

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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ON HOMES
& GARDENS

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HEALTHCARE SUCCESS
RECOGNISED
NATIONALLY

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Help prevent livestock injury

NFU Mutual's latest survey of over 1,100 dog owners found that despite 64% of owners admitting their dogs chase animals, almost half (46%) believe their dog was not capable of injuring or killing livestock.

Many dog owners are unaware that even if their pet doesn't make contact with a sheep, the distress caused by being chased can trigger a pregnant ewe to die or miscarry. Nearly two thirds of owners (64%) say they let their dog roam off-lead in the countryside. However, almost four in ten (39%) admit that their pets do not always come back when called.

Across the UK, dog attacks on farm animals were estimated to cost £1.8m in 2022. With many dog owners planning to visit the countryside as the weather improves, NFU Mutual is calling for them to:

- Keep dogs on a lead when walking in rural areas where livestock are kept but let go of the lead if chased by cattle
- Be aware that even small dogs can cause distress
- Report attacks by dogs to the police or local farmers
- Never let dogs loose unsupervised in gardens near livestock fields

New Forest School leader training at Ferry Meadows

Over the last decade and more, Nene Park Trust has established a reputation for delivering high quality outdoor learning from its base at Ferry Meadows. Every year, over 6,000 students from across the region visit the park to take part in activities including outdoor adventure activities, Forest School and curriculum linked outdoor learning.

This year, Nene Park Trust will be taking the next step in developing its outdoor learning service by beginning to offer a range of onsite training courses and CPD to support teachers and education professionals in making outdoor learning an integral part of their curriculum.

The new training courses will be delivered by Nene Park Trust Education and Activities Manager, Anna Thompson. Anna says: "We all know the benefits of spending time outdoors, and countless studies have also demonstrated the positive impacts outdoor learning can

have on students' attainment and wellbeing. We love welcoming students and teachers to Nene Park, but recognise that for outdoor learning to have the biggest impact, it must become integrated into a school's regular curriculum. That is why we are so excited to be able to support teachers in developing the skills they need to incorporate outdoor learning into their everyday teaching."

Nene Park's new suite of RQF regulated courses in forest school and outdoor learning will be delivered in association with Cambium Sustainable, one of the first Forest School training

organisations established in the UK, with the largest network of accredited trainers.

The first of the new courses to be available at Nene Park will be the Level 3 Certificate in Leading Forest School, starting on 20th September. An essential course for anyone who would like to set up and run a Forest School in their own setting.

The course involves eight days of face-to-face training onsite at Ferry Meadows in Peterborough, including theory and practical sessions in a dedicated Forest



Nene Park skills share day

School site. Participants will receive ongoing support to complete the qualification, including access to the Cambium online support library of resources.

To book a place on the Level 3 Certificate in Leading Forest School, please visit the website:

www.nenepark.org.uk/leading-forest-school

Further courses to follow will include the Level 2 Award in Outdoor Learning, Level 2 Award in Assisting Forest School and Level 3 Award in Coordinating an Outdoor Curriculum.

If you are interested in booking a place on any of these courses, or would like more information, please email anna.thompson@neneparktrust.org.uk

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WILDLIFE NEWS

WORDS BY
ROY BURRELL

Life among the animals and plants of our countryside is not always as quiet and calm as we might wish. Human activities can conflict with wildlife – houses, transport and manufacturing can damage the soil where it all starts. Yet nature can also do a pretty good ‘hatchet job’ on other living forms, with the cause found in defending food, shelter, or a “desirable female”.

Many schemes are now running to make areas “wildlife friendly”, the overall operations grouped as ‘rewilding’ projects, though it may easily result in putting one species under pressure and the competitor taking over. In our countryside we have one of the clearest examples of how an invading species can impact significantly on another, and this seems to be a little more clear-cut now, possibly because this year’s generation have spread out from their home area to establish their own food supply routes. I am talking about the squirrels: most of us are either ‘for’ or ‘against’. The grey species are not true natives, but they are so common that any bushy

tailed animal leaping around in the trees is likely to be a grey squirrel, though occasionally individuals may have reddish-tinted areas. But there are sufficient differences to confirm identity.

Reds look more lightweight, though the diet for both species is rather similar. Population pressure leads to the problem of the greys eating the reds “out of house and home”, and the odds are clearly very much on the greys’ side; it would seem then that areas where the reds have been driven out could provide ideal spots to recreate the population.

This idea lies behind rewilding, more than feeding the creatures during times of drought or thirst, or bringing in plants or animals, and protecting them while they get rooted. What if they don’t come? If they flourished centuries ago, something must have changed to affect their continuing lifestyle; was it disturbance, disease, changing climate, removal of dependent companions of whatever origin? Whatever the reason, all of us must share the responsibility.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Last time I mentioned gravestones and the symbolism of their carvings. But what is written on them can also be extremely helpful! I was able to track one of my families sideways and backwards as, on my 5 x great grandmother’s gravestone it reads:

‘Mrs. Sarah CATT of this parish died 18th March, 1866, aged 88. Leaving seven sons and one daughter, James, William, Joseph, Isaac, Harriott, Stephen, Charles and George.’

You never know what you are going to discover! So, bearing in mind that the weather should start to improve in the not too distant future, now would be a good time to perhaps start planning those day trips – especially if you can incorporate an outing to a graveyard or cemetery where your ancestors might be found. I blame my Gran for my interest in graveyards as she used to take me to visit my Grandad’s grave and point out the interesting memorials along the way...

I mentioned back in December that I would not be continuing with the monthly drop-in sessions, but embarking upon occasional Family History

‘events’ to take place in Oundle Library. The first one is scheduled for Thursday 2nd March and I will be there between 10am and 2pm. Entitled, ‘Exploring Family History’ (I did consider calling it ‘Digging up dead people’ but thought that would not go down too well...) it will be an opportunity for you to bring along your genealogy questions, brick walls and lost ancestors for help and advice. If finding out about your ancestors is something that interests you but you don’t know where to start, please pop in. Lots of help is available – plus I have some free blank family trees that you can complete to help plot out your branches. Maybe your children would be interested in their family’s history for a school project – or even a Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. If you are unable to get there but still want some pointers/help, please contact Oundle Library and they will put you in contact with me.

Happy hunting!

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Raising awareness in North Northants during LGBT+ History Month

February is LGBT+ History Month and North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) is promoting and raising awareness of the support available for members of the LGBT+ community.

LGBT+ History Month is a national event that was set up to highlight struggles the LGBT+ community have faced over the years. It also highlights the achievements and the work that still needs to be done to ensure true equality. The month is about education, reflection and working together to spread kindness.

NNC is committed to ensuring everyone has access to safe and thriving places, which can only happen when everyone feels safe to be themselves. With this in mind, NNC was one of the first members, and biggest supporters, of the North Northants LGBT+ Forum at its inception in December 2021.

The Forum is made up of

community groups, private and statutory organisations, charities and members of the public including allies of the LGBTQ+ community. It is designed to discuss where the gaps are in services for the LGBT+ community within North Northamptonshire and work out how these can be resolved.

Anyone wishing to be part of the forum can sign up to the mailing list on the LGBT+ Forum website. By doing this, you’ll be made aware of what is being worked on and can offer your own advice and support.

Current areas being looked at by the Forum include a lack of support for LGBT+ people over the age of 20, gaps in support within the care market and across GP surgeries.

Cllr Helen Harrison, the Council’s Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, said: “LGBT+ History Month is the perfect opportunity for us to remind residents across North

Northamptonshire of the support available to them.

“But it’s not just about one month a year, there is support available all year round through the LGBT+ Forum and organisations. We are proud that North Northamptonshire is an inclusive area and we strive to continue the work being done by the LGBT+ Forum.”

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: “North Northamptonshire Council is constantly working to ensure everyone has a better, brighter future. As a local authority, it’s important that we set an example that is front and centre when it comes to supporting communities, so they feel safe and valued.”

The Forum is still relatively new and most members take on the work in a voluntary capacity outside of their day-to-day occupation. Members welcome any new ideas and support. For more information about the LGBT+ Forum visit: www.lgbtforum.co.uk



MAYOR’S AWARDS 2022-2023

Rushden Town Council is seeking nominations for the Mayor’s Awards for Services to the Community for the year 2022 / 2023. The Mayor’s Award is given to an individual for their work and commitment within the community of Rushden over a number of years. (Group nominations will not be eligible for an award.)

Please submit the name and address of nominees, together with details of the reason for their nomination, to the Town Clerk at Rushden Town Council, Rushden Hall, Hall Park, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9NG, or e-mail the Town Clerk at info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk. All nominations should be received by **Monday 27th March 2023**.

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

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

Copy dates for Nene Valley News

Publication date: Saturday 4th March
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 22nd February

Publication date: Saturday 18th March
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 8th March

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Extra concessionary fare support to help boost bus services

Bus operators in the North Northamptonshire Council area will continue to receive extra financial support to bolster services under the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme – if recommendations are approved and government enact the relevant legislation.

Under the scheme, the Council has a statutory duty to reimburse bus operators for free travel by eligible older persons' and disabled persons' pass holders. However, the number of people using bus services in the area – and elsewhere in England – has not recovered to the levels seen before the Covid-19 pandemic, with journey volumes remaining relatively low.

As a result, the

government has asked councils to reimburse operators at above actual current levels of journeys through the 2023/24 financial year, to those made at or near pre-Covid levels. Government is due to be laying secondary legislation before Parliament to allow this.

Proposals before the Council's Executive outline how the authority will reimburse bus companies – for these free journeys made – at 90% of pre-Covid levels until 31st March 2024.

Cllr Graham Lawman, the Council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "I'm delighted that we are able to protect our bus networks, which are essential in keeping communities connected, enabling commuting

and offering greener alternatives to making car journeys across our area.

"With bus companies still suffering from the reduced number of journeys being made post-Covid, there is a real risk that without support from local authorities, the sector would suffer further.

"We're pleased to be able to provide the support required to continue to bolster and secure bus services as we return to normality after the pandemic."

Previously – as free travel is likely to generate additional journeys, compared to where passengers had to pay their own fare – operators were generally reimbursed a proportion of the fare that would otherwise be paid, so

that they were no better nor worse off as a result of concessionary travel.

Bus use has been significantly reduced since the start of the Covid pandemic and

concessionary pass use, at 65-70% of pre-Covid levels, remains significantly below the level for fare-paying passengers, which is around 90% of pre-Covid

levels, giving overall patronage at about 80% of pre-Covid levels.

Since the start of the pandemic, the government has asked travel concessionary

authorities to maintain the reimbursement of bus operators for those carried free of charge through concessionary bus pass payments at above actual levels.

Grants for community centres

North Northamptonshire Council recently completed a public consultation process for the setting of its 2023/24 budget. The Council is proposing to set a balanced budget, which was presented to the Executive for approval on 9th February.

One of the proposals set out in the budget consultation focused on the standardisation of grants for community centres. The impact of this standardised approach would have resulted in a reduction in grants to a number of community centres. The Leader and the Executive considered the feedback received in preparation for their meeting on 9th February.

In light of the feedback received from the

consultation, the Leader and the Executive revised the final budget published on Wednesday 1st February with the removal of this proposal.

Councillor Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council said: "We are a listening council and we have heard the voice of the local community on this important issue.

"I do understand the vital role community centres play in our local neighbourhoods and we do need to listen carefully to what has been said.

"Removing this proposal from the budget at this stage is absolutely the right thing to do. I will ensure that we continue to engage with local communities across North Northamptonshire on this important issue."

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Wed 22 Seasonal Mystery Trip
Thu 23 Ely
Sun 26 Orchids at Kew Gardens
Tue 28 Chippenham Park Snowdrops

MARCH

Thu 2 Cotswold Tour - New route
Tue 7 Springfields or Spalding
Thu 9 Seasonal Mystery Trip
Sat 11 National Railway Museum or York
Sat 11 York's Chocolate Story
Tue 14 Derbyshire & Peak District
Fri 17 Ideal Home Show
Tue 21 Saffron Walden
Thu 23 Canterbury or Whitstable
Fri 24 Stratford Upon Avon
Wed 29 Imperial War Museum Duxford
Thu 30 Wembley Stadium

APRIL

Tue 4 Black Country Museum
Tue 4 Dudley Zoo
Thu 6 Fakenham & Sheringham
Sat 8 Norwich
Mon 8 Great Yarmouth
Thu 13 Tower of London
Thu 13 London Museums or Free Time
Fri 14 Cannon Hall Farm
Wed 19 Hereford
Thu 20 Banbury Market
Sun 23 Skegness
Tue 25 Spitfire & Hurricane + RAF Manston
Fri 28 Southwold & Diss
Sat 29 Oxford OR Oxford Castle

MAY

Mon 1 Bakewell Bank Holiday Market
Wed 3 Bury St Edmunds Market Day
Sat 6 Belvoir Castle & Gardens
Sun 7 Lincoln
Mon 8 Derbyshire & Peak District
Thu 11 Jersey Boys
Thu 11 Back to the Future the Musical
Fri 12 Stamford Market & Grantham
Sat 13 Malvern Spring Show
Sat 13 Springfields
Sat 13 Spalding Flower Parade
Sun 14 Hunstanton
Mon 15 Salisbury Cathedral & Free Time
Wed 17 Wye Valley River Cruise & Lunch
Sat 20 Clacton-on-Sea
Sun 21 Melton Mowbray Cheese Fair
Sun 21 Camden Market
Tue 23 Mystery Full Day
Thu 25 Constable Country & Essex

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APRIL

**10th-14th APRIL 2023 -
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MAY

30th APRIL - 5th MAY - ISLE OF SKYE

Dunollie Hotel, Broadford. Half board including Excursions, £629pp. The village of Broadford is the second largest on Skye. This beautiful, tranquil town is a great place to stay while taking part in various outdoor activities like walking and climbing. The area is dominated by the magnificent Red Cuillin mountains, while the views over the bay extend across to Applecross mountains on the mainland. There is some wonderful wildlife in the area like otters, seals, sometimes Orca whales, Whooper swan, Brent geese and many other marine and bird life.

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Spotlight on > HOMES & GARDENS

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"The garden centre sits in the grounds of the magnificent Elton Hall, open to the public from May through to August.

"We are also a show site for Scotts of Thrapston Summerhouses. We look forward to welcoming you to our garden centres this season.

"Our restaurants are now fully open. Don't forget we are at Burton Latimer too!"



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Homes for Afghan and Ukrainian families on **Executive agenda**

A report at a recent meeting of North Northamptonshire Council's Executive saw members discussing the acquisition of 30 homes for people and families who have settled in the area through either the Afghan Resettlement or Homes for Ukraine Programmes.

North Northamptonshire Council has been identified as suitable for capital grant funding for up to 30 homes from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) new Local Authority Housing Fund.

The proposal to enter into an agreement with DLUHC to acquire the homes is designed to alleviate the increased demand on homeless services and temporary accommodation, as well as assist refugees to move on from bridging hotels or sponsor placements.

Cllr Matt Binley, North Northamptonshire Council's

Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up, said: "Since the Afghan Resettlement Programme was launched in 2021 and the Homes for Ukraine Programme in March 2022, North Northamptonshire Council, like many local authorities, have experienced challenges in supporting people to move out of bridging hotels or on from sponsorship placements into settled accommodation in the private rented sector.

"If the proposal is approved, work can start on sourcing suitable properties to purchase in the main towns of Kettering, Corby, Wellingborough and Rushden making sure they are close to local amenities – something families have said is important to them."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, added: "This proposal, if approved, will help increase the overall

supply of affordable rented housing available in North Northamptonshire for all our residents in the future. The fact that we are receiving funding from the government to assist is important as it will help us better meet our local housing needs. This initiative will be beneficial for everyone, not only for those who have had to flee their countries and homes in such awful circumstances. I look forward to considering the report with my fellow Executive members."

The report will also seek approval to repurpose capital funding to enable North Northamptonshire Council to provide the required match funding against the central government grant for the programme.

The Executive was due to meet again as we went to press and the papers are available online. The meeting was livestreamed via YouTube.

Your Health – **Knees up**

At our recent Open Day we had a number of people ask us about knee problems. Our osteopaths, rehab team, sports therapists and gait analysis specialist were ready with post-surgery help, pre-surgery help and general advice, but it made me think that we need to have a bit of a chat about knee injuries.

**WORDS BY
CLAIRE SHORT**

No matter what your injury, surgery and knee replacements are a last resort for your GP or consultant these days. This is fantastic news because it means that most of the time you can recover or repair without going under the knife.

Quite often the trick to getting back to normal movement is to strengthen the muscles around the knee. Of course, you have to pace yourself with your rehab, which means no dashing out to mow the lawn immediately after a

surgery, please!

On the whole, once you're over the acute phase or surgery, you need to start your rehab doing simple sit-stand-sit-stand exercises. They're a great way to get the muscles and nerves working.

There are plenty of exercise routines you can do to progress from there, but simply putting some big lemonade bottles into a back pack and doing your sit-stand-sit-stand exercises holding the backpack is a very easy way to increase the work your muscles are doing.

I hope I don't have to tell you that you need to check



with a rehab expert if your exercises are painful. If you're not sure about any rehab you need specialist advice (NOT Dr Google).

But stay optimistic! With proper assistance, knees are repairing and staying healthy for much longer these days.

Have a strengthening week!

Claire Short is a Registered Osteopath, and runs The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers. Send your questions to claire@ashgrovehealth.co.uk

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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:

> TANSOR

Variation of condition 3 to substitute approved drawings with new drawings in order to locate garage in new position pursuant to NE/21/01656/FUL. Proposed single storey oak framed detached garage at the rear of dwelling. At The Hovel Tansor Grange Barns Tansor Wold Road Tansor PE8 6UY (Info) (Part3) (Info) NE/23/00087/VAR (14 March 2023)

> WOODNEWTON

Form new vehicle access and construct new dwelling and detached outbuilding. Provide off street parking for existing dwelling. At The School House 65 Main Street

Woodnewton PE8 5EB (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/22/01622/FUL (14 March 2023)

> TWYWELL

Outline: Residential Development of 4 no. 4-bedroom dwellings (All matters reserved except access) at Gordonville Slipton Road Twywell NN14 3AH (Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/22/01327/OUT (14 March 2023)

> BULWICK

Works to refurbish the K6 Telephone Box in same colour as current (Red), install a Defibrillator in the Telephone Box, and replace Signage to display Defibrillator. At K6 Telephone Kiosk Opposite Queens Head Public House Main Street Bulwick (LB/CA) (Info) (LBRegs) (Info) NE/23/00005/LBC (14 March 2023)

> RUSHDEN

Replacement of the existing external through the wall machine with

new model. At 75-79 High Street Rushden NN10 0NZ (LB/CA) (Info) NE/23/00056/FUL (14 March 2023)

> EASTON ON THE HILL

Installation of solar PV panels to southern roof slope of existing car port at 34 Stamford Road Easton On The Hill PE9 3NU (LB/CA) (Info) NE/23/00041/FUL (14 March 2023)

> ISLIP

Replacement of windows and door with upgraded materials, to match existing at 18 Mill Road Islip NN14 3LB (LBRegs) (Info) NE/23/00077/LBC (14 March 2023)

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 18 February 2023

Consultation deadlines will differ for each application. You can see details of these applications at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications.

For details of how we treat your data, please see our Privacy Statement: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/privacynotices

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

VOLUNTEERS' HEALTHCARE SUCCESS RECOGNISED NATIONALLY

"Absolutely delighted" is how healthcare staff have described being nationally recognised for their outstanding work with volunteers to provide care across the county.

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) has just received an 'Investing in Volunteers' accreditation – the UK's quality standard for all organisations that work with volunteers.

The accolade recognises organisations which value and support volunteers, and demonstrates the enormous contribution made to the Trust by volunteers.

NHFT has around 250 active volunteers, working across 12 sites, covering four main areas. These include mental health and community services, Volunteer to Career Programme, telephone befriending services and hospice volunteering.

It is the second time the Trust

has received the award, having initially been awarded the three-year accreditation in 2019.

Mandy Woolf, Voluntary Services Manager at NHFT, said: "I am absolutely delighted that we have achieved the Investors in Volunteers standard for a second time. We have made significant progress since we first achieved this standard in 2019, one of the highlights was seeing our Befriending Service shortlisted at last year's HSJ (Health Services Journal) Partnership awards after making 8,000 calls to lonely and vulnerable individuals during the pandemic."

Investing in Volunteers aims to improve the quality of the volunteering experience for all volunteers. It assesses six quality areas (Vision for volunteering;

Planning for volunteers; Volunteer inclusion; Recruiting and welcoming volunteers; Supporting volunteers and Valuing and developing volunteers) – all of which the Trust was found to excel in.

During the assessment, nearly 30 volunteers were interviewed along with Mandy Woolf and voluntary services staff, NHFT Senior Business Partner Liz O'Leary, and Chief Executive Angela Hillery.

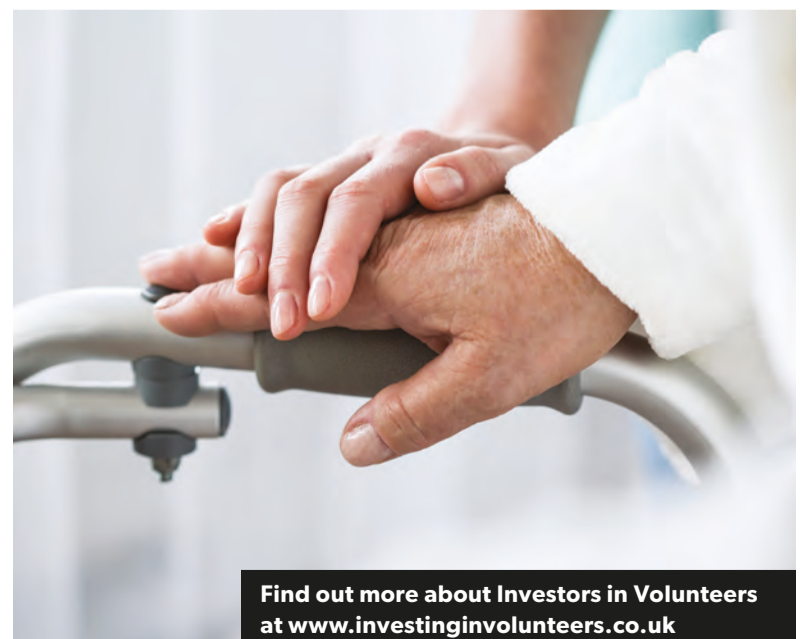
The staff and volunteers interviewed talked about the welcoming and supportive atmosphere for volunteers, with many talking about how the organisation had adapted to their needs. When asked about the strengths of the volunteering programme, the following quote was provided by one of the volunteers:

"The support is always there. There are regular meetings online and you can ring at any time. The staff are always available for support and are incredibly patient. They are incredibly good – you can't fault

them. They are a wonderful bunch of people."

Mandy added: "In June 2021, we launched a successful 'Volunteer to Career pathway' to provide a pipeline for volunteers interested in paid employment, but for a range of reasons such as long-

term unemployment, disability, neurodiversity or lack of experience, weren't able to access the standard channels for recruitment. We are delighted to receive this standard and for our achievements to have been recognised by Investors in Volunteers."



Find out more about Investors in Volunteers at www.investinginvolunteers.co.uk

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE APPRENTICESHIPS – EARN WHILE YOU LEARN SCHEME BOOSTS CAREER PROGRESSION

An apprenticeship scheme at North Northamptonshire Council is going from strength to strength with 80 active learners now employed by the authority.

The UK celebrated National Apprenticeship Week earlier this month, offering a chance for businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses, and the wider economy.

The theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2023 was 'Skills for Life' and, as such, North Northamptonshire Council has been encouraging and supporting potential and existing employees to build their careers.

Roles occupied by apprentices range from social workers, teachers and site engineers to departmental managers, finance and HR professionals and senior

leaders.

Clr Scott Edwards, the Council's Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, said:

"Our apprenticeship scheme has been a great success and I'm delighted it's going from strength to strength. While the need to carry on earning could present a barrier to future training, an apprenticeship scheme can allow people to develop their careers while earning a living."

Clr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "We're committed to being an employer of choice and a position as an apprentice offers great flexibility and can build confidence in employees. It's also a way of bringing in great new ideas and bringing new,

creative energy to roles."

With no upper age limit to becoming an apprentice, an increasing number of people aged over 16 are favouring apprenticeships as a way of studying towards a formal qualification while working.

The council offers a range of apprenticeship support for individuals, managers, and businesses. To learn more or speak to one of the council's specialist advisors please complete the Apprenticeship Enquiry Form.

Case Study: Sean O'Sullivan - Data Analyst, Level: 4

"I completed the Data Analyst, Level: 4 (Standard) apprenticeship programme and hoped to learn new skills and knowledge.

"My previous education level was GCSE. I joined the apprenticeship programme as part of a new job role to change that.

"The ability to earn whilst I learn and the fact that I could gain a professional qualification whilst working in my new role really appealed to me.

"A challenge for me was going back to formal education after 20 plus years. However, this was not as big an issue as I first thought, as the apprenticeship study programme was well planned and structured.

"Being able to juggle work, study and homelife was also a concern but the support provided by my manager and the training provider helped



immensely to create a good balance between all three.

"I now have a professionally recognised qualification in an innovative and rapidly growing industry. The apprenticeship has raised my education, knowledge and

skills to a whole new level.

"It has given me the confidence to use what I have learnt in my work and to promote new and innovative ways of working for me, as well as amongst my colleagues and team."

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Wishes and Dreams - A fundraising performance for Melanoma UK

Join Standing In The Wings on Saturday 13th May for a fundraising performance at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre in aid of Melanoma UK.

Featuring performers from across Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire, this promises to be an exciting evening of entertainment whilst raising awareness and funds for Melanoma UK.

Melanoma UK became the official charity for Standing In The Wings in

September 2022, at their inaugural concert. The charity is close to the hearts of the company due to the personal connection it has for one of the team. It was this connection that made the decision to support the charity a very easy one.

Kathryn Rose, Creative Producer, said: "When we heard of the personal link to this charity from one of our team, it was a clear choice to support them through our events. Having the

opportunity to do what we love whilst raising valuable funds for a very worthy charity made complete sense to the whole team.

"Whilst we can't make miracles happen, we hope that by presenting this fundraising performance, we will help by adding funds to the charity for their research and also raise awareness of the condition.

"We are excited to be working with new faces for this event as well as our

original company members and can't wait for our audience to join us for this special performance."

Cast includes: Soloists from Standing In The Wings Theatre Company, Weavers Academy Music Department and The CAREL Crew.

The evening will be hosted by Jamie Tyler whose performance credits include roles for The RSC, UK and European Tours and the West End.

There will also be a charity auction

with some fantastic lots from local businesses.

Tickets are £14 each and can be booked via www.standinginthewings.co.uk/wishesdreams

Standing In The Wings would like to thank Sharnbrook Mill Theatre for their support and event sponsors: The Curtain Boutique, Carel Academy, Andrew Reynolds Just Mortgages, Kennel Kuts, Signature Beauty and The Business Community.

RAUNDS FOOTLIGHTS – AS SEEN ON TV

Why stay in and watch TV when you can go out and watch TV? Find out by booking a seat at Raunds Footlights' Television Show – though you won't actually see a television screen – which takes place at Raunds Cricket Club on 24th and 25th March at 7.30pm.

And what's on? Well there's the Great Raunds Cake Off starring Paul Bollywood, a look behind the scenes on the Eastenders set and an exciting episode of Midsummer Muddlers.

Then there are scenes from a typical British seaside holiday resort, helpful hints for improving

your memory and an episode of 'Allo 'Allo. There are preposterous puppets, a married couple with secret thoughts and of course songs which will bring you sunshine even if it's cold and rainy.

You can get a drink at the bar and, if you're lucky, a prize in the raffle!

You can get tickets at Raunds Post Office and Brook Street Newsagents and also by calling the box office on 01933 624272. The licence fee is only £5 for an evening of TV you won't see at home!

ST GEORGE'S DAY CONCERT

Yarwell and Nassington Britannia Band are planning their St George's Day Concert to be held in Nassington Church on Friday 21st April. As this is two days before St George's Day and two weeks before the Coronation of King Charles, there is very much a royal theme to the concert.

The band are privileged to be under the baton of new conductor, Matthew Brown. Matthew has a great pedigree both as a trombone player and as a conductor. The programme contains a number of old favourites from the brass band repertoire as well as some new pieces. They will be joined again by the Elton School band, who will be bringing their usual enthusiasm. This young band just goes from strength to strength under the great leadership of John Hudson. They are also pleased to have Tony Cooper back as the compere with his limitless list of bad jokes. There will be the usual bar and raffle. So please come and join the band for 'A Royal Occasion'.

Tickets are £10 and will be available from Nassington Stores and Moulds Butchers or from band members. For a small premium you can order your tickets online at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-georges-day-concert-a-royal-occasion-tickets-534552509947. Please note that tickets are no longer available from Oundle Festival Office.

Those who have been loyal to the band for a number of years will know their former conductor, Derrick Walker. He sadly passed away in the New Year and his funeral is at 11.30pm at Peterborough Crematorium on Monday 20th February. Yarwell and Nassington Britannia Band are looking for a new musical director and a new principal cornet to take them through past their St George's Day concert. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested, then please get in touch for more details.

Raunds Coffee Afternoon

at Saxon Hall, Raunds
Wednesday 1st March 2023
Refreshments served
1:30pm – 3pm



Entertainment from
BONKERS BAND
(previously known as Wellyukes)

£1 entry
(includes tea/coffee and cake)

Ring 01933 622087 between 9:30 am – 2pm to reserve your seat



Standing In The Wings
proudly presents

Wishes & Dreams

A Fundraising Performance in aid of Melanoma UK

Saturday 13th May 2023

7.30pm

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre, MK44 1NP

Hosted by Jamie Tyler
(West End, RSC & UK and European Tours)

Featuring:
Soloists from Standing In The Wings
Weavers Academy Music Department
The CAREL Crew

Tickets £14 available from
www.standinginthewings.co.uk/wishesdreams

All details correct at time of going to print



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DATE: 25th MARCH 2023
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Kingsthorpe Road
Northampton
NN2 6HT

Contact:
Barratts Club:
01604 721777

Nene Valley News - Events

> **SATURDAY 4TH MARCH, 7.30PM**
Quiz Night

Friends of Newton Church will be hosting a Quiz Night in The Swan, Newton Bromswold. Entry fee is £10 for a team of 4.

> **SATURDAY 11TH MARCH, 11AM-3PM**
Hermitage House Care Home Open Day

Kingfisher Road, Thrapston NN14 4GN. Everyone is welcome to take a tour of our brand-new care home, meet the Home Manager and staff team, and sample our mouth-watering menus.

Angela Harding: Wild Light

Friday 17th March at 7.45pm-8.45pm,
The Glaphorn Room, Fletton House,
Glaphorn Road, Oundle PE8 4JA

The acclaimed printmaker and author of *A Year Unfolding* gathers together a selection of over 70 original illustrations influenced by the properties of light on landscape and creatures.

"I, like many other people, find great inspiration in the way mornings, evenings or bright midday light changes the way we see the things around us. The bouncing light of a cloud-filled storm sky can change a seascape through a palette of blues, greys, and turquoises. The cool summer moonlight that crosses my back garden sends long shadows that change the mood of the garden from homely to unfamiliar. And whether it's the low light of an English February afternoon or the sharp, bright mid-morning light of the Cornish seaside, the light and dark we experience affects our moods.

"But life is busy, and I am guilty as anyone of being too preoccupied by daily life to just stop and look. This book is a collection of illustrations from

those moments when I have stopped and looked; when a particular encounter with nature has been highlighted by the time of day or the time of night, becoming a strong image long remembered and one that I wish to illustrate.

"I hope you enjoy this journey through 24 hours of my collected memories of the nature that surrounds me."

Angela Harding studied Fine Art at Leicester 1979-1982 and later obtained an MA in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University. After leaving college she continued to develop her personal work as well as working in the arts. She worked for Elstone Hayes Associates, an art consultancy working in the cruise industry and then as the Director of the regional printmaking centre, Leicester Print Workshop. She also taught to degree level at a number of Higher Education



PHOTOGRAPHY: JOANNE CRAWFORD
Angela Harding

Colleges. She now works as a professional artist solely from her rural studio in Rutland. She uses a variety of media, including dry point, linocut, woodcut, etching and mono printing.

"The recurring inspiration for my work is the flora and fauna of the British countryside. My studio overlooks English farmland and often forms the backdrop to my work. I aim to capture a mood and atmosphere rather than a direct representation."

Join Oundle Festival of Literature for an evening with Angela Harding and gain an insight into her breathtaking work. There will be a variety of her art inspired products on sale, as well as her books.

Tickets £8 (£6).
Online at www.oundlelitfest.org.uk/events/
Enquiries contact oundlelitfestival@hotmail.co.uk

SOCIETY GIVES BACK WITH £100K TO LOCAL FOODBANKS

Five foodbanks in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire have received a total of £100,000 from the Market Harborough Building Society (MHBS) as part of its Thrive Agenda.

In Northamptonshire, Corby Foodbank, Kettering Foodbank and Kettering Community Unit (KCU) have each received a portion of the money to help kickstart their New Year campaigns. The funds will be spent on various things vital to keeping the foodbanks running, from bolstering food supplies and expanding the range of products available, to storage, fuel bills, rent, insurance and general running costs.

The other two recipients are Leicester South Foodbank in Wigston and Jubilee Foodbank in Market Harborough which are also located within the Society's operational area. The funds have been divided proportionately based on the size of the population areas they serve.

The Thrive Agenda is MHBS' new initiative to ensure giving

back is at the core of everything it does. It represents an evolution in its purpose and involves a wide range of community activities to be implemented over 2023.

Chief Executive Iain Kirkpatrick said: "Rooted in the desire to give back at every opportunity, we've realigned our goals to reflect what really matters to our members now, in 2023.

"We've outlined our roadmap to a better society, called the Thrive Agenda. It's our intention to support our members, our colleagues and our communities to flourish, to live the full and positive lives they deserve.

"The first step in this project is to support our local foodbanks in their sadly ever growing task of supporting families in need with basic provisions as they battle the cost of living crisis and crippling energy prices."

Corby Foodbank Manager, Martin Langford said: "The money is an absolute game changer, allowing us to not only

continue but also to expand the level of food crisis support throughout Corby and the surrounding villages."

Trustee for Kettering Foodbank, Jane Stone said: "This donation will help so many families and individuals in so many ways."

Operations Director at KCU, Sylvia McLevy said: "Sadly the financial stresses of the day are beginning to take a toll on the community. Donations in supermarkets continue to reduce as everyone feels the pressure. Without this financial support we would have made compromises on the amounts we are able to give out in each parcel to ensure that everyone still receives food support."

Since 1870, MHBS has been owned by its members and has remained a trusted provider of mortgages and savings for over 150 years. It has six branches in Market Harborough, Kibworth, Desborough, Rothwell, Corby and Kettering.

For details visit <https://mhbs.co.uk/thrive>

Sam Copeland: Writing Books is Fun and Inspirational!

Saturday 4th March, 2-3pm, The Great Hall, Oundle School PE8 4GH. Tickets £6.

Sam Copeland is a children's author from Manchester who now lives in London with two smelly cats, three smelly children and one relatively clean-smelling wife. He works as a chicken whisperer, travelling the world using his unique gift to tame wild chickens.

Charlie Changes Into a Chicken was his first book in the Waterstones Children's Book of the Year shortlisted Charlie Changes series. The book was also The Guardian and The Telegraph's Children's Book of the Year! It was followed by the sequel Charlie Turns Into a T-Rex, and the third in the series, Charlie Morphs into a Mammoth. Further books followed including the Sunday Times Book of the Week, Uma

and the Answer to Absolutely Everything. His latest book is Greta and the Ghost Hunters (January 2022) with another book due to be published this summer.

Sam will be talking all about his books and the inspiration behind writing them. There will be lots of fun and games along the way though, including a disgusting animal competition and a fun fact



PHOTOGRAPHY: CHICKEN CHARLOTTE KNEE PHOTOGRAPHER
Sam Copeland

quiz to see who is cleverer – Sam or the audience!

www.sam-copeland.com/
Reviews about Sam's books:
'The best kind of silly' The Observer
'Cleverly daft storytelling at its very, very best' Maz Evans
'Hilarious, fast-paced and full of heart' Sunday Express
Suitable for Children aged 6-11 years
For details and to book tickets go to: <https://www.oundlelitfest.org.uk/events/>
Any queries please email oundlelitfestival@hotmail.co.uk
The finalists from our Children's Writing Competition will discover the results at the end of this event!

Higham Ferrers Town Council

Higham Ferrers Town Council
Town Hall, Market Square, NN10 8BT
Telephone: 01933 312075
Email: info@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE TOWN HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED

Town Council Meeting - Tuesday 28th February, 7.30pm

Planning & Development Committee Meeting - Tuesday 14th March, 6.45pm

Environment and Recreation Committee Meeting - Tuesday 14th March, 7.30pm

Town Council Meeting - Tuesday 28th March, 7.30pm

Farmers Market - Saturday 25th February, 9am-1pm - Market Square

Farmers Market - Saturday 25th March 9am - 1pm - Market Square

| ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| * Cllr Bert Jackson Email: bertjackson@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | * Cllr Jennie Bone Email: jenniebone@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | Cllr Barry Prigmore Email: barryprigmore@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | Cllr Tony Reading Email: tonyreading@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk |
| Cllr Gary Salmon Email: garysalmon@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | Cllr Peter Tomas Email: peteromas@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | Cllr Pam Whiting Email: pamwhiting@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | Cllr Tina Reavey Email: tinareavey@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk |
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| Cllr Vijay Paul Email: vijaypaul@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | Cllr Paul McCann Email: paulmccann@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | Cllr Gerald Kelly Email: geraldkelly@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk | Cllr Sean Prosser Email: seanprosser@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk |

* North Northamptonshire Councillors

Rushden Town Council commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

On Friday 27th January, Rushden Town Council Councillors and members of the community paid tribute and marked Holocaust Memorial Day at the Rushden War Memorial.

The day was commemorated with a poem led by Rushden Town Mayor, Cllr Adrian Winkle and candles were lit to remember all those affected by the holocaust and all genocides that have taken place around the world.

'Holocaust Memorial Day provides us with an opportunity to honour the survivors, but it's also a chance to look at our lives and communities today.'



Rushden Town Mayor, Cllr Adrian Winkle



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God Save the King

Yarn Bombers Needed!

Rushden Town Council are looking for knitters and crocheters to help decorate the town to celebrate the King's Coronation.

Bring joy and colour to many everyday items on our streets, such as post boxes, railings, seating benches and bollards. This is an ideal opportunity for everyone (knitting groups & community groups alike) to use up any surplus wool.

If you have a round topped post box or railing posts in your street, why not decorate it! Please get in touch and register your interest.

For further information and to register your intention please contact Rushden Town Council, tel. 01933 316216 or email info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk



AEDS INSTALLED IN THE AREA

East Northants First Responders are a voluntary charitable organisation who predominantly attend 999 calls in the community on behalf of, and alongside, East Midlands Ambulance Service. They also install public access AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) and deliver free training alongside these.



They have been in the position to install four such assets throughout the month of February in the following areas:

- Woodford - 02 Feb
- Ringstead - 24 Feb
- Stanwick - 24 Feb
- Islip - 24 Feb



If you would like further information about these AEDs or about training to know how to make a difference in a medical emergency, email: eastnorthantsfirstresponders@gmail.com

Construction work begins on new Sixth Form college

Work has started on transforming Chisholm House in Corby into a new state-of-the-art campus for 16-18 year olds, ahead of its opening in time for the start of the Autumn term.

Once completed, the 4,000 sq ft Corby Sixth Form will offer a wide range of A Level subjects and comprise an impressive new entrance, more than 25 classrooms, state-of-the-art science labs, resource centres and performance areas. The students will be able to enjoy an external roof terrace, a modern café and common room areas – all in a town centre location.

The design will embrace the current style of the building and has been designed to run as carbon neutral.

The new campus is being delivered in partnership between The Bedford College Group and North Northamptonshire Council. The Sixth Form will be run by The Bedford College Group from Autumn 2023.

Cllr David Brackenbury, the council's Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, said: "It was great to visit the site and see work progressing on the new Corby Sixth Form."

"This project is one of four across the town which fall under the Corby Towns Fund and aims to encourage economic growth in the local area, benefitting not just the pupils that attend but also the wider Corby area."

"I look forward to visiting again once the site is open to students and to see the full range of facilities on offer."

The project is being facilitated through the Corby Towns Fund, which sees the Corby area receiving £19.9m from central Government for four projects, including the new Sixth Form centre.

More details about the four projects and latest news are available via the dedicated Corby Towns Fund website.

The Bedford College Group's Head of Sixth Forms, Helen Smith said: "The Group's pioneering Sixth Form at Bedford has been a resounding success and has sent 1,000s of young people on to university and other progression opportunities such as Higher and Degree Apprenticeships. We hope our Corby Sixth Form will replicate those fantastic opportunities for young people in Northamptonshire."

The Corby Sixth Form Centre is accepting applications ahead of the site opening its doors later in the year. For more information and to apply visit their dedicated website.

Nene Valley news CLASSIFIEDS

Deadlines for all classifications: 5pm Monday prior to issue date. A complete version of our Terms and Conditions can be found online at www.nenevalleynews.co.uk. Pay by credit/debit card or cheque. All major credit/debit cards accepted. For help and information please call 01522 692542 or visit www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

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Nene Valley News can help you make those important family announcements. For help and information to place your notice please call 01522 692542 or visit www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2023
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 Lutton Road, Warmington from outside 1 Rectory Farm Cottage.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Lutton Road, Warmington from outside 1 Rectory Farm Cottage.
REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of new main.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 6th March 2023 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 Tansor Wold Road, Peterborough Road, Oundle Road, Church Street, Broadgate Way and Morbone Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 22/23 – N476 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T23/054

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

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2023
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 Brooks Road, Raunds as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Brooks Road, Raunds from Midlands Road to Parish boundary.
REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during parapet repairs.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 13th March 2023 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 until 16th March 2023.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Midland Road, Brick Kiln Road, London Road, Raunds Road and Denford Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 22/23 – N558 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T23/109

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (LOWICK LANE, ALDWINCLE)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2023
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 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle from Baulks Lane to outside 12 Lowick Lane.

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 27th February 2023 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 four days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Main Street and Lowick Road.
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 22/23 – N517 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T23/087

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (VARIOUS ROADS, RINGSTEAD)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2023
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along those lengths of the various roads in Ringstead as specified in the Schedule below.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 20th February 2023 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 until 3rd March 2023. Only one road will be closed at any one time.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: Freemans Lane – use Chapel Lane, Pegs Lane and High Street. Pegs Lane – use High Street and Front Street. Ham Lane – resident access maintained. High Street – use Denford Road, Back Lane and Carlow Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 22/23 – N440 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T23/025

SCHEDULE

(Lengths of roads to be closed)

Freemans Lane – from Denford Road to Ford Farm. Pegs Lane – from High Street to Chapel Lane. Ham Lane – from Back Land for 50 metres. High Street – from Cherry Street to Chapel Street

Dated this 18th day of February 2023

DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES
Executive Director, Pathfinder Legal Services Ltd



KM Media & Marketing

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LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY FOR NORTH NORTHANTS TO BE PRODUCED

Following agreement at the January meeting of North Northamptonshire Council's Executive, work will now start on producing and publishing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the area.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new, England-wide system of spatial strategies that will establish priorities and map specific actions to drive nature's recovery.

NNC will now work with partner organisations, landowners and local communities over the coming months to create the strategy, mapping key wildlife habitats across the local area and identifying priorities to improve, increase and connect habitats.

Cllr Harriet Pentland, the council's Executive Member for Climate and Green

Environment, said: "North Northamptonshire has some wonderful areas for wildlife, including the Nene Valley Special Protection Area, nature reserves and country parks. We are also seeing considerable growth in the area, with North Northants being seen as a major business and transport hub. While beneficial to the area, it also is important that we consider the impact for wildlife and the wider environment.

"With this in mind, this strategy will help to generate sustainable development for the benefit of all of us, as well as our environment."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, added: "This work will be of enormous benefit to our Planning teams as well as developers looking to enhance wildlife as part of new developments, as well as helping landowners and communities to identify opportunities to improve and connect their land to areas of wildlife importance."

The report that was presented to the council's Executive can be viewed on the NNC website.

More information about Nature Recovery Strategies are available on the Government website.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RETIREMENT VILLAGE HOSTS FIRST SWEDISH WEAVING CLASS

Residents at a retirement village in Northampton were given the chance to try their hand at some Swedish weaving recently as part of the crafting craze that has taken over since the pandemic.

Richmond Villages Northampton put on the workshop for its residents, which was so well-received that it is due to become a regular event.

Swedish weaving is the latest DIY endeavour to be explored within the village, with plenty of other crafts being part of its extensive activities programme.

This craft involves a special basket weave-style fabric called monks' cloth, originating from the United States, where this genre of craft is more popular.

The session was led by Richmond Villages' Activities Manager, Chris Rayatt, who learned the craft in 2012 and has honed his skills ever since.

As he has continued to perfect his hobby, Chris has founded a Facebook group called Swedish Weavers Around the World, which he continues to run today.

Such was his passion for the craft, that residents at Richmond Villages Northampton



A number of residents were given the chance to formulate their own designs

requested a masterclass session from Chris himself.

The clamour for a Swedish weaving class within the retirement village was so great that there is already a waiting list for further sessions to be scheduled.

On hosting the Swedish weaving classes for residents, Chris Rayatt said: "It was great to see our residents so enthusiastic about our Swedish weaving class.

"We host a plethora of activities here at Richmond Villages Northampton, and putting a smile on the faces of our residents makes them all worthwhile.

"Such is the community spirit within the village, there's no surprise that there was such a high take-up for the first Swedish weaving workshop."

Richmond Villages currently has availability in Northampton. For more information, visit Northampton | Richmond Villages (richmond-villages.com)

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To find out more about life at Hermitage House contact our Senior Customer Relations Manager Hannah Mills on 07745 541 057 or email hannah.mills@countrycourtcare.com

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