

# Nene Valley

## news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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WELCOMES NEW  
RECREATION  
GROUND**

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**HISTORIC STONES  
SNAPPED UP AS THE  
CROWDS TURN OUT**

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Woodford Open Gardens

View 18 beautiful open gardens on Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th June, 1pm-5pm in picturesque Woodford.

There will be plants, craft stalls and more on The Green, tea and cakes in the church and Pimm's by the river. Tickets £5 for both days (under 16s free) which can be purchased on the day on The Green or at St Mary's Church. Proceeds will go to St Mary's Church Woodford Repair Fund. Find the village at NN14 4HE or NN14 4EX.

#### Chester House river bridges

KierWSP Northamptonshire Highways, working on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council will soon start work to install two much-needed pedestrian bridges over the River Nene at Chester House, Little Irchester.

Designers from Highways have been working with a number of associated parties to agree the design of the metal structures that will complete the important links between Wellingborough, Irchester and Rushden.

The bridges were destroyed by arson and have been closed to the public since 2015. Read more on page 7.

## HRH THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER VISITS BARNWELL

On 24th May the residents of Barnwell were honoured to welcome HRH The Duke of Gloucester to plant a tree in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. The Duke spoke with a group from the preschool, answering questions including "What does the Queen like for breakfast?" and "What games does she like to play?". His eyes lit up, recalling the games he used to play when he was young with just some string and a tin can.

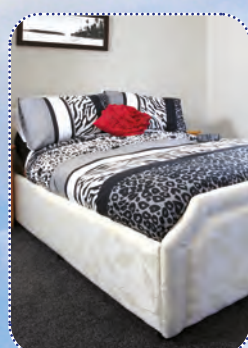


The Duke spoke fondly of his time in Barnwell and the unique character of the village. After topping off the soil around the tree, he did not mind getting his shoes muddy, giving it a good pressing down. And it's no surprise that, having trained as an architect, he was keen to check that the supports were sturdy and well-built (they passed the test!).

Continued on page 2



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# WILDLIFE NEWS

WORDS BY  
ROY BURRELL

Now that warm summer days are with us (unless once more the fickle British weather makes a fool of all who try to forecast its next move) we can look forward to the sights and sounds of this long-awaited season, and not just because we can get outdoors without too much discomfort from rain or wind – or even, in extremes, snow!

Each of us will have little 'clips' which bring this season to mind, and one of the commonest is likely to be the background hum which so easily sends us to sleep in the garden (hopefully with some protection against the sun).

But for the animals which produce that sound there is no time to sleep – they have a job to do. The most likely cause will be the bees. We all know how important they are to the flowers, as they collect what they see as winter stores. We cannot guess how many we will hear; they are not all the same, either in colour or behaviour, and they can all do the job of fertilising the flowers. Differences in size and shape

mean that they will often stick to one type of flower because they fit the available space better. Some flower/insect combinations have a design 'fault' which means that some flowers will only let certain insects in to pick up pollen (nectar is the target for the insect, but the carrying of pollen is the fee it must pay).

Altogether there are well over 200 species of bee in the British countryside, and it is perhaps surprising to find that only about one tenth of that total live in groups ('swarms') – there could be tens of thousands of bees in those nest/swarms. The majority of species prefer their own company finding, or making, holes in all manner of surfaces, often enlarging cavities in soil or building materials. One of those, aiming at an underground entry, just escaped a sudden catastrophic death as my wife missed treading on it. A reminder that the work of bees is an essential stage in our plant life. And remember, they will only sting if they feel threatened, so be careful.

# GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY  
JAN PEARSON

I mentioned possible connections to royalty last time, but you need to be certain of your relationships before claiming such. Sometimes, surnames are common in villages and towns and, as generations grow and people still remain, trying to sort them out can seem like trying to knit fog! I found that this was the case with one of my branches – so much so that it ended up as a one village study.

However, one thing that might help you are naming patterns. Children were often – but not always – named after parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Whilst these are the traditional naming patterns for England and Wales that were in use between 1700 and 1875, it is worth bearing in mind that not everyone followed them:

*First son was named after his father's father.*

*Second son was named after his mother's father.*

*Third son was named after his father.*

*Fourth son was named after his father's oldest brother.*

*Fifth son was named after his father's 2nd oldest brother or mother's oldest brother.*

*First daughter was named after her mother's mother.*

*Second daughter was named after her father's mother.*

*Third daughter was named after her mother.*

*Fourth daughter was named after her mother's oldest sister.*

*Fifth daughter is named after her mother's 2nd oldest sister or father's oldest sister.*

Over the years, the introduction of a middle name started to become popular, often to differentiate between members of the same family with the same first name, such as father and son. One handy thing to be aware of, though, is that if a mother was not married to the father of the child, it also became widely accepted to use the father's surname as the middle name of the child. One of my ancestors, Mary Ann Dean Cross was so named and was the illegitimate daughter of Sarah Cross and William Dean. This helped Sarah to claim support from the local Poor Law Union.

Have a look at the naming patterns in your own families to see what clues they hold.

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# HRH THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER VISITS BARNWELL

Continued from page 1

The Duke also took the time to speak to all the residents who had come out to enjoy the event.

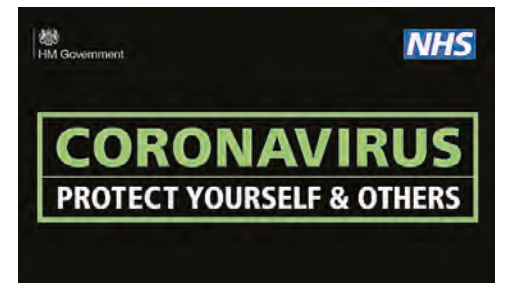
In addition to members of the Parish Council, the village hall committee, and local Councillor Geoff Shacklock, a good number of the village also attended. Some long-time residents chatted to the Duke about their memories of years past and he was pleased

to see new residents arriving in the village and its continued evolution.

The warmth he felt for the village and its residents was clear and was remarked on by many. Council Chairman David Brown warmly thanked the Duke on behalf of the village for his continued long-term support of, and interest in, the village in so many ways.

Following the tree

planting, the Duke was shown the location for the proposed orchard along the border of the village hall field. It is hoped to include the aptly named 'Duke of Gloucester' apple tree in the plantation. A light lunch was then held for the Duke, kindly arranged by Julie Dunn and the Montagu Arms, and the Duke shared more stories and thoughts about his time in the village and its future.



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# Glapthorn welcomes new recreation ground

Glapthorn Recreation Ground was formally opened on Saturday 21st May. The event, which was organised by the Glapthorn Playing Field Association, provided a showcase occasion to celebrate the opening of this new facility.

The official opening was conducted by Councillor Jason Smithers, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, along with Tom Pursglove, MP for Corby and East Northamptonshire. In an opening address, Malcolm Moss (Chairman of Glapthorn Parish Council) outlined the history of the recreation ground project which was initiated in 2016. The early years of the project focused on acquiring the land, working with local planning to turn two acres (0.81 hectares) of agricultural land into a recreation ground and establishing funding for this

£400k project – a significant challenge for a small village community.

With everything in place, work started in 2020 and the project has subsequently delivered a much needed car park for Glapthorn Primary School, a children's playground, an outdoor gym and a Sport England standard playing field. The recreation ground provides an

outstanding community asset and an excellent pitch for local sports clubs of all age groups.

The Parish Council and Glapthorn community are grateful for support and funding from: The National Lottery Community Fund, FCC Communities Foundation, East Northants Council, Augean Community Fund and Sport England, who helped to bring this ambitious project to reality.



Further details of the recreation ground can be found by visiting: <https://www.glapthorn.org.uk/glapthorn-playing-field-associat.html>

# New Chair elected at Annual Full Council

*At the meeting of North Northamptonshire Council's Annual Full Council, Councillors welcomed a new Chair of the council for the next civic year.*

During the meeting, Cllr Larry Henson was sworn in as the council's Chair, with Cllr Barbara Jenney as Deputy Chair.

Cllr Larry Henson said: "It is an honour and privilege to represent North Northamptonshire for the next year.

"I am thoroughly looking forward to getting out and about to meet people across North Northamptonshire over the next year. We have some lovely towns and villages and it will be a pleasure to visit them and meet with communities."

The role of the Chair is largely ceremonial, including chairing Full

council meetings and representing the area at civic functions and events.

Councillors also thanked Cllr Paul Bell for carrying out his role as the first Chair of North Northamptonshire council.

During the meeting, the Executive and their portfolios for 2022-23 were confirmed, with Cllr Jason Smithers continuing as Leader and Cllr Helen Howell as Deputy Leader alongside her role as Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism.

At the meeting Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "Since the council came into existence

last year, our staff and elected members have worked tirelessly to serve North Northamptonshire with dedication and commitment and I am extremely proud of the work that has been achieved so far.

"As a council, we are united in our desire to improve public services and over the last year we have not shied away from tackling the difficult issues we have faced along the way. We have worked thoughtfully to set the agenda for change.

Together this council has set out an ambitious plan for the future for North Northamptonshire."

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## JUNE

Wed 15 Nottingham Cruise & Lunch  
Sat 18 Cromer  
Sun 19 Gardeners World & Good Food Show  
Tue 21 Salisbury Market Day  
Fri 24 National Arboretum & Lichfield  
Fri 24 National Arboretum  
Sun 26 Swanage  
Tue 28 Windsor Luxury Afternoon Tea Cruise

## JULY

Sat 2 Llangollen Horse Drawn Boat Trip  
Sat 2 Llangollen Railway/Classic Transport Show  
Sun 3 Great Yarmouth - Wheels Festival  
Sat 9 Hampton Court Garden Festival  
Sun 10 Hunstanton  
Tue 12 Bicester Shopping Village  
Sat 16 RAF Fairford Tattoo  
Sat 16 Skegness  
Sun 17 Sheringham  
Mon 18 Bakewell Market  
Wed 20 Rutland Belle River Cruise & Oakham  
Sat 23 Concord at Aerospace Bristol  
Sun 24 Whitby  
Mon 25 Lake District - Windermere & Ambleside  
Tue 26 Trentham Estate & Monkey Forest  
Wed 27 Sandringham Flower Show  
Thu 28 Shropshire & Little Switzerland  
Fri 29 London Zoo  
Fri 29 Tower of London with Super Bloom  
Sat 30 Southend on Sea  
Sun 31 Weymouth

## AUGUST

Tue 2 Black Country Museum or Dudley Zoo  
Thu 4 Southwold  
Fri 5 Chester or Chester Zoo  
Sat 6 Buckingham Palace & Afternoon Tea  
Sun 7 Sheringham  
Mon 8 Chesterfield Market Day  
Tue 9 Cromer  
Wed 10 Sudeley Castle & Gardens  
Thu 11 Liverpool City Explorer  
Thu 11 Liverpool Football Club  
Fri 12 Butterfly Farm & Stratford Upon Avon  
Sat 13 Broadstairs or Margate  
Sun 14 Skegness Carnival Day  
Sun 14 Emmerdale Village Tour  
Mon 15 Norfolk Broads Wroxham & Horning  
Tue 16 Secret Nuclear Bunker Tour  
Wed 17 Rutland Belle River Cruise  
Thu 18 Harry Potter  
Thu 18 Windsor or Windsor Castle  
Fri 19 Canterbury or Whitstable  
Sat 20 Eastbourne Airshow  
Sat 20 Hunstanton  
Sun 21 Great Yarmouth

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## AUGUST

### 21st-25th – CHELTENHAM – TEWKESBURY & THE COTSWOLDS

Delta by Marriott Cheltenham Chase Hotel. Half Board, includes Excursions £489pp. Explore quintessentially English villages of honey-coloured stone; take in splendid, lively market towns; visit some of the country's greatest palaces, castles and country houses; marvel at the natural world in acclaimed reserves and at some of the most famous arboreta's in Britain. The Cotswolds is also richly rural: more than 3,000 miles of footpaths and bridleways to explore; ancient woodlands and wildflower meadows; 4,000 miles of historic Cotswold stone walls dividing up the landscape. Includes Entrance to Sudeley Castle and Hidcote Manor.

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

### 28th-1st SEPTEMBER – DUBLIN & WICKLOW RIVER & RAIL

Summerhill House Hotel, Enniskerry. Half Board, includes Excursions £589pp. County Wicklow is known for its namesake mountains, Irish Sea coastline, country estates and the Wicklow Way. The walking trail passes through Wicklow Mountains National Park which includes glacial lakes, rivers and Glendalough, the remains of an early-medieval monastic settlement in a forested valley. Wicklow, known as 'the Garden of Ireland' is south of Dublin. The holiday includes entry to Powerscourt Gardens, a train ride on Dart Railway and boat cruise on the Liffey.

## OCTOBER

### 2nd-8th OCTOBER – IRELAND, KINGDOM OF KERRY

River Island Hotel, County Kerry. Half Board, includes Excursions £589pp. County Kerry contains some of Ireland's most iconic scenery: surf-pounded cliffs and soft golden sands, emerald-green farmland criss-crossed by tumbledown stone walls, mist-shrouded bogs and cloud-torn mountain peaks. With one of the country's finest National Parks as its backyard, the lively tourism hub Killarney spills over with colourful shops, restaurants and pubs loud with spirited traditional music.

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## Spotlight on > Homes & Gardens

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decide to purchase. Most items are also in stock and available for local delivery or collection.

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"Our product range changes throughout the year to reflect the outdoor seasons, so you'll want to visit again later in the summer to see what's new or visit later in the year when we have our seasonal changeover to include our Winter Clothing and Ski Wear range."



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Whether you are looking for a portable camping barbecue or something a bit larger to host a family get together, we have a great range of Gas and Charcoal Barbecues and Barbecue Accessories available in store.

If you can't decide between Gas or Charcoal, you can enjoy the best of both with the Gas2Coal Hybrid BBQ which easily converts from gas to charcoal in less than 60 seconds. You can even use the gas burners to ignite your charcoal.

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## Higham Eye Care celebrates recent move to new practice on High Street, Higham Ferrers

Four years after taking over the popular local opticians, sisters Hannah and Tricia felt the need for bigger and more modern premises.

Tricia said: "The new shop looks absolutely amazing with bespoke fittings allowing us to showcase even more frames. The extra space means we can offer more services without compromising on the amount of time we spend with each patient."

Mayor Tina Reavey opened the doors to the new practice in February and the team has been amazed at the response from locals.

Hannah said: "It's been lovely to hear all the great comments from our existing patients

as well as so many new people who have come to us. It's amazing how many people didn't realise that Higham Ferrers had its own opticians!"

One of the benefits of the new location is that the practice now has a fully fitted lab. "Not many practices our size have their own lab technician on hand, especially one with over 20 years' experience so it's great that we now have such a fantastic space for John to work in," explained Tricia.

The team are excited about being able to offer more frame brands and a wider lens choice. Hannah said: "We are especially delighted about bringing the iconic style of Ray Ban Authentic to Higham Ferrers High Street. You can have your prescription glasses with the engraved Ray Ban logo made in Italy for both sunglasses and regular spectacles! We're expanding our lens portfolio to include Nikon on top of our award-winning Hoya lenses."

**Call Higham Eye Care on 01933 317000 or email [info@highameyecare.co.uk](mailto:info@highameyecare.co.uk) to book an appointment or ask for advice.**



## Exciting News!

Higham Eye Care has moved to 6 High Street, Higham Ferrers where we will continue to provide high quality eye examinations and professional advice.

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## YOUR HEALTH – JUBILEE INJURIES

**WORDS BY  
CLAIRE SHORT**

I'm not going to talk about how to look after your body today. Instead, for a bit of fun, we're going to look at some of the Jubilee injuries I've heard about.

### 1. Triathlon

**Injury** – Pulled calf muscle.

**Treatment** – Massage and ultrasound should get this athlete back to competing.

### 2. Gardening

That well-known extreme sport! Too much weeding led to back pain.

**Injury** – Ligament strain and joint pain.

**Treatment** – Mobilising the joint and appropriate exercises will help.

### 3. Puddly grass

Slipping on wet grass while running to get to a stall at a Jubilee event.

**Injury** – Rotator cuff strain (shoulder).

**Treatment** – Specialist NAT trigger point therapy and exercises are recommended.

### 4. Lawnmower

You knew this one was coming, didn't you! Yes, we've already heard of one person who hurt their back over the weekend while pushing a lawnmower. What can I say? You know my feelings about this monstrous

machine. The only cure is to put it back in the shed and never get it out again.

### 5. Horse fall

A small spook from the horse left the rider (me) having a close-up chat with the road after slithering (not very elegantly and still on the saddle) down the side of the horse.

**Injury** – Strain to the shoulder and neck.

**Treatment** – One treatment fixed it. And yes, even after 20 years of treating injuries, I'm just as astounded as anyone else that treatment can work so quickly!

### 6. Slipped disc (disc herniation)

I think slipped discs probably warrant a full article of their own, but for now I'll say that the two people we've heard of with this problem have seen the GP and will have a choice locally of osteopathy, chiropractic, physiotherapy and IDD Disc Therapy. All of these could help.

I hope your own Jubilee weekend was pain-free and fun! And yes, before you ask, the saddle fitter is already booked for the horse I fell off!

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

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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:**

## > RUSHDEN

New vehicular access at 42 Little Street Rushden NN10 0LS (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/22/00464/FUL (5 July 2022)

## > RUSHDEN

Erection of a single storey rear extension to create a new commercial unit at 33 High Street Rushden NN10 0QE (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/22/00360/FUL (5 July 2022)

## > LUDDINGTON IN THE BROOK

Erection of a replacement agricultural barn at Rectory Farm And Farm Buildings Gypsy Lane Luddington In The Brook PE8 5QS (Info) (Part3) (Info) NE/22/00664/FUL (5 July 2022)

## > WOODFORD

Front and rear ground floor extensions; new entrance porch; addition of solar panels to the south west elevation; changes to

fenestration and rendering (Revised resubmission to NE/22/00016/FUL) at Five Spires Church Green Woodford NN14 4EU (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/22/00686/FUL (5 July 2022)

## > OUNDLE

New detached garden building at 33 West Street Oundle PE8 4EJ (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/22/00655/FUL (5 July 2022)

## > IRTHLINGBOROUGH

Demolition of existing Garage/ Workshop and construction of new self-contained dwelling house at 46 Lees Street Irthlingborough NN9 5RN (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/22/00572/FUL (5 July 2022)

## > ALDWINCLE

Internal alterations and changes to fenestration to existing annexe to provide a wet room bathroom, utility and storage space at 87 Main Street Aldwincle NN14 3EP (Info) (LBRegs) (Info) NE/22/00538/LBC (5 July 2022)

## > WOODFORD

Demolition of garage and erection of linked dwelling at 1 Rectory Lane Woodford NN14 4HS (Info) (LB/

CA) (Info) NE/22/00674/FUL (5 July 2022)

## > RAUNDS

Reserved matters: Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale pursuant to 18/01744/OUT. Outline application for up to 10 dwellings, including access onto Brick Kiln Road at Land Known As The Poplars Brick Kiln Road Raunds (Info) (Part3) (Info) NE/22/00692/REM (5 July 2022)

## > WAKERLEY

Convert part of garage to kitchen for cottage annexe at Exeter House 6 Main Street Wakerley LE15 8PA (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/22/00638/FUL (5 July 2022)

**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 11 June 2022**

**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).**

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**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.**

## North Northamptonshire Council identifies Kier as its future highways service provider

*Following a thorough procurement process, North Northamptonshire Council has identified Kier as the preferred bidder for its new highways contract.*

**This will be the first Highways contract to be awarded since the council came into existence in April last year.**

Worth approximately £30m a year, it is one of the highest value contracts awarded by the council and is set to run for seven years, with the potential to extend to a maximum of 14 years.

Since April 2021, Highways maintenance has been delivered Northamptonshire-wide by KierWSP under arrangements inherited from the previous county council. Starting afresh from the previous arrangement, the new contract has been

significantly updated to align with the challenges faced today and over the next decade and beyond.

The deal has been drawn up to ensure that there is provision for a safe, legal, customer-focused and value for money service while also making tangible contributions to the council's commitment to social value and its response to climate change and protecting the environment.

Cllr Graham Lawman, North Northamptonshire Council Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "This whole procurement process started with a blank

slate and resulted in four bidders competing to win the contract. Kier successfully won the procurement exercise by submitting a bid that offered the best value for money and highest quality Highways service for the people of North Northants.

"The new contract is very much tailored towards meeting the challenges that we are currently facing and those over the coming years and we are confident that all the ingredients are in place for the delivery of the service.

"Having the right highways infrastructure is the cornerstone for so many of our

wider services and is pivotal in helping make the area a great place in which to live and work."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "The purpose of this procurement exercise has been to ensure we appoint a provider that can offer the best value for money for our residents. I am looking forward to working with Kier to ensure residents receive a high-quality highways service. This is an exciting new chapter in North Northamptonshire and I'm looking forward to seeing improvements made to the network over the coming months and years.

"A fit-for-purpose Highways contract is essential in the delivery of so many of our services and vital if we are going to move towards being net carbon zero by 2030."

Highways maintenance had been delivered Northamptonshire-wide under arrangements inherited from the previous county council and the new plans will instead see North Northamptonshire Council and neighbouring West Northamptonshire Council run their own separate contracts and services.

However as West Northamptonshire Council has also appointed Kier – this allows for some economies of scale to take place through sharing some administrative functions and contract

management roles.

Both North and West Northants councils had worked closely on the process for procuring the new highways contracts, which started in November 2020 and has involved several selection stages to narrow down and shortlist prospective suppliers.

The decision for North Northamptonshire was made under delegated authority by the Council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Director for Place and Economy and the Monitoring Officer.

The new contract is due to start on 12th September 2022.



*You will no doubt have heard about monkeypox in the media. Public Health Northamptonshire is taking steps to reassure and advise Northamptonshire residents, as well as provide guidance for people as to what to do if they believe they may be infected.*



Anyone who is concerned that they could be infected should see a health professional. Please don't just turn up at a sexual health clinic or surgery, do contact them ahead of your visit. Avoid close contact with others until you have been seen by a clinician and told it is not monkeypox. (Your call or discussion will be treated sensitively and confidentially.)

**You can also help slow the spread of the outbreak by reporting your potential case to East Midlands UKHSA on 0344 225 4524 and the Northamptonshire Health Protection Team by emailing [ph.healthprotection@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:ph.healthprotection@northnorthants.gov.uk)**

# CHESTER HOUSE RIVER BRIDGES - WORK ON LONG-AWAITED REPLACEMENTS TO START SOON

"The bridges have generated a lot of interest and are another part of our fascinating history at

Visitors will start to see works this month as the team install a works compound and haul road which will have the capacity to carry heavy vehicles and plant. The scheme is expected to take 12 weeks and, as soon as the work is safely completed, the bridge will open to the public.

**Updates will also be provided on Twitter @nnhighways and @ChesterHouse\_UK  
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# Jubilee discount worthy of a superhero for local charity's inaugural fun run

Northamptonshire Health Charity has announced a special Jubilee discount on entry fees for its inaugural Superhero Family Fun Run, taking place at Wicksteed Park in July.

The independent charity funds equipment and projects that enhance patient care and experience as well as supporting NHS staff wellbeing initiatives at

Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals and the community and mental health hospitals under Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.

They are calling all superhero fans to suit up as their favourite character and run, jog or walk the 5km course at the beautiful Wicksteed Park in Kettering. You can now get a whopping 30% discount simply by entering the word Jubilee when asked for a discount code at registration.

Open to all ages and abilities, this 5K event is taking place from 10am on Sunday 3rd July. It can be a fun day out for all the family, including your four-legged friends! Whichever way you choose to complete the course, you'll all be superheroes to our local NHS teams.

Ticket prices with this amazing discount are: Adult £10.50; Child (5-15) £7; Family Ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £31.50; under 5s FREE.

The proceeds from entry fees



will go towards the charity's Twinkling Stars appeal for the new maternity bereavement suite at Kettering General Hospital but you are welcome to get sponsored and raise funds for the ward or department that means the most to you and your family at any of the local NHS hospitals they support.

There will be prizes up for grabs for the best dressed superheroes, whether you are Superman, Wonder Woman or dressed as one of our NHS Heroes. Community Fundraiser and organiser of the event, Michelle Leighton said: "It is a great opportunity to celebrate all key workers throughout the Covid pandemic so we encourage people to dress up

as your favourite postie, bin man or shop worker too. However, there is no obligation to dress up if it isn't your thing."

All finishers will receive a medal and a bottle of water

at the finish line. Wicksteed Park is also offering all finishers discounted entry with a wristband ticket at £15 per person for the rides and attractions for the day.



**Hurry and take advantage of this fantastic Jubilee discount offer. Sign up via the charity's website <https://northamptonshirehealthcharity.co.uk/events/superhero-fun-run/> or contact the team if you have any queries. Call 01604 626927 or email [greenheart@nhcf.co.uk](mailto:greenheart@nhcf.co.uk)**

## What is Oundle Repair Café?

Oundle Repair Café is a free meeting place where gifted repairers work with visitors who bring in broken, damaged or worn-out items from home – including clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances and toys, to name but a few – which need care, attention, and fixing.

Together with the Café's specialists, repairers can see and with help make their own repairs in the Repair Café. It's an ongoing learning process.

If you have nothing to repair, you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, or lend a hand with someone else's repair job.

### Why a Repair Café?

We are a throwaway society, which means that vast amounts of stuff gets put into landfill – every day. We even throw away things with almost nothing wrong, and which could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. Knowing how to make repairs is a skill quickly lost, and that's true of several generations – the kind



of skill which an older relative or neighbour would be able to offer. Yet a sustainable future and circular economy means raw materials can be reused again and again.

That's why there's a Repair Café! People with repair skills get the appreciation they deserve. Invaluable practical skills are passed on. Things are being used for longer and don't have to be thrown away. This reduces the volume of raw materials and energy needed to make new products. It cuts CO2 emissions, for example, because manufacturing new products and recycling old ones causes CO2 to be

released.

The Repair Café teaches people to see their possessions in a new light. And, once again, to appreciate their value. Repair Café volunteers also visit schools to give repair lessons. In both these ways, the Repair Café helps change people's mindset. This is essential to kindle people's enthusiasm for a sustainable society.

But most of all, the Repair Café just wants to show how much fun repairing things can be, and how easy it often is. Why don't you give it a go, whether as a repairer, or a repairer?

**Simply contact [repaircafe@transitionoundle.org.uk](mailto:repaircafe@transitionoundle.org.uk), and someone will get back to you.**

## Nene Valley News - Events

- Sunday 12th June: A 'Leathery Lap'. Three-mile walk around some of the sites relating to the boot and shoe industry in Rushden, led by Whitefriars Church walking group as part of 'Rushden Celebrates'. Meeting at the front of Rushden Hall at 10.30am. All welcome. Please contact Andrew Presland at [andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com) or 01933 316927 for more details.
- Also on Sunday 12th June: other community activities run by Whitefriars Church, Rushden, including Read & More book group, Wild Church, Silver service and Coffee 'n' Counters (at a board game café).

Details from [office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk)

- Sunday 19th June, 10.15am: Morning Worship at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX. More details from [office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk)
- Friday 16th September, 7.30pm: Rushden & District History Society at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX. Admission Fee: Members £1.50, non-members £2.50. Contact information: Tel. 01536 238320 for more information. Will Osborne – "Osbornes Sports and Toys – 65 Years Young".

**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.**



# A LIFE IN THE ARMED FORCES

*Armed Forces Day is a time to reflect on the important role that our amazing armed forces play in maintaining the security of our nation and our interests across the globe. For one Rushden family, this year's event takes on a more personal significance.*



**Air Engineering Mechanic Pickles shortly after joining the Royal Navy in 1991**

The parade commander for this year's Armed Forces Day Parade in Rushden will be local resident, Commander David Pickles Royal Navy. This will be a rather poignant day for the senior naval officer, as it will also be the last time he wears his naval uniform before retiring from the military at the end of June – after almost 31 years of service.

As if that wasn't enough of an occasion to celebrate for the Pickles family, he will also be joined on the parade by his daughter, Jess, who will be the Standard Bearer for Rushden Sea Cadets, in what will be her last parade as a cadet (she'll be leaving cadets when she turns 18 later this year, but hopes to eventually go on and join the Royal Navy when she finishes her education).

Commander Pickles said: "As

a local lad, it's a huge privilege to have been invited to lead this year's Armed Forces Day parade through my home town of Rushden. I'm certain that it will be an emotional day for me personally, as I come to the end of an amazing career in the Royal Navy, but I am so pleased that my final day in uniform will be such a memorable occasion, and that I will be able to share that occasion with my daughter."

Commander Pickles grew up in Rushden in the 1980s where he attended South End Junior School and the Ferrers School, before leaving in September 1991 to join the Royal Navy as an Air Engineering Mechanic.

After completing training, he worked on Sea King helicopters at Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Culdrose in Cornwall, before moving to the Royal Navy Historic Flight

based at RNAS Yeovilton in Somerset, where he spent a year travelling to numerous air shows as a maintainer of the WWII Swordfish aircraft (made famous by the Battle of Taranto and the sinking of the Bismarck). In 1995 he joined HMS Invincible, one of the Royal Navy's 20,000 tonne aircraft carriers, where he served two tours in the Adriatic during the Balkans Conflict.

In 1997 he was selected for commissioning as an officer and after completing his year-long initial officer training at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, he went on to become an Air Traffic Control Officer. As a Lieutenant, he served as a controller at RNAS Yeovilton and Plymouth Military Radar (covering the Navy's Danger Areas along the English Channel), as well as onboard HMS Invincible. He also spent two years back at Britannia Royal Naval College as an instructor, where he taught leadership to new entry officers.

In 2009 he was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander and assigned as the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer (SATCO) on HMS Ocean – a 20,000 tonne helicopter carrier. During his two years onboard, he spent a total of 17 months at sea, visiting over 21 countries whilst operating in the Mediterranean Sea, the Arabian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the North and South Atlantic Ocean, the North and South Pacific Ocean and the Arctic Circle.

Following subsequent tours as an air traffic control instructor at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire and in a management role

at RNAS Yeovilton, he was specially selected in 2015 for the prestigious task of setting up the air traffic control capability for the Queen Elizabeth Class carriers – the Royal Navy's new 70,000 tonne aircraft carriers. As the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer on HMS Queen Elizabeth, he developed the ship's aviation operating procedures, conducted trials on the ship's systems and designed training procedures for air traffic controllers assigned to the ship – essentially defining how the carriers will be operated over the next 50 years. He then went on to oversee the First of Class Flying Trials, which were conducted off the east coast of the United States in 2018 with the brand new F-35B fighter aircraft onboard.

After leaving the carrier project at the end of 2018, he worked briefly as a military planner for the Standing Joint Commander (UK), based in Aldershot, but following his selection for promotion to Commander early the following year, he was reassigned to the Military Aviation Authority (MAA) in Bristol. Here he worked as the Assurance Lead for UK Military Air Operations – a role in which he was responsible for the assurance of all British military



**Commander Pickles at the Rushden Remembrance service in 2021, with his daughter Jess (in Rushden Sea Cadets)**

airfields (including overseas bases and aircraft carriers) as well as numerous defence support organisations.

It is also worth highlighting that during his time at the MAA, Commander Pickles was temporarily seconded into the Ministry of Defence in London for two months, during the early days of Covid, where as Chief of Staff he assisted in co-ordinating military assistance to the Government's initial response.

Having joined the Royal Navy in 1991 as a junior sailor, Commander Pickles is now finally preparing to retire from

the military, after almost 31 years military service. But he's not about to turn his back on his naval career just yet - with a wealth of knowledge and experience, he will be taking up a role with Babcock Marine Services in July, where he will lead the development of air traffic management capabilities for future military ship designs. He will also continue as an active volunteer with Rushden Sea Cadets (he's been the Chairman since 2020) and is also a member of the Rushden Royal Naval Association and Royal British Legion.

## NNC seeking views on how Shared Prosperity Fund should be spent

**North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) is asking for views on priorities and opportunities relating to £4.8m (across three years from 2022/23) of central Government funding.**

The council has been allocated monies from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a Government fund set up to provide £2.6 billion for local investment. All areas of the UK have received an allocation from the funding. This succeeds the old EU structural funds.

An Investment Plan will be put together by NNC, which sets out the challenges and opportunities locally across three themes – Community & Place, Local Business and People & Skills – and it is these key themes that the council is currently asking for thoughts on.

NNC is keen to hear what residents, local businesses and stakeholders believe are the top three challenges affecting North Northamptonshire for each of the three themes, plus ways to tackle these challenges.

Cllr David Brackenbury, the council's Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, said:

"This money is about levelling up across the country, which is why we have launched this survey to ensure our funding allocation reaches the communities and projects most in need across North Northamptonshire.

"We want to hear from you on the challenges in your local area, as well as ways in which we can tackle them, so please do take the time to get involved."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, added: "I would encourage everyone to complete the online survey and have their say. All responses will be reviewed by the council, and help to inform work on the local Investment Plan for North Northamptonshire."

Alongside the online survey North Northamptonshire Council will be liaising with key stakeholders including business networks and the private sector, national and local delivery agencies and community representatives to help ensure an inclusive approach.

Anyone wishing to have their say should complete the online survey by midday on 15th June 2022.



**Lieutenant Commander Pickles (centre) with his team of Air Traffic Controllers on board HMS Queen Elizabeth during Flying Trials in 2018**



# Build a career in construction with free training programme

*Free bitesize courses giving people the practical skills and experience needed to work in the construction industry are available from North Northamptonshire Council thanks to a successful bid for funding from the Government's UK Community Renewal Fund – which invests in skills, community and place, local business and supporting people into employment.*

**The Construction Skills Programme returns to the area following the success of previous training courses launched in 2019 which saw over 400 local learners take up the opportunity to get their construction career off the ground.**

Awarded with £88k of funding to deliver the programme, the council is working in partnership with local training provider Evolve Your Future to run bitesize courses which cover essential skills including health and safety, manual handling and first aid, as well as practical work experience

at a local construction site, and CSCS card accreditation, giving learners all they need to work on-site.

Councillor David Brackenbury, the Council's Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration said: "North Northamptonshire is an area of significant growth and development, and we are extremely pleased to have the Construction Skills Programme running again in the area, and we welcome the funding from Government.

"North Northamptonshire Council were successful in their bid for Community Renewal

Funding, which means we can offer up to 50 more people the chance to lay the foundations for a career in construction. It's not only a great opportunity for people to develop new skills, but also to boost employment in the industry and build a skilled workforce who will be able to work on local construction projects."

Councillor Jason Smithers, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council said: "This is a pioneering training programme, and following the success we have had over the past few years, it is brilliant we

are now able to provide more learning opportunities for people looking to do the groundwork to launch a construction career.

"Learners completing previous courses have had the chance to get involved with some exciting local construction projects including Five Wells Prison in Wellingborough, housing developments, highways projects, as well as school and academy expansions.

"This training programme is quick to complete, opens up many opportunities for people and provides a stepping-stone into working in construction. I would encourage anyone who is interested to register their interest today, they could be working in a construction job by the summer."

Kay Brockall, Managing Director at Evolve Your Future said: "The team at Evolve Your Future are delighted to have been awarded the Construction Skills Programme contract in North



Northamptonshire which will support and upskill individuals who have chosen to take a step into the construction industry. As a local established training company, we are looking forward to working with new and established partners and supporting local employers to recruit new and skilled employees."

The Construction Skills

Programme is available for anyone aged 18 and above, who isn't currently working in the construction sector. People interested must be able to show they have the right to work in the UK, either with a National Insurance number, valid passport, full driving licence or copy of their birth certificate. They must also be able to read and speak English.

**Anyone interested in this opportunity should complete an expression of interest form on the Council's website [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/constructionskills](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/constructionskills)**

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## National changes to bus lane enforcement to affect North Northamptonshire

**Fines for the illegal use of bus lanes have increased from £60 to £70 as part of a change in national legislation, introduced by the Government recently.**

The increase from 31st May affects all council areas which issue Penalty Charge Notices for the contravention of traffic regulations in bus lanes.

In North Northamptonshire this applies to the Gloucester Place bus gate linking Church Street to Cambridge Street/Market Street and the bus lane in Sheep Street in Wellingborough town centre.

Additionally, the initial period during which the payment of fines is discounted has increased from 14 days to 21 days.

Both changes bring the rules regarding bus lane contraventions into line with legislation regarding civil parking enforcement.

Cllr Graham Lawman, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "We welcome any additional deterrent to misuse of the bus lanes through these changes which are being brought in nationally and, as a local authority, we are obliged to comply with.

"The rules are now in alignment with the

charge and the discounted period for payment of a postal Penalty Charge Notice, which should help reduce confusion."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council said: "The measures were brought in to reduce congestion in this part of Wellingborough so that bus journey times could be more reliable and hence more attractive for the travelling public.

"Encouraging people to use more sustainable modes of transport is one component of reducing carbon emissions in North Northants and creating a cleaner, greener environment."





# Nene Valley news CLASSIFIEDS

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH MY6 – FOTHERINGHAY)  
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit pedestrians from proceeding along those lengths of Public Footpath MY6 in Fotheringhay 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 to be closed: The route to be closed starts at Point A at national Grid Reference (NGR) TL0583 9329. The route extends in a generally northerly direction for 415 metres to NGR TL0587 9369 to the footbridge to be repaired at Point B and then in a generally north westerly direction for 700 metres to NGR TL0540 9412 where the footpath meets BOAT MY7 at Point C. **REASONS FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for health and safety to enable safe repair or replacement of damaged footbridge at NGR TL0587 9369. **PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The Order came into effect on 12th June 2022 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 ROUTE:** The alternative route: The alternative starts at NGR TL0583 9329 at Point A and extends in a generally westerly direction for 270 metres to NGR TL0556 9327 at Point D and then in a generally north westerly direction for 585 metres to NGR TL0520 9364 at Point E and then in a generally north easterly direction along BOAT MY7 for 495 metres to NGR TL 0540 9412 at Point C. If you require any further information please contact Alain Prud'homme [aprud'homme@kierwsp.co.uk](mailto:aprud'homme@kierwsp.co.uk) 07757 437897. PKG/ROW/040

Dated this 11th day of June 2022  
DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES,  
Executive Director LGSS Law Ltd

#### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(PAPLEY, LUTTON)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2022  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Papley, Lutton as set out below.

**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Papley, Lutton from outside Parley Farm.

**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during replacement of a stop tap.

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 4th July 2022 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 Warrington Road, Oundle Road and Tansor Road. If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref:- 21/22 – N147 on 01604 651072. PKG/T22/463

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(RAUNDS ROAD, CHELVESTON)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2022  
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 Raunds Road, Chelveston as set out below.

**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Raunds Road, Chelveston from 140 metres north of Sawyers Crescent.

**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 19th June 2022 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 three days.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use Chelveston Road, London Road, A45, A6 and Higham Road.

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref:- 21/22 – N550 on 01604 651072. PKG/T22/208

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(CALDECOTT, CHELVESTON)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2022  
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 Caldecott, Chelveston as set out below.

**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Caldecott, Chelveston from The Crescent to The Airfield.

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

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 13th June 2022 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 until 24th June 2022.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use Higham Road, Rushden Road, Newton Road, A6, Chelveston Road, Higham Road and Caldecott Road.

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref:- 21/22 – N091 on 01604 651072. PKG/T22/389

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(SPINNEY CLOSE, WARRINGTON)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2022  
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 Spinney Close, Warrington as set out below.

**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Spinney Close, Warrington from the junction with Church Street to the junction with Taylors Green.

**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 13th June 2022 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 three days.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use Church Street, Broadgate Way and Taylors Green.

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref:- 21/22 – N117 on 01604 651072. PKG/T22/412

Dated this 11th day of June 2022

DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES

Executive Director, Pathfinder Legal Services Ltd

#### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(THRASPON ROAD, FINEDON, GREAT ADDINGTON, BURTON LATIMER, CRANFORD & FINEDON ROAD, WOODFORD & TWYWELL)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2022  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along those lengths of roads as set out below.

**LENGTHS OF ROADS TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** Those lengths of Thrapston Road, Finedon, Great Addington, Burton Latimer, Cranford and Finedon Road, Woodford and Twywell – from Eastfield Road to A6 Irthlingborough Road.

**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during coring, deflectograph and carriageway works.

**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 27th June 2022 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 roads will be restricted for one night.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use A6, A14, A509, A5193 and A5128.

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref:- 21/22 – N130 on 01604 651072. PKG/T22/430

Dated this 9th day of June 2022

DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES,

Executive Director, Pathfinder Legal Services Ltd



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# HISTORIC STONES SNAPPED UP AS THE CROWDS TURN OUT

There was so much interest in the 600-year-old stones that fell from a Higham Ferrers landmark that a queue had formed before they went on sale recently.

And many of the people interested in getting a piece of history were out-of-towners who once lived in Higham Ferrers.

"I used to live in Higham Ferrers, so getting a stone from the Chichele College is something special," said

Kettering resident Susan Hughes.

She will place her stone – which came complete with a certificate of authenticity – in her garden and pledged not to let anyone stand on it.

Susan's stone was in the five tons of rubble that fell from part of the Chichele College's inner wall in February 2021. Specialist stonemasons were called in to fix the wall as well as part of the perimeter wall in Saffron Road that had become dangerously

loose.

Various processes that had to be followed delayed the work, but once the rebuilding project got underway, it took just five months.

While most of the fallen stones were able to be fitted back into the wall, along with replacement quarried stones, not all could be used and the Higham Ferrers Tourism Committee decided to sell them off to raise funds for the Ukraine Appeal.

They were lined up in the grounds of the ancient Chichele College on Saturday 28th May, when the Tourism Committee held its Chichele Garden Fair.

The sun and the crowds came out and the unique stones, which will always be a talking point for the owners, were swiftly snapped up.

An impressive Henry Chichele Exhibition, detailing the life of the town's most famous medieval son, was also on show, along with artwork by local school children, who captured their vision of Archbishop Chichele's life.

Five-year-old Thomas Jefferies, whose family is involved in historical re-enactments, got into the mood and visited the exhibition and the stocks in his trainee knight outfit. Also known as Sir Thomas of Jefferies, the helmet-wearing little re-enactor was only too keen to show off his sword.

Over in the college garden, visitors were checking out the array of stalls, getting gardening



**Boxing clever:** Charles Taylor, pictured with his mother Carol, offers the biggest range of wooden wildlife homes in the county. He also makes flower boxes, signposts and portable gardens

advice and they were sipping Pimm's in the nearby Duchy Barn Garden, with the NAAFI kiosk doing brisk business serving refreshments.

Meanwhile, Charles Taylor was showing off a wide selection of wooden wildlife homes, flower boxes, signposts and

portable gardens.

Charles, who is profoundly deaf, has a City and Guilds in furniture making and turned his hand to craftwork when he was unable to get work as a furniture maker. Now he offers a bigger range of wooden wildlife homes than anyone else in the county.

**Charles Taylor makes all his craft items from scratch using hand tools instead of machinery. The timber he uses comes from a sustainable source while the paint is not harmful to birds or animals. Contact details: [charlesworkshop@btinternet.com](mailto:charlesworkshop@btinternet.com) Mobile: 07747328550.**



**A piece of Higham's history**



**The Higham Ferrers Tourism Committee's Chichele Garden Fair proved a popular outing for locals and out-of-towners alike**



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