest a year to 18 months after the preceding one. If you find that one was born just five months after the one before, chances are it belongs to a different branch of the family.

One suggestion to help you is to do the maths. Apart from a third cousin who managed to have two daughters just eight months apart, most folk back in the day would have children at the earliest a year to 18 months after the preceding one. If you find that one was born just five months after the one before, chances are it belongs to a different branch of the family.

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Editor's notes

This weekend sees the official arrival of meteorological, or thermological, winter which lasts through what can be expected to be our 3 coldest months. However, forecasters at the Met Office say their long-range predictions are for next month's temperature to be above average for the time of year. A spokesman said: "At the moment, the longest range we are looking at is January, but this is not a forecast, it's a probability. We're probably looking at milder than average conditions." We can also expect heavy rain in December and strong winds are set to batter the UK, predominantly in the West. Not much chance of a white Christmas then.

And we are less than a month away from Christmas, just a few days away from the opening of the first doors on Advent Calendars. There will be Christmas Fayres and Markets aplenty, providing the opportunity to get started on, or if you have been really well organised complete, your Christmas shopping. It does seem that there has been something of a later start to the usual deluge of festive advertising, which those of the 'Bah Humbug' persuasion will only welcome.

While we appreciate that the average age of our readers might be higher than the section of the population at which this initiative is aimed, we need to alert you to a scheme which aims to keep people safe on dates. It has been established by East

Northamptonshire Council, in partnership with Northamptonshire Police and National Pubwatch. If you find yourself on a date with someone who isn't as they seemed online or on the phone, for example they look nothing like their profile picture or their behaviour is unusual and making you feel uncomfortable, simply go to the bar and 'Ask for Angela'. By asking for Angela, you will alert staff members and they will immediately know that something isn't right and you need assistance, whether it be keeping an eye on you throughout the evening or even taking you to a safer room and calling a taxi. Across the District, staff at pubs and clubs have been trained on the 'Ask for Angela' scheme and a number of businesses in towns across East Northamptonshire currently take part. These include: Higham Ferrers, Islip, Oundle, Raunds, Rushden, Stanwick and Thrapston. A Council spokesperson said: "We are very proud to continue to work in partnership with Northamptonshire Police and National Pubwatch to ensure all our residents are kept safe. However, in order for this scheme to be even more successful we would always encourage more pubs and clubs to take part, especially as we approach the festive period." If you are on a date and don't feel safe, at any time - go to the bar and 'Ask for Angela'. A full list of participating venues can be found on the East Northants Council website at <https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/>.

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Two new appointments strengthen team at Scotts of Thrapston

A Thrapston based joinery manufacturer has consolidated its Buildings team with two new appointments.

Scotts of Thrapston has taken on two experts to strengthen the department, as they bring with them a wealth of experience.

Mark Walker joins the company, which celebrates its centenary next year, as an Estimating Co-ordinator, while Phil Nash has joined the team as a Sales Manager.

James Scott said: "We are delighted to welcome Mark and Phil as they really strengthen the team, bringing different skills to the table."

Scotts of Thrapston has a reputation for manufacturing high quality, specialist timber products including summerhouses, stables, pavilions, timber doors, windows, bespoke joinery, roof trusses and education buildings.

Mark is from Somerset and regularly visits to watch Somerset County Cricket Club. He has a strong background in the industry working as a senior estimator.

He said: "I came to Scotts because I really wanted a change of scenery and a new challenge and I love the fact that the company is nearly 100 years old and a family business.

"I have worked mainly in steel before and am looking forward to working with timber – a much warmer, more organic material.

"I enjoy following projects all the way through from the initial call or email, to meeting a client on site and listening to a client's needs. I'm a team player, and very

driven, so when tasked to do something, it will get done."

Phil is from Towcester and has been in the construction industry for more than 30 years. He has a wealth of experience in technical, B2B, industrial and architectural sales.

He said: "I am delighted to have joined Scotts as I am looking forward to the challenge of developing the commercial business in the south of England.

"I have an ability to understand, analyse and develop various markets and develop long-term relationships with key stakeholders to maintain and grow business potential.

"It's a great feeling to be working for a reputable company about to celebrate 100 years in the industry. I aim to raise the profile of Scotts in the commercial sector and develop new customers as well as maintaining our established and loyal customer base."



The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah

Friday 17th January at 7.45pm-8.45pm, St Peter's Church, North Street, Oundle

Benjamin Zephaniah is a pioneer of performance poetry. His talent as a lyricist and storyteller emerged at a young age, he was unable to read and write at school but managed to overcome adversity to become one of Britain's most remarkable poets. A vibrant music scene in the form of roots reggae and the sound system culture of the 1970s provided the backdrop to a teenage life that was, at every turn, encountering institutional racism.

Benjamin now speaks candidly of his time living outside the law, and how he broke away from the path his schoolteachers told him was inevitable. His mission was to take poetry everywhere. With the flame of creativity burning inside him, he came to London and emerged as a uniquely dynamic performer, when punks and rastas were fighting Thatcherism and the National Front in the 1980s.

Nelson Mandela formed a close friendship with Benjamin after hearing his musical tribute to him recorded with The Wailers – the first artist to do so after the death of Bob Marley.

He was included in The Times list of Britain's top 50 post-war writers in 2008.

Benjamin is also an award-winning playwright, a novelist, political activist and musician. He has written several novels for teenagers and is an outspoken campaigner for human and animal rights. He has appeared on long-running BBC radio and TV programmes, such as Desert Island Discs and Question Time, and continues to record and release albums with his reggae band.

Benjamin will be in conversation with Sophie Raudnitz talking about his thought-provoking autobiography, The Life And Rhymes Of Benjamin Zephaniah. Published in May 2018 this book was shortlisted for the National Book Awards and the Costa book Awards. He will talk about how he fought injustice and discrimination to lead a remarkable life and will share a selection of favourite stories and poems.

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

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Spotlight on Thrapston



Scotts of Thrapston



Scotts of Thrapston

Family business celebrates centenary in 2020

Scotts of Thrapston is a family business, which celebrates its centenary in 2020, continuing to merge new technology and skills with traditional craftsmanship.

Specialising in timber manufacturing, the company is run by the founder's grandson and great-grandson, David and James Scott. It has built a proud reputation for high quality timber products as it invests in its future, preparing the business for the next 100 years.

Scotts operates several business divisions, within a range of industry sectors, including roof trusses, timber windows and doors, timber buildings and the high-quality summerhouses that the company has become renowned for.

The timber engineering division, the fastest growing division within the business, designs and supplies all structural roof components, including trussed rafters and metal web floor joists, to housebuilders across the UK.

As a leading UK joinery manufacturer,

Scotts offers high quality timber windows and doors, whether for new build or refurbishment projects.

A regular exhibitor at the RHS Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace Flower Shows, the Scotts hardwood summerhouse collection spans a range of shapes and sizes, including bespoke garden buildings.

With its diverse experience and expertise, Scotts also designs, manufactures and installs a wide range of timber buildings, including bespoke garages, car barns, stables, sports pavilions and education buildings.

James Scott said: "We have always listened to our customers and, by meeting their demands, we have remained at the forefront of our industry, throughout our long history."

For further information, visit www.scottsofthrapston.co.uk or phone 01832 732366.

Thrapston Christmas Farmers' Market

The Thrapston Christmas Farmers' Market is on Saturday 7th December from 9am until

1pm on Thrapston High Street. There will be plenty of ideas for Christmas gifts including award-winning locally made jams, chutneys, chilli sauces and honey as well as local artisan and craft decanted flavoured spirits, gin, vodka and rum.

Plan ahead for Christmas with freshly roasted coffee beans, fresh meats and pies. Or have a weekend treat of homemade delicious cakes, loaf cakes, cupcakes, truffles, hot chocolate sticks, cookie mix jars and lots more!

Thrapston Town Band will be playing to get everyone in the festive mood. Real Christmas trees will be on sale, as well as charity Christmas cards and The Souster Youth Trust will be sharing news about their local work too.

Thrapston Farmers' Market is on the first Saturday of each month - except January. It's run by volunteers and the money raised goes back into the community. Come along and support your local market and producers and get into the festive spirit! More details on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram #thrapstonfarmersmarket

Nene Valley
news
FEATURES
December and January

Christmas
14th December

Rushden Feature
11th January

Weddings
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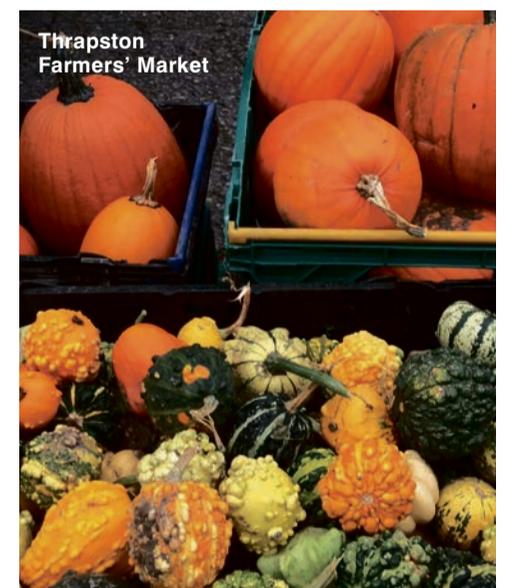
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5th December

Held on Thrapston's pretty High Street
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Thrapston Farmers' Market



Thrapston Farmers' Market

Dupree International welcomes Executive Level Strategic Director

The agency behind creative campaigns such as 'Britain's Sexiest Cow' adds to its expertise.

Full service marketing and brand development agency, Dupree International, is proud to announce and welcome Annalie Hempstead as Strategic Director. Annalie will be responsible for driving the ongoing strategy for Dupree International through new business generation and brand development, as well as daily account management responsibilities for new and existing clients.

With both an agency and client-side background, Annalie has over 20 years of experience in managing successful branding and

multi-channel projects for a wide range of B2B and B2C products and services. From Caribbean rum through to theme parks, fish & chip ranges, trade associations, theatrical film releases and London buses, her branding and marketing experience is diverse and colourful.

Annalie already has significant experience in working across international markets through her roles as Country Manager for the West Indies Rum and Spirit Producers' Association and European Product & Marketing Manager for Anheuser-Busch Adventure



Parks, and she's looking forward to expanding on this with international clients.

Outside of work, Annalie has two children and a husband who keep her busy. She likes to stay active, thriving on challenges including triathlons and assault courses. For relaxation she's a huge film lover and is passionate about travel and experiencing the world.

Local travel agent celebrates best customer service score

Local travel expert Joanne Cowdery is feeling fantastic after being featured in the Top 20 of the best customer service score at her company's annual conference this month.

With over 30 years' experience in the travel industry, Joanne has been running her own travel business from a home office in Luton for over 13 years. The travel professional also carries Travel Counsellors' prestigious 'Gold' title, which means she consistently goes above and beyond for her customers.

Joanne heard from special guests including global adventurer, TV personality and best-selling author Bear Grylls OBE, double Olympic champion boxer Nicola Adams OBE, and enjoyed exclusive performances from comedian Dara O'Briain, Paloma Faith and headline act Gary Barlow.

Joanne says: "I'm delighted to feature in the Top 20 for the best customer service score at Travel Counsellors' annual conference, having worked hard to ensure my customers enjoy amazing travel and booking experiences.

"Using Travel Counsellors' technology, I can search through thousands of travel options for my customers and create truly tailor-made travel experiences. I think my customers really value the personal

service and attention to detail I can provide through running my business with Travel Counsellors, delivering travel and booking experiences you can't replicate online."

Travel Counsellors won Best Independent Travel Agency in the 2018 British Travel Awards and Best Homeworking Agency at the 2019 Travel Weekly and TTG Top 50 Travel Agencies earlier this year.



For more information or to discuss your forthcoming corporate or leisure travel plans with Joanne, call 01832 238050 or email joanne.cowdery@travelcounsellors.com.

Organisations tackle illegal alcohol sales

Wellingborough Council and Northamptonshire Police recently carried out an operation to tackle illegal sales of alcohol to under-aged drinkers in the borough.

An officer from the Health Protection team undertook a joint test purchase operation with a Licensing Officer from Northamptonshire Police and two minors on 1st November.

Officers visited 17 licensed retail premises in Wellingborough, where the minors attempted to purchase alcohol. Sixteen out of 17 premises refused the sale of alcohol to the minors. However, one failed the test purchase and sold them alcohol.

The employee serving the minors was issued with an on the spot fixed penalty fine of £90 by the police, and the licence holder has been issued with written warnings from the council. A further test purchase will be attempted at the premises within the next three months, to check whether they have implemented additional controls.

All premises where sales were refused will be made aware, in writing that they passed the test purchase

operation.

Amanda Wilcox, Principal Environmental Health Manager, at the Borough Council of Wellingborough, said: "We work closely with Northamptonshire Police to carry out sporadic test purchase operations across the borough and it is really reassuring that 16 out of 17 premises refused to sell alcohol to minors.

"We would like to thank all premises which comply with regulations and we will continue to work with our partners, Northamptonshire Police, to tackle the illegal sale of alcohol to minors."

PC David Bryan, Northamptonshire Police Licensing Officer, added: "Test purchase operations are a really helpful tool for making sure premises are following the law around preventing the sale of alcohol to under-18s.

"I'm really pleased with the results of this operation, which showed 16 out of the 17 premises we visited is doing what is required and asking for ID.

"Our follow-up checks will make sure the venue which failed the test purchase has made the necessary improvements. If it has not then further, more serious action will be taken."

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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:

Aldwincle

19/01734/FUL (21/12/2019) (LB/CA) (Art8)
Installation of a buried mains water supply pipe connecting Lyveden New Bield Cottage to Lyveden Manor. As part of Lyveden Reconnected works already permitted in application 18/01818/FUL at Lyveden Manor Harley Way Oundle PE8 5AT

Apethorpe

19/01692/FUL (21/12/2019) (LB/CA)
Installation of balcony and ironworks at Kings Lodge 9 Manor Farm Apethorpe PE8 5DP

Brigstock

19/01683/FUL (21/12/2019) (LB/CA)
To remove two existing garage doors and replace with 1.5m high rendered walls and two black cross leaded windows to match the existing walls and windows at 6 Grafton Road Brigstock NN14 3EY

Collyweston

19/01759/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)
Rear two storey and single storey extensions at 10 Main Road Collyweston Stamford PE9 3PF

Higham Ferrers

19/01739/FUL and 19/01839/LBC (21/12/2019) (LB/CA) (LBRegs) Demolition of existing outbuildings including garage, car port and garden store in the Conservation Area at 1 Hind Stile Higham Ferrers Rushden NN10 8EA

Irthlingborough

19/01737/VAR (14/12/2019) (Info)
Variation of conditions 4 and 17; Removal of condition 11 to allow for boundary treats and amended plans pursuant to application number 17/00836/FUL
Condition 4 - Boundary
Condition 11 - No gates
Condition 17 - Plans at Lakes View 9A Manor Drive Irthlingborough

Kings Cliffe

19/01762/FUL (21/12/2019) (LB/CA)
Replacement of all windows and external doors; replacement of rainwater goods; chimney removal; roof and wall repairs at 25 West Street Kings Cliffe PE8

Nassington

19/01707/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)
3 bedroom dormer bungalow built in garden of 22 The Drove, Nassington. Single timber garage within curtilage of proposed development to be removed at 22 The Drove Nassington

Oundle

19/01750/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)
Relocation of boundary wall at 17 Hillfield Road Oundle PE8

19/01752/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info) New dormer window to front elevation at 7 Lime Avenue Oundle

Raunds

19/01728/REM (14/12/2019) (Info)
Reserved matters: Revised scheme for Plot 3 access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to planning permission 17/02442/OUT - Outline: Erection of three residential dwellings (all matters reserved) and 19/00808/REM at Antona House 32 Stanwick Road Raunds

19/01757/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)

Proposed single storey rear flat roof extension; along with extended garage roof over proposed extension; part conversion of existing garage; along with a render finish applied at rear first floor level at 77 London Road Raunds NN9 6EH

Rushden

19/01703/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)
Single storey Front Extension at 29 Chestnut Close Rushden NN10 9RS

19/01747/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)

Change of use of land and building from agricultural to a sui generis haulage business yard (retrospective) at 317 Bedford Road Rushden

19/01754/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)

Single storey rear extension to provide additional office space for the existing care home (Re-submission of 18/01520/FUL) at 86 Wymington Road Rushden NN10 9LA

19/01756/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)

Proposed front extension at 11 Mill Estate Wymington Road Rushden NN10 9LD

19/01784/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)

Conservatory to rear at 11 Alpine Road Rushden NN10 9RJ

Thorpe Achurch

19/01778/VAR (21/12/2019) (LB/CA)
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to allow for revised drawings pursuant to 19/00657/FUL - Rear glazed extension to garage to form gym at Thorpe Castle House Aldwincle Road Thorpe Waterville NN14 3ED

Thrapston

19/01528/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)
Erection of 3 terraced units for B1 Employment Use together with car parking and vehicle circulation areas at Land Off Top Close Thrapston

19/01666/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)

Change of use of current offices (B1) to non-residential institution (D1); Erection of fencing around Eastern entrance; installation of 2 gates to existing fencing at Western boundary (materials and colour to match existing) at East Council Cedar Drive Thrapston

Titchmarsh

19/01724/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)
Installation of new site boundary gate and frame at 33 Islington Titchmarsh NN14 3DG

19/01725/LBC (21/12/2019) (LBRegs)

Attach new site boundary gate and frame at 33 Islington Titchmarsh

Woodnewton

19/01611/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)
Alterations and extension to existing garage to create

carport with associated ramp access, revised layout and new access to highway at Willowbrook Barn Pound Lane Woodnewton

19/01803/FUL (14/12/2019) (Info)

Proposed change of use from grassed pasture to residential garden and new access drive from un-adopted road, Pound Lane at Willowbrook Barn Pound Lane Woodnewton

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 30 November 2019

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

From the Chairman...

The last fortnight has been focused around Remembrance Services. On Sunday 10th November I was pleased to join the Mayor and residents of Higham Ferrers for a ceremony at the cross in the centre of the town. After a wet Saturday the sun shone and the ceremony was well attended including a representative from the United States Air Forces. As I laid a wreath and heard the names it was a very moving moment.



In the afternoon, we joined the Raunds Temperance Band and a procession of councillors, and young people from uniformed organisations to march through the centre of the town towards the memorial. Again as I laid a wreath, I could see the names, some from the same family, of those who gave their all.

The following Monday, we attended the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Madingley American Cemetery remembering all those, many of whom flew from

local airfields, who died to make us free. In a way the rain made it an even more poignant time as the custodian of the cemetery recounted the death of one of his colleagues before the wreaths were laid.

As well as Remembrance Services, we have attended some other civic events including a most enjoyable ball to support the Mayor of Corby's chosen charity. The Mayor is a good ballroom dancer and some of his friends led the way on the dance floor.

NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust) held its first major concert of the season at the Dergate in Northampton. What a treat that was with the brass band, choir, big band and the county youth concert band

playing music from jazz to theme music from the film ET. We are fortunate in Northamptonshire to have NMPAT giving the opportunity for so many young people to perform to such a high standard.

Kettering's Civic Ball at the Conference Centre was also a great evening. It takes a lot of effort by the Mayor and members of the staff to organise these events which earn considerable sums for charity.

So this last fortnight has been a time for looking back and remembering those who 'gave their tomorrow for our today' and seeing the young people of today at their very best giving us a musical treat.

Chair of ENC,
Dudley Hughes

Council teams up to tackle drugs in East Northants

Illegal drugs in East Northamptonshire have been sniffed out during an operation by East Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Police and Alpha K9 Security Services.

On Friday 8th November 2019, ENC ran their most recent drug dog operation and a suspected Class A substance was recovered from one premises. During the evening, the team visited 15 licensed premises in total across the district and 11 stop searches were carried out by Northamptonshire Police of people who had been identified by the drugs dog. The majority of these searches confirmed drugs had been used by the individuals in the hours prior to being searched.

A Council spokesperson said: "We are proud to have joined up with Northamptonshire Police and Alpha K9 Security Services on these successful operations. Everyone involved has worked hard to ensure this was a success and a special mention should go to Raunds Town Council who funded the operation and are clearly taking proactive steps to keep their residents safe.

"The success we had wouldn't have been possible without the help of the local community. This is an example of community engagement at its finest. We would like to thank local residents for the large amount of intelligence we have received concerning drugs and to those who were supportive whilst our staff were on the operation."

DC Jane Manning of the East Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team, who led the operation, said: "By increasing both our visibility and visits to licensed premises, we are making it harder for those involved in the supply of drugs in our towns and villages.

"Having the resources of Alpha K9 Security Services available to us was invaluable to the operation, and we must thank Raunds Town Council for their support in providing the funding for the specialist drugs dog and handler.

"As a result of being able to take the dog into the licensed premises, we spoke to a number of people who confirmed they had used drugs earlier that evening, and enquiries are on-going into the possession of a suspected Class A drug.

"Detecting and preventing the use and sale of illegal drugs in our communities is a key part of our work, and it was great to speak with people during this operation to explain what we were doing and why – the general feedback we had from the public, patrons and landlords were positive.

"We will continue to work in partnership with Licensing Officer, Rita Groves and her team at East Northamptonshire District Council, and the night time economy to provide a safe environment for visitors of all ages to enjoy."

If you suspect drug activity in your area, and would like to report it, please contact Northamptonshire Police on 101.

Former England netball captain visits Manor School

Former England netball captain and Commonwealth Games medallist Pamela Cookey visited Manor School Sports College on Wednesday 13th November.

The day began with a series of netball coaching sessions with selected students from across Years 7 to 11. Pamela gave expert tips and advice on a number of aspects of the game such as powerful passing, accurate shooting and effective dodging.

This was followed in the afternoon by a presentation to all Year 8 students about her double-life career in netball and engineering, as well as how to cope with pressure. To conclude the day's activities, Pamela spoke to Year 8 student Neve and Year 12 student Lucy who have been selected to be mentored by the sports star for the next six months.

The event was part of a special mentoring programme from the Mintridge Foundation, a charity that provides a support network for young people by harnessing the power of positive sporting role models. The programme was kindly donated to the school by Bowbridge Homes, a local property developer that is currently building in the area.

Toni Hustwait, Curriculum Lead for PE, commented: "It's always fantastic when

we can give our students the opportunity to meet real-life sporting stars, but Pamela was particularly engaging and provided a positive role model for our girls. It was such an enjoyable day for both the students and staff who all ensured they got memorabilia signed and pictures taken for this once in a lifetime experience. I am especially happy for Lucy and Neve for being selected for mentoring and am sure they will grab this with both hands."



14th & 15th December

NANNA

GIVING WEEKEND

Can you donate a gift to an animal to put under the Xmas Tree?

Bypass Road, A6, Irthlingborough | 11am - 3pm

NANNA

Northamptonshire Animals Needing Nurturing & Adoption

Northamptonshire Newfoundland Rescue
Higglety Pigglety Farm Rescue
Northamptonshire Ferret Rescue
Reg. Charity No. 1115238

Like most small animal rescue centres, NANNA is running at full capacity and any help you can give us to feed the animals in our care would be fantastic and very much appreciated. NANNA's food bill a month is £1,800 plus straw and hay. If you feel you could add a little extra to your shopping today to give to the animals, then here is a list of food products we are in need of:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baby wipes Bin liners (strong black) Cat food (dry or tinned) Cat litter, treats, blankets Dog food (dry or tinned) Dog treats/toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit (apples/bananas) Hay Litter scoops Litter trays Nuts Poop bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puppy training pads Rabbit or guinea pig food Rat, degu or ferret food Tinned tuna Vegetables or salad Wood shavings
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A list of animals in our care:

Bearded Dragons	Ducks	Hens	Rats
Cats	Ferrets	Horses	Sheep
Chinchillas	Foxes	Mules	Snakes
Cockerels	Geese	Owls	Tortoises
Degus	Goats	Pigs	Turkeys
Dogs	Guinea Pigs	Ponies	Turtles
Donkey	Hedgehogs	Rabbits	

NANNA Animal Rescue
Higglety Pigglety Farm, A6 opposite Finedon Road, Irthlingborough, Northants NN9 5FA
www.nannaanimalrescue.co.uk
nanna@btinternet.com
www.facebook.com/NANNAANIMALRESCUE1
07921 215049 24 hours emergency line
01933 650372 (10am till 10pm)

Councils to crack down on unlicensed HMOs

Councils in North Northamptonshire will be taking action to tackle private landlords whose properties are not licensed, following recent changes in legislation to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO), which came into effect on 1st October 2018.

The legislation now requires any privately rented property occupied by five or more people living as two or more households to be licensed under the mandatory HMO scheme.

Since the legislation came into force, councils in North Northamptonshire have been working with landlords to make sure that their properties are correctly licensed. Teams have aligned HMO standards and processes to make it easier for landlords to comply if they have properties across district boundaries.

Private Sector Housing Officers are now pursuing landlords and managers that fail to licence their properties. Landlords



operating an illegal HMO could face prosecution and an unlimited fine or a penalty of up to £30,000. Tenants or the council can also apply to have up to 12 months rent repaid to them if their rented property should be licensed, but the landlord has not made an application.

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Cllr Steven North, said: "Changes to the way we license HMO properties

came into effect last year in order to provide further assurance and protection to private tenants.

"We have been working with our neighbouring councils to provide landlords with the information they need to ensure their properties meets the new legislation but will now take action to prosecute those that do not responsibly license their private lets."

Tenants can check if their property is licensed by looking on the Public Register at: <https://lipublicaccess.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/online-licensing>

To report an unlicensed property you can email licensingunit@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk or call the team on 01832 742102.

Work on repairs to North Bridge, Oundle to start

Work to repair the historic Grade II listed North Bridge in Oundle started on Monday 11th November.

The bridge was shut to heavy goods vehicles - by imposing a three tonne weight restriction - because of concerns about a number of its arches.

The work will take about 30 weeks to complete, to repair and strengthen the bridge.

Most of the repair work will take place under the structure, so the impact on motorists will be kept to a minimum.

However, the southern footway will be closed at all times to allow work to be carried out safely. Pedestrian access will be maintained on the other side of the bridge.

The works will consist

of:

- Vegetation clearance
- Strengthening of arches
- Removal of weight restriction over the bridge
- Resurfacing

Cllr Jason Smithers, Northamptonshire County Council cabinet member for highways and place, said: "I'm delighted that we're now in a position to start these works which have long been anticipated.

"Because the structure is Grade II listed, these works are far more complicated than on a regular bridge.

"I'd like to thank everyone for their patience

on this. We're also keeping disruption to a minimum as much as possible while the work takes place."

Northamptonshire Highways have been working with associated parties including East Northamptonshire Planning Authority, the Environment Agency and Historic England, to secure consent to start works on the repair.

To allow for vegetation to be cleared safely, weekend daytime closures will be required in the first few weeks of the scheme. These have not yet been programmed.

Towards the end of the 30-week programme some full 24-hour closures will be required. This is to allow the width restriction to be removed and to resurface the carriageway.

Follow @nnhighways on Twitter for updates.

Local primary pupil celebrates designing a winning primary school sports logo

Six primary schools in Rushden and Higham Ferrers have a brand new sports logo, thanks to 11-year-old Ella Weekley, whose winning design was selected out of more than 150 entries.

The Rushden and Higham Ferrers schools cluster invited pupils from six local primary schools to design a new logo for the School Sports Cluster.

The cluster represents Higham Ferrers Junior School, Whitefriars Primary School, Henry Chichele Primary School, Southend Junior School, Rushden Primary Academy and Alfred Street Junior School.

Year 6 Whitefriars Primary School pupil, Ella created a design that represents all six schools and the variety of sports that they take part in through the competitions supported by Freedom Leisure. The trust, which operates facilities across

the district on behalf of East Northamptonshire Council, presented the prize to Ella.

The competitions take place throughout the school year and aim to encourage youngsters to try out new sports, with the cluster taking part in more than 15 sporting events. Last year more than 2,000 youngsters took part in the competitions, taking part in activities such as basketball and dodgeball.

Ed Reeves, School Sport Manager, Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire, said: "Primary school sport is growing from strength to strength in Rushden.

"We are working with Freedom Leisure to encourage more young people to become active through a wide range of sports competitions."

Johnathan Rudland, East Northamptonshire Active Communities Manager,

said: "We are passionate about working with local primary schools to encourage pupils to try out new sports and encourage them to take part in physical activity.

"We worked with the sports school cluster to invite primary school pupils to design the new schools sports cluster logo, and we received so many creative and colourful designs. It was so difficult to choose one winner but Ella's design captured the collaboration of all schools coming together to compete in a mix of different sports."

The winning design was decided by the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Primary School Sport Cluster steering group and will represent the cluster competitions.

Keep an eye out for the new logo at the next competition.

Your Health – Set the alarm!



When should you go to bed? At the risk of stating the obvious, the time for going to bed is when you feel sleepy. If you feel sleepy, switch the TV off and go to bed. Don't fall asleep on the couch as it's then harder to fall asleep when you do go to bed.

If you can, find a routine, not just for going to bed, but also for eating. According to a study from Birmingham and Surrey Universities you can re-programme your sleep pattern if you set the alarm to the same time every morning (including at weekends) and eat at the same time every day.

Sure, our lives are crazily busy. Yes, we're all trying to fit more and more into the hours that we are awake. But, if you're having problems sleeping you need to know this stuff.

So, stop going to bed when other people in the house go to bed. If you're tired, don't stay up watching a film. Go to bed! Try not to play on your iPad or phone before bedtime and slow things down so you can dream sweetly.

Of course, I don't dream sweetly. I have nightmares about the lawnmower coming to get me, but that's a different issue.

Top Tip: Lack of sleep can make you put on weight, so do the things you know will help you sleep well.

Have another restful week!

Claire

Claire Short is a Registered Osteopath and runs The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers. Follow her tips on Twitter & Instagram: @ashgroveclinic

New seating takes centre stage at Castle Theatre

Castle Theatre has unveiled its brand new seating, just in time for the festive season! The new seating offers customers more comfort and presents a fresh and modern look for the Wellingborough venue.

During November, work has been taking place at the theatre to upgrade the main auditorium seating after being granted funds by the Borough Council of Wellingborough in 2017.

Martin Cleverley, Castle Theatre's General Manager said: "2019 has seen a great deal of work take place within the Castle Theatre including a new look bar, the current redecoration and soon to be open restaurant and the cherry on top of the cake is the arrival and fitting of the new seating for

the main auditorium. All of which will enhance all of our customers' visitor experience. A huge thank you must go to the Borough Council of Wellingborough for their support on the project."

Emma McGinlay, Project Manager at the Borough Council of Wellingborough, added: "The Castle Theatre is one of the most iconic venues in Wellingborough and is enjoyed by hundreds of residents each year. We are delighted to be able to support the upgrades to the venue by funding new seating

which will vastly improve the customer experience, just in time for this year's pantomime, Aladdin!"

Where possible, the original 1995 seating has been donated to other local and national venues and organisations. One of these venues was Putney Arts Theatre which is a registered charity. A spokesperson for the theatre said: "We're delighted to give the seats a new home and help minimise things going to waste for both of our theatres. We can't thank Castle Theatre enough for the generosity of their offer and the help they gave us in loading all our lovely new seats into the truck. We wish everyone there and the community of Wellingborough many years of happy enjoyment of a wonderful auditorium."



Consultation now open on full draft budget proposals for 2020/2021

People are being invited to have their say on proposals announced in Northamptonshire County Council's draft budget for 2020/2021.

The proposals include a council tax increase of 3.99%, comprised of a 1.99% rise in the core Council Tax and a 2% social care precept, and savings totalling £23.2m.

The draft budget was approved by the Cabinet yesterday (Tuesday) and is now subject to public consultation, in which members of the public and other stakeholders can give their feedback.

People can take part in the consultation in the following ways:

- Completing the online survey at <https://northamptonshire.citizenspace.com/bipm/draftbudget2021>

- Emailing consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk
 - Writing to Draft Budget Consultation, Northamptonshire County Council, One Angel Square, Northampton NN1 1ED
 - Using social media: Tweeting @mycountycouncil or posting comments on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mycountycouncil
 - Signing or submitting a petition or e-petition
 - Customer and user groups will also be able to hold their own discussions by using the information available on the draft budget consultation webpage and sending back the feedback form
- The budget consultation is open until Tuesday 24th December.

Your Health – Flobby, hunched and red-eyed

Have you been working at a desk or sitting for long periods of time? Do you feel twisted? Lop-sided? Sore? Achey?

How about your eyes? Do you feel the strain from looking at a screen? Do you try to read things on your phone that are slightly out of focus, or too small? Do you have a sense of relief when you look into the distance for a change?



And is your belly a little bit 'flobby'?

Well, in case you've not already seen her, let me tell you about Emma. Emma is a life-sized model of how researchers think we might look in the future. And she's definitely got some familiar health issues, including:

- varicose veins
- a hunched posture
- red, dry, itchy eyes
- swollen ankles
- a rotund belly

50% of the workers interviewed for this study said that sore eyes, back pain and weight gain were problems. If you're sitting all day, they're probably problems for you too.

So, save yourself! Do the rehab exercises you've been given by your

osteopath, physio, sports therapist or trainer. It doesn't matter whether you do Pilates, running, HIIT training, weights, dog walking or gardening. Do it!

Top tip: Even if all you do is get that horrid lawnmower out and push it around the garden (don't bother switching it on, you know it will just try to kill you) – any movement should help you avoid looking like futuristic Emma.

Have an active week!

Claire

Claire Short is a Registered Osteopath and runs The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers. Follow our tips on Twitter & Instagram: @ashgroveclinic.

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Ballet legend double bill



body and one soul”.

“Rudolf Nureyev emerged to everyone’s surprise in the early ‘60s like discovering a wild flower in the middle of nowhere practically, it emerged somewhere in the desert and mountains, a flower in infinite beauty. You could admire it, you could be amazed by it, you could touch it, but you could never cut this flower. Because this flower had very strong roots, a very strong stem which supported that beauty. Rudolf was an unusual man in all respects, instinctive, intelligent, constant curiosity, extraordinary discipline, that was his goal in life, and of course love of performing.”

Mikhail Baryshnikov

This January Oundle Cinema is delighted to be presenting a double bill of films focusing on a legendary figure in the field of ballet.

On Sunday 5th January Oundle’s Stahl Theatre will be filled with the extraordinary story and performances of Rudolf Nureyev, the Russian born dancer whose defection to the West at the height of the Cold War stunned the world. Starting the double bill is the recently released docudrama *The White Crow* where Ralph Fiennes captures the brilliance of Nureyev, his flirtation with Western artists and ideas which led him into a high-stakes game of cat and mouse with the KGB.

This is followed by a never-before-seen, high-definition restoration of the historic Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn 1966 performance of Tchaikovsky’s *Swan Lake* filmed at the Vienna State Opera. Hailed as the greatest ballet partnership of all time, Nureyev once said that they danced with “one

For more information, screening times and tickets visit www.oundlecinema.org.uk, call 01832 274734 or pop into the Oundle Box Office, 4 New Street, Oundle.

Save the dates: Just a little reminder that the 2020 Oundle International Festival will be taking place between 9th-18th July. Lots to entertain for young and old alike. Look out for more details next spring: to be invited to the Festival Launch in February join up to be a Friend of the Festival on the website: www.oundlefestival.org.uk or pop into the Oundle Box Office.

Wildlife News

We will soon have another ‘official’ change of seasons, as December is one boundary between autumn and winter. The woods become lighter as trees and shrubs lose their leaves and are attacked by, among others, bacteria and fungi to turn them into compounds for future generations to start the cycle again. Fungi are part of a natural rubbish removal service, incidentally providing us humans with a few additions to our diets.

Over the summer, though, what highlights stand out, especially for those who did not (or could not) flee from whatever the weather threw at us? We are lucky in this region because the ‘flood plain’ of the Nene (helped in places by the Ise Brook

absorbs and spreads out huge quantities of water to prevent too much flooding; there is a limit, which in some places was reached, but we still fared much better than other areas.

Oddly much of our recollection of the past year will be influenced by two substances essential for virtually all life on the planet – air and water. Even though one of them is invisible, appreciated only by feeling its effect, these two are vital. Underwater creatures have systems like a fish’s gills to take the dissolved air from the water, but it is the air which the animal needs. The problems arise when there is either a shortage or an excess of either, or it comes too quickly. What sticks in our minds (or in the fields when the farmer

is trying to plough his bit of mud!) is the impact of the floods and gales which have come so often this year (after the dry early spring!).

Yet our wildlife does not have modern technology giving alerts on unexpected weather (usually fairly accurate, despite local surprises), leaving them likely to suffer when unexpected severe weather arrives. We receive plenty of reminders of the need to “feed the birds” we should also be aware of the other problems, such as providing clean water, or putting up shelters for all kinds of animal life (insects, mammals, birds) even when it seems the ‘wrong time’ of year. Our wildlife is not indestructible.

By Roy Burrell



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Come to Colemans for Christmas!

Tuesday 3rd December

Coffee Morning
Thrapston Baptist Church
10am-12noon. Friendly time for all to meet, chat, and share tea, coffee and cake.

Funny Garden Features by Andrew Sankey

Methodist Hall, Drummingwell Lane, Oundle PE8 4AA
7.45pm, £2 patrons/£3 visitors
07761 983350. An Oundle Horticultural Society illustrated talk, free light refreshments, all welcome.

Thursday 5th December

Guided Walk – 4.5 miles Laxton, Fineshade Abbey
Meet in Laxton Village
2pm, £1.50. Sue 01780 782747
NN17 3AT. No need to book.

What is a Climate Friendly Diet?

Queen Victoria Hall, West Street, Oundle
Doors & bar open at 7pm, talk starts 7.30pm, free, but reserve seat through Oundle Box Office, 4 New St, PE8 4EA 01832 274734. Tom Martin, aka Farmer Tom, and Anthony Davison, of Big Barn, discuss food production and consumption.

Tiddlers Group for 0 to 3 year olds

Thrapston Baptist Church
9.30am-11am. 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 6th December

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

Whitefriars Church Retireds' Group: Christmas carols with Whitefriars Primary School Choir – and Christmas refreshments

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

Ringstead Cinema: Red Joan (12A)

Ringstead Village Hall, High Street NN14 4DA
Film starts 7.30pm, £4, 01933 460373. Why would M15 visit an 85 year-old retired secretary? Stars Judy Dench.

Christmas Craft – Fun for all the family

Rushden Mission Church, Brookfield Road
6pm-8pm, Gill 01933 413112. Free including refreshments.

Saturday 7th December

Faryl Smith 'Christmas Concert'
The Salvation Army, Church Street, Rushden NN10 9YT
7pm, £8, tickets call 01933 353528. Faryl Smith rose to fame after appearing on ITV television talent show Britain's Got Talent in 2008.

Wassailing in a Winter Wonderland

The Saxon Hall, Raunds
7pm start, tickets from any Choir member or Raunds Post Office, Brook Street, Raunds or call 01933 626113. Adults £6 Children £3. You are invited to come wassailing with Raunds Community Choir and their guests Jonathan Reynolds and Wilf Portch. Nibbles, non-alcoholic mulled wine and raffle or BYOD.

Oundle and District Choral Society Christmas Concert

St Peter's Church, Oundle
7.30pm, tickets £10 from any Choral Society member, or on the door. Under the new leadership of Quentin Thomas, Director of Music at Oundle School. Selected singers and musicians from Oundle School will also be performing as well as a festive programme including Britten's Saint Nicholas Suite and a selection of carols.

Christmas Gospel Concert

St Andrew's Church, Barnwell
7.30pm. Bar from 7pm serving mulled wine and soft drinks. Tickets £10/£5 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/barnwell
Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir will perform festive, rock and pop gospel.

Christingle Service

St Mary's Church, Rushden
2.30pm
In aid of The Children's Society.

Christmas Wreath Making

Bede House, Higham Ferrers
2pm, tickets £25 from Karen Holmes 01933 318529
Christmas Wreath Making Workshop.

Woodford Christmas Fayre

Woodford Manor House
Farmhouse Courtyard NN14 4ES
1-4pm, free, judimast@btinternet.com. Christmas fayre offering variety of stalls, Christmas trees, seasonal food, refreshments. Also visit Father Christmas.

Christmas Fayre

Rushden Library
10am-3pm, free entry, rushlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk
Christmas Fayre, with stalls, tea and cake, Christmas photo shoot and family crafts and games.

Rushden Town Brass Band (RTB) playing 'Carols and Festive Music'

St Mary's Church, High Street, Little Addington (NN14 4BD)
Doors 6.45 for 7.30pm start. Tickets £7 Adults £3 Children. Disabled toilet. Booking recommended phone 01933 /650245 or 650788 or c/o RTB 413982. 21st Annual Christmastide Festival. Heating in church and warm welcome singalong promised to include mince pies and warm mulled wine or juice.

SOLID Dads

Thrapston Baptist Church
9.30am-11am. A group for dads, granddads and all male carers with their children aged 0-6 yrs. Come and have fun with your children with games, craft and toys.

Sunday 8th December Morning Service

Thrapston Baptist Church
10.30am. Preacher: Mat Hussain
Favourite carols and their stories – 'The First Nowell'

Whitefriars Café Church

Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX
10.15am, Rosie Benn 07856 764771. A chance to chat and find out what church is all about – with a Christingle.

Books 'n' More

Coffee Barne, College Street, Higham Ferrers NN10 8DZ
10.30am-12noon, free admission
Nisha 07958 477266 or Karen 07970 091133. A relaxed reading and discussion group, organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden and open to all.

Whitefriars Church, Rushden, Countryside Walk – Bolnhurst Bop

Meet at the Stables Christian Centre (Old Rectory) on the B660 in Bolnhurst, MK44 2ES
10.30am. Andrew Presland 01933 316927. 3 to 4 mile walk in the north Bedfordshire countryside.

Christingle Service

St Mary's Higham Ferrers
5pm. Revd Michelle Dalliston
01733 569147

'A Christmas Cracker'

St Rumbald Church, Stoke Doyle
6pm, emdoherly@sky.com. Enjoy a miscellany of Christmas readings, music, mulled wine and mince pies and in return donate to a collection for Peterborough Winter Night Shelter.

Monday 9th December

Oundle U3A Christmas Celebration
Queen Victoria Hall, West Street, Oundle 2pm-4pm, £3 members only, 01832 275933 to reserve your ticket. Lesley Smith returns to entertain us as 'Boudicca'.

Tuesday 10th December

The Three Oundle Proboscis Clubs' Joint Annual Service of Carols & Readings
St Peter's Church, Oundle
10.30am, 01832 272752. All are welcome!

Coffee Morning

Thrapston Baptist Church
10am-12noon. Friendly time for all to meet, chat, and share tea, coffee and cake.

Thursday 12th December

Tiddlers Group for 0 to 3 year olds
Thrapston Baptist Church
9.30am-11am. 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!

Rushden Mission Band Christmas Concert

Rushden Mission Church, Brookfield Road
7.30pm. Everyone welcome for an evening of enjoyable music and carols.

Higham & Rusden U3A

Wesleyan Chapel, Rushden High Street
1.30pm, visitors welcome (£3 charge). 01933 522934/www.highamandrushden3a.org

AFC Rushden and Diamonds Quiz Night

Rushden Bowls Club, Northampton Road, Rushden NN10 6AN
7.30pm, £3 per person, Glenis Haynes on 07870 332606 to book a table. Max. 6 players per table. Raffle, retiring bucket collection for Cransley Hospice.

Friday 13th December

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

Christmas Concert

All Hallows Church, Hargrave
7.30pm, admission: £5 in aid of Cransley Hospice, 01933 460647/623524. Hargrave Singers, Stanwick Handbell Ringers and Raunds Ukulele Orchestra present an evening of Christmas music.

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
Michael Brown – A Medieval Christmas.

Saturday 14th December

A Victorian Christmas Concert
United Reformed Church, High Street, Wellingborough
3pm-4pm, adults £5 (including refreshments), students and children free. Enjoy carols from the Victorian era, memories of bygone Christmases in Wellingborough and mince pies!

Sunday 15th December

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group
Saffron Road car park, Higham Ferrers for car sharing
9.30am, free, 01933 386839. 6-mile walk from Summer Leys.

Family Carol Service

Thrapston Baptist Church
10.30am
Preacher: Mat Hussain
Favourite carols and their stories - 'Away in a Manger'.

Carols by Candlelight

Thrapston Baptist Church
6pm. Preacher: Mat Hussain
Favourite carols and their stories - 'Silent Night'.

By Appointment Counselling & Listening Service

No 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle, Northants PE8 4BG
Free service, 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 skills, £15 course intro with coffee. Diane Gifford 07432 123438

Every Monday

Stanwick Handbell Ringers Group
The Stanwick Village Hall
7pm-9pm, 01933 623855, see website for more details. Everyone welcome, come and have a go.

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

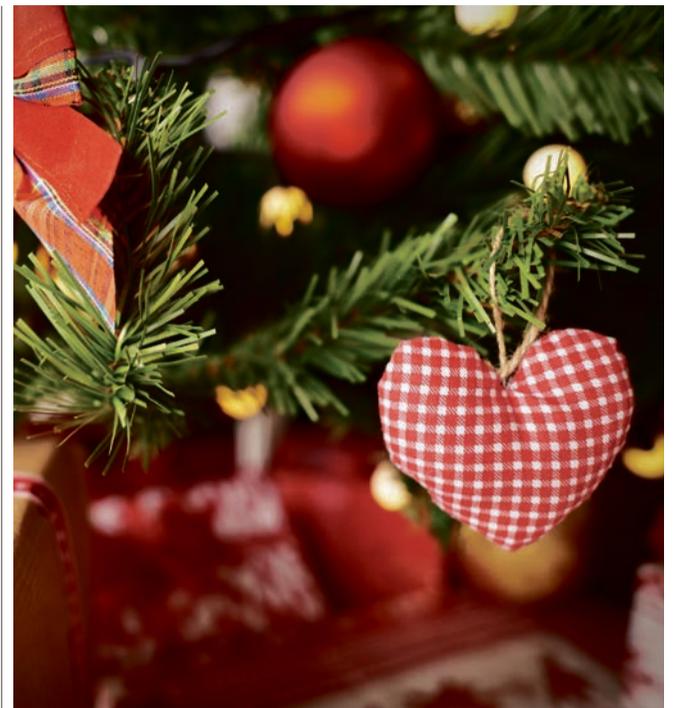
Bounce and Rhyme

Irthlingborough Library
10am-10.30am, free. A singing session aimed specifically at babies (or toddlers who are not yet walking).

Every Monday (term time) Praise and Play

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

Engage Open Youth Club for school years 7-13



No.1 St Osyths Lane, Oundle
7pm-9pm, free of charge. Pool, Xbox, crafts, chat, milkshake.

1st Monday of the month Finedon Irthlingborough & District Branch Royal British Legion Branch Meeting

Finedon Bowls Club
7.30pm, Peter Eames 07434 328237

1st Monday of the month (except May when 2nd Monday) Oundle & District Royal British Legion Meeting

The Talbot Hotel, Oundle
7pm, Roy Sparkes 07904 463707

1st & 3rd Monday of the month Oundle Rotary

The Ship Inn, West Street, Oundle PE8 4EF
6.15pm, Jane Grant 07712 933574. Bring your skills, experience, enthusiasm, give something back to your community.

2nd Monday of the month Thrapston & District Royal British Legion Branch Meeting

Thrapston Town Council Centre, 77 High Street, Thrapston
7.30pm, 07876 716 478, ibyrnes@britishlegion.org.uk

50+ Adventure Club

For further information 01536 505548/www.fiftyplusadventureclub.org. Adventure and social activities for the over 50s.

Royal British Legion Rushden Branch Monthly Meeting

Rushden Football & Social Club, Hayden Road, Rushden
7.15pm, annual fee £17, Jake Baker 07525 441267

3rd Monday of the month Higham Ladies Group

Adult School, Westfield Terrace Higham Ferrers NN10 8BB
2pm-4pm, 01933 387073. Make some new friends and have fun. Interesting speakers.

3rd Monday of the month (not Dec) Oundle Munch Club

Oundle Primary School
£4, call 01832 275353 to book. Come for roast lunch and pudding.

2nd & 4th Monday of the month StitChat

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

Monday once a month Woodturning Club

Hardwick Village,

nr Wellingborough NN9 5AL
7-10pm, Paul Lawman 01933 674260

Every Monday & Thursday Oundle Bridge Club

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

Every Tuesday Bell Ringing

St Mary's Higham Ferrers
7.30pm, Bob Dennis 01933 317648. Bell Ringing practice for Sunday 10.30am service.

Library Explore a Story

Irthlingborough Library
10.30-11am, free. A story with a craft or songs – definitely fun and interactive.

Free and Friendly Health Walks – Kings Cliffe

Meet at the Ex-Servicemen's Club, Wood Road
11am, Barry Hurcombe 01780 471070. Explore the local area and make new friends. Open to everyone. Refreshments available afterwards.

Pensioners Club

Rushden Hall
2pm-4pm, Secretary David Robinson 01933 313729. Speakers, bingo and whist. All welcome.

Phoenix Gaming Club (Age 12+)

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

Short Mat Bowls

Saxon Hall, Raunds
1.45pm-4pm, £3.50, 07542302770

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.

IT Assistance and Advice

Irthingborough Library 2pm-4.30pm, free service for anyone wishing to improve their IT skills or seeking support creating CVs/looking for work.

Rushden and District Photographic Society (RDPS) Members Meeting

Irchester Village Hall 8pm, no admission fee - reasonable yearly membership. Secretary 01933 624286. For anyone interested in photography. Includes talks, competitions and days out.

Every Tuesday (term time)

Tuesday Tots

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

Northamptonshire MS Society Meeting

Barton Seagrave Village Hall, Bertone Road, Barton Seagrave, Kettering NN15 6WF 2pm, Stella Luck 01536 216135/northamptonshire@mssociety.org.uk

2nd Tuesday of the month

East Northants Land Rover Owners Club Meeting

Aviator Hotel, Sywell Aerodrome, Sywell NN6 0BN 8pm, free admission. Family friendly for anyone with an interest in Land Rovers of all ages. www.enlroc.co.uk

Woodford WI Meeting

Woodford Sports and Social Club 7.30pm, Lynn Sortwell 01832 732740

Higham Ferrers Guided Tour

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

Nene Valley Ladies

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church Hall, Higham Road, Rushden 2pm-4pm, 01933 355478. Visiting speakers and outings

3rd Tuesday of the month

Rushden and District Stamp Club

Park Road Baptist Church Hall, Rushden NN10 0RG 7.30pm, Malcolm Whitehead 01933 350646.

Every Tuesday & Thursday

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

Ladies Crochet Group

Irthingborough 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

Last Tuesday of the month

Tea with Friends

St Mary's Church, Ringstead 2pm-4pm, catch up with old friends and make new ones. Donations to church funds and charities.

Every Wednesday

Rhymetime

Irthingborough Library 2pm-2.30pm, free. A singing session aimed at Under 5s.

Pemberton Maid Marions

Ladies Archery

The Pemberton Centre, H E Bates Way, Rushden NN10 9YP Diane 01933 314032 or Glenda 01933 225057. Welcomes new and experienced archers.

Dog Training, Socialisation

and Ringcraft

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

Rainbow Cafe for Tots

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

Club Night Apethorpe

Tennis Club

From 6pm

Returners to Work

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

Art & Craft Class

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

Cambridge First

Certificate in English

The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Oundle 9.30am-12.30pm, £25pw, 01832 776336/info@antlerlanguages.co.uk

Jelly Babes Toddler Group

Rushden Independent Wesleyan Church 9.15am

Walk and Chat

Woodford Village, meet at Tiggywinkles Tearooms, 10b Manor House Farm, Addington Road, Woodford NN14 4ES 9.30am, free. Joe Bailey 01832 742195 or jebailey@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

Homework Club

Irthingborough Library 3.30pm-4.30pm. For ages 8-16, access the library's resources for free and have assistance with homework.

Every Wednesday (term time)

Community ICT Classes

Needham Building, Oundle School SciTec, Glapthorn Road, Oundle 2.30pm-4pm, 01832 277267 to enrol.

Music Makers

Prior Hall Park 11.15am-12noon, £4 per child, £2 for siblings. Booking essential. Contact Jenni at musicmakersnorthants@gmail.com

Tiny Tots

Oundle C of E Primary School, Glapthorn Road 1.45pm

660 Club (Age 60+)

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

Every other Wednesday

Psychic and Spiritual Awareness

Rushden 1pm-3pm, 7.30pm-9.30pm, £7 per session. 07712 740495

1st Wednesday of the month

Raunds Coffee Afternoon

Saxon Hall, Raunds 1.30pm-3pm, £1 entry (includes refreshments). Call 01933 622087 to reserve your seat. Meet new friends over tea & entertainment.

Raunds Ladies Group

The Saxon Hall, Raunds 8pm-10pm, Visitors £3.50, 01933 622451

Home Instead

Companionship Café

M&S Café (Rushden Lakes) 1pm-3pm (times will change during school holidays), Marie 01933 678775. No booking needed.

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month

Thrapston Country Dancers

St Johns Ambulance Hall 2pm-3.30pm, G Hearnden 01933 622827/ghearnden@tiscali.co.uk

2nd Wednesday of the month

Coffee Morning

Raunds Methodist Church 10am-12noon, 01933 383378

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month

Northants Model Makers

Main meeting starts 7.30ish. First couple free. Bob Humpage 07960 054405/modelmaker@tiscali.co.uk

3rd Wednesday of the month

Raunds Film Afternoon

Saxon Hall, Raunds 2pm, £1 includes refreshments. Call 01933 622087 to reserve your seat. We show a great film each month, watch press for details.

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 or e.m.m@btinternet.com

Wednesday & Thursday

Free Counselling

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

Every Thursday

Raunds Bridge Club

Saxon Hall 7pm-10pm, £2.50, 01933 624767

Health Walk

Irthingborough Library, High Street 10.30am, irthlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk. Walk lasts an hour and then back for refreshments and a chance to chat.

Rushden Folk Dance Club

St Mary's Church Hall, Rushden 8-10pm, first visit free, £2 thereafter, 07796 865537

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

Thursday Drop-In

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

Little Ducklings Pre-School

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

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, 9.15am-10am; Joan Strong Centre, Oundle, 11.15am-12noon, £4 per child, £2 for siblings. Booking essential. Contact Jenni at 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 9.15am-9.45am, booked in advance as a block (£4.75 per lesson) 01832 277208/277195

Alternate Thursdays

Fettledine Afternoon Club

Crow Hill Community CTR, Fettledine Road, Irthingborough NN9 5XF 2pm-4pm, £2 all ages welcome for tea, cake, chat and activities. Caroline Cross 07527530529

1st Thursday of the month

Royal British Legion Friends & Companionship Support

Athletics Club, Newton Road, Rushden 10am-12noon. Pop in for a chat.

2nd Thursday of the month

More Natter than Knit

Mrs B's, Newton Hall, Rushden 10am-12.30pm, see facebook page. If you like to knit, crochet or would like to learn and natter, come and join us.

3rd Thursday of the month

Ise & Nene Valley Turners

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

1st & 3rd Thursday of the month

The Fettledine Afternoon Club

Crow Hill Community Centre, Irthingborough 2pm-4pm, £2, Caroline Cross 07527530529. Activities, speakers, meals out and more.

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

Walk and Chat

Rushden Hall Park, under flagpole 10am, Joe Bailey 01832 742195/jebailey@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

Walk and Chat

Meet at The Black Horse Pub, Nassington PE8 6QU 11am, free, Robert Phipps 01780 782558

Every Friday (term time)

Playheroes:

Learning Through Play

Highgate Hall, Elton 11am-12 midday, £5 a session (multiple session discount). 07917 100690/playheroesinfo@gmail.com. Two teachers plan a range of interactive activities, linked to a weekly theme.

Sparklers - a 0-5s toddler group

The Bridge Community Office at Whitefriars Primary School, Rushden NN10 9HX 9am-11am, £1 per family, Emma 07957 080074. A safe and friendly place for parents/carers and for their children to play and make friends.

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

1st Friday of the month

(Check before travelling)

Craft Cafe

Stanwick Lakes 10.30am-1pm, modest charge for some materials and car park, 01933 625522/ www.stanwicklakes.org.uk

3rd Friday of the month

Raunds Tea Dance

Saxon Hall, Raunds 2pm-4.15pm, £4 (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

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

Last Saturday of the Month

(not Dec)

Farmers' Market

Market Square, Higham Ferrers 9am-1pm danielle@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk

1st Saturday of the month

Coffee Morning

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

Thrapston Farmers' Market

Thrapston High Street 9am-1pm, www.thrapstonfarmersmarket.moonfruit.com

2nd Saturday of the month

Coffee 'n' Cakes

Oundle Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane 10am-12noon, John Hewitson 01832 272209

WE Watch

Stanwick Lakes

01933 625522/ wewatchstanwick@hotmail.co.uk

Oundle Farmers' Market

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

3rd Saturday of the month

Phoenix Group

Stanwick Lakes 01933 625522/ 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. Messy Church every 2nd Sunday in the month 4pm, all welcome.

Every Sunday

Celebrate the festive season at Stanwick Lakes

Stanwick Lakes is celebrating Christmas with a host of fabulously festive events throughout December.

Rockingham Forest Trust, the environmental charity which manages the site, has an event to suit everyone in the family, from bird walks to willow lantern workshops, the solstice walk, and of course, Santa Claus!

Santa and Mrs Claus will be at Stanwick Lakes from 10am-4pm on weekends throughout December, welcoming children into their cosy, tree-lined workshop. Pre-book your place online for Saturday and Sunday visits starting

on 7th December via the Stanwick Lakes website. Tickets costs £7 per child and include a present, Christmas trail and craft making in the visitor centre.

Every year, Stanwick Lakes marks the winter solstice with a popular magical lantern procession around the lakes, followed by carols in the outdoor theatre and refreshments in the candlelit visitor centre. This year the walk takes place on Sunday 22nd December from 5.30pm. Bring a torch to light your way or take part in a workshop to make a tissue and willow lantern on either Saturday 7th or

Sunday 15th December. Booking is essential for the walk and the workshops by ringing the visitor centre or booking online.

December is a special time to experience the wildlife at Stanwick Lakes as wigeon, lapwing and golden plover fly south from their summer breeding grounds in Scandinavia to the warmer climate of the Nene Valley. Visit the nature reserve to spot the birds then why not treat yourself to a Stanwick Lakes Christmas afternoon tea? Tuck into seasonal sandwiches, savouries and sweet treats accompanied by tea, coffee or mulled

wine. Places are limited for this very special afternoon tea so please ring the visitor centre reception on 01933 625522 to book. If you want to find out more about the local birds, join us for the final event of the season – the RSPB Family Bird Walk on Boxing Day, Thursday 26th December. The walk takes place between 10am and 12 noon and welcomes all ages and booking is recommended.



For details of all of these festive events and how to book, visit www.stanwicklakes.org.uk, the Stanwick Lakes Facebook page or call the Visitor Centre on 01933 625522.

A Whisper of Witches (A story of Oundle witchcraft)

While researching her book *Oundle: Memories and Moments* (2018), local author Anna Fernyhough was intrigued by an old document about two Oundle women accused of witchcraft. Their story, set in the superstitious and naive times at the end of the 17th century, is explored in her new novel, *A Whisper of Witches*. In the small market town of Oundle, residents find their loyalties tested when a strange young woman enters their lives and is befriended by a local stocking maker. Their tale is interwoven from history and fiction. Oundle society stirred itself as belief in sorcery awoke and fearful notions of magic

germinated; particularly when conditions seemed at their harshest. This had been nurtured by several years of scaremongering by Matthew Hopkins, the self-appointed Witchfinder General, and by ongoing sickness and death that were integral parts of the era. Mary Philips' and Elinor Shaw's lives unfold against this backdrop – their journey taking them from Oundle to the Northamptonshire Assizes in 1705 – with fear and jealousy dogging them every step of the way. The Witchcraft Act was repealed in 1735. Was this too late for these young women of Oundle?

Anna Fernyhough grew up in Oundle, graduated from the University of

London and holds an MA in anthropology. As a qualified teacher, she has taught in schools in England, Spain and Ethiopia. Besides having published short articles for journals, she has penned many unpublished stories for children. Her first published novel, *A Whisper of Witches (A story of Oundle witchcraft)* - ISBN 978-178456-648-7 - is available from Oundle Bookshop, Amazon and other outlets. Anna thanks those who came along to her November book launch in the Talbot Hotel and to Oundle Library to hear her talk about her story. Anna has a book signing from 10-12 in Oundle Bookshop on 14th December (farmers' market day).

Local maths stars challenged

The third annual OPEN Mathematical Enrichment Conference took place at Oundle School with 108 Year 7&8 pupils joining the event from schools in Kettering, Corby, Wellingborough, Peterborough and more. Pupils were selected as the top mathematicians in their schools to enjoy a day of engaging and challenging mathematics amongst other keen mathematical minds. The event was hosted on behalf of the Oundle, Peterborough and East Northants (OPEN) Learning Partnership, a cross-sector partnership of six schools and one university (Imperial College London). Sessions for pupils were presented by teachers from Kettering

Buckleuch Academy, Thomas Deacon Academy and Oundle School on topics including probability, 'balancing mobiles' and the popular Japanese Yohaku puzzles. The day finished with a friendly competition in which pairs of pupils from different schools worked together in teams of four to find and solve problems in the Mathematical Treasure Hunt. The winning team was a joint Thomas Deacon Academy/Oundle School team of Megan, Noor, Daniel and Aston but an exciting day of inspirational mathematics was had by all. For more information on further OPEN Learning Partnership events follow on Twitter @OpenLPLearning.

District by-elections to be held in Higham Ferrers

It has been announced that by-elections for Higham Ferrers Chichele and Higham Ferrers Lancaster wards will be held on Thursday 12th December.

The successful candidates will sit on East Northamptonshire District Council and be in post until the new North Northamptonshire Council is formed on 1st April 2021.

As the by-election coincides with the General Election, residents of Higham

Ferrers who are registered and wish to vote will be given two ballot papers at their local polling station. There will be a white paper for the General Election and a yellow paper for the by-election.

For further details about the Higham Ferrers Chichele and Higham Ferrers Lancaster by-elections, including a list of candidates and your local polling station, please visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/elections

Police unite with Northamptonshire's hairdressers to cut out domestic abuse

Northamptonshire Police has launched a major campaign called #CutItOut, aimed at hair and beauty professionals and the wider public as part of its priority to tackle domestic abuse.

The project was launched on Monday 25th November to coincide with International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Its aim is to raise awareness and train salon professionals to recognise the warning signs of domestic abuse and safely refer clients to relevant organisations that can help them.

The #CutItOut brand originated in Norwich, Norfolk, following a tragic murder. In 2017, weeks after confiding in her hairdresser Annie Reilly, Kerri McAuley was killed by an abusive partner. As a result of this, the campaign, which has since seen success in Rochdale too, was developed.

The launch is the first training event for more than 160 of Northampton's hair and beauty professionals and further events will take place across the county over the coming months.

Annie Reilly, who was at the launch, has spoken of her guilt for not going to the authorities after Kerri confided in her as she did her hair. She said: "One day when she came to an appointment she talked about her boyfriend and said 'I know he's going to kill me'. They were words I never thought I'd hear any of my clients say.

"Should I have phoned the police? Yes, of course I should have done – but I didn't

know they were words that were meant. I just thought it was a statement, a figure of speech.

"Every day I think about her and about what I could have done and what difference it could have made. I'm passionate about this campaign because as hairdressers, many of our clients will confide in us and we need to be equipped with the right information so we can help them in the best way we can."

The campaign is being funded by Northamptonshire's Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Northamptonshire Police.

#CutItOut forms part of Northamptonshire Police's wider strategy in tackling domestic abuse, which is one of the force's priorities. It affects thousands of people in the county every year: 16,139 incidents of domestic abuse were recorded between September 2017 and December 2018 and 4.6% of these incidents had a sexual element. In the UK, 25% of women and 17% of men will experience some form of domestic abuse at some point in their life.

If you are concerned about a friend, relative or colleague, or are suffering from domestic abuse, the following links offer guidance and advice.

- www.voicenorthants.org - Tel: 0300 303 1965
- SunflowerCentre@northants.police.uk - Tel: 01604 888211
- www.ndas.co - Tel: 0300 012 0154

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On the **first Saturday of each month** we hold one of our famous **Big Craft Days**. We have simultaneous craft demonstrations by professional demonstrators which are continuous between 10.00am and 4.00pm. There are lots of **special offers** and **free refreshments**. We open for shopping at 8.30am. Demonstrations start at 10.00am.

Our Next Big Craft Day Is On Saturday 7th December and will feature:



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WOOD ROAD, KINGS CLIFFE)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Wood Road, Kings Cliffe as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:
 That length of Wood Road, Kings Cliffe from West Street to Oak Lane.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of a new water connection.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 9th December 2019 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 for up to three days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use West Street, Park Street and Station Road.

Dated this 30th day of November 2019
 DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES
 Executive Director LGSS Law Ltd
 PKG/T19/460

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref:-19-20-N280 on 01604 883400.

East Northants Snooker League

Week 5 of the ENSL winter season. A number of surprising results this week which has resulted in all but two of the 10 teams moving position in the league table.

Windmill B lost their unbeaten start to the season as Cue Sports D bounced back from a 6-0 drubbing last week to record their first victory with a 5-1 win to turn the form book upside down. In form Tony Jupp beat Justin White in the opener before his opponent cleared the colours to win the second comfortably. Ricky Johnson registered his first frame of the season when beating Mark Douglas on the pink before repeating the feat in the second frame. Alan Jupp twice led Aaron Whittemore in their match, but he fought back to pot an excellent black to win the

first and potted consistently in the second to leave Jupp needing snookers on the colours before he eventually conceded. The win lifts Cue Sports D off the bottom of the table.

Windmill Warriors were hoping to build on their victory from last week as they faced Cue Sports B. Ironically, both teams had drafted in their reserve players due to player shortages. Tom Carvell of Cue Sports made his debut against Michael Dicks. Tom played really positively to win his debut frame in the league. Michael drew on his experience to win frame two as he tries to turn his poor performances around. James York was next up for the Warriors, having not made an appearance in the ENSL for a couple of years. Understandably he looked nervous as he

played Steve Williams. Despite giving Steve many chances, he managed to stumble to victory in frame three. Now rid of the nerves, James began to play very well and even knocked in a cool 38 break to surprise himself and secure two from two frames. Paul Lewis and Lee Bunker, the two team captains, shared frame five and six to make it 4-2 in Warriors' favour on the night. This win moves them from 7th to 5th and means Cue Sports B drop below them to 6th.

Higham SAS have certainly been on a roll. They have won three matches in a row and only dropped three frames from the last 18. They took on Windmill D this week who were languishing in 9th place. Overall it was a very close match with most frames going down to the final few balls. Adam Burns and Neal Vaughan finished

up with one frame each, with Burns adding a 31 break to his tally. Higham's Adam Underwood suffered a 2-0 rout to Sean Britchford, narrowly losing their second frame on the black. Pete Beerten had it all to do as he came to the table 3-1 down to the away team. However, he produced a good standard to beat Kevin Freeman 2-0 and rescue a 3-3 draw for the top team. Due to the other results this week, this draw is just enough for Higham to remain at the top by just a one-point margin.

This week's results:

Higham SAS 3-3 Windmill D
Cue Sports C 3-3 Windmill C
Cue Sports D 5-1 Windmill B
Windmill A 2-4 Cue Sports A
Windmill Warriors 4-2 Cue Sports B



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

ENSL Winter League 2019/20 - Sponsored by Belgian Pete's Home Improvements

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Higham SAS	5	3	1	1	19
2	Cue Sports A	5	3	2	0	18
3	Windmill A	5	2	2	1	17
4	Cue Sports B	5	1	2	2	15
5	Windmill Warriors	5	2	1	2	15
6	Windmill B	5	1	3	1	14
7	Windmill C	5	1	3	1	14
8	Cue Sports C	5	1	3	1	13
9	Cue Sports D	5	1	1	3	13
10	Windmill D	5	0	2	3	12

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