

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Whitefriars Church update

Please note that Whitefriars Church has now decided not to hold church services at Whitefriars Primary School for at least the next four weeks. Although such services are permitted in law, the church leadership has agreed that it would be safer and wiser to not meet.

Friends of Refugees East Northants will be meeting on Zoom from 7.30pm on Thursday 21st January. All are welcome to take part. Andrew Presland has details at andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com.

The monthly Whitefriars Church Countryside Walks are currently cancelled.

Community cash for local causes

Persimmon Homes Midlands has made awards to Rothwell-based FC Aztec, 1st Wellingborough Girls Brigade and Rushden's SERVE charity.

Persimmon's donation of £500 to FZ Aztec will fund match kit to enable the team to compete against other local clubs.

A donation of £438 to SERVE will make sure their planned seated and standing yoga classes to support health and mobility in 2021 will go ahead. The charity had already raised most of the £4,438 needed.

ROCKINGHAM FOREST TRUST RECEIVES GRANT FROM GREEN RECOVERY CHALLENGE FUND

68 projects have been awarded grants between £62k and £3.8 million to kick-start a pipeline of nature-based projects while creating and retaining jobs. The Natureworks project at Stanwick Lakes has received £128,000.

Rockingham Forest Trust is one of the first environmental projects awarded a grant from the government's £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Defra recently announced grants between £62,000 and £3.8 million to help create and retain thousands of green jobs. The projects, spread across England, will see trees planted – 800,000 in total – and protected landscapes and damaged habitats such as moorlands, wetlands and forests restored, alongside wider

conservation work. The projects will also support environmental education and connecting people with green spaces.

RFT's Natureworks project celebrates and supports nature, bringing it centre stage at Stanwick Lakes. Over the next year the Trust will be boosting the site's flora and fauna, from water voles to wading birds and reedbeds to river banks, through a combination of habitat improvements, natural resilience works, and landscape enhancements.

There will be lots of opportunities for local people to get involved, helping with mammal surveys, or taking part in family-friendly activities and events.

Alyson Allfree, Trust Director says: "We are absolutely delighted that our Natureworks project has been chosen for support through the Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

"In a year where nature has been so vital to us all, it feels particularly important to be able to invest the time and money to

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Age UK Northamptonshire has moved

Age UK Northamptonshire has sold its office building at 31 Billing Road and moved its main office temporarily to the William and Patricia Venton Centre in York Road, Northampton.

The William and Patricia Venton Centre, which was built in 1997, has been reconfigured so that office staff can fit alongside the Day Centre activities and the charity can carry on providing support and vital services to older people throughout the county uninterrupted.

The William and Patricia Venton Centre is Age UK Northamptonshire's Day Care centre. It was built 4th November 1998 and officially opened by the Queen Mother. It celebrated its 20th Anniversary on 8th November 2018. The Centre has now been redesigned to accommodate office staff, who vacated and moved from the Billing Road site over the summer months.

Age UK Northamptonshire has owned 31 Billing Road for some 13 years (since 2nd April 2007). Selling the property allows the charity to downsize its office space and to save substantial running costs. It has allowed the charity to meet the Covid -19 challenges better and

helped it to adapt more quickly to new ways of working.

Age UK Northamptonshire is pleased to confirm that Day Care is continuing to be a central aspect of the William and Patricia Venton Centre. The Centre has consistently provided a place where older

people can meet friends and enjoy activities and entertainment. It provides a safe environment for older people and a respite from the many challenges of Covid -19.

Day Care provision is still very much at the heart of the Centre and every day it helps combat loneliness

and decline, improving morale and independence for all who attend.

Chris Duff, Age UK Northamptonshire's Chief Executive, said: "Covid -19 has forced us to consider new ways of working. We realised that we could save substantial costs by using a much smaller space.

"We were able to make adjustments to our William and Patricia Venton Centre and we moved in the summer. I am pleased

that we have sold our premises at Billing Road to RJ Investments."

Reemal Rabheru, Managing Director of R2G Investments Limited, also commented: "R2G Developments is delighted to have been able to acquire and purchase the Age UK Northamptonshire building and support the charity in their move to their new premises.

"We look forward to working and supporting the charity in the future."



Age UK Northamptonshire are running all of their services, Covid-19 safe, across Northamptonshire. If you would like further information about its services or would like to support the charity, please go to www.ageuk.org.uk/northamptonshire or call 01604 611200.

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