

# Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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INSIDE this issue



SPOTLIGHT ON HOMES AND GARDENS

PAGE 04



PERFECT WEATHER FOR YOUNGSTERS' RUGBY FESTIVAL

PAGE 12

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NNC DISCUSSES FUNDS SHORTLIST

Funding bids worth a total of nearly £5.9 million which will help boost the North Northants economy were recently discussed by the Council's Executive.

The UK Community Renewal Fund was launched by the Government in March 2021 and this new fund aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot projects across four investment priorities:

- Investment in skills
- Investment in businesses
- Investment in communities and place
- Supporting people into employment

NNC received 23 applications from local organisations with ideas for projects. Cllr Steven North, Executive Member for Growth & Regeneration said: "Each of the projects recommended for shortlisting will, if approved and when complete, help North Northamptonshire thrive after what has been a difficult time for everyone."

The shortlisted projects will be assessed by Government with decisions on approved projects expected by the end of July.

More information about the Renewal Fund is available on the Government's website.

# Thank You Northamptonshire!

A number of organisations and services across Northamptonshire are planning to pay tribute and say a big thank you to the people of Northamptonshire as part of national 'Thank You Day'.

National Thank You Day is on Sunday 4th July 2021. The aim of the day is to show appreciation to all those who have helped throughout the pandemic.

It is a day where everyone is encouraged to take a pause and thank those that have assisted during the past year. Organisers want to make it the UK's biggest ever thank you party.

After such a challenging time we all have different people to thank, from family members to key workers, good neighbours to volunteers. The plan is for as many people as possible to be involved, however they would like, so everyone who deserves it gets a thank you.

Local NHS services will be joining in, alongside a number of other organisations in the county, including North

Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils, Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue, and the University of Northampton.

They will acknowledge key workers and thank patients, service users, carers, staff, volunteers, educators, students, and the people in our communities who have stepped up to offer help and support to others. Additionally, the organisations also want to convey their appreciation to all those that have followed lockdown restrictions and Covid safety advice.

Speaking on behalf of the local NHS, Toby Sanders, Chief Executive of NHS Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) said: "The NHS in Northamptonshire will

definitely be joining in to support national Thank You Day. We all recognise how incredibly challenging it's been for everyone in the county during the past year, particularly for the NHS.

"We've seen huge effort, adaptability, and commitment from NHS staff. We are enormously grateful for their care, hard work and resilience. They have been exceptional.

"We are equally thankful to our patients, carers, and their families. Particularly for their understanding and flexibility when we've had to modify services to keep people safe. We are also extremely grateful for the support and kindness local people and businesses have shown to our staff. You have been incredible. Thank you."

Council leaders in the county



SUNDAY 4TH JULY #THANKYOU DAY

will be using Thank You Day as an opportunity to thank local citizens for their input and support, and to pay tribute to council staff working at both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils.

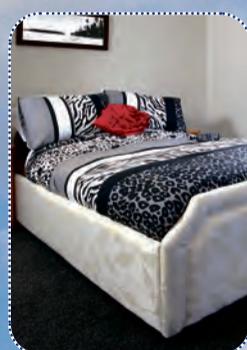
Speaking on behalf of the two local authorities, Anna Earnshaw, Chief Executive of West Northamptonshire Council said: "Thank You Day is such a great idea. The two councils will certainly be using the occasion to say a big thank you to the people of

Northamptonshire. So many came together and supported others during this tough period and it's right to acknowledge all the big and little things that our communities and our council staff have done to help residents.

"Huge thanks also go to our local schools and colleges for being inventive and trying to continue schooling our children and young people throughout the lockdown both at home and in school. And a massive thanks to parents.

Continued on page 2

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# WILDLIFE NEWS

WORDS BY  
ROY BURRELL

This column started some years back hoping to arouse interest in various parts of our countryside, the ones we are likely to see on a short walk.

We have such a variety of wildlife in this county, some of this not disturbed for hundreds of years but others which were modified when the upper soil was removed to reach the gravel and iron ore stocks found under the surface.

But nature does not always do what we would like (current Covid difficulties show this) and inevitably some strangers turn up unexpectedly and top watchers find themselves trying to identify these 'rogues' – often travelling hundreds of miles to catch a glimpse (just like some sports fans).

Some animals have lifestyles which make finding them a challenge. Members of specialist organisations (like the RSPB or our local Naturalists' Trust based at Rushden Lakes) report less common species, like a nightjar earlier this year. They are

described as "crepuscular" because, like bats, they are active at dawn and dusk, when hunting times for their insect-based diet are most profitable and plentiful, and their mottled plumage provides camouflage.

Their food is similar to that of swifts, but the shrill calls which once echoed along our streets in those 'magic hours' are far less common than older readers will remember, suggesting that both groups are suffering food shortages. Their wide mouth allows the adults to "scoop up" large volumes of air and filter out the insects they look for.

One local version of its name (which perhaps should have died out by now) comes from a legend that the birds can somehow lap milk. This led to "goatsucker".

Now rare it may be; insect control it may offer, unusual-looking it may appear – but that is a bit too much to swallow!

# GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY  
JAN PEARSON

Although I posted this list almost six years ago – have I been writing this column that long? – I thought it could do with an updated airing as many of us may have been rummaging on the internet for our ancestors during the various lockdowns. There are many websites that can help – my favourite ones being those that you can access for free! Here are some:

- FreeBMD ([www.freebmd.org.uk/](http://www.freebmd.org.uk/))  
You can look up the General Register Office (GRO) reference numbers for births, marriages and deaths so that you may order copies from the GRO.
- GRO ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/))  
To order a certificate from them, you will need to register your details first. You can currently order a pdf copy to be emailed to you for many birth and death certificates for just £7 currently. Marriage certificate copies still arrive through the post and cost £11. See the website for details.
- GENUKI ([www.genuki.org.uk/contents/](http://www.genuki.org.uk/contents/))  
A comprehensive list of all places in the UK and Ireland. Search for the town/village of your choice and it will provide some background

information about the place plus it will tell you what genealogical records still survive and where they are kept.

- The National Archives ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/))  
Based in Kew, TNA is the official archive and publisher for the UK government, and for England and Wales.
- The Hospital Records Database ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/))  
If your ancestors were in hospitals at any stage, you may be able to access their records.
- Family Search ([www.familysearch.org/](http://www.familysearch.org/))  
This is a family historian's treasure chest, with baptisms, marriages and burials recorded for parishes all over the world.
- The Workhouse ([www.workhouses.org.uk/](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/))  
Find out about any workhouse that your ancestor may have been in. Also, the 1881 census record for each workhouse is included where available.

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# Thank You Northamptonshire!

*Continued from page 1*

We know how hard it's been to keep all the plates spinning.

"It was humbling to see thousands of people step forward at the beginning of the pandemic and volunteer their time to assist others. Charities, community and faith groups, as well as individuals really showed their true colours, coming forward with huge positivity and strength at such a difficult time. We thank them all for their efforts and their energy. They were amazing."

Northamptonshire Police also plans to share its appreciation on Thank You Day. Giving a huge thank you to everyone living and working in Northamptonshire who followed the Covid restrictions, and for supporting the Force's policing approach during the pandemic.

Chief Constable Nick Adderley said: "We are enormously grateful to the communities of Northamptonshire for their ongoing support, particularly during the last 18 months. It's not easy policing in a pandemic and we are so thankful to local people for following the lockdown rules – which I'm really pleased to say the vast majority did.

"We know many found the periods of lockdown and Covid restrictions hard and frustrating but my officers and staff, more often than not, encountered positivity and kindness from local people and a shared understanding of our need to enforce the law to keep our county safe. Thank you so much.

"So many of us had to adapt and work differently during the pandemic. In policing, we also had to change the way we did things in order to keep ourselves and our communities safe. I want to say a huge thank you to the officers and staff in my force for their fantastic 'can do' attitude, for going above and beyond, and despite the challenges we faced, their absolute determination to fight crime and protect people. Thank you, you've been outstanding."

The original idea for a national day of thanks was proposed by 13 individuals from different backgrounds and organisations, who called for a Thank You Day to take place. The day is now being supported by hundreds of organisations and businesses across the country, ranging from the Scouts and Guides to Rotary and the Royal Voluntary Service, NHS, The Mirror and the Sun, the Football Association and the Church of England. It's also being supported by celebrities, religious leaders and sports stars.

There isn't a strict plan for Thank You Day. People are encouraged to celebrate it however they want and to thank whoever they want. Some ideas proposed include celebratory BBQs, and picnics, and a 'cheers for volunteers' to raise a glass to all those who volunteered their time.

**You can find out more information about Thank You Day and how to get involved by visiting [www.thankyouday.org.uk](http://www.thankyouday.org.uk)**

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# Local charity announces new fund

*Leading grant-making charity Northamptonshire Community Foundation has announced that it is launching its first funding programme focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).*

The fund aims to help build a sustainable and safe future for Northamptonshire communities and has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Constance Travis Endowment Fund.

The fund is a rolling programme, meaning that community groups, organisations

and charities can apply for funding at any time, with a maximum grant award of £3,000. The fund priorities are based on the Foundation's series of Community Conversations and focuses on goals one to five addressing poverty, hunger, health and wellbeing, quality education and gender equality.

Rachel McGrath, Grants Director and Deputy CEO of Northamptonshire Community Foundation, said: "As a place based funder, we are committed to supporting the global goals

here on our doorstep by working with our generous donors to help tackle some of the key challenges of our time and to ensure that we leave no one behind in our local communities.

"We welcome a broad range of projects including those that help support residents in financial hardship, projects that address food poverty, initiatives to support wellbeing and address health inequalities, tackling digital poverty in education, promoting lifelong learning and helping to build a gender equal Northamptonshire."

Northamptonshire Community Foundation is the leading grant-making charity in the county, providing vital, often life-changing grants across Northamptonshire. Last year, the charity awarded over £2.5 million to some of the most vulnerable people in our local community.

To learn more about the fund and to apply for a grant, please visit: <http://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/constance-travis-fund-global-goals>



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

# CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS WITH CARDFAIR

*There is plenty to explore instore and online when the new branch of Cardfair opens its doors in Rushden. Owner Heidi and her team are ready with a wide choice of greeting cards, gifts, party products, balloons, chocolates, and cakes, to make every occasion one to remember.*

## CARDFAIR

"We are a franchise retail outlet for the UK's largest range of exclusive and incredible value greeting cards," said Heidi. "As well as wonderful cards we stock beautiful ranges of gift wrap and plenty of ideas for giving. There are wide choices of mugs, glasses, photo frames, candles, jewellery,

accessories and homewares.

"For those with a sweet tooth there are Belgian Chocolates plus Fresh Cream Occasion Cakes ideal for

birthdays, anniversaries and many other occasions. Certain cakes and gifts are available to be personalised so please contact us with your requirements."

To add the final touches to any celebration event Cardfair sell a wide range of party products and balloons in colours, themes and designs to suit your taste and occasion.

Cardfair will open for web orders for cakes and balloons from Saturday 26th June – ready for Click and Collect from store on the opening day of Thursday 1st July. Heidi and her team look forward to seeing you there.

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# Spotlight on > Homes & Gardens

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maintenance solutions. We also sell second-hand machinery by top brands to give you the opportunity to get high-end machinery by top brands at discounted prices. Our second-hand machinery is professionally serviced to ensure efficiency and optimum performance.

"We source our products from leading manufacturers and reliable tradesmen. We sell brands from many different top manufacturers including: Aspen Fuels, Cobra, Wolf Garten, Echo Power Products, Cub Cadet, Lawnflite, Stihl and Bulldog Tools.

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and maintenance; hedge maintenance and shrub trimming; grass cutting, strimming and weed control, and site clearance."

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Regent Street Wrought Iron Works

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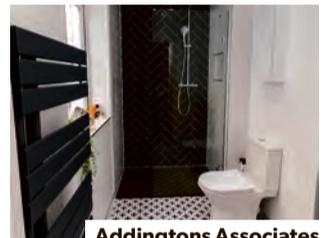
"We have sister companies that allow us to have exceptional craftsmen for each project, specialising in their field. Not only are we a Costantino Elite showroom but we are also AEG Premier Partners and an exclusive distributor for Montrose bathroom furniture.

"We ensure that the products we supply are of supreme quality with impressive design options, from bespoke coloured Doccia shower trays, Millboard composite decking and anti-fade astro turf to British made Mackintosh kitchen cabinetry!

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"Our second site at Elton was added in 2018. The cafe was completely re-fitted giving a more contemporary feel, with views out across the plant area. Chef prepared meals including Sunday roasts and daily specials are also available.

"The garden centre at Elton sits in the grounds of the magnificent Elton Hall, open to the public from May through to August. New this summer we are a show site for Scotts of Thrapston Summerhouses.

We look forward to welcoming you to our garden centres this summer.

"Our restaurants are now fully open (subject to current guidance). Don't forget we are at Burton Latimer too!"



Bosworth's Garden Centre



Bosworth's Garden Centre

# Bosworth's Garden Centre



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**North  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

# Notice of planning APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

**Notice is given that the following applications have been received by North Northamptonshire Council – Thrapston Office together with the last date for making representations:**

## >LAXTON

Erect new oak frame garage with associated landscaping and access at Parkside Cottage 1 Main Street Laxton NN17 3AT (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00815/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >PILTON

Two storey rear extension; replacement windows and doors, replacement rainwater goods and new boiler enclosure to the north elevation at Peony Cottage Main Street Pilton PE8 5SN (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00877/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >OUNDLÉ

To replace the front door with new door in similar style and same material and colour at 4 Duck Lane Oundle PE8 4DY (LB/CA) (Info) (LBRegs) (Info) NE/21/00917/LBC (20 July 2021)

## >RAUNDÉ

Outline: Erection of two dwellings (All matters reserved - resubmission of 19/01633/OUT) at Land Adjacent Brook Farm Cottage Brooks Road Raunds (Info) NE/21/00901/OUT (20 July 2021)

## >BRIGSTOCK

Replacement yard gate at 7 Church Street Brigstock NN14 3EX (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00885/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >OUNDLÉ

New surface mounted framed identity sign for the business at 10 Stoke Hill Oundle PE8 4BH (LBRegs) (Info) NE/21/00887/LBC (20 July 2021)

## >SUDBOROUGH

A new timber frame triple bay garage with incorporated annexe above at The Old Granary Main Street Sudborough NN14 3BX (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00521/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >LOWER BENEFIELD

External structural and aesthetic repairs; Revised dormer roof forms; Extension to the 'Link Barn' at Manor Farm House Main Street Lower Benefield PE8 5AF (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00821/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >LOWER BENEFIELD

Internal and external structural and aesthetic repairs, revised dormer roof forms, internal alterations and extension to the 'Link Barn' at Manor Farm House Main Street Lower Benefield PE8 5AF (Info) NE/21/00822/LBC (20 July 2021)

## >OUNDLÉ

Variation of condition 6 to allow for revised site plan and hard surfacing materials pursuant to 20/00502/FUL - Extend existing almshouses in garden to form two new almshouses (C2 Use) at one end and an accessible toilet adjacent to the garden room; Extend car park to provide six additional car parking spaces at 24 North Street Oundle PE8 4AL (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00876/VAR (20 July 2021)

## >RUSHDEN

Conversion and extension of store to the rear of shops at No 119 High Street Rushden to form a single dwelling within Class C3. (resubmission of 20/01654/FUL) at 119 High Street Rushden NN10 ONZ (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00926/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >BULWICK

2 storey extension to rear of property at Virginia Cottage Main Street Bulwick NN17 3DY (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00908/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >RUSHDEN

Replacement of Upvc windows to first and second floors with softwood painted timber windows of matching former windows at 26 High Street Rushden NN10 0PW (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00912/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >RUSHDEN

Outline planning application with all

matters reserved, aside access, for a proposed residential development of up to 84 dwellings at Site 948 Former Quarry Hayway Rushden (Info) (Part3) (Info) NE/21/00861/OUT (20 July 2021)

## >HARRINGWORTH

Remove modern front door and glazed side panels and build porch extension at Limes Farm House Wakerley Road Harringworth NN17 3AH (LBRegs) (Info) NE/21/00920/LBC (20 July 2021)

## >WIGSTHORPE

Demolition of existing garage and construction of a new garage with ancillary residential accommodation above; and new access to highway at Wigsthorpe House Farm Main Street Wigsthorpe PE8 5SE (Info) (Part3) (Info) NE/21/00895/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >RUSHDEN

Peace Pole to be erected adjacent to Rotary Wall on Land at Junction of Duck Street and Church Street at Duck Street Rushden (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00860/FUL (20 July 2021)

## >OUNDLÉ

Part two storey/part single storey extension to existing dwelling to provide kitchen, pantry, utility and bedroom with en-suite and dressing room above, plus a single storey link extension to connect the proposed extension to the existing dwelling at 43 South Road Oundle PE8 4BP (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/21/00862/FUL (20 July 2021)

**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.**

**Rob Harbour, Assistant Director Growth And Regeneration**

**Dated 26 June 2021**

**Consultation deadlines will differ for**

**each application.**

**You can see details of these applications at [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications).**

**For details of how we treat your data, please see our Privacy Statement: [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/privacynotices](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/privacynotices)**



**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.**

## Local schoolchildren name **NNC road sweeper**

*A North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) road sweeper has been named 'Sweepasaurus' by pupils from St Brendan's School in Corby.*

**Waste Officers from NNC visited pupils at the school in April to demonstrate how the road sweeper works, answered questions about waste and recycling and invited pupils to submit a name for the sweeper.**

They returned to St Brendan's recently with the sweeper decked out with its new name and an NNC refuse collection vehicle to show pupils.

Names submitted were varied with other possibilities including Brendan Brush and Sir Sweep-a-lot but Sweepasaurus was picked by NNC to be the new name for the road sweeper, which will keep the streets of Corby clean.

Cllr Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets said: "Our Officers love getting out and about in the community and inspiring future generations, whilst also teaching them about our waste services and recycling.

"Sweepasaurus is a unique name, which will certainly make everyone smile, and the newly named road sweeper will join Lightening McClean and Clean Elizabeth in keeping the streets of North Northamptonshire clean and tidy for all residents."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council said: "It is great that we are educating the younger residents of North Northamptonshire about the work that we do and waste and recycling in such a fun way. Keeping our streets and area clean and tidy is important to us and it's great that the children from St Brendan's School have shown such an interest in the work we do."

Jennifer McAuley, teacher at St Brendan's School added: "St Brendan's would like to say thank you to Louisa, Jordi, Ben and the team at North Northamptonshire Council. The children in EYFS at St Brendan's have loved learning about keeping our town clean and

the visits from the Street Cleansing team have made the experience invaluable.

"We are so proud that we have named our very own St Brendan's sweeper, Sweepasaurus."



# COUNCIL DISCUSSES PLANS TO ENHANCE BUS SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC

*A strategy to improve bus services in the North Northamptonshire Council area – particularly to respond to the impact that Covid-19 has had on the sector – has recently been discussed by the authority's Executive.*

Forming part of the Government's National Bus Strategy – recommendations put before the Executive include forming an 'Enhanced Partnership' with bus companies, towns and parishes, passengers and businesses.

Such an arrangement would allow access to a £3 billion funding pot to assist with

sustaining and developing bus routes, which otherwise could potentially be lost as they would not be deemed commercially viable.

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council said: "The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact everywhere and it seems no sector is untouched by this unprecedented situation.

"Government, both local and national plays a key role in situations like this to ensure all the relevant partners are connected so we can find pragmatic solutions that are of benefit to the residents of North Northants."

Cllr Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "A key priority for the

council is enhancing links between communities, particularly rural ones, as this has widespread benefits not just in the wellbeing of residents but also in terms of a healthy economy.

"The environmental benefits of us all making more journeys on public transport are also well known.

"Covid-19 has had a dramatic effect on all areas of our lives and bus transport has been very badly hit as services have been used less frequently because of lockdowns and increased working from home, at the same time as increased spacing has been required on buses.

"We are focussed on developing a strategy which will keep both bus routes and

demand responsive services alive in the most efficient way possible to make sure that North Northamptonshire is well connected and communities continue to thrive. This is an exciting opportunity to do just that."

Due to the need to ensure that essential journeys could still be made, the Government has supported the bus industry with the Covid-19 Bus Service Support Grant (CBSSG), however, this funding arrangement will soon come to an end.

Throughout lockdown, the Council has continued to support bus services in a number of ways. This includes continuing to underwrite concessionary fare payments to bus companies for bus passes at pre-Covid levels in order to give them financial certainty. The council has also worked together with them to provide greater capacity to deal with social distancing

requirements.

In March 2021 the Government published Bus Back Better, the National Bus Strategy for England to transform bus services and help the bus industry recover from the effects of Covid-19.

The strategy encourages councils to form Enhanced Partnerships with the bus operators which will enable delivery of improvements for passengers such as improved timetables and multi-operator ticketing.

In order to proceed with the strategy and access future Government funding for buses, the Department of Transport (DfT) has asked councils to demonstrate a commitment to develop plans by June 30, 2021, and requires councils to publish their own Bus Service Improvement Plan by the end of October 2021.

The DfT requires all Enhanced Partnerships to be in place by April 2022.

## ENGAGED COUPLES TO BE CONTACTED FOLLOWING DELAY IN EASING RESTRICTIONS



*North Northamptonshire Council's Registration Office will be contacting couples set to tie the knot in the coming weeks to go through how the delay in the easing of Covid-19 restrictions will affect their big day.*

From 21st June legal restrictions on the number of guests attending weddings were lifted, but social distancing measures remain in place and it will be up to venues to decide how many people they can host whilst still being between one or two metres apart dependent on their risk assessment, and if the ceremony is indoors or outdoors.

Since the beginning of the pandemic around 1,700 weddings have been postponed throughout the county either due to government restrictions or by couples themselves wishing to wait until they could marry in

the presence of all their loved ones.

The council has recruited temporary members of staff to work through the backlog.

Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, Cllr Jason Smithers, said: "We currently have a dedicated team working tirelessly to contact couples and respond to queries as quickly as possible.

"We understand there are lots of couples who have been waiting anxiously for the recent announcement regarding weddings and we will do everything we can to

support those set to tie the knot, whether they decide to go ahead with their planned wedding date or would prefer to postpone."

Wedding venues throughout the county have been contacted to ensure they understand how the latest update affects them.

The council aims to respond to emails within 14 working days, but their focus will be on couples who are due to be married between now and 19th July 2021. Enquiries will be dealt with in order of original ceremony date.

**For the latest guidance on weddings, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or email [registrationservice.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:registrationservice.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk).**



### JULY

**Sat 3** Llangollen Horse Drawn Boat Trip  
**Sat 3** Llangollen Railway/Classic Transport Show  
**Sun 4** Hunstanton  
**Wed 7** Peter Beales Rose Garden  
**Sat 10** Hampton Court Garden Festival  
**Sun 11** Great Yarmouth - Wheels Festival  
**Tue 13** Bicester Shopping Village  
**Sat 17** Skegness  
**Sun 18** Sheringham  
**Mon 19** Bakewell Market  
**Wed 21** Rutland Belle River Cruise & Oakham  
**Sun 25** Whitby  
**Mon 26** Lake District - Keswick & Windermere  
**Tue 27** Kensington Palace & Knightsbridge  
**Thu 29** Shropshire & Little Switzerland  
**Fri 30** Postal Museum London or London Zoo  
**Sat 31** Southend on Sea

### AUGUST

**Sun 1** Weymouth  
**Tue 3** Black Country Museum or Dudley Zoo  
**Thu 5** Liverpool - Ferry Cross the Mersey  
**Thu 5** Southwold  
**Fri 6** Chester or Chester Zoo  
**Sun 8** Skegness - Carnival Parade  
**Sun 8** Sheringham  
**Mon 9** Chesterfield Market Day  
**Tue 10** Cromer  
**Wed 11** Sudeley Castle & Gardens  
**Thu 12** Windsor Castle or Windsor  
**Fri 13** Butterfly Farm & Stratford Upon Avon  
**Sat 14** Broadstairs or Margate  
**Sun 15** Eastbourne  
**Mon 16** Norfolk Broads Wroxham & Horning  
**Wed 18** London Museums or London Free Time  
**Wed 18** Sealife Centre London Aquarium  
**Thu 19** Wye Valley River Cruise with Lunch  
**Fri 20** Canterbury or Whitstable  
**Sat 21** Hunstanton  
**Sun 22** Great Yarmouth  
**Tue 24** Beth Chatto Gardens  
**Wed 25** Leamington Spa & Guide Dogs  
**Fri 27** Clacton Airshow  
**Mon 30** Weston Super Mare  
**Mon 30** Skegness

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Please call us to get your copy**

Check out our website for further days out  
**[www.rbtravel.co.uk](http://www.rbtravel.co.uk)**



### EDINBURGH

**Departs: 5th August, 5 Days,  
£489 per person**

Drymen is located in the beautiful Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The park consists of 40 mountains ranging from 2500ft to over 3000ft, 22 lochs, 50 rivers and two forest parks, The Argyll Forest Park and the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The Campsie Fells hills to the west are range of volcanic hills which hosts a variety of farmland, open moors, steep-flanked glens, attractive woodland and sparkling burns.

### SEVERN STEAM & CRUISE

**Departs: 15th August, 5 Days,  
£469 per person**

Worcestershire is a county of contrasts with charming villages, bustling towns and the magnificent city of Worcester, the cathedral is one of the oldest and finest in the country and final resting place of King John. Rolling landscape, open hills and breath taking views await you. Cattle graze in the shadows of Iron Age hill forts, medieval settlement remains or on the former battlefields of the English Civil War. Tour includes rail journey and boat trip.

### SUFFOLK'S TRANQUIL VILLAGES & COAST

**Departs: 22nd August 2021, 5 Days,  
£439 per person**

Roman Britain is rich in history. It has many unique Roman sites and ruins, and the English Civil War made significant marks on the town. But it's not all about the past, 21st Century Colchester is a thriving, modern town with first class visitor attractions, including Colchester Zoo and Colchester Castle. With picturesque villages and only minutes away from the coast, the Colchester area is the perfect destination.

\* Single-room supplement may apply. Full details in our brochure.

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# ACADEMY STUDENTS JOIN TOGETHER TO RECORD CHARITY SINGLE IN SUPPORT OF NHS

Students from Rushden Academy teamed up with five other academy schools in the Midlands and Buckinghamshire to record and release a new cover version of 'Together', to support NHS Charities Together and boost their mental health.

The students' collective rendition of 'Together', originally performed by

Christian pop duo For King & Country (feat. Tori Kelly and Kirk Franklin) pays tribute to

all those who have suffered bereavement, loss and rising levels of anxiety during

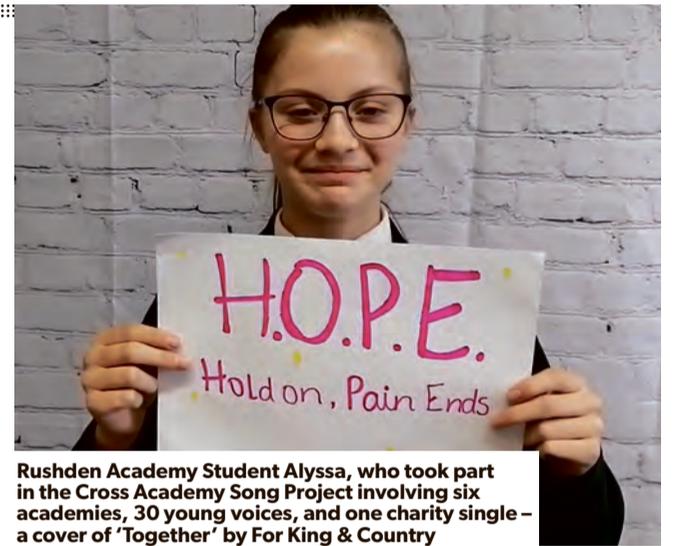
lockdown.

The charity single and music video involved five students from Rushden Academy and 25 others from Grace Academies in Coventry, Solihull and Darlaston; Lord Grey Academy, and Elizabeth Woodville School North and South, who combined their musical talents to spread a message of hope to others.

Launched at a time when public singing is prohibited and students' mental health and resilience have been put to the test, the Song Project was organised by Grace Foundation's Ethos Teams, funded by IM Group, that work within specific Tove Learning Trust (TLT) Academies.

The students from Rushden Academy who took part in the project were Alyssa (Year 8), Tara (Year 9), Jorja (Year 9), Penny (Year 10), and Niamh (Year 11).

One of the students said: "It has been really fun to have something to focus on. It was a unique experience, it tested my confidence and I met new



Rushden Academy Student Alyssa, who took part in the Cross Academy Song Project involving six academies, 30 young voices, and one charity single – a cover of 'Together' by For King & Country

people."

Commenting on the Project, Josh Noblett, Ethos Leader, Grace Foundation, said: "We are there to listen when a student is having a difficult time, to help them navigate through mental health challenges, relationships and school, and to help build hope and aspirations for their future. Taking part in the Song Project has given students the chance to work collaboratively again, to focus on something that brings life and joy to themselves and others."

Ellie Orton, CEO of NHS Charities Together, says: "Thank

you, Grace Foundation, for creating the wonderful song 'Together'. It's fantastic to see students come together to celebrate the resilience they've shown over the past year and use the opportunity to thank, and raise funds for, NHS Charities Together. The money raised will help us to continue to go the extra mile in supporting our NHS workers, volunteers and patients at the centre of this crisis and beyond."

Principal of Rushden Academy, Jane Burton, said: "The Ethos Team are the glue that keeps on sticking!"

To download the charity single, watch the video and donate visit: [www.grace-foundation.org.uk/together](http://www.grace-foundation.org.uk/together)



Students from six academies perform in the video for the charity song project, in support of NHS Charities Together. Top Left: Rushden Academy students (L to R) Niamh, Jorja, Alyssa, Tara, Penny. Top Right: Elizabeth Woodville School students (L to R) Regan, Emily, Max, Ella, Harry. Middle Left: Grace Academy Solihull students (L to R) Harvey, Marta, Tyler, Holly. Middle Right: Lord Grey Academy students (L to R) Crystal, Alex, Morgan, Jamie. Bottom Left: Grace Academy Coventry students (L to R) Kiera, Valerija, Ali, Madusu. Bottom Right: Grace Academy Darlaston students (L to R) Bethany, Ellie-Mae, Abdullah, Eboney, Alyssa, Cameron, Demi

## DROP-IN VACCINE SESSIONS NOW HOSTED SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Northamptonshire's Covid-19 Vaccination Centre in Moulton Park has extended drop-in vaccine sessions to seven days a week through to the middle of next month.

Following the success of its first drop-in clinics, the Vaccination Centre will now host daily drop-ins from 5.30pm to 7.30pm until Sunday 18th July – enabling anyone aged 18 and over to stop by for their first vaccine dose without needing to book an appointment.

To make it even easier and more convenient for people to come forward for their Covid jabs, bonus late-night drop-in sessions will also be taking place this weekend, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June until 9.30pm.

People who prefer to book their appointment in advance can continue to do so for both first doses and second doses at the centre, off Summerhouse Road, Moulton Park NN3 6BJ.

Chris Pallot, Director of the Northamptonshire Covid-19 Vaccination Programme, said: "Over the past few days we've been really pleased to

welcome hundreds of people taking advantage of the first opportunities to get their first dose of the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine without an appointment at our Vaccination Centre.

"Now that the vaccination programme is open to everyone aged 18 and above, we want to continue to offer the flexibility of daily drop-in sessions in addition to the usual bookable appointments. We're therefore delighted to confirm that drop-ins for first appointments will be extended to every evening through to Sunday 18th July.

"Vaccination is our best protection against coronavirus and our pathway back to normal life – so if you've not yet had your first dose then please do take advantage of these extra opportunities to get the jab.

"We're also reminding people aged 40 and over who had their first dose eight weeks ago or more that they are now eligible to have their second dose now, and they can book or rebook their appointments by visiting the NHS website, calling 119 or contacting their GP practice."

Anyone planning to attend a drop-in session at the Vaccination Centre is asked to bring their NHS number. This can be quickly and easily found online at [www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/find-nhs-number/](http://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/find-nhs-number/)

Those who would prefer to book their vaccine appointments in advance can either book online any time at [www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination) or call 119 free of charge between 7am and 11pm, seven days a week.

Vaccination Centre drop-in session schedule:

- Saturday 26th June – 5.30pm to 9.30pm
- Sunday 27th June – 5.30pm to 9.30pm

## YOUR HEALTH – FLIPPING PAINFUL

WORDS BY:  
CLAIRE SHORT

After all that rain it might seem unlikely that the sun will ever shine again. Hopefully it will peek out from behind the clouds soon, and when it does, what are you going to put on your feet?

If you start getting pain on the sole or top of your foot, or if you feel your Achilles tendon at the back of the ankle is stiff in the morning, it might be that you've chosen to wear the wrong shoes. Or it might mean you've put the wrong shoes on for too long, too soon.

When the sun comes out and our socks come off it's very easy to put on a pair of flat sandals, like flip flops. For a lot of people this causes no problems, but every year we see people in the clinic with terrible foot or leg pain that started after they switched from shoes to sandals.

To avoid becoming one of these people, my suggestions are:

- Don't switch to full-time sandals. If you've gone from wearing supportive shoes, wear those shoes occasionally so you make a transition

from supportive to flat.

- Look at the inner sole of your most comfortable shoes and see if you can find a similar shape in a sandal.
- If you have previously had foot or leg pain in the summer, consider getting sandals with a bit of support. There are many brands now that have a little bit of an arch support.
- If the pain you got last summer hasn't really gone away, get a podiatrist to look at your feet. So if you're planning your summer footwear, even if Covid means you're not going abroad to find sunshine, make sure you get something that won't upset your feet.

And if you're mowing the lawn, be careful. People really have run over their feet with that awful machine!

Have a good week, even if the sun doesn't make it out just yet.

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)

# Bright new era for male voice choir

At its recent AGM the award winning Northampton Male Voice Choir (NMVC) ushered in a bright and exciting new era with the appointment of a new President, David Laing (former Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire) and a new Chairman, choir member Mark York.

Speaking at the AGM, Musical Director, Stephen Bell said that after successfully completing his first 10-year plan for NMVC, he was now looking forward to the challenge of embarking on a second 10 years of continued development for the choir.

Fifty-plus choristers attended the zoom AGM and reaffirmed their commitment to being part of a choir that was seeking to reach even greater heights of achievement and success.

Commenting on the choir's



**NMVC website: [www.nmvc.co.uk](http://www.nmvc.co.uk)  
NMVC YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCWCKnjss8p1LrO1NonSf0KQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWCKnjss8p1LrO1NonSf0KQ)  
Follow NMVC on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**

future the Chairman, Mark York, said: "I for one am very excited about the future.

As we stand on the brink of what will be the next chapter under our inspiring Musical Director, Stephen, it is in the certain knowledge that we are stronger, more focussed

and better able to become the choir that we all know we can be."

New President, David Laing, said: "NMVC is obviously going from strength to strength and I will do my best to ensure the progress continues."

## 'WALK THIS WAY' TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY SCLERODERMA

People across Northamptonshire are being invited to lace up their trainers and get walking this summer in aid of people living with a chronic, life-limiting autoimmune condition called scleroderma.

The charity Scleroderma and Raynaud's UK (SRUK) is asking people to get involved with its nationwide walking challenge and raise money for vital research and support. Participants have the option of making their walk physical or virtual and as long or as short as they need.

The fundraiser aims to raise at least £19,000 to represent the 19,000 people in the UK living with scleroderma. The money will be used to support people affected by the condition and fund research to improve diagnosis, treatment and quality of life.

Sue Farrington, SRUK Chief Executive, said: "Scleroderma affects thousands of people and there is currently no cure. Through our research, information and support services we're taking steps to improve the lives of everyone affected by scleroderma. And now we're asking the public to quite literally do the same.

"The past year has taken a toll on many people with scleroderma who have been forced to shield and, in some cases, have their treatments put on hold. We want to make sure we can be there for everyone who needs us, which is why we're asking people to put their best foot forward – a simple act that

will help make a world of difference. We know how supportive Northamptonshire residents can be, so we're hoping as many people as possible get involved."

Scleroderma occurs when the body's immune system becomes overactive and begins to attack healthy tissue, causing hardening of the skin and, in some cases, other organs. It is most common in adults over the age of 40 and can also affect teenagers and young adults, although this is much rarer.

SRUK is the only charity solely focused on improving the lives of people with scleroderma and Raynaud's in the UK through information, support and ground-breaking research.

**To get involved with The SRUK Walk or to find out more, visit [www.sruk.co.uk/walk](http://www.sruk.co.uk/walk)**

# Nene Valley News – Events

## > LITTLE SPARKS

For families with children under 18 months: Thursdays 10am-11.30am (school term time only) at the Bridge Community Office at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX. Booking is through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/154255176385> or by contacting Emma Croxon at [emma@whitefriarschurch.org.uk](mailto:emma@whitefriarschurch.org.uk) or 07957 080074. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden, and open to all. Free admission.

## > WHITEFRIARS CHURCH MORNING WORSHIP: EVERY SUNDAY, 10.30AM (EXCEPT 27TH JUNE)

At Whitefriars Primary School in Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX. Due to the current Covid rules, places need booking by 9am on Friday mornings via [office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk). All welcome.

## > LOCKDOWN BABIES

A safe and friendly space to meet other new parents each week. Fridays 1.30pm-3pm (school term time only) at the Bridge Community Office at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX. Booking is through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/154265950611> or by contacting Emma Croxon at [emma@whitefriarschurch.org.uk](mailto:emma@whitefriarschurch.org.uk) or 07957 080074. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden, and open to all.



## > GET OWT (OUT WITH TODDLERS)

Hall Park, Rushden near the play area. Every Friday 9.30am to 10.30am – no booking needed: parents/carers and toddlers are welcome to just come along and collect an activity pack. Details from Emma Croxon at [emma@whitefriarschurch.org.uk](mailto:emma@whitefriarschurch.org.uk) or 07957

080074. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden, and open to all.

## > WHITEFRIARS CHURCH, RUSHDEN, COUNTRYSIDE WALK: SUNDAY 11TH JULY, 10.30AM

Three to four miles near Chelveston former airfield and Yelden. Please contact Andrew Presland at [andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com) or 01933 316927 for more details or if you wish to book a place. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden and open to all.

## > FRIENDS OF REFUGEES – EAST NORTHANTS: THURSDAY 1ST JULY

The next meeting will take place on Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 1st July. More details will be available from Andrew Presland ([andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com))

## > PARACHUTE PLUNGE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR RECOVERY HOUSE, RUSHDEN: THURSDAY 22ND JULY, SIBSON AIRFIELD

Four Recovery House supporters will be taking the plunge at Sibson airfield on 22nd July: a current service user, two volunteers and Deputy Manager Dean Webb. They are doing it to bolster their outings budget after a tough 15 months in which the guys have been housebound for the majority of that time. They are trying to raise £1,000 to try to get out and about throughout the summer and beyond. Please visit [www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/parachutejump](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/parachutejump) if you'd like to support them.

## > RIDE & STRIDE SPONSORED WALK/CYCLE/HORSE RIDE: SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

This annual event will be taking place from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 11th September – the foremost annual fun fundraising event to help preserve churches and chapels and keep them active in our communities as well as a great day out discovering England's churches. More details are available at [www.nhct.org.uk/index.php/bicycle\\_ride](http://www.nhct.org.uk/index.php/bicycle_ride) or from Liz Doherty on 07713396130, [emdoherty@sky.com](mailto:emdoherty@sky.com). Individuals and churches can support the work of the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust by becoming a Friend. More details are available at [www.nhct.org.uk/index.php/membership](http://www.nhct.org.uk/index.php/membership).

**RIDE+STRIDES for Churches**

**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.**

# EXTRA FUNDING INJECTION FOR NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE GARDEN COMMUNITIES

North Northamptonshire Council has secured £500,000 to plan for infrastructure linked to new growth provided by Garden Community developments in the area.

This is in addition to £125,000 funding to enable the Council to work on these projects, bringing the total to over £5 million since 2015.

The Council is planning to use the latest funding to undertake technical work on the following projects:

- Midland Road, Wellingborough – design of improvements for pedestrians and cyclists on this key link between the Stanton Cross Garden Community and the town centre.
- Station Gateway, Wellingborough - masterplan and implementation strategy for the area around the railway station, linking to Midland Road.
- River Ise cycle/ footpath links

- design work and delivery of improvements along the route in Kettering.

- Isham-Wellingborough Improvement (IWIMP) - traffic modelling and assessment of options to address constraints on Glendale Park Garden Community.
- Rushden East Connectivity - a feasibility study for a possible bridge crossing over the A6 to link the Garden Community with the town.

CLr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council said: "We welcome this funding for North Northamptonshire as an important step in developing the infrastructure which is essential for our growing communities.

"We want North Northants to prosper and flourish and be an area that creates great opportunities for our residents, while at the same time being mindful of our environment.

"Garden Communities are an innovative way of managing long term growth and I'm

delighted to see these projects moving forward."

CLr Steven North, the Council's executive member for regeneration and growth welcomed the Government's continued commitment to

the North Northamptonshire Garden Communities and said: "These developments are among the biggest in the country and, over the next 20 years, will provide over 25,000 new homes and associated

jobs and facilities.

"It is a huge undertaking for the Council to plan and manage these projects to deliver the high quality development and infrastructure that our communities rightfully

expect. The funding from the Government recognises this. It will enable plans to be worked up for specific schemes, putting us in a good position to bid for the investment needed to deliver them on the ground."

## PUBLIC HEALTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LAUNCHES NEW SUBSTANCE MISUSE TEAM

Public Health Northamptonshire have launched a dedicated new multi-disciplinary substance misuse team, providing holistic support to the homeless residents of Northampton Town.

The initiative, which sees Public Health Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire Council, Change Grow Live, The Bridge Project and The Hope Centre come together in a multi-disciplinary team, adds to the existing services which support the local homeless population and some of the county's most vulnerable individuals.

Public Health Northamptonshire were awarded a 'Rough sleeping drug and alcohol treatment grant' worth over £400k

from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE).

The funding is targeted at the 43 local authorities identified by MHCLG in the summer as having had the highest numbers of people sleeping rough who have been moved into emergency accommodation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The grant will fund specialist support for individuals to access and engage with drug and alcohol treatment and move towards longer-term accommodation, supporting the work of wider homelessness and rough sleeping funding. The new multi-

agency team aims to reduce the number of homeless people in Northampton by removing the barrier of drug and alcohol addiction.

Northampton's multi-disciplinary Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Team will be managed by a Coordinator and provide the treatment and recovery service with additional capacity and expertise to meet the multiple, complex needs of those who are sleeping rough and are problematically using, or dependent on, drugs and/or alcohol.

The Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Team has initial funding for a year, with a view to extend after this period.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14**  
**NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL (STATION ROAD, IRTHLINGBOROUGH/HIGHAM FERRERS)**  
**(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Station Road, Irthlingborough/Higham Ferrers as set out below.

**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Station Road, Irthlingborough/Higham Ferrers 50 metres north of bridge structure extending 200 metres southwards.

**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during major works.

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 5th July 2021 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 18 months.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use A6.

Dated this 26th day of June 2021  
**DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES**  
 Executive Director LGSS Law Ltd  
 PKG/T21/246

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref: 20/21 – N546 on 01604 651072.

**Nene Valley news**

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**NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14**  
**NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL (NEW ROAD, OUNDLE)**  
**(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021**

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

**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of New Road, Oundle from Gordon Road to Springfield Road.

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

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 12th July 2021 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 Glapthorn Road, New Street, Market Place and North Street.

Dated this 26th day of June 2021  
**DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES**  
 Executive Director LGSS Law Ltd  
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# PERFECT WEATHER FOR YOUNGSTERS' RUGBY FESTIVAL

*With normality finally starting to return to the UK, it was rugby's opportunity to take centre stage as the Land Rover Premiership Rugby Cup returned at the home of the Northampton Saints.*

## WORDS BY SPORTSBEAT

Franklin's Gardens hosted an exciting Under-11 and Under-12 grassroots developmental festival as youngsters at last got the opportunity to lace up their boots again, with Oundle RFC among the competing teams.

This successful series of nationwide events, now running for nearly two decades and organised by Land Rover – the Official Vehicle of Premiership Rugby – has seen more than 100,000 children take part to date, with some realising their dreams of going on to play for Premiership Rugby clubs.

The likes of Brackley, Kettering, Luton and Leighton Buzzard Rugby Clubs locked horns at the home of the Northampton Saints in a hugely competitive and enjoyable festival of rugby.

And for Oundle skipper Sophie Gammon, it was a memorable experience as her side finally got back to playing in the festival following lockdown.

Gammon, 12, said: "I have been playing since I was eight, and always really enjoy playing festivals against lots of other teams from all over.

"It was really exciting coming here this morning, I think everyone was just ready to get back on the pitch.

"The weather was perfect, and we really enjoyed it. There was some really good rugby on show."

The competition was a fantastic spectacle for those in attendance, with the highly competitive fixtures providing a meaningful platform for youngsters to develop their rugby skills.

Land Rover ambassador Lewis Moody, who racked up 71 caps for England, added: "The return of the Land Rover Premiership Rugby Cup

across the country is a huge boost for grassroots rugby.

"It is one of the longest standing national series of rugby festivals for Under-11 and Under-12 youngsters and is always a date in the season that clubs look forward to being part of.

"It cannot be underestimated

how important these grassroots rugby events are for rugby in the UK.

Youngsters will learn vital lessons by playing in these festivals, that will serve them on and off the rugby pitch.

"To date, over 100,000 youngsters have taken part in the Land Rover Premiership Rugby Cup, with

several players going on to play for Premiership Rugby clubs. This shows the pathway these youngsters can take on their rugby journey, thanks to Land Rover's support of grassroots rugby."

The Land Rover Premiership Rugby Cup is testament to Land Rover's commitment to supporting rugby at all levels, from grassroots to elite. Follow @LandRoverRugby to discover more. #DiscoverRugby



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