

# Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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INSIDE this issue



**WINNER OF FIRST NENE VALLEY STAR AWARD NAMED**

**PAGE 05**



**NEW MATHS BLOCK EQUALS TOP CLASS LEARNING AT PRINCE WILLIAM SCHOOL**

**PAGE 12**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Appeal for more adopters

Northamptonshire County Council is reminding prospective adopters that they are still open and are welcoming new adoption enquiries despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children need and deserve a loving and stable home. They need a lifelong family to stick by them, give them love and support whilst helping them to grow and thrive into independent young people.

Northamptonshire County Council cabinet member for children's services, Cllr Fiona Baker, said: "During the Covid-19 pandemic we have unfortunately seen a decrease in the number of enquiries from potential adopters.

"We're particularly keen to hear from those who could offer a home to siblings, as often sibling groups in care have to be separated from each other due to the shortage of people who can offer more than one child a home."

A comprehensive training and support package is provided.

To find out more about adoption with Northamptonshire County Council, visit [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/adoption) or call 01604 361843.

# Donate a gift for a patient in hospital this Christmas

*Christmas in hospital is going to be even more lonely this year with Covid-19 restrictions in place. You can help Northamptonshire Health Charity make a difference and bring a smile to patients by donating to the Christmas Gifts appeal, helping to ensure every patient receives a gift on Christmas day.*

The charity works all year round providing for all departments and wards at Northampton General Hospital and the community and mental health hospitals in the county, above and beyond what the NHS can deliver.

There are many patients, mostly elderly, that have nobody – meaning no visitors and no gift. This year, with the pandemic affecting us and visiting restrictions that might still be in place, receiving a gift on Christmas day will make even more of a difference to everyone.

Christmas shopping will be affected by Covid-19 so shopping locally where possible is always good but if you'd prefer to shop online, an Amazon Wish List has been set up: [www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/31PEFL8LFNRT3](http://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/31PEFL8LFNRT3). Alternatively, you can make a monetary donation and a gift will be purchased for you.

If you'd like to take part you can donate items by dropping them in at the

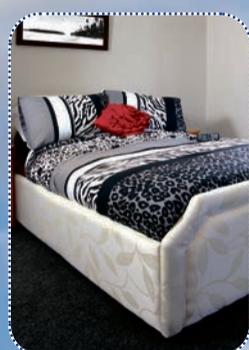
charity office at Springfield, Cliftonville, Northampton NN1 5BE, Monday to Friday 9am-4pm or donate via the Amazon Wishlist, or make a monetary donation.



For more information please contact the charity team on 01604 626927 or email [greenheart@nhcf.co.uk](mailto:greenheart@nhcf.co.uk)

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# WILDLIFE NEWS

WORDS BY  
ROY BURRELL

A feature of the autumn countryside changeover is the realisation that extra pressure is put on food supplies in those areas which have the best supplies, just as so many humans have gathered at supermarkets in the virus pandemic. That (human) population boom made life difficult with shortages on the shelves (especially food), but animal life has the problem every year.

Some animals take the easy, but possibly dangerous, course of just carrying on their everyday lives hoping that food will not run out. For example, we rarely find birds of prey in crowds (unless they happen to be scavengers, like the red kites doing their best to clean up our rubbish dumps), and they usually have larger bodies to produce body heat or layers of feathers to 'keep the heat in'.

Smaller birds do not have these advantages so they stick closer to each other, particularly during the dark nights, to cut down heat loss; it may seem unfair on those on the outside, but shuffling themselves around probably gives most of them a short spell inside the group to warm up. The end result leads to large groups; seeing another

crowd of their species could tempt them to "follow the crowd", and this is when and where our large winter flocks build up.

Recently some visitors to our house were startled at the sudden arrival of a large number of starlings almost filling our small garden; this behaviour has been noted for years and christened a "murmuration" a word now being applied to other birds including long-legged waders, leading to the impressive sight of maybe hundreds of thousands of birds manoeuvring over both land and water surfaces as if trained entertainers.

Our garden hosts flocks of house sparrows each year, and these perky little birds also seem to be recovering in numbers after years when their numbers were dropping steadily; yet feeding is still needed however large those murmurations may prove to be, because the feeding of thousands more birds will strain the environment to "keep up".

(A 'useless fact': if you wanted to count a small flock – say one hundred thousand – at one every second it would take you over eleven days, but only if you did not take a sleep or even a coffee break!)

# GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY  
JAN PEARSON

I have a friend who married recently. She did not want to lose her maiden name (she comes from a well-known family in that area) and she and her intended discussed hyphenating their names. Imagine her surprise when he came home a few months ago with the documentation showing that he had changed his surname to hers via Deed Poll!

Have you ever had ancestors who changed their names? I was trying to find out what happened to my Mum's second cousin. Bettina disappeared from the radar after her entry in the 1939 Register. I knew that she must have died as her details were not redacted (the record of anyone possibly alive would not show up) but could neither find a marriage nor death for her. Then, having a random search in the newspapers I found a declaration from her of her change of name, stating that from that day on she would be known by her new name. That led me to finding two children for her (still living) and her death in 2001. But why she changed it is a mystery.

Not like John Webb Mascall, my three-times great grandfather. He was born to Sarah Mascall – a single woman – but his father was named in the Parish Register as 'Purporting to be' John Webb. Throughout most of the censuses, John records himself as Mascall but then uses Webb as his surname after his mother dies. Maybe he was just using the Mascall surname to keep his mother happy but all of his official documents (marriage, death certificate etc) had the name that he started out with and so the surname of Webb was just used for his own preference rather than an official change... if you follow me!

However, these name changes do nothing to help the family historian and I wonder how any future researcher will discover the name now used by my friend's husband.

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# EDITOR'S NOTES

A warm welcome... Here we go again – Lockdown 2.0 – but it has been encouraging and I suppose not surprising that this feels quite different from our experience in the spring.

We are all now used to making sure we have our masks to hand when we leave the house and while I hate the thought of social distancing it has become second nature to be what would previously have been called 'stand-offish'. Not easy when all you would rather do is hug someone but we hope that there is a glimmer of hope that this situation could improve with time. Meanwhile, the 'Hands. Face. Space' message is a mantra we must all

remember.

What has been heartening is how quickly local businesses have geared up their systems, devised during Lockdown 1.0, to serve their local communities. To be able to place your orders, chat and collect or have them delivered to your door has been greatly appreciated once more and this Christmas is sure to be a time when we want to have some extra special treats – albeit perhaps with lower numbers of family members and guests than last year.

Local food banks and charities are also gearing up to do their best to provide a memorable festive season to members of the community who may be struggling to



cope. If you are able to make a donation you will be making a difference to someone's Christmas and their peace of mind.

I have loved this bright autumn weather we have enjoyed over the past few days, so I hope like me you have been able to get outside for a stroll and to admire the seasonal colour.

Stay safe and well.



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You can also subscribe to Nene Valley News for £1.50 per issue.

Nene Valley News is produced by KM Media & Marketing, County House, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln LN6 3PW.

Copy dates for Nene Valley News

Publication date: Saturday 28th November  
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 18th November

Publication date: Saturday 12th December  
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 2nd December

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# Public consultation on route for Farthinghoe Bypass opens

Northamptonshire County Council is inviting the public to have their say on the route for the A422 Farthinghoe Bypass during a consultation which is taking place until midnight on 3rd January 2021.

The A422, which runs through the village of Farthinghoe, currently suffers from sub-standard geometry, a narrow carriageway and high traffic volumes, making it difficult for large vehicles to pass each other. These issues are expected to be made worse by the level of development proposed in Banbury and Brackley which will lead to increased traffic through the village.

The bypass is intended to remove through traffic from the centre of the village and reduce the frequency of conflict between HGVs, enhancing the lives of many residents in

Farthinghoe and improving air quality in the area.

Following a public consultation in 2015, Farthinghoe Bypass is expected to run to the north of the village and will have an overall length of approximately 2.5km, with a 7.3m wide single carriageway.

Residents and other interested parties are now able to share their views on four northern route options in order to identify a preferred route to be taken forward for further development.

Residents of Farthinghoe will receive a leaflet with further information about the

consultation including how to speak to a member of the project team and how to participate if they are unable to view the consultation online

Cllr Jason Smithers, County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Place, said: "The Farthinghoe Bypass improvement works are set to alleviate congestion and improve travel for larger vehicles, as well as reduce the impact on air quality in this area.

"I'm delighted to hear feedback from members of the public and look forward to seeing this beneficial work begin."

**For more information on the consultation and to have your say visit [northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://northamptonshire.gov.uk). You can join the e-bulletin list and keep up to date by emailing [farthinghoe@kirewsp.co.uk](mailto:farthinghoe@kirewsp.co.uk). Your email address will be used only to update you on progress regarding the Farthinghoe Bypass.**

# Council mourns loss of District Councillor

Elected members and staff at East Northamptonshire Council are deeply saddened by the death of Councillor Ron Pinnock on Friday 30th October following a period

of illness.

Our condolences and thoughts are with his wife, family and friends at this sad and difficult time. The council's flag flies at half-mast outside

the Thrapston office as a mark of respect.

Councillor Pinnock, as former Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council (2004/05), was highly respected within the council and local community of Rushden where he was ward member for Sartoris ward. He was also a former County Councillor, a Rushden Town Councillor and was Mayor of Rushden 2002/03.

Responding to the sad news, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North, said: "I knew Ron as both a colleague and a friend and it was my pleasure to serve the people of Rushden Sartoris with him. Ron always had the needs of all the residents at the heart of all he did and worked hard for the people of Rushden and East Northamptonshire. I will miss his knowledge, experience and warmth. He will be greatly missed by us all."



Ron Pinnock

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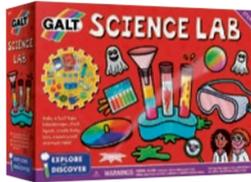
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# Spotlight on CHRISTMAS



#### CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

If you are shopping for lovely traditional Christmas gifts for your family this year, then look no further than Colemans.

A family business that has been trading in the county for over 50 years, their shops are an Aladdin's cave of all things Christmassy – from beautiful leather Filofaxes and prestige fountain pens to traditional games and jigsaws, children's craft kits and fine art boxed sets.

As well as a wonderful selection of products, they also offer exceptional customer service and are always happy to help and advise. They even have a free local delivery service, so if you are unable to carry your shopping home, don't worry – Colemans will deliver!

Colemans also sell gift vouchers to any value, which can be exchanged in any of their stores, so if you are unable to choose just the right gift, they have that covered too.

In addition to their 10 retail shops, there is also the Colemans Craft Warehouse in Rushden (just below Lidl opposite Rushden Lakes) which is open 7 days a week and is full of beautiful crafting products and fabrics. And don't forget The Oundle Bookshop on the Market Place in this beautiful Georgian market town, where you can browse a wonderful selection of books, gifts and greetings cards.

And finally, the newest addition to the Coleman Group – The Warehouse Shop, next door to the Craft Warehouse, where you can buy all your favourite stationery products and office seating with the added convenience of being able to park outside.

Colemans now have a fantastic new website [www.colemangroup.co.uk](http://www.colemangroup.co.uk) which carries their full range of stationery and office products, plus a wonderful selection of Christmas gifts for all the family – all with free local delivery!

Please note that Colemans are locked down until 2nd December but are offering a centralised delivery service via their Central Warehouse in Rushden.

Call 0333 600 1969 for free delivery with no minimum order.

#### BOSWORTH GARDEN CENTRE

"We are extremely grateful that the Government has recognised the importance of gardening for people's mental and physical health and allowed Garden Centres to remain open during the national lockdown

"The safety of our team and our customers remains our top priority. We will therefore be reinforcing measures to keep everyone safe.

"We look forward to seeing you instore and as

always we thank you for your support and ongoing loyalty during these challenging times. It is much appreciated. Stay safe."

#### 'LITTLE TREATS' FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY THIS YEAR

Adults are set to spend £163.44 on 'little treats' for friends and family this year – to show they're thinking of them from afar – according to a study.

Two-thirds said giving little treats has been especially meaningful during the past 12 months because they've not been able to see loved ones as much.

The M&S Bank poll of 2,000 adults found the most popular pick-me-ups to purchase for others are chocolates (44 per cent), flowers (34 per cent) and a bottle of wine (27 per cent).

A desire to brighten up the day of loved ones (46 per cent) – during what's been an unusual 12 months – is a major factor behind this 'mini treat effect' trend. This is followed by wanting to show someone they're thinking of them (44 per cent) or because they have missed seeing them in person (38 per cent).

Almost three in 10 (28 per cent) said buying treats for others makes them feel happy and 23 per cent said it makes them feel loving or caring.

Shoppers aren't just sharing gifts to cheer up their loved ones as almost a quarter have let friends and family know they are thinking of them by sending cards. While a third have sent pictures and videos over email or social media, 15 per cent have sent a handwritten letter and a fifth (20 per cent) have surprised them with a video call.

Top ideas for little treats:

1. Taking some time out to treat someone you care about – it can be as simple as a virtual coffee date, if and when you're able to, and can be one of the best treats of all for both of you.
2. Helping someone else get some 'me-time' can ensure that they instantly feel a sense of validation which is excellent for improving self-esteem, and also reminds them that they matter to you, which increases a sense of belonging.
3. Busy modern life means we often need to plan ahead so spontaneity and surprise can mean so much to someone, particularly if you time it for when they really need it.
4. Why not send a handwritten note or card?
5. Planning ahead for self-treats might feel indulgent, however looking after ourselves means we're better equipped to look after others.
6. People who make plans tend to feel happier than people who don't, this is down to having treats to look forward to, along with feeling a sense of accomplishment once these have been achieved.

# Winner of first Nene Valley Star award named

The Destination Nene Valley (DNV) partnership has announced that Hilary Merricks, a volunteer for the Settlers of the Nene Valley project, has won the first Nene Valley Star award.

The award was set up to recognise the dedication and passion of those working in the tourism industry, who have also gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that residents and visitors have a great experience in the Nene Valley.

Hilary was nominated for her work on the ancestral garden at Stanwick Lakes, leading a small but dedicated team of volunteers. The garden is part of the Settlers of the Nene Valley project, which looks at how we would have lived in this area from the Stone Age to medieval times and is funded by the Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme and Rockingham Forest Trust.

In addition to developing and working on the garden, Hilary is a pivotal part of the Settlers Team, spending time on planning and research as well as keeping in touch with the garden volunteers.

Winner of the first Nene Valley Star, Hilary Merricks said: "It's been a strange year for everyone so it's great to have been voted the first Nene Valley Star for doing something I really enjoy. But I couldn't have created the ancestral garden without the hard work put in by our volunteers and the support of the heritage manager at Stanwick Lakes."

Earlier in the year, 20 nominations from members of the public and DNV partners were reduced down to three finalists: Hilary Merricks, Bryan Day and Pat Byrne from the Wellingborough and District Nene Angling Club and Buddies of Becketts. The winner was then decided in a public vote.

Cllr Sarah Peacock, chairman of the Destination Nene Valley project and East Northamptonshire Councillor said: "With this year being so difficult for the tourism industry, we are delighted to crown our very first Nene Valley Star."

"Across the Valley, there are dedicated volunteers who go above and beyond to ensure that everyone has a great experience in the

Nene Valley and Hilary is no exception.

"She truly is a worthy winner and the ancestral garden at Stanwick Lakes is a credit to her and the whole team."

The Destination Nene Valley project is led by East Northamptonshire Council who work with local tourism partners and the Nenescape Landscape partnership to build on existing frameworks to better position and promote the Nene Valley.

Once countrywide restrictions are lifted, Hilary Merricks will be awarded with a trophy, £200 of vouchers and free publicity and promotion via [nenevalley.net](http://nenevalley.net) and the other two finalists will also be awarded with a small trophy and £50 of vouchers.



**Nene Valley Star, Hilary Merricks**

**For more information about the Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme visit [www.nenescape.org](http://www.nenescape.org)**

## 'Rose of Northamptonshire' award

Northamptonshire County Council has launched a Covid recognition award scheme to acknowledge those who have made a real difference to their local community during the pandemic.

The 'Rose of Northamptonshire', which is part of the Unsung Heroes initiative, aims to recognise and say thank you to groups and individuals who have worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe and

businesses moving during the coronavirus pandemic.

The county council and its leader, as well as the formal institutions of the High Sheriff's Office and Lord Lieutenancy, feel it is important to reflect on the hard work that many across the county have committed themselves to since the beginning of the outbreak.

The award will seek to highlight those in every sector across the county that

have played a key role in the response.

Nominations will be open to the public through [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk) and anyone who feels they know a group or individual who deserves recognition is encouraged to submit their details for consideration. Those selected from nominations will then be contacted and arrangements made for the presentation of the award.



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East  
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Council

# Notice of planning APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

## Notice is given that the following applications have been received:

### > WADENHOE

20/01309/FUL 20/01310/LBC  
(8 December 2020) (CA)(LB)

Proposed renovation including extensions and internal alterations to The Old Rectory and conversion of redundant outbuilding to ancillary living accommodation; Scheme of landscape and associated remedial works. The Old Rectory Pilton Road Wadenhoe Applicant: Mr And Mrs Raby-Smith

### > HARRINGWORTH

20/01299/FUL  
(8 December 2020) (CA)

Loft conversion to rear of property. Long Barn Wakerley Road Harringworth Applicant: Mr Gerald Dolman

### > STANWICK

20/01097/FUL  
(8 December 2020) (ART15)

Demolition of existing garage and construction of new bungalow and garage. 9 West Street Stanwick Applicant: Mr Lee Hulatt

### > OUNDLE

20/01300/FUL  
(8 December 2020) (CA)

To install a new Ideal Vogue 26kW System

boiler with horizontal flue. 3 Benefield Road Oundle Applicant: Mr Ian Goldsmith

### > KINGS CLIFFE

20/01178/FUL  
(8 December 2020) (CA)

To replace roof to attached shed to flat roof, create study and utility room internally. 82 West Street Kings Cliffe Applicant: Mr G Lang-Norris

### > CHELVESTON-CUM-CALDECOTT

20/01324/FUL  
(8 December 2020) (LB)

Change of use of agricultural building to Class E light industrial. Manor Farm Buildings Bidwell Lane Caldecott Applicant: Mr Keith Carr

## The reason for applications being advertised is as follows:

**Art 15 – Publicity for planning application under Article 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended);**

**EIA – Publicity for planning application accompanied by an Environmental**

**Statement under Article 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended);**

**LB – Publicity for listed building consent/planning application affecting the setting of a listed building under regulation 5/5a of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Regulations 1990 (as amended);**

**CA – Publicity for planning application which may affect the character and appearance of a Conservation Area under regulation 5a of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Regulations 1990 (as amended).**

**GPDO – Publicity for prior notification application in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).**

**Only applications required by legislation to be published in a local paper are listed above. You can view the full weekly list of applications received along with application documents, plans and environmental statements on our website. Copies of environmental statements may be purchased from the Council (whilst stocks last) at a cost of £1.51 plus 15p per page.**

**Comments on applications should be submitted in writing (by the date shown in brackets for each application) via the website, by email to [planning@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:planning@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk), or by letter to: Planning Services, Council Offices, Cedar**

**House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, NN14 4LZ.**

**Paul Bland,  
Head Of Planning Services**

**Dated 14 November 2020**



**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.**

## From the **CHAIRMAN...**

*It is with a sad heart that we have had to say goodbye to one our members, Cllr Ron Pinnock, who sadly passed away recently. I would like to take this opportunity to say what a wonderful man he was, he worked tirelessly for his community. He will be sadly missed, and my deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Janet and their family.*

**WORDS BY  
CLLR HELEN HOWELL  
CHAIRMAN OF EAST  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
COUNCIL**

We are all now in the second wave of this dreadful pandemic and a second lockdown has hit everyone really hard. We had a taste of some form of normality only to have that taken away again. I for one think that it is our duty to try and protect those that put themselves on the front line for us. Being a member of the emergency and care services is a job that most of us are not able to do, it takes a certain type of person with compassion

and empathy to treat us all as if we were members of their own family.

As we move towards Christmas we must all remember that the length of this lockdown is up to us. Please do the right thing and stay at home as much as you can, wear your mask and maintain social distancing and let's hope and pray that we can all get together for Christmas and beyond.

Just before this lockdown, I finally managed to attend the photography studio to have my official Chairman's photo taken; this had been delayed since May when I took office. It was quite surreal having to maintain social distancing

but we managed to get the picture done.

I know I keep plugging my Chairman's Champion awards and I hope you will forgive me but don't forget the closing date is Thursday 31st December 2020. I am sure there will be more champions emerging in this second lockdown. For more information go to our website at: [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/ENChampions](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/ENChampions)

Take care and continue to stay safe.



**Cllr Helen Howell**

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# NEW STRATEGY AIMS TO REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A new strategy which aims to reduce health inequalities in Northamptonshire is to be discussed at a meeting of the county council's Cabinet.

The programme, being developed by Public Health, aims to empower communities in the county so they can build their own resilience to become healthier.

This will involve working with local community teams who have a really good understanding of local communities, recruit officers who can work with communities to understand their needs and what is available locally already, and then work in partnership with those communities to develop interventions to improve health and wellbeing.

These officers will be based in the new community hubs, working with Adult Social Care and wider health and care partners, to make sure that all services are working together to improve residents' health and wellbeing.

The initiative will also include a grant programme for the voluntary and community sector to enable the local delivery of interventions that meet the identified needs of people in each community.

This programme will aim to reach vulnerable groups at most risk of health inequalities and will focus on sustainable interventions that will have a positive impact on wider health and wellbeing.

The initiative looks to develop areas such as:

- Improving the wellbeing of those most

disadvantaged in a community

- Increasing social connections within a community
- Improving neighbourhoods

Developing these areas will help buffer against risk factors like smoking, obesity, and drug and alcohol use as well as vulnerability to poor mental health.

Cllr Ian Morris, county council cabinet member for adult social care and public health, said: "This innovative scheme seeks to identify the groups which are most at risk of poor health and work with those groups to identify and develop solutions so that their health can be improved in a sustainable way.

"Recruiting community officers is a great way of making sure interventions are tailored appropriately so that we get the best results."

Public Health currently commission a Social Wellbeing service, which evolved from the council's Supporting People adult social care contracts. The contract is held with Commsortia which subcontracts to a number of voluntary and community sector providers.

In December 2019, the Cabinet approved a one year extension to the contract between the county council and Commsortia with a total value of £1.3 million expiring at the end of March 2021, to use this year to plan for the end of the contract.

Cabinet approval was also given to develop this new community-based offer to address health inequalities, which will start in April 2021.

# YOUR HEALTH - KNEE PAIN

*I know, I know, everyone thinks we only treat backs, but we do actually treat the whole body, and we see a lot of knee problems including arthritic knees, knee replacement rehab and sport-related ligament and cartilage injuries.*

**WORDS BY  
CLAIRE SHORT**

**The thing we often notice with knee injuries is that people have been resting when they should be strengthening, and training when they should be resting.**

It's hard to know whether to push through the pain or respect it, so here are a few tips from our resident chartered physiotherapist:

1. Pace yourself. Build up the amount of exercise you do with the advice of the professionals who discharged you.

2. Don't over do it. But don't sit still unless you've been told to.

3. If you've been told to exercise don't sit in bed waiting for your muscles to build themselves.

4. Don't add extra exercises that you found on the internet to the ones you've been given! Dr Google doesn't always get it right.

5. If it hurts, call your physiotherapist. Don't push through the pain unless you've been specifically told to do so.

So, can you use the lawnmower after a knee op?

At the risk of sounding like I'm passing the buck on this one, I have to say that it depends on the injury. Mowing the lawn, or pushing a Hoover, could really upset a knee immediately after surgery, but further down the line it could be perfect rehab.

Have a great week!



**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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## DECEMBER

**Fri 4** Worcester Shopper  
**Sat 5** Oxford Shopper  
**Sun 6** Windsor  
**Thu 10** Christmas Lunch River Cruise  
**Fri 11** Stratford Upon Avon Shopper  
**Sat 12** Nottingham Christmas Market  
**Sun 13** London Shopper

## JANUARY

**Sat 9** Boundary Mills, Grantham  
**Wed 20** Seasonal Mystery  
**Thu 28** Royal Courts of Justice

## FEBRUARY

**Tue 9** Batsford Arboretum Snow Drops  
**Wed 10** St Albans  
**Tue 16** King Richard 3rd Visitor Centre  
**Tue 16** Leicester or Space Centre  
**Thu 18** Imperial War Museum  
**Thu 18** London Museums or free time  
**Fri 19** Aylesbury Market Day  
**Tue 23** Melton Mowbray  
**Wed 24** Seasonal Mystery Tour  
**Thu 25** Ely Market Day

## MARCH

**Thu 4** Cotswold Tour  
**Tue 9** Spalding or Springfields  
**Thu 11** Seasonal Mystery Tour  
**Sat 13** National Railway Museum  
**Sat 13** York  
**Sat 13** Jorvik Viking Centre  
**Sun 14** Mothers Day Special Lunch at Bridgnorth  
**Tue 16** Derbyshire & Peak District  
**Thu 18** Shugborough Mansion & Wedgewood  
**Sat 20** Gloucester  
**Sat 20** Gloucester Cathedral & Cream Tea  
**Sun 21** Orchids at Kew Gardens  
**Thu 25** Canterbury or Whitstable  
**Fri 26** Ideal Home Show

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# Chester Farm to be discussed by Cabinet

*A refreshed strategy which will showcase the rich cultural heritage of Chester Farm, Irchester while ensuring the project's commercial viability is being considered by Northamptonshire County Council's Cabinet.*

**The nationally-important scheduled monument has evidence of human activity going back more than 2,000 years, including indications of two Iron Age farms, a Roman walled town and a medieval village known as Chester-by-the-Water.**

The county council has a statutory responsibility to preserve and maintain the site's heritage.

Support of £3.97m was secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2013, which enabled the authority to embark on an ambitious project to develop the site. Then in December 2019 the Cabinet agreed to support a further capital investment of £1.374m following a comprehensive options appraisal.

The revitalised programme will now include:

- An artisan shopping courtyard

- Increasing the amount of visitor events and introducing a second wedding venue
  - Using the residential flat in the main farmhouse building as a bed and breakfast for customers attending events such as weddings
  - A designated building to present the entire Chester Farm story, through an interpretation project, as a museum piece, enabling Chester Farm to apply for museum accreditation
  - Making Chester Farm a free to enter site by removing the car parking charge, making it more attractive as a destination.
  - Installing an outdoor play area
- Work is ongoing to develop key partnerships in support of the future delivery of the business plan and of an education and outreach programme.

Developing partnerships include those

with the University of Leicester where there is agreement for the university to carry out university-led digs at Chester Farm within the walled garden. The University of Leicester will also involve many local schools and community groups.

Other emerging partnerships are with University College London, Moulton College, Tresham College, Northampton College and the University of Northampton.

Discussions underway cover a range of opportunities such as student placements, courses for archaeological fieldwork, archiving, land management, retail, events and marketing/social media.

Additionally there is scope for educational activities to include artificial and virtual reality technology; geophysical surveys of the site, 3D modelling, land management, site restoration projects and agricultural

education experiences.

The launch date for the new strategy is 1st December this year and it is envisaged that the complex will be open to the public in October 2021.

Cllr Lizzy Bowen, deputy leader of Northamptonshire County Council, said: "Northamptonshire has a rich and unique history and nowhere is this more evident than at our own Chester Farm, which has evidence of human activity going back two millennia.

"I'm delighted to see this revised strategy for the complex before Cabinet. Not only does it preserve the cultural integrity of the site but it also maintains the commercial viability.

"We have a statutory duty to preserve the site's heritage and I'm pleased that we have found a sustainable way in which this can be done."

## Project returns to offer free **construction skills training**

**The pioneering Northamptonshire Construction Skills Programme has returned for a second phase to deliver free training courses in core construction skills for anyone looking to build a career in the sector, thanks to Northamptonshire County Council's successful bid for further Government funding to continue the programme.**

Following the success of the training programme which launched last year before the Covid-19 pandemic, Northamptonshire County Council has been awarded almost £200k of funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to launch a second phase of training to help people build new skills, boost employment across the county and address a recognised skills shortage in the UK construction industry.

The first round of training delivered last year and earlier this year included classroom-based learning, construction site visits and hands-on work experience, and saw people from all different backgrounds and with varying circumstances lay the foundations for a career in construction.

Almost 400 learners completed the training giving them basic level industry recognised qualifications, including CSCS card accreditation which has opened up many construction opportunities for them.

Funding for phase two of the training programme will be used to offer up to 140 more people the opportunity to learn core construction skills in line with the latest Covid-secure advice, guidance and restrictions, and will include a blend of virtual learning and practical experience at live construction sites.

Anyone aged 18 and above not currently working in the construction sector can take advantage of this free training programme with applications being welcomed now especially from those who are currently unemployed or at risk of redundancy, those looking for a career change as well as under-represented groups in the industry including women and BAME

groups.

Cllr Jason Smithers, county council cabinet member for highways and place, said: "The first phase of the Construction Skills Programme in Northamptonshire has had great success, with almost 400 graduates now building their construction career, or ready to start work in the industry.

"I am very proud of them all and welcome the additional funding awarded from Government to enable us to launch phase two of this fantastic training programme which will help us continue to build a skilled construction workforce in Northamptonshire.

"As an area of significant growth with many construction projects happening in the area, I am pleased we are able to provide further training opportunities, which we are doing so in conjunction with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and we are pleased to be working in partnership with Evolve Your Future, who will be delivering the courses in line with the latest Covid-19 secure advice and guidelines."

Steve Radley, strategy and policy director at the Construction Industry Training Board, said: "Congratulations to everyone involved with Northamptonshire Construction Skills Programme in their successful bid. In its first phase, the construction skills fund enabled 13,200 learners from across the UK to develop their skills at hubs and emerge site-ready, including 7,000 from groups that have traditionally been under-represented in the industry.

"It's fantastic that up to 140 new learners in the Northamptonshire area will potentially have their lives transformed as they enter the construction industry."

Kay Brockall, managing director at Evolve Your Future said: "The Team at Evolve Your Future are delighted to have been awarded the Construction Skills Training Contract in Northamptonshire. As a local established

training company we are looking forward to working with new and established partners in supporting and upskilling individuals who have chosen to take a step into the construction industry."

The only entry requirements for the programme are that participants are aged 18 or above, can prove they have the right to work in the UK (have either a National Insurance Number, valid Passport, full driving licence,

copy of birth certificate), can read and speak English, and are not currently working in construction.

Phase two of the Construction Skills Programme continues to be run by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) until March 2021, and the county council is one of 14 organisations across the UK who were successful in their Government funding bid to launch phase two of the programme.

**Anyone interested in this opportunity should complete an expression of interest form on the county council website: [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/constructionhub](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/constructionhub)**

## TABLES FOR WORKERS TO GET AWAY FROM HOME

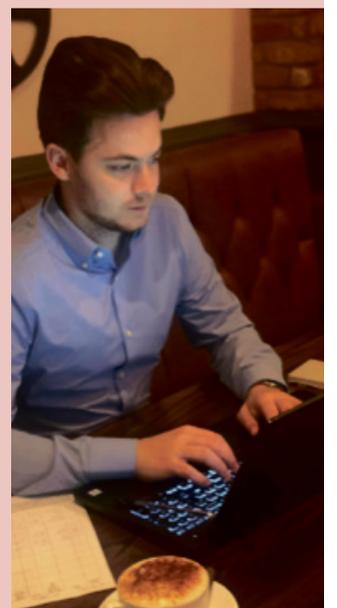
*Two pubs in Northamptonshire are hiring out individual tables for just £10 a day so that workers who have been working from home during the coronavirus pandemic can have a change of scenery.*

**The Woolpack Inn in Islip and the Beeswing pub in Kettering are even throwing in unlimited tea and coffee and free superfast Wifi for eight hours, to anyone who wants to book a table weekdays from 9am until 5pm.**

The Woolpack's restaurant manager Dan Guest said: "We wanted something positive rather than negative to come out of the

Coronavirus and we have been astonished by the response. People have said they want to come and work from the pub to get away from their homes and others have said they want to come to the pub to get away from the partners and kids, as well as for the free tea and coffee!

"We have already had two men book tables once a week for every week until next March!"



**Dan Guest – restaurant manager, The Woolpack, Islip**

# Peterborough Cathedral Christmas Market rescheduled

Peterborough Cathedral's Christmas Craft and Gift Market, which was due to take place on 20th and 21st November, has been rescheduled for Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December 2020 at the same times.

The Cathedral has been in touch with shoppers who had tickets for November to say that their booking has been transferred to the new dates, or offering them the option of a refund.

Anyone who has not already booked is encouraged to do so now, so that they can look forward to a delightful, if calmer and more socially distant than usual, Christmas shopping experience at the end of lockdown. Should lockdown be extended into December and the market have to be cancelled, full ticket refunds will be offered then, so shoppers have nothing to lose by booking in!

Pre-booking is essential to manage numbers and avoid queuing and the booking link is [https://www.peterborough-](https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/143/section.aspx/142/christmas_market_2020#book)

[cathedral.org.uk/143/section.aspx/142/christmas\\_market\\_2020#book](https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/143/section.aspx/142/christmas_market_2020#book).

The market stalls will be spread over a wide area within the Cathedral to allow plenty of space, and the now familiar rules of wearing a face covering, sanitising hands on entry and exit, and following a strict one-way system will be in place.

Amongst the unique range of gifts and handcrafted items on sale will be jewellery, glassware, candles, textiles and lots more. The beautiful Cathedral interior is an inspiring space in which to do

some Christmas shopping and this year is no exception.

The opening hours of the market are: Friday 4th December: 10am-5pm and 7pm-9pm, Saturday 5th December: 10am-5pm. Due to the change of dates, there are currently opportunities for stallholders. Anyone who would like to enquire about a stall is invited to contact Natalie. [freeman@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:freeman@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk) for details. Please note that telephone enquiries cannot be accepted at present.



## NENE VALLEY NEWS - EVENTS

### News from Whitefriars Church, Rushden

Although the new lockdown means that we won't be holding any physical church services until 2nd December at the earliest, some online activities are still taking place:

Whitefriars Church, Rushden – weekly online worship continues: the web-link is available each week from [office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk) or 01933 312270.

Whitefriars Church, Rushden is also holding an online 'Church refreshments' discussion on Zoom at 11.30am each Sunday: an opportunity to chat together in a structured way. Again, the web-link is available each week from [office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk) or 01933 312270.

The Well missional community – based on the northern side of Rushden – is also active online: details are available at <https://wearethewell.co.uk/> and on 01933 737001.

Some other online church events, open to all Rushden & Higham Ferrers Churches Together in Prayer and Praise – 8pm, Sunday 15th

November – online using Zoom. An informal time of prayer and praise: Zoom link will be available on request from Andrew Presland (01933 316927).

Links to many Church of England services taking place online within Peterborough Diocese are available at <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/coronavirus/online-church-services-across-the-diocese-of-peterborough>.

### > THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

#### Author event with Clare Hunter: Threads of Life

A History of the World Through the Eye of a Needle.

Zoom link is [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7eF4-IFqT5-o9KE676HcWQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7eF4-IFqT5-o9KE676HcWQ)

8-9pm. This is a free event.

Threads of Life is a chronicle of identity, protest, and politics told through the stories of needlework and this event celebrates the work done to provide scrubs for our NHS workers.

To submit your event please contact us via our website [www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk) or call 01522 692542. Please supply in the following format: Date, event, place, time, admission fee (if applicable), contact information, 15 word description.

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# COUNCIL SERVICE CHANGES ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING SECOND NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

*Northamptonshire County Council has provided an update on changes to its core services following the recent national lockdown announcement from Central Government.*

A full list of service information can be found on the county council website, with the most significant changes outlined as follows:

## Northamptonshire Libraries

Under national restrictions, from 5th November library services across the county must close their buildings for general public access. The new measures will apply for four weeks up to Wednesday 2nd December. At the end of the period, the reopening of libraries will be reviewed.

Under the restrictions, Northamptonshire Libraries will continue to offer the following services:

- Home Library Service – a no-contact service with doorstep delivery
- Order & Collect services
- Digital and remote services including eLending, ebooks and e-audio, online events and activities via library Facebook pages and YouTube channel

These services will be managed in Covid-secure ways, in line with government guidance. Services offered by the Community Managed Libraries may vary so residents are advised to check the web pages and social media channels for the latest information.

## Registration Service

Whilst all public library buildings are currently closed, appointments are still being offered to customers via the Registration Service:

- Birth registrations are still permitted
- Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies are not permitted to take place
- Notice of marriage or civil partnership appointments will continue
- All face-to-face death registrations have been suspended with immediate effect

People are advised to email: [registrationservice@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:registrationservice@northamptonshire.gov.uk) to make contact in the first instance.

## Northamptonshire Archives and Heritage Service

Northamptonshire Archives and Heritage Service is now temporarily closed until further notice. As a result, the service is currently unable to offer its Research and Digitisation Services.

## Bus Services

The local authority is in regular contact with bus companies and will endeavour to provide summary details of what is changing on bus services if operators begin to alter their service levels. The bus timetables page of the NCC website provides the latest updates.

## Country Parks

Northamptonshire country park car parks, toilets, play areas and cafes (takeaway service) will remain open and normal parking charges will be in operation. Visitors are expected to manage their own social distancing when at the parks and show respect for other park users.

## Children's Centres

All Children's Centres have now closed until further notice. Families that usually receive support from a Social Worker are advised to contact their Social Worker direct, or the duty team.

## Household Waste Recycling Centres

The county council's intention is for the Household Waste Recycling Centres to remain open throughout the period of additional Covid-19 restrictions. Social distancing will continue to be enforced at all HWRCs and as a result there may be queues to access the sites. People are being asked to consider if their visit is absolutely necessary.

Councillor Matt Golby, Leader of Northamptonshire County Council, said: "These are unfortunate but very necessary steps we must take to help safeguard the health of the people of Northamptonshire.

"We take this responsibility very seriously and while we understand that many people use these services regularly, wherever possible we have to put measures in place to support the government's efforts and help tackle the spread of Covid-19.

"We are continuing to look at everything we do to find ways that we can continue to support our residents during the ongoing challenges presented by the virus."

## Children's Trust launch heralds major step in improvement programme

Northamptonshire Children's Trust is now operational – a major step forward on the Children's Services improvement programme in the county.

The Trust aspires to deliver outstanding early help and social care services for children and families in the county, ensuring they receive the help they need to prevent difficulties escalating and creating the conditions for social work excellence to flourish.

The main focus is on ensuring a positive impact on those children most in need of protection and care.

Cllr Fiona Baker, Northamptonshire County Council cabinet member for Children, Families and Education, said: "The launch of the Trust is at the core of our improvement programme.

"We are clear that all children in Northamptonshire, no matter what their background, deserve to be safe and have the best chances in life to achieve their full potential. The Trust will play the fundamental role in ensuring this happens.

"Being an operationally-independent Children's Trust brings an exciting opportunity to take children's early help and social care services on a journey into a new organisation that puts children and young people at the heart of all we do."

Clare Chamberlain, chair of the Trust, said: "As an organisation focussed solely on children's social care, we are dedicated to continue improvements in our services to enhance the lives and life chances of vulnerable children, young people and their families.

"To do this we will be working in close partnership with the council and other partner agencies who work with children, young people and their families and also with the new councils who will come into existence on 1st April next year."

Andrew Christie, Children's Commissioner in Northamptonshire, said: "I am delighted that we have now launched a Children's Trust in Northamptonshire. A considerable amount of work has been carried out by the council and Trust over the last few months to achieve this significant

landmark.

"This is a momentous day for the children and families of Northamptonshire. One that will see a reinvigorated future for children's services across the county, providing timely and appropriate support to those who need it most.

"I will continue in my role as Children's Commissioner to support the Trust in its early life to ensure that it is embedded and ready to take on this important improvement journey, working with the county council and subsequently the two new unitary authorities come April next year."

Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford said: "Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of the most vulnerable children in Northamptonshire, and our focus remains on driving the rapid improvements these children and their families deserve. The launch of the Children's Trust is the next step in that improvement programme.

"We will not hesitate to intervene when services are not good enough, and will continue supporting the new Trust, the county council and subsequently the two new authorities as they take on their responsibilities, working together to do better for children in Northamptonshire."

While a new website for the Trust is now live, important safeguarding information will still be able to be accessed through the Northamptonshire County Council website.

The Trust has a board, directors and chief executive who will continue to work with the Director of Children's Services (DCS), Cathi Hadley. The director's role remains within the county council and will continue to have the statutory responsibility for children's services.

In 2019, Northamptonshire County Council's children's early help and social care services were placed under a "direction" by the Department for Education (DfE). The direction asked the Council to work towards the establishment of a Children's Trust which would be wholly-owned by the council and then by the two unitary councils from April 2021.

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON SOCIAL HOUSING

People are being invited to give their views on proposals for how social housing will be allocated across North Northamptonshire from spring next year.

On 1st April 2021 the new North Northamptonshire Council will replace the existing district and borough councils in Corby, East Northants, Kettering and Wellingborough, which each currently have their own rules for deciding how council and housing association properties are allocated in their areas.

Work has therefore been taking place to combine these into a new draft Housing Allocation Scheme that will cover all of North Northamptonshire from day one of the new council.

Residents, tenants and housing associations are among those being encouraged to give their feedback on these proposals as part of a six-week consultation running until 15th December.

Their views will help to shape a final version of the scheme to then be considered by North Northamptonshire's Shadow Councillors early next year.

To view the draft proposals and complete a questionnaire, visit <https://futurenorthants.citizenspace.com/>.

The draft scheme sets out proposals for who would be eligible and could apply for social housing in North Northamptonshire, along with how the new council would process applications, assess and manage people's housing needs and determine who should have

priority for social housing.

The draft Allocation Scheme would also keep a Choice Based Lettings approach to allocating social housing, which is already used by the existing north councils and allows applicants to choose and bid for properties they prefer.

Councillor Russell Roberts, Leader of the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority and Housing Portfolio Holder said: "Supporting the welfare and needs of residents across North Northamptonshire will be at the heart of our new council and the way we allocate housing will play a key role in helping us do this.

"It's really important that people give their views on these proposals so that we can shape the best scheme possible for our communities. I would encourage everyone with an interest in these issues to get involved and give their feedback."

The draft Housing Allocation Scheme can be viewed online, along with an accompanying questionnaire to complete at <https://futurenorthants.citizenspace.com/>.

Alternatively comments can be emailed to [futurenorthants@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:futurenorthants@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or in writing to the following address: Allocations Consultation, Future Northants, c/o Kettering Borough Council, Bowling Green Road, Kettering NN15 7QX.

For more information or to request paper copies of the questionnaire call 01536 410333.

The deadline for responses is on Tuesday 15th December 2020.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE (SECTION 17)**

Notice is hereby given that Made in Northamptonshire has applied to East Northamptonshire Council for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of Unit 10b, Rushden Lakes Shopping Centre, Rushden NN10 6FH, and intends to carry out the following licensable activities; sale of alcohol.

The licence application may be inspected at the Licensing Authority, East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, THRAPSTON, NN14 4LZ, during normal office hours. Any representation by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party must be made in writing to the above address by 11th December 2020.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is not exceeding £5000.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14**

**THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (MORBORNE ROAD, WARMINGTON)**

**(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2020**

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 Morborne Road, Warmington as set out below.

**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Morborne Road, Warmington from the junction of Luton Road, Warmington to PD24.

**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during a new water connection.

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 30th November 2020 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 four days.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use Morborne Road, Bullock Road, Washingley Road, Warmington Road, Tansor Road and Luton Road.

Dated this 14th day of November 2020  
 DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES  
 Executive Director LGSS Law Ltd  
 PKG/T20/329

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref: 20/21 - N270 on 01604 883400.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14**

**THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MF12 (PART) - PARISH OF BARNWELL)**

**(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2020**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit pedestrians from along that length of Public Footpath MF12 in the Parish of Barnwell as specified below. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said length of footpath are unaffected.

**RIGHT OF WAY TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** The existing route of MF12 (part) to be closed begins at National Grid Reference ('NGR') TL0419 8738. The route travels generally south east then south west for approximately 25 metres to point B at NGR TL0418 8736. The route is shown by a solid black line between points A - B.

**REASONS FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for essential maintenance works.

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The Order will come into effect on 30th November 2020 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:** The alternative route starts at point A at NGR TL0419 8738. The route travels south west for approximately 18 metres to point C at NGR TL0417 8737. The route then heads south east for approximately 11 metres to point B at NGR TL0418 8736.

Dated this 14th day of November 2020  
 DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES  
 Executive Director LGSS Law Ltd  
 PKG/ROW/399

If you require any further information please contact Ben Fabian on 07929 793345.

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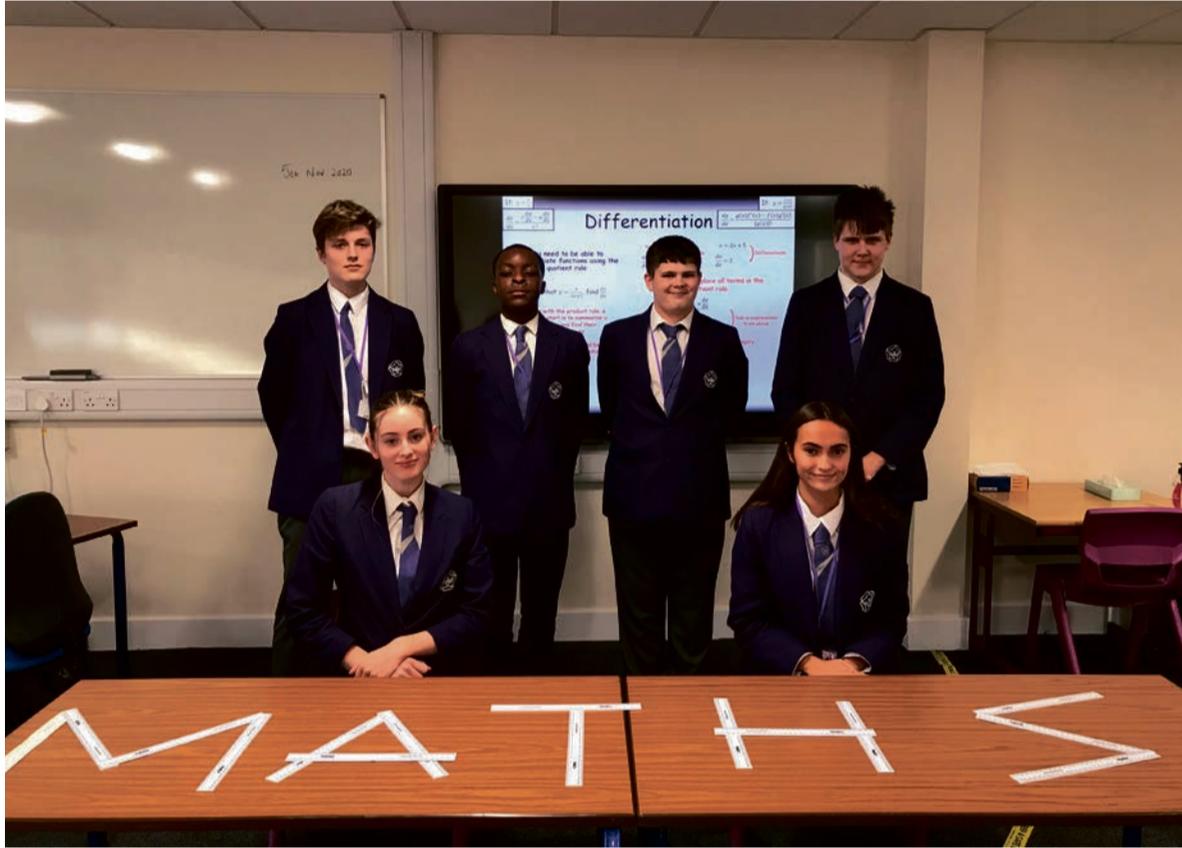
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# NEW MATHS BLOCK EQUALS TOP CLASS LEARNING AT PRINCE WILLIAM SCHOOL

Prince William School, Oundle has opened a modern new maths block as part of an ongoing programme of extensive refurbishment works throughout the school.



The two-storey building was transformed from the school's outdated science block into a fully equipped specialist maths building, comprising nine classrooms, all equipped with the latest interactive technology, an intervention room and offices.

The completion of the building's refurbishment also means the school was able to do away with the temporary mobile classrooms on site, which were removed over half-term.

The project is the latest phase of a multi-million-pound programme of improvement works at Prince William School funded by Northamptonshire County Council. The first phase saw the opening of a state-of-the-art science block in 2019 named the Francis Crick Science Building, boasting 14 well-equipped laboratories.

Headteacher Elizabeth Dormor said: "The ongoing improvement works at our school demonstrate that we are committed to investing

in our teaching and learning facilities in order to give our students the very best opportunities to succeed.

"The new maths block provides our staff with the very best teaching environment and I hope it will inspire both staff and students to push themselves to achieve the very best they can."

Cllr Fiona Baker, Northamptonshire County Council cabinet member for children, families and education, said: "I'm delighted that this new maths block has opened, delivering top notch facilities for the pupils at Prince William School.

"The project is part of wider improvements funded by the county council both at the school and across the wider county, ensuring that we continue to improve the life chances for Northamptonshire children."

The next phase of the improvement works at Prince William School will include a new, larger sports hall and theatre, together with additional teaching areas for dance and drama.

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