

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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news story or event at
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Consultation on Rushden PSPO

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a consultation on a proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Rushden town centre.

A PSPO is a power under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that allows a council to impose restrictions in particular areas to tackle nuisance or problem behaviour.

The proposed PSPO would cover Rushden town centre and the surrounding area. It has been designed to cover antisocial behaviour hotspots in the town centre and prevent it from moving from the town centre to nearby parks and public spaces.

All feedback will be reviewed and any proposed recommendations for a PSPO will be referred for approval by the Executive.

Consultation and engagement activities can be completed online via the Council's Consultation and Engagement Hub and the consultation will be open until 31st December.

Alternatively, you can email kish.lad@northnonthants.gov.uk or write to North Northamptonshire Council, Safer Communities team, 1st Floor Deene House, New Post Office Square, Corby NN17 1GD

MAGIC AND MERRIMENT AT NENE PARK WINTER FESTIVAL

The first-ever Nene Park Winter Festival will run until Christmas at Lakeside in Ferry Meadows. Sughra Ahmed, MD of Peterborough Cultural Alliance, joined Nene Park Trust to cut the tinsel and officially launch the festival, which welcomed thousands of visitors over the opening weekend.

Highlights from festival-goers so far have included the magical moon and animal tea party installation, watching The Snowman in the cosy cinema and

roasting marshmallows in the enchanted forest. Another visitor shared how happy they were to find a festive event on their doorstep that appeals to

all ages, kick-starting the Christmas magic for their family this year.

The festival experience includes an illuminated willow sculpture trail and enchanting dance and musical performances curated by Eastern School of Performing Arts. An audio visual poetry installation adds to the forest theme, featuring brand-new poems by Syntax Poetry Collective members Mark Grist, Charley Genever, Lauren Kendrick and Sandy Wardrop, inspired by their most loved forest creatures. Visitors can also sit back



and enjoy a showing of the Christmas classic The Snowman in the cosy travelling cinema truck, a truly unique experience!

Traditional fairground stalls and festive food and drink cabins add to the Winter Festival experience, along with Nene Park's very own Christmas Pop-Up Shop.

The Winter Festival will be open daily from 4pm until

24th December, with tickets priced at just £9.50 each (free for carers and under 3's) and free parking included. All ticket proceeds go straight towards the upkeep of the Park, making this event Nene Park Trust's largest fundraiser of the year!

**Book your tickets now at
www.nenepark.org.uk/
winter-festival**



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£1.23 million funding for social worker degree apprenticeships announced

Members of North Northamptonshire Council's (NNC) Executive are pleased to announce joint funding of social worker degree apprenticeships with West Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

At a cost of £1.23 million, the project will be led by NNC, and the money will be split three ways, coming from each organisation's Apprenticeship Levy fund.

Up to 55 members of staff could be enrolled onto the Social Worker Integrated Degree Apprenticeship

across Northamptonshire by 2026, with the first 15 apprentices starting training in September 2024.

The scheme offers people already working in social care the chance to embark on a new and rewarding career, make a difference to the lives of local children, and in the

longer term helps to retain employees within the county.

The Council will aim to open bid opportunities in time to award a contract in February 2024.

Cllr Helen Harrison, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing at North Northamptonshire Council, said:

"This looks like a very good opportunity to develop the council's workforce cross authority, benefit the people who need them the most and invest in the future of social work.

"It is well known and accepted that where families in need are supported effectively by social care, their children will experience improved outcomes and they will be supported to access appropriate services to improve their own economic and social circumstances. The work is vital, and the need is great."

Jason Cllr Jason Smithers, The Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "Our vision is one where North Northamptonshire is a place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life.

"As part of this vision we have committed to caring for our young people, providing them with a high quality education and opportunities to help them flourish and live active, independent and fulfilled lives.

"This is a fantastic opportunity both for people to embark on a career as a social worker and to make a real difference to the lives of North Northamptonshire's children and families."

Cllr Fiona Baker, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Families and Education at West Northamptonshire Council, said: "It is so important we invest in our workforce, and I am really pleased of this announcement for additional funding that will enable us to do this together.

"Investing in our social workers enables us to retain a skilled and

supported workforce that will help provide the best possible support for our children, young people and their families."

Julian Wooster, Chair of Northamptonshire Children's Trust, said: "Having this funding agreed will greatly assist in our commitment to ensure children, young people and families get the support they need to achieve the best possible outcomes.

"Our workforce are an invaluable asset and investing in them is critical to ensuring they have the skills to support our children and families."

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

When searching for ancestors on the internet, you don't always have to go to the large commercial websites such as Ancestry and FindMyPast. Sometimes, it can be worthwhile just putting an ancestor's name into your computer search engine and see what pops up. However, beware of John Smith! I have a few of those and so also add their place of birth into the search bar! It helps if they have less common names.

One of mine was named Happy Sabina Bailey. If you put that name into a search engine with quote marks at the beginning and end of the name, she will pop up. Oh yes – if you don't put " at the beginning and end of the name, you will find lots of people called Sabina Bailey who are happy...

This reminds me – are you aware of the different commands that you can use? I have mentioned "" which makes Google search for examples with all those words together. The tilde sign (~) results in searches that include

synonyms so ~genealogy will not only bring up genealogy sites but also those with ancestry, family tree etc in their name. But a really useful one to use is asterisk (*). If you are not sure of a spelling, such as Stewart or Steward, pop the search in as 'Stewar*'. As spelling did not settle down until as late as the beginning of the 20th century, many people wrote what they heard. Actually, some still do – and spell check has a lot to answer for! I usually look for my maiden name of Milsted under 'Mil*sted' and 'Milste*d', so as to cover Millsted as well as Milstead. The thing to remember, though, is to stay focussed on what you were originally looking for. I have lost count of the number of times that I have ended up down a rabbit hole whilst following an interesting lead... Have a rummage – and good luck!

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Council announces new Chief Executive

North Northamptonshire Council is delighted to announce the selection of Adele Wylie as its new Chief Executive. The appointment is subject to approval at Full Council on Thursday 7th December.

Adele is currently Executive Director of Customer and Governance at the council.

She started at North Northamptonshire in November 2020 as part of a new Senior Leadership Team recruited to deliver the council's ambitious plans for the area.

Adele is a lawyer by profession and has had an impressive career. She has held various leadership positions at Rutland County Council and Melton Borough Council prior to North Northamptonshire. She was appointed as Deputy Chief Executive earlier this year and has also held the statutory role of Monitoring Officer for the council.

The role of Chief Executive is vitally important to ensure that services are delivered

to residents. It is critical in turning the council's policy objectives into reality. It is key to implementing decisions made by the Executive on issues that impact everyone in the area. The Chief Executive will inspire staff to be their best and will be an ambassador for achievement both within the organisation and further afield.

The proposed appointment followed a national recruitment campaign and rigorous recruitment and selection process which led to a unanimous vote from all members of the Employment Panel.

Councillor Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, commented enthusiastically: "Adele is very talented, and I'm absolutely delighted that she has been selected for this key role. Adele exemplifies what

can be achieved if you set your heart on something and work hard to achieve it.

"The council's ambition to become an Employer of Choice is key to our success and 'growing our own talent' is essential to this. We recognised Adele as a talent with the skills to continue building a modern council, with residents at its heart and her ability to bring people together. Her passion for North Northamptonshire was evident throughout the process. I am proud that we have developed an exceptional leader to accelerate the next stage in our journey and become an exemplar in local government.

"I believe that this appointment will not only help lead our staff and services to achieve great things; it will inspire others and help attract people into a career at North Northamptonshire Council.

"We are entering the next phase of our journey in improving public services. The challenges ahead are significant.

"Adele brings a bold and creative approach that will help the council work in new and imaginative ways. This fresh thinking will be critical in taking the innovative leap required to deliver our challenging aspirations for the area."

Cllr Smithers added: "I would also like to say a huge thank you to our Interim Chief Executive, George Candler.

"I have greatly appreciated George's professionalism,

advice and commitment to his role, and he has done an excellent job keeping us on course and is hugely valued by our staff, members and partners."

Commenting on her proposed appointment, Adele Wylie said: "I am delighted to be recommended for appointment as Chief Executive for North Northamptonshire Council. I am excited to be able to work with elected members

and my leadership colleagues as Chief Executive on delivering excellent people-centred services and creating the best opportunities for everyone in North Northamptonshire.

"We have hugely talented and committed staff and ambitious elected members; combined with our partners and communities, we have the opportunity to make a difference for both our current and future residents."

Free parking for Christmas shoppers

North Northamptonshire Council will once again provide free parking in council-owned car parks this festive season.

As part of the Christmas festivities, and to support local businesses, NNC will be offering free parking in Kettering and Corby town centres on the following Saturdays:

- 9th December
- 16th December

- 23rd December

Cllr Matt Binley, the council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer free parking in Kettering and Corby on Saturdays in the lead-up to Christmas.

"It has been a difficult couple of years for businesses and we hope that by offering free parking, footfall will be boosted

along our high streets."

Parking is free all year round in NNC council-owned car parks in the former Wellingborough and East Northants areas.

For more details about changes to council services over Christmas, the council's Hi Santa Stops festive trail and events across North Northamptonshire, visit the dedicated Christmas pages on the NNC website.

Consistently excellent.

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Sat 16 Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
Sat 16 Cheltenham Christmas Market
Sun 17 Legoland at Christmas

JANUARY 2024

Sat 6 Boundary Mills Grantham
Wed 17 Seasonal Mystery Trip

FEBRUARY 2024

Wed 7 St Albans Market Day
Sat 10 Warwick & Leamington Spa
Sun 11 Birmingham International Tattoo
Wed 14 Boston Market & Baytree Garden Centre
Tue 20 Melton Mowbray
Wed 21 Seasonal Mystery Trip
Thu 22 Ely
Fri 23 London Free Time OR Museums
Fri 23 Tower Bridge Tour & London Free Time
Sun 25 Orchids at Kew Gardens
Tue 27 Chippenham Park Snowdrops

MARCH 2024

Tue 5 Springfields OR Spalding
Thu 7 Cotswold Tour
Sat 9 National Railway Museum OR York
Sat 9 Jorvik Viking Centre
Tue 12 Derbyshire & Peak District
Tue 19 Saffron Walden
Wed 20 Seasonal Mystery Trip
Fri 22 Ideal Home Show
Fri 22 Stratford Upon Avon
Sun 24 Tottenham Hotspur Stadium Tour
Tue 26 Barnsdale Gardens & Cream Tea
Thu 28 Canterbury
Thu 28 Canterbury Cathedral & Free Time
Sat 30 Greenwich & The Cutty Sark

JULY 2024

Mon 29 Abba Voyage

SEPTEMBER 2024

Mon 2 Abba Voyage

OCTOBER 2024

Thu 3 Abba Voyage

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

11-15 MARCH TORQUAY'S HIDDEN TREASURES – £399.00pp

The TLH Carlton Hotel is a lovely 3 star hotel and Spa (TLH Leisure Resort) close to the sea front and town centre. Torquay is a seaside town located in Devon and is part of the stunning English Riviera. One of the UK's top holiday destinations since the Victorian times, Torquay has always been popular with tourists of all ages. The iconic palm trees, busy harbour and international marina create this beautiful town. There are 22 miles of coastline, cliffs, coves, beaches and walks with a climate that belongs much further south. Half Board and excursions included.

18-22 MARCH HOUSE PARTY & ABBA TRIBUTE – ALL INCLUSIVE

The Winnock Hotel, Drymen. Full Board including Excursions and Entertainment, Free Bar 7.30pm - 10.30pm £479 per person. Drymen is an attractive village located in the beautiful Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The park consists of 40 mountains ranging from 2500ft to over 3000ft, 22 lochs, 50 rivers and The Argyll Forest Park and the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The Campsie Fells hills to the west host a variety of farmland, open moors, steep-flanked glens, attractive woodland and sparkling burns. Entertainment each evening including Abba Tribute.

We still have room on our Christmas in Oxford holiday 23-27 December & our New Year holiday to Scotland 30-December – 2-January.

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Spotlight on > CHRISTMAS

> SANTA PAWS SUCCESS!



The Ashgrove Clinic

The Ashgrove Clinic, known as a centre of excellence for pain, aesthetics and laser treatments, reinvented itself as Santa's grotto for Higham's Christmas Sparkle. The canine visitors all seemed very pleased with the event (especially with the bags of delicious treats provided by Bertie's Pet Shop in Higham).

Brooke Robinson, lead osteopath and organiser of Higham's pregnancy classes, said there was a wonderful Christmassy atmosphere, with dogs of all ages and all shapes waiting for their chance to get a photo of themselves with Santa.

The day raised over £700 for the Medical Detection Dogs charity. Osteopath Georgina Joss says that almost all of the practitioners in the clinic are dog owners,

so the charity combines two of the clinic's passions: medical diagnosis and our canine friends.

> CHRISTMAS AT BOSWORTH'S GARDEN CENTRE

"It's the most wonderful time of the year again and we are in full-on festive mode at Bosworth's Garden Centre.

"Our singing reindeer are back and this year they have a new stable. We are raising funds once again for Cransley Hospice.

"Santa made a special entrance for our opening event and the Christmas trees have arrived, available for both collection and local delivery. Not sure which tree to buy? Ask our knowledgeable plant team.

"Make us your destination stop for all things Christmas, from gifts, decorations and trees to festive food."



Bosworth's Garden Centre

Where to find 'Warm Spaces' in communities across North Northamptonshire

Heated, warm and welcoming public spaces are now open across North Northamptonshire and will remain so throughout the winter months.

North Northamptonshire Council recognises that it will be unaffordable for many residents to heat their homes for as long as they would do normally. That's why they are both running and supporting what is termed the Warm Spaces initiative.

Warm Spaces provide somewhere a person who needs to get warm can go to, for free, to enjoy warmth, have a hot drink and socialise if they choose to.

This year a total of 50 community organisations, volunteer groups and public bodies have opened their doors, to give their time, and share their resources with local residents to provide a safe, warm and welcome space. There are 12 in Wellingborough, 17 in Kettering, 14 in East Northants and 7 in Corby.

The council has added a map of Warm Spaces across North Northamptonshire to its website but needs your help in spreading the message. If you know someone who you think might benefit, but doesn't have access to the internet, please let them know about their nearby Warm Spaces.

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of

North Northamptonshire Council, said: "Supporting our communities is always our priority and that is why, during this cost of living crisis, we are taking urgent, and tangible action to ensure that our residents are supported.

"Residents can attend for activities at these locations without any need to discuss their personal circumstances, which will help reduce the stigma that often exists around poverty and asking for support.

"When people enter a warm space they do so with a guarantee they will be treated with respect and dignity, without judgement and in confidence."

Councillor Helen Harrison, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, said: "We have been delighted with the keen response we have had from our partners to continue and grow the Warm Space network for the winter ahead.

"This winter will be a difficult time for many, both in terms of physical health and mental health, which is why both North Northamptonshire Libraries and Community Libraries are being supported to signpost residents to Public Health's free health and wellbeing services. Health and wellbeing advisors will also be on hand at many of the library Warm Space sessions."

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LEMAX



**WORDS BY
CLAIRE SHORT**

We're all at it, aren't we? Despite saying we never would...

Here's what I picture: you're sitting on the sofa with a machine in front of you. You're cricking your neck into strange positions and your arm is aching because you're holding your phone out in front of you. You're trying to concentrate on what the person on the video call is saying, but you're in pain and getting a bit grumpy about it.

In the back of your mind there's a nagging frustration that some people seem to do video calls all the time with no pain.

But video calls are here to stay, so how do you deal with them without injuring yourself?

Here are some tips, either for you, or for someone you know who only shows their chin or ear in the video calls:

- Buy a selfie stick. I know, I know, you've always scorned selfie sticks, but for a small amount of money you can stop the arm ache. All you

do is put the phone on the stick and open the tripod legs. Then you can sit back and chat while the stick supports your phone.

- Rest your arm on something. The longer you hold it up in front of you, the more you'll hurt your shoulder and arm.
- After a call you'll probably find your head poking forwards and your shoulders hunching slightly. When this happens roll your shoulders backwards to help you get to a more upright position – it really works. Try it now and see!
- If you're starting to ache a bit during the call, have a wriggle in your seat. Or get up and MOVE.

Remember, the selfie stick will make the most difference. Go and buy one, and USE it.

And no, it is not safe to use a selfie stick when pushing the lawnmower. Don't try it!

Have comfortable week!

Claire Short is the clinic director at The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers.

NEW TAILORED TOILET FACILITIES AT TOURIST HOTSPOTS

Adults and children of all ages with profound and multiple learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities now have more choice when deciding which local nature reserves and country parks to visit.

North Northamptonshire Council has opened brand-new, fully accessible 'Changing Places Toilet' facilities at Stanwick Lakes and Barnwell Country Park. Everyone, regardless of their access needs or disability or reliance on the assistance of carers or specialist equipment, can use these toilet facilities with dignity and hygienically.

The 'Changing Places Toilets' are part of the government led initiative, designed to provide widespread accessibility and inclusivity. Unlike standard accessible toilets, 'Changing Places Toilets' also meet the requirements of people with a range of needs such as spinal injuries, muscle-wasting conditions and multiple sclerosis.

Each Changing Places Toilet provides:

The right equipment

- A powered height adjustable adult-sized changing bench
- A movable tracking ceiling hoist system

Enough space

- Adequate space in the changing area for the disabled person and up to two carers

- A centrally placed toilet with space either side for wheelchairs.
- A screen to allow for privacy

A safe and clean environment

- A paper couch roll to cover the bench
- A large waste bin for disposable pads
- A non-slip floor

They also have features including a height adjustable sink, grab rails and alarms.

Once installed, the Changing Places Toilets are registered and approved by Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK) and added onto the national website to help people locate them and plan their visits.

A total of eight facilities across North Northants will be funded from £497,000 from the Council's Capital Programme, which includes a £330,000 contribution from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Other locations in North Northamptonshire with Changing Places facilities already in use are The Corby Cube, East Carlton Park, Rushden Lakes, Wicksteed Park, Waendel Leisure Centre and Corby Swimming Pool.

Further construction works to add more to the network at Irchester Country Park and Wellingborough Library is now underway.

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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:

>OUNDLÉ

New Business traditional hanging sign at The Old Bakehouse Rear Of 5 Market Place Oundle PE8 4BA **(LB/CA) (Info) NE/23/01188/ADV (2 January 2024)**

>LOWICK

Ground floor front extension to converted barn at 22A Main Street Lowick NN14 3BH **(Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/23/01139/FUL (2 January 2024)**

>HIGHAM FERRERS

Variation of Condition 2 to substitute the approved drawing 21-186-02 with drawing 21-186-02A pursuant to NE/22/01419/FUL 'Change of use of residential flat to commercial, first floor extensions, external alterations and signage'. At 3 College Street Higham Ferrers NN10 8DX **(LB/CA) (Info) NE/23/01173/VAR (2 January 2024)**

>DUDDINGTON

Replacement garden building, ornamental pool and terracing at Beaumont House High Street Duddington PE9 3QE **(Info) (LB/CA)(LBregs) NE/23/01151/FUL and NE/23/01152/LBC (2 January 2024)**

>RUSHDEN

Proposed single storey side extension, relocation of stone lintel and replacement window to northwest elevation, installation of 3 No. windows to first floor northeast elevation, extension of stone boundary wall and additional boundary wall to replace fence, internal works include reinstatement of former door opening at 61 Little Street Rushden NN10 OLS **(LB/CA) (Info)(LBregs) NE/23/01164/FUL and NE/23/01165/LBC (2 January 2024)**

>ISLIP

Restoration and renovation of a derelict potting shed and external covered store, including some minor alterations (retrospective) at 23 School Lane Islip NN14 3LQ **(LB/CA) (Info) (LBregs) (Info) NE/23/01150/LBC (2 January 2024)**

>BRIGSTOCK

Replacement of 8 windows with new UPVC double glazed (Retrospective) at 10 Mill Lane Brigstock NN14 3HG **(Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/23/00916/FUL (2 January 2024)**

>THRAPSTON

Redevelopment of site to form 14 dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping (Re-submission NE/21/01345/FUL) at Mill Marina Midland Road Thrapston NN14 4JR **(Info) (Part3) (Info) NE/23/01204/FUL (2 January 2024)**

>BRIGSTOCK

Construction of a 3-bed detached dwelling, on existing former garden plot to the rear of No.35 High Street at 35 High Street Brigstock NN14 3HA **(Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/23/01134/FUL (2 January 2024)**

>RUSHDEN

Outline Planning Application for a Sustainable Urban Extension comprising residential development of up to 2,200 dwellings (Class C3), residential institution (Class C2), up to 110,000 square metres of employment development (Classes B2 (General Industrial), B8 (Storage and Distribution), E (comprising Office, Research and Development of Products or Processes and Industrial Processes)), two local centres, two primary schools, one secondary school, details of the principal accesses from A6 /John Clark Way roundabout and Newton Road, secondary vehicular and non-vehicular accesses,

public open space including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, cemetery, allotments, noise mitigation features, drainage, primary sub-station utilities apparatus and associated engineering works, demolition of existing buildings, earthworks and ground remodelling (All Matters reserved except Access) at Rushden East Urban Extension Liberty Way Rushden **(Info) (Info) (Info) (Info) 20/01453/OUT (2 January 2024)**

>BRIGSTOCK

Amendment to the colour originally provided as 7031 to 7021. (Resubmission of NE/23/00714/FUL - Replacement of all wooden sash windows and front and back doors and frames (all in poor condition) with new wooden sliding sash windows with spiral sliding mechanism, with like for like horns and hardware (Painted RAL7031), Install new front and back door with like for like door and frame in the same glazed configuration (Frames painted RAL7031, External doors painted RAL1021)) at 4 Park Walk Brigstock Kettering NN14 3HH **(Info) (LB/CA) (Info) NE/23/01142/FUL (2 January 2024)**

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.

Graeme Kane, Interim Director Of Place And Economy

Dated 9 December 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**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUSINESSES LOOKING TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS LAUNCHED

North Northamptonshire Council have launched a new grant scheme to help local businesses invest in measures to increase energy efficiency, move to a lower carbon economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Small or medium sized businesses can now apply for grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 towards 50% of project costs, with the remaining amount to be match funded by the business.

The funding can be used

for:

- lighting and lighting controls
- heating and heating controls
- insulation
- energy efficient machinery and equipment (e.g. air compressors)

- solar panels
 - heat pumps
 - biomass boilers
 - energy storage
 - building energy management systems
- Cllr David Brackenbury, the council's Executive Member for Growth and

Regeneration, said: "We know the past few years have been difficult for businesses and the council are always looking for new ways we can help and provide financial assistance to stimulate investment. This scheme will make a real difference to those businesses who want to reduce their carbon footprint and just need some more financial help to make that happen."

Cllr Harriet Pentland, the council's Executive

Member for Climate and the Green Environment, said: "Addressing the challenges of a changing climate is essential and something we should all be factoring into our lives; it can also save money. This is why I am pleased we are launching this grant scheme, which will provide businesses with a helping hand to be greener."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "We expect a high level of applications for this

grant scheme, so I would encourage businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint to take a look at the information online and apply as soon as possible."

More information about eligibility and how to apply can be found on NNC's website and the deadline for applications is 15th December 2023.

This project is funded by the UK government through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

LOCAL CHARITY STARTS WINTER APPEAL TO KEEP ELDERLY NEIGHBOURS FED, WARM AND WELL

Northamptonshire Community Foundation has launched its Warm this Winter appeal, to tackle fuel poverty amongst the county's older and vulnerable residents.

This appeal has been running every winter since 2010 and has so far raised more than £255,000 to protect the most in-need members of our local communities.

The foundation is encouraging anyone who can to donate to the Warm this Winter appeal, which will fund grant awards to local community groups and charities who support those experiencing financial hardship. Donations can be made via the Warm this Winter JustGiving page: search Warm This Winter - JustGiving

Dean Jones, Head of Giving and Development at Northamptonshire Community Foundation, said: "The ongoing cost of living crisis means that this winter will be one of the toughest we have faced for decades, and Northamptonshire's older and vulnerable residents will struggle.

"Our recently published Northamptonshire Hidden Needs Report shows that over 18% of the population in North and West Northamptonshire are pensioners, many of whom are already anxious about rising bills. We've launched our Warm this Winter Appeal to provide these residents with a lifeline, and we urge anyone who can to donate and show their support."

In previous years, Northamptonshire Community Foundation's winter appeals have

supported charities including The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation, who provided one-off mini payments to members of their social clubs struggling with their energy bills; Favell Day Services, who helped their members purchase cold weather clothing and accessories; and Renew169 Wellbeing Café, who hosted cooking and exercise classes and provided their visitors with warm, home-cooked food.

Kate Yuill, Service Manager at Favell Day Services said: "We provide quality day care services for adults living with complex physical needs and health conditions. The grant we received from Northamptonshire Community Foundation's Winter Wellbeing Fund has made a significant difference in enabling our members to enjoy winter and to get outside, which has been a huge boost to their physical and mental wellbeing during what is usually a cold and difficult time for many of the people we work with."

Approximately 40,000 local residents are at risk of fuel poverty this season (Northamptonshire Hidden Needs Report, 2023). The money raised by the Warm this Winter appeal will add to Northamptonshire Community Foundation's Warm this Winter Fund, to combat fuel poverty and alleviate financial pressures amongst our county's most vulnerable.




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Nene Valley News - Events

> THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 11AM -12NOON

Free Talk & Discussion: Amazing Grace – A Cultural History of the Beloved Hymn with Professor James Walvin

In the 250th anniversary year of the hymn 'Amazing Grace', historian James Walvin, Professor Emeritus in History at the University of York, will present a talk at Cowper and Newton Museum, based on his new book, followed by a book signing.

Sung in moments of personal isolation or on state occasions watched by millions, 'Amazing Grace' has become an unparalleled anthem for humankind. How did a simple Christian hymn, written in a remote English vicarage and first sung in St Peter and St Paul Church in Olney in 1773, come to hold such sway over millions all over the world? In this short, engaging cultural history, James Walvin tells the extraordinary story. Free event. The talk and discussion will be held in the Three Hares Gallery at the Museum. Booking is advised by emailing admincnm@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> Christmas Concerts by the Yarwell & Nassington Britannia Band

Wednesday 13th December, 8pm – Carols in the Angel

Friday 15th December, 7pm – Kings Cliffe Club.

Sunday 17th December, 5pm – The Alpha Centre, North Bretton.

> MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER, 7.30PM Carol Singing

The Swan, Newton Bromswold. Contact Helen Lines 01933 315864. Carol singing in The Swan.

> SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 6PM Carol Service

St Peter's Church, Newton Bromswold. Contact Helen Lines 01933 315864. Carol Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in the village church.

> MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 9AM Christmas Communion

St Peter's Church, Newton Bromswold. Contact Helen Lines 01933 315864. Service of Christmas Communion.

HISTORY AFTERNOON AT HERMITAGE HOUSE

Hermitage House Care Home in Thrapston recently hosted an afternoon of history. Eric Franklin, a local historian, led the event and shared his knowledge and memorabilia about the First World War.

Eric brought wartime artefacts such as gas masks and ration books. He also recounted his personal stories and shared those of people from the local area who fought and died in the war. "It was a poignant and wonderful talk that reminded us of the importance of history and how it has shaped our present day," said Home Manager, Clare Hedge.

The event attracted many guests from the local community, including members of The Royal British Legion. Staff and family members also attended, and everyone enjoyed the coffee, tea and cakes on offer. "We were delighted to see so many people join us and learn from Eric's knowledge," said Customer Relations Manager, Sarah-Beth Preston.



The residents enjoyed chatting with Eric and sharing their own experiences from their younger days and their parents' roles in the war. "Eric told us a quote that I liked which was 'without history, we wouldn't be where we are today'," said Home Administrator, Jess Grayson.

If you want to know more about life at Hermitage House Care Home, please contact Customer Relations Manager, Sarah-Beth Preston at 07754 559 526 or via email at sarah-beth.preston@countrycourtcare.com

A joyful celebration at Rushden Hall!

Rushden Town Council held its inaugural Christmas Decoration Workshop on 30th November. The event was fully booked with participants eager to learn the art of creating beautiful and festive table decorations.

Leading the way was a team of professional florists, Jan's Floral Boutique, who expertly led participants in the creation of their own splendid masterpieces, guiding them through the process of designing and putting together a stunning centrepiece. The participants were provided with all the necessary materials, including a variety of fresh flowers, greenery and decorative elements.

Throughout the workshop, helpful tips were shared along with techniques demonstrating different ways to arrange the flowers and create unique and eye-catching designs. Participants

were encouraged to let their creativity shine and personalise their table arrangements to suit their individual style and preferences.

The atmosphere during the workshop was filled with joy and excitement as everyone worked diligently, putting their newfound knowledge into practice. The room buzzed with laughter and conversation as participants proudly showcased their creations and shared ideas with one another.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for people to come together, learn something new, and have a wonderful time in the process.

Rushden Hall has once again proven to be a fantastic venue for community activities and gatherings, providing a space where people can come together and celebrate the joy of the festive season.

Andrew Gant - Deck The Hall: The Stories of our Favourite Christmas Carols

Friday 15th December at 7.45pm-8.45pm.
St Peter's Church, Oundle PE8 4AL

A wonderful, festive treat which offers new insights into our Yuletide musical traditions – with a few surprises along the way!

In this engaging book, Andrew Gant draws on his extensive professional knowledge as a conductor, composer and singer to reveal the fascinating and often surprising musical stories and social histories behind 27 Christmas carols.

Many of our best-loved carols are here, including the haunting 'In the Bleak Midwinter' – regularly voted Britain's favourite carol – alongside other fascinating but less familiar corners of our rich heritage of folksong.

Some are very old, like the cheerfully swaggering medieval carol 'Angelus ad Virginem'. Others are relatively new, including 'Jingle Bells', written by a carefree but badly-behaved American sailor, miner, composer and poet.

Very occasionally we come across one which was actually

written for church (such as 'Once in Royal David's City'). As Andrew writes, 'Some carols were born to Christmas, some have achieved Christmas, and some have had Christmas thrust upon them.'

Andrew Gant is an experienced composer, conductor, singer and lecturer who has written many books on music.

A choral scholar at St John's College, Cambridge, Andrew sang professionally with many leading ensembles, including the Tallis Scholars, the Sixteen and The Light Blues, with whom he toured all over the world. From 2000-2013, Andrew was Organist, Choirmaster and Composer at



Her (now His) Majesty's Chapels Royal, based at St James' Palace, leading the choir at many state events, including the annual Remembrance Day Parade at the

Cenotaph, the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Golden and Diamond Jubilee Services at St Paul's Cathedral, the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton at Westminster Abbey, and many other events for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Tickets £9 (£7).

**Online at <https://oundlelitfest.org.uk/events/>
Enquiries contact oundlelitfestival@hotmail.co.uk**

THE BEST CHRISTMAS DAYS OUT WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST

Historic houses in full festive splendour with crackling fires, fragrant garlands and handmade decorations. Mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas gifts. Winter trails and festive family favourites...

The nights are drawing in, it's getting colder, and Christmas isn't far away, which means it's time to get into the festive spirit – and there's no better way than visiting the National Trust.

See historic houses decorated in the style of Christmases gone by, wrap up warm and enjoy the crunch of frost underfoot on family trails or shop for stocking fillers under twinkling lights.

Carl Greenman, National Programming & Production Manager at the National Trust said: "Whether it's the mist rising on an early morning walk or the sparkle of baubles and the glow of fairy lights, there are hundreds of special moments just waiting to be enjoyed this Christmas with the National Trust.

"Enjoy a taste of Christmas past with historic houses dressed in all the trimmings or join magical winter trails through historic gardens and parklands."

Here's a roundup of some of the National Trust's best Christmas events near you.

Canons Ashby

Experience a magical Christmas visit at Canons Ashby with decorations inspired by Arthurian wizards, knights, dragons and the wonderful

myths that surround them.

For little adventurers, pick up the Christmas Quest Children's Trail and find all the ingredients on the list to help Merlin complete his spell. Children can also join in with Merlin's Enchanted Tree Trail in the grounds, taking in the decorations and finding out about the magical trees around them (£3 per trail).

The house will be decorated until 24th December.

For further information and more Christmas events at Canons Ashby including carols, candlelit tours and wreath-making workshops, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby

Lyveden

Lyveden is taking inspiration from traditional midwinter festivities, embracing a simpler, more natural way to celebrate the festive season.

The Manor will be decorated in a Tudor-inspired style with greenery adorning windows and mantelpieces. Visitors will be able to find out about some of the more quirky Tudor traditions and folklore surrounding the festive period and there will be family trails to help make your mid-winter merry and bright.

For more information about Christmas at Lyveden, including a candlelit carol concert and spooky festive storytelling, visit the website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyveden

North Northamptonshire Council commits further funding to developing Isham bypass plans

Preparation of plans for the A509 Isham bypass have taken a step forward after a decision by North Northamptonshire Council to commit further funding to the outline business case.

The decision was taken by Council Leader, Cllr Jason Smithers as an urgent decision, in accordance with the Council's decision-making rules, to ensure the project was not delayed. It will see the Council use an additional £790,000 of capital money to update traffic modelling for the outline business case for the scheme as well as for progressing work on obtaining planning permission.

Final approval to use the funds in this way will be sought at a meeting of Full Council on 7th December.

Funding for construction is currently being sought from the Government's Major Road Network initiative, which follows a number of key gateway stages:

- Strategic Outline Business Case
- Outline Business Case
- Full Business Case
- Construction

Cllr Matt Binley, the Council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets said: "The Isham Bypass is part of the Major Road Network and this scheme is a much-needed project for the region.

"So we can progress the outline business case and planning application we have to provide additional information. We need to progress this as quickly as we can so it's essential that we allocate the money to make it happen."

The A509 Isham Bypass forms the first part of a strategy to dual the whole A509 between the A14 south of Kettering and the A45 at Wellingborough.

The Strategic Outline Business Case was prepared and submitted to the Department for Transport in November 2020.

As reported to Executive in November 2021, the Council secured £1.859m from

the Department for Transport (DfT) towards the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and planning application for the scheme.

It subsequently became clear that the work to prepare the Outline Business Case and planning application was more extensive than previously thought, so in March 2023 Full Council agreed additional funding of £1.573m.

The DfT has now requested that the traffic modelling for the scheme is updated to reflect the latest version of the National Trip End Model – a database maintained by the DfT that is used to estimate the future growth in travel.

This requires sections of both the Outline Business Case and planning application to be updated, causing a delay in the timescale for submission of the planning application and Outline Business Case to May 2024, and at additional cost.

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "We welcome the recent confirmation from the Government that the construction of the Isham bypass will be fully funded by the Department for Transport.

"In order to secure the funding, the Council needs to obtain planning permission and submit the necessary business cases to the Department for Transport. We're committed to this scheme, which is a top priority for the council as the route would not only help boost the local economy, enabling growth of both our housing and commercial sectors but also alleviate traffic pressures and air quality in the village of Isham, for whom this has been a long campaign.

"It's important that we do everything we can to progress it as quickly as possible."

TREE TO MARK THE KING'S CORONATION PLANTED IN CORBY

The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and representatives from North Northamptonshire Council, local volunteers and pupils from Studfall Junior School have come together to celebrate and plant an official Coronation tree in Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods.

The planting coincided with National Tree Week and Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods was chosen by NNC as the location for the official tree in North Northants because of its history – both in age and royal connections.

The woods are a 75ha complex of Ancient Woodland, woodland, scrub and grassland located in the centre of Corby and surrounded completely by built development including Corby town centre and the Corby Parkland Gateway civic quarter. It is estimated to date back to around 800AD and the woodland is largely composed of ash and oak trees, although conifers are also present.

In 2022, the woods were chosen to be part of a nationwide network of 70 Ancient Woodlands to be dedicated to the late Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee and this royal connection now continues, with the planting of the new tree.

The Lord-Lieutenant, James Saunders Watson said: "I am extremely grateful to the Queen's Green Canopy team who have donated the funds for this oak tree and the accompanying plaque to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. It is a great honour to plant this important oak in Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods, which had the honour

of being one of the large areas of woodland dedicated to Her Late Majesty to mark her Platinum Jubilee."

Cllr Harriet Pentland, the council's Executive Member for Climate and Green Environment, said: "It was an honour to assist the Lord-Lieutenant in the planting of this very important tree in Hazel and Thoroughsale woods to commemorate His Majesty's coronation. As well as the history the tree symbolises, it is part of an extensive tree planting scheme North Northamptonshire Council undertakes and every single tree planted helps make a positive difference to our natural environment."

This woodland is actively managed by NNC through the Woodland Project with support from the Friends of Thoroughsale and Hazel Woods. Much of the practical management work is undertaken by the Woodland Manager, two Parks and Woodland Rangers and regular volunteers.

There are six Friends Of groups in Corby with the Friends Of Hazel and Thoroughsale being the largest group, offering daily activities throughout the week for volunteers.

You can find out more about the Woodland project and how to get involved on the NNC website.

Future plans for North Northamptonshire recycling centres discussed by Executive

Plans for the future running of North Northamptonshire Council's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) have been discussed by the authority's Executive.

The Council currently runs four HWRCs: Corby, Kettering, Rushden and Wellingborough, which are operated on a legacy former county council contract due to expire in March 2025.

Recommendations before Executive were to start the procurement of a contract to run all four of the HWRCs from April 2025 for up to a period of 15 years.

The approach is the most cost-effective solution, which provides a continuation of a much-needed service to residents.

Cllr Matt Binley, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "Our HWRCs are greatly valued by our residents and what we're proposing offers a great medium to long-term provision, which also is the most cost-effective for the tax-payer.

"This will be the first time that the contract is up for renewal since the formation of our Council, so this is a great opportunity for us to move forward with securing a contract that is fit for purpose."

The council has undertaken an analysis of its current service to better understand the future needs of HWRC's and the outcomes of this will form the development of a longer-term strategy to improve the current services across the area and will be consulted upon next year.

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "Our HWRCs play an important role in helping our residents manage the waste they produce as well as helping to boost recycling. I'm delighted that we're looking to continue to serve our main population centres in North Northants."

Executive met at Corby Cube on Thursday 16th November. The meeting was broadcast live on YouTube and the meeting papers can be found at: <https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=142&Mld=1535>



A celebration of North Northamptonshire's health, wellbeing and sporting excellence

Residents who have made key contributions to health and wellbeing, physical activity and sport in the area have been recognised for their excellence at North Northamptonshire Council's Active Communities Awards.

It was an evening of celebration at the Holiday Inn Corby on Wednesday 15th November as local sports performers, clubs, schools, groups and organisations were recognised.

Local sporting hero Heather Fell, an Olympic Silver Medallist in Modern Pentathlon and former World Number One, attended in the role of special guest.

The awards, organised by North Northamptonshire Council, is a celebration of health and wellbeing, physical activity and sport in the area.

Cllr Helen Howell, Deputy Leader of North Northamptonshire Council and Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, said: "We have had a fantastic awards ceremony again this year. Sport and physical activity are an integral part of our local community and North Northamptonshire Council is extremely proud to recognise all the individuals, clubs, schools and organisations which contribute to making this a great place to be active and a wonderful place to live."

"The awards couldn't happen without our sponsors so a huge thank you goes to Priors Hall Park, TA6 Alliance, Places Leisure, Northamptonshire Sport, MR Industrial Services, Freedom Leisure & NN Leisure who supported the 2023 North Northamptonshire Active

Communities Awards.

"It's great to see local organisations supporting the achievements of our community in this way. I would also like to thank everyone who submitted a nomination and the leisure team at North

Northants Council who arranged such a fabulous event."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "I'm delighted to see so much sporting talent in our area showcased at this fantastic event. It's not

only encouraging to see so much excellence, but incredibly inspiring to all of us."

More information can be found on www.nnactiveawards.co.uk

RUSHDEN LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Rushden Town Council would like to thank everyone who joined in with the Rushden Christmas Lights switch-on event in the High Street.

"Santa remained as popular as ever this year and we would like to thank everyone for their patience during the extended wait, as the queue stretched all the way down College Street.

"Fortunately, we had an outstanding balloon modeller who not only kept the children entertained but also crafted some remarkable designs.

"Dr Busker and Slyde provided live Christmas music and, as usual, the Reindeer brought Christmas spirit to the day.

"Many thanks to all the stall holders who attended and a massive thank you to the staff, councillors and volunteers who have worked tirelessly on the Christmas lights all year, to ensure Rushden was splendidly 'lit up for Christmas'."



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

Town Council Meeting - Tuesday 19th December, 7.30pm

Planning & Development Committee Meeting - Tuesday 9th January, 6.45pm

Environment & Recreation Committee Meeting - Tuesday 9th January, 7.30pm

Town Council Meeting - Tuesday 30th January, 7.30pm

Farmers Market - Saturday 23rd December, 9am - 1pm - Market Square

Farmers Market - 27th January, 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: petertomas@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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* North Northamptonshire Councillors			

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS


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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14 (HAUTBOY LANE, WARMINGTON)
(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 Hautboy Lane, Warmington as set out below.
LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Hautboy Lane, Warmington from outside number 8.
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 December 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 Chapel Street, Orchard Close and School Lane.
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 23/24 - N399 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T23/726

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14 (NEWMAN STREET, HIGHAM FERRERS)
(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 Newman Street, Higham Ferrers as set out below.
LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Newman Street, Higham Ferrers - adjacent to No. 22.
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 18th December 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 Simpson Avenue and George Street.
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 23/24 - N407 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T23/729
Dated this 9th day of December 2023
ADELE WYLIE,
Executive Director of Customer & Governance (Monitoring Officer)



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Rick -SERVE Volunteer Minibus Driver -12 years

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Victoria Centre, Palk Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1HR
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Magical Winter Festival programme confirmed!

Nene Park Trust is delighted to reveal the full Winter Festival programme and shout about the wonderful partners it will be working with this December, to bring a magical event like no other to Ferry Meadows.

As visitors arrive at the Winter Festival, they will take a stroll through a beautifully lit woodland, with illuminated willow creatures at every twist and turn, created by Dragon Willow. This will lead onto our enchanted forest where visitors will encounter performers from Eastern School of Performing Arts and an audio visual installation by Syntax Poetry Collective members (Mark Grist, Charley Genever, Lauren Kendrick and Sandy Wardrop) featuring brand-new poems inspired by their favourite forest creatures. Plenty of secrets and magical moments will be woven into the journey, to surprise and delight visitors of all ages.

The trail will lead to a unique travelling cinema provided by The Moving Cinema and supported by Gateway Film Festival, showing the much-loved Christmas classic *The Snowman* (U).

Traditional fairground stalls and festive food and drink by Meadow Brown will add to the experience, along with our very own pop-up Christmas shop, perfect for finding unique gifts and treats.

The Winter Festival will be running in Ferry Meadows every day from the 1st to the 24th of December, with tickets priced at just £9.50 each (free for carers and under 3's) with free parking included. Sessions start at 4pm, 5.30pm and 7pm, with all ticket proceeds going straight towards the upkeep of our beautiful Park, making this event our largest fundraiser of the year!



Book your tickets now at www.nenepark.org.uk/winter-festival



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