

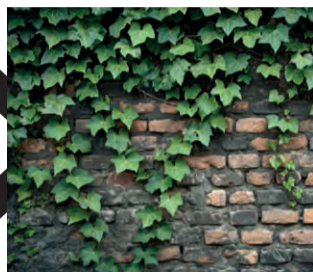
Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Telephone: 01522 692542

We want to hear from you, so please submit your news story or event at www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Postal voters urged to apply early for May elections

On Thursday 2nd May voters in North and West Northamptonshire will go to the polls to elect the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) and residents are being encouraged to apply early to vote by post.

The PFCC is elected to oversee local policing and fire and rescue services, manage the police and fire and rescue budget, set council tax rates for policing, and ensure transparent communication about police activities in the community. They will also make key appointments of the Chief Constable and the Chief Fire Officer for the Northamptonshire area.

People are urged to apply for postal votes as early as possible, ahead of the deadline of 5pm on Wednesday 17th April. Those wishing to vote by proxy can also do so in advance of the deadline of 5pm on Wednesday 24th April.

Anyone not yet registered to vote must do so by Tuesday 16th April in order to take part in this spring's election. You can register to vote on the gov.uk website.

CHARITY ASKS NORTHANTS DAREDEVILS TO TAKE THE PLUNGE

National charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is asking Northamptonshire residents with a sense of adventure to abseil down the National Lift Tower in May to raise much-needed funds to help deaf people leave isolation behind.

The National Lift Tower in Northampton is an iconic feat of architecture. The height of the tower – a staggering 418 feet – and its unique features have made it an important resource in the research and development industry, but it is also now the highest abseil tower in the world.

The Hearing Dogs Abseil will take place at 10am on 11th May at Tower Square, Northampton. It costs £75 to sign up and the charity is asking everyone taking part to raise a minimum of £200 in sponsorship. Anyone

wanting to 'take the plunge' can register their interest by visiting the Hearing Dogs website.

Once registered, those taking part will receive a Hearing Dogs digital welcome pack full of tips, advice and fundraising materials, as well as the support of a dedicated Hearing Dogs team member in the run-up to the event. Each person taking part will also get a free Hearing Dogs t-shirt.

Hearing dogs are trained to alert deaf people to important and life-saving sounds such as smoke alarms



and alarm clocks. They also provide companionship and emotional support, which is just as important as many deaf people can feel lonely and isolated.

Vicky Ryan, Community

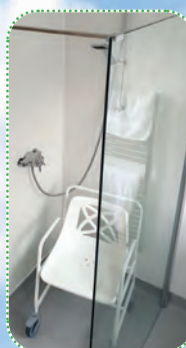
Fundraising Manager for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People said: "The charity relies entirely on donations and people fundraising to raise the money needed to fully train and support our hearing dogs

for the duration of their lives. By taking part in this event on behalf of the charity, people will be helping us train many more puppies to go on and help someone with hearing loss reconnect with life."

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Vegetation causing damage to Kettering Library to be removed

As part of the wider project to replace Kettering Library's Grade II listed roof, works will start in March to remove vegetation that has been identified as causing damage to the building.

Currently, ivy and Virginia creeper cover a large portion of the Library and Art Gallery with vegetation growing, at places, through the building's windows and roof causing damage and impacting the overall building.

Now, North Northamptonshire Council will start works to fully remove all the vegetation and clean up the exterior of the building, which will prevent further damage and reduce maintenance costs in the long term, whilst allowing for the historical architecture of the building to be visible.

The works are taking place now to avoid the removal of plants later in the year when, typically, they would be flowering/denser.

The work will be undertaken as the Library roof project replacement moves into the 'delivery' phase.

Tree canopies around the building have already been raised to prevent further damage to existing roof slates.

CLlr Helen Howell, the Council's Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, said: "As we move to the 'delivery' phase of this extremely complex and carefully thought out project, we have been working with specialists on the best solutions to preserve this important

historical building.

"As part of this process, we have been advised that the ivy on the outside of the building is causing damage and should be removed. The Virginia creeper is directly affecting the rainwater dispersal system, which has been a major factor in the recent issues with the leaking roof and removing the vegetation will also allow the historic architecture of this beautiful building to be visible.

"Removal of the Ivy and Virginia Creeper was always going to be the final option, but we have to consider the damage that is being caused and the long-term impacts."

Further updates about the Kettering Library roof replacement project will be published in due course.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Do you remember last time that I mentioned websites such as Ancestry and Find My Past? A word of caution: the indexes for these websites have been transcribed and the original could be open to misinterpretation. Therefore, a badly written name on the original might be transcribed as a 'best guess' by the person doing the transcribing – especially if they were unfamiliar with the names. Even if you are making notes from originals in a Record Office, it is possible to come unstuck.

So, bearing this in mind, if you are looking for an ancestor online, but cannot find them, it is always worth using 'wildcards'. This is where you insert a * in place of a letter, or series of letters. Even on a first name, things might not be as you thought. An ancestor named Louise might be recorded as Louisa, and so not appear when you search for her under Louise. Using this as an example, you could then try Louis*. Oh yes – they might even be going by their middle name instead of their first!

Over time, you learn these tricks but the key is to think laterally and not have the blinkers on. A prime example of this is when I was searching for my great grandfather's brother in the 1841 census. I could find his parents, John and Elizabeth, who were living in the village of Ashdon in Essex but with a 3-year-old girl called Sarah. Sarah never figured in other records – future censuses, baptisms etc – so I was unable to work out who she was. Then the penny dropped. I was looking for a boy called Pharoah and, in the flat Essex accent of the time, it would sound like Sarah: Pharoah rhyming with fairer! My great, great grandfather could neither read nor write and so it was the enumerator who recorded what was said to him.

So, the next time that you cannot find someone, think of the accent that might have been used and say names out loud!

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Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 20th March

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Nominations sought for Mayor's Awards



Rushden Town Council is seeking nominations for the Mayor's Awards for Services to the Community for the year 2023 / 2024.

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 email the Town Clerk at info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk.

All nominations should be received by Monday 25th March 2024.



FUNDING APPROVAL CREATES AN ADDITIONAL 28 SEND SCHOOL PLACES

North Northamptonshire Council Executive has approved a capital project at Corby Business Academy.

The scheme is worth up to £543,900 and when completed this autumn will help address the growing demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school places in the council area.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Jason Smithers said: "I am delighted that we have been able to use Higher Needs Funding to give this project the go ahead.

"We have a statutory obligation as a council to provide appropriate enhancement of an existing school to meet the demand for SEND school places, an obligation we take seriously.

"So, we are extremely fortunate that Corby Business Academy has the physical

space that can be used to help us address the shortage of SEND spaces in North Northamptonshire."

The project has come about after Corby Business Academy (a secondary school) expressed an interest to the council in expanding their current SEND provision.

Parts of the original school were designed to accommodate a SEND provision which included a hydrotherapy pool. However, over the years the school's intake has been directed at more mobile students.

A refurbishment of the original hydrotherapy area, together with replanning will increase the teaching

space footprint enabling an increase in pupil numbers. The project will create two classrooms and accommodate an additional 28 SEND pupil places.

Cllr Scott Edwards, the Council's Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, said: "While we are funding this project, I am pleased that the works will be project managed by the school and their design team as both have a proven track record of delivering projects to budget and on time.

"I am excited to see the classrooms in September and delighted that the school will soon be welcoming another 28 SEND pupils."



Wellingborough Rural Transport

Volunteer Drivers Needed

To run our bus service for Wellingborough residents, we are looking for people who work part time, semi-retired or retiring to give time back to the local community.

The residents of Wellingborough need our support!

"Rewarding role and great people!"

Bring your partner/friend as an assistance escort and both have your lunch expenses paid, up to £25, every time you support a group going to a garden centre, cafe or pub lunch.

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Rick -SERVE Volunteer Minibus Driver -12 years




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www.serve.org.uk
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01536 791066

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

APRIL 2024

Mon 1 Great Yarmouth - Bank Holiday
 Tue 2 Black Country Museum
 Tue 2 Dudley Zoo
 Sat 6 Norwich
 Wed 10 London Museums or Free Time
 Wed 10 Tower of London
 Thu 11 Fakenham & Sheringham
 Fri 12 Cannon Hall Farm
 Thu 18 Banbury
 Sun 21 Skegness
 Wed 24 Hereford
 Wed 24 Hereford Cathedral
 Fri 26 Southwold
 Sat 27 Oxford OR Oxford Castle

MAY 2024

Wed 1 Bury St Edmunds
 Sat 4 Bury (Lancashire) Market Day
 Sun 5 Lincoln
 Mon 6 Bakewell Market - Bank Holiday
 Wed 8 Phantom of the Opera
 Thu 9 Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre
 Fri 10 Stamford Market & Grantham
 Sat 11 Malvern Spring Show
 Sat 11 Springfields
 Sat 11 Spalding Flower Parade
 Sun 12 Hunstanton
 Mon 13 Derbyshire & Peak District
 Wed 15 Wye Valley River Cruise & Lunch

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MARCH

29 MARCH-1 APRIL EASTER in BATH & BRISTOL - £439.00pp

The 4 star Mercure Bristol Grand Hotel is set in a historic Grade II listed building in the heart of Bristol city centre. This holiday is Half Board including Excursions. Bristol was the first British city to be named European Green Capital. The city straddles the River Avon with a prosperous maritime history. Its former city-centre port is now a cultural hub, the Harbourside, where the M Shed museum explores local social and industrial heritage. The harbour's 19th-century warehouses now contain restaurants, shops and cultural institutions such as contemporary art gallery The Arnolfini.

APRIL

12-14 APRIL MOTOWN, 60S & SOUL WEEKEND £299.00pp

The Grand Hotel, Blackpool, Half Board including Entertainment. With plenty of time to explore Blackpool either shopping, the thrills and spills of the Pleasure Beach, going up Blackpool Tower and plenty of Motown 60s or Soul music throughout the weekend.

13-19 APRIL SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS ALL INCLUSIVE - £699.00pp

Best Western Inverness Palace Hotel & Spa, includes Excursions. Inverness, known as Scotland's 'Highland Capital', has a rich variety of historic buildings and one of the most beautiful riverside settings in Britain. Enjoy a stroll to Inverness Castle, currently used as a courthouse and St Andrew's Cathedral, which dominate the River Ness.

24-28 APRIL REGAL SCOTLAND £549.00pp

The Winnock Hotel, Drymen. Full Board including Excursions. 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. Excursions include the Royal Yacht Britannia Cruise.

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SPRING WEDDING FAIR - RUSHDEN GOODS SHED

Embark on a journey through the enchanting world of weddings as the Rushden Historical Transport Society partners with Standing In The Wings to present an unforgettable Spring Wedding Fair on Sunday 7th April, 11am-3pm, in The Rushden Goods Shed.

Located in the heart of Rushden, The Goods Shed is poised to whirl into a whimsical wonderland, welcoming couples, bridesmaids, groomsmen and wedding enthusiasts alike.

Whether you find yourself in the initial stages of wedding planning or meticulously crossing off the final checklist items, this fair is your exclusive ticket to a day filled with laughter, love and boundless inspiration. As the venue transforms, it becomes the perfect setting for those beginning their journey to 'I do.'

"Join us in connecting with a handpicked selection of over 25 of the region's finest wedding suppliers. From talented photographers capturing timeless moments, to florists weaving enchanting

arrangements, caterers crafting delectable delights, and stylists bringing your visions to life – these experts are here to turn your wedding dreams into a beautiful reality. This is your golden opportunity to meet the maestros who will sprinkle a touch of magic on your special day.

"Every love story is as unique as the individuals writing it, and your wedding should be a true reflection of that uniqueness. Engage in

bespoke conversations with industry professionals who are dedicated to guiding you, answering your queries, and ensuring that every detail of your big day is as extraordinary as your love.

"Save the date – 7th April, 2024 – and join us at Rushden Goods Shed for a day filled with laughter, love, and limitless possibilities.

"Admission is free, but the memories made will be priceless."

Free Parking and The Goods Shed Bar will be open.

Rushden Goods Shed, John Clark Way, Rushden NN10 0FW

For more information, contact:

weddings@standinginthewings.co.uk

<https://www.standinginthewings.co.uk/weddings/spring-wedding-fair/>

(Tickets booked via website)

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Spring Wedding Fair

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'Don't Rubbish Rushden' poster design competition

Rushden Town Council has launched a poster design competition for the half term break inviting local children to participate in designing a poster titled 'Don't Rubbish Rushden' which is aimed at encouraging people to bin their rubbish.

The winning entry will receive £50 and their poster will be used in future awareness campaigns.

Entries can be submitted as an A4 poster to Rushden Town Council. Rushden Hall. Rushden NN10 9NG or emailed to info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk.

The deadline for entries is Friday 15th March 2024 and the winner will be alerted by Friday 22nd March 2024.

Design a Poster Design Competition

£50 Prize

Design an engaging poster with the headline and win £50!...

DON'T RUBBISH RUSHDEN!

Rushden Town Council is inviting local children to participate in designing a poster aimed at encouraging people to bin their rubbish. The winning entry will be used in future awareness campaigns

Guidelines

Format	Deadline	Send To
Submit an A4 poster or a high-resolution format (JPEG or PNG)	All entries must be submitted by 15th March 2024	Send designs to: Rushden Town Council, Rushden Hall, Hall Park, Rushden, NN10 9NG info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk

Please include name, address, email address, phone number and name of school when submitting the entry.

THE WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

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Record number of lambs due to 'spring' into heritage site this March

Visitors can prepare to feed a record number of Cade lambs this Spring at The Chester House Estate, as the team go bigger and better for their popular Spring event for 2024.

The Chester House Estate, a heritage site based in Irchester, have cared for lambs since their first Spring event in 2022 – where 40 Cade lambs were housed in their Lamb Barn for the Easter period. Visitors were able to speak to experts, bottle-feed the lambs and were provided with guidance on keeping themselves and the lambs safe.

This year, the estate is welcoming more cade lambs than ever, in addition to ewes and goats that will be housed in a brand new marquee named 'The Lamb Shed', and visitors can take on the giant Spring hunt and for the first time meet the Easter bunny.

Cllr Helen Howell, North Northamptonshire Council's Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, said: "As with previous years, we will have a dedicated expert livestock team who will be looking after the lambs. The team are dedicated to educating young people with the 'Farm to Fork' story and providing hands-on learning experiences on the estate.

"Our Spring at the Estate event is always a family favourite, and our biggest event of the year, so by increasing the lambs we care for, it has two

main benefits – we are able to provide for more families to experience the feeding, whilst also care for and protect the welfare of these lambs."

This year, The Chester House Estate is looking after a local farmer's Cade lambs. These are lambs that cannot be fed by their mums and need help to survive and flourish. As well as bottle feeding the Cade lambs, the Chester House Estate Lamb Shed will also be home to a number of ewes and their lambs, as well as several goats and their kids.

Visitors to The Chester House Estate will be able to visit and feed the lambs and chat to the estate's expert livestock team from Friday 29th March to Sunday 14th April 2024. The brand new experience sees visitors exploring the 85-acre estate for the Spring hunt, meeting the Easter bunny for the first time, and having a go at some Spring origami – all included in the price of the Spring passport.

For more information and to buy your Spring passport, visit the Chester House Estate website.

The Chester House Estate is overseen by North Northamptonshire Council and opened to the public in October 2021, following an extensive £17m National Lottery Heritage Fund supported restoration project.



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Nene Valley News - EVENTS

> SUNDAY 3RD MARCH, 9.30AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Donna (01933 350038). A 4.5-mile walk in the Harrold area.

> SATURDAY 16TH MARCH, 9AM-12NOON

Spring Flower Coffee Morning

Bede House, Higham Ferrers. FREE ENTRY. Friendsofstmaryshf@gmail.com
Coffee, cakes, stalls, plants, pots of miniature daffodils plus churchyard in full bloom to enjoy.



> SUNDAY 17TH MARCH, 9.35AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Angela (07981 049380). A 5-mile walk in the Barton Seagrave area.

> 21ST-23RD MARCH, 7.30PM

Return to Treasure Island

Raunds Town Cricket Club. £8. Contact 01933

624272. Return to Treasure Island is a comedy show loosely based on the famous novel.

> SATURDAY 23RD MARCH, 7.30PM

Oundle and District Choral Society will perform Duruflés' Requiem and Stainer's Crucifixion

St Peter's Church, Oundle. Tickets £10 on the door or in advance from choral society members. All very welcome.

> SUNDAY 31ST MARCH, 9.40AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Daphne (07709 569415). A 6-mile Easter Sunday circular walk, Rushden, Wymington, Irchester, Rushden.

> SATURDAY 27TH APRIL, 7PM

Puccini Remembered

St Peter's Church, Oundle. Tickets available on the door: Adults £12, Under 19s £5. www.peterboroughopera.co.uk. Peterborough Opera presents an all-Puccini programme to mark the centenary of Giacomo Puccini's death.

> SUNDAY 28TH APRIL, 2.30PM

Puccini Remembered

St Andrew's URC, Peterborough. Tickets available on the door: Adults £12, Under 19s £5. www.peterboroughopera.co.uk. Peterborough Opera presents an all-Puccini programme to mark the centenary of Giacomo Puccini's death.

To submit your event please contact us via our website www.nenevalleynews.co.uk or call 01522 692542. Please supply in the following format: Date, event, place, time, admission fee (if applicable), contact information, 15 word description.

Rushden's Artisan Market

Visit the Rushden Artisan Market, which will be held at Rushden High Street on Saturday 20th April, 10am-3pm, and celebrate St George's Day in style.

Experience the thrill of meeting the fearsome dragon and gallant George astride his trusty steed.

Immerse yourself in a day showcasing an array of artisanal delights, local crafts, and delicious treats.

Indulge your senses as you wander through stalls adorned with handcrafted treasures, from bespoke jewellery to handmade homeware.

Discover unique gifts and souvenirs, crafted by talented artisans from the local community.

Bring the whole family and join in this celebration of English heritage and community spirit at the Rushden Artisan Market.

Don't miss out on this special event – see you there!

RUSHDEN'S
Artisan Market
Celebrate St. George's Day with us!

A variety of local, independent bakers, crafters, artists, food producers and more

Rushden High Street
Saturday 20th April
10am - 3pm

Come and meet our fearsome dragon and George on his trusty steed.

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Return to Treasure Island

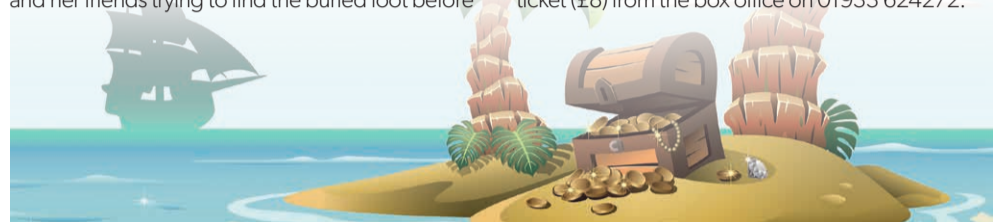
Hidden treasure in Raunds? Unlikely, you'd think, but the cast of this show at Raunds Town Cricket Club will be on the hunt for it from 21st to 23rd March at 7.30pm.

Robert Louis Stevenson will no doubt be spinning in his grave at what Raunds Footlights have done to his classic story but the blame lies squarely on Dinah Stevenson (no relation to RL) who wrote the script. She's also the Musical Director who has planted various nautical numbers into the action which features Polly Silver, daughter of Long John, and her friends trying to find the buried loot before

the dastardly but incompetent Paddy McGlurk gets his mitts on it.

Yes, RLS wrote a cracking tale but maybe it was slightly short on laughs. Fortunately, this is not the case with the Footlights version – and with the show taking place in the bar you'd have to be careful not to spill your drink!

So, who is Mungo St Jerry? How do you get to Bali Heck? Whose head is the wrong way round? And why does the Norwegian Navy paint barcodes on the sides of its warships? Find out by buying a ticket (£8) from the box office on 01933 624272.



MAYOR'S MUSIC NIGHT WITH 'ROCK CHOIR'

Saturday 20th April, 6.45pm for 7pm start. Tickets: £8 each at The Heritage Chapel and Halls, Park Road, Rushden NN10 0RW.

To book your place and request a reply form, please email the Mayor's Secretary: mayor@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk. Tickets will not be issued for this event. Once payment has been received your name/s will be added to the guest list. RSVP by Friday 12th April.



MAYOR'S MUSIC NIGHT WITH 'ROCK CHOIR'

THE UK'S ORIGINAL AWARD WINNING LOCAL CONTEMPORARY CHOIR WITH CHOIR LEADER DAVE EASTER



SATURDAY 20TH APRIL

6.45PM FOR 7.00PM START

THE HERITAGE CHAPEL & HALLS
PARK ROAD, RUSHDEN, NN10 0RW

TICKETS £8.00 EACH

RAFFLE - TEA AND COFFEE

R.S.V.P. by Friday 12th April to;

Mayor's Secretary, Rushden Town Council

Tel. 01933 316216 E-mail: mayor@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk

Tickets will not be issued for this event.

Once payment has been received your name/s will be added to the guest list

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(THE LANE, OUNDLE)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2024
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 The Lane, Oundle as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of The Lane, Oundle for its entire length.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of BT duct box.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 4th March 2024 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 Church Street, High Street and West Street.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 23/24 – N509 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/085

Dated this 2nd day of March 2024

ADELE WYLLIE

Executive Director of Customer & Governance (Monitoring Officer)



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Rushden Mayor's Civic Valentine's Dinner

The Civic Valentine's Dinner, which was hosted on Saturday 17th February, was well attended by guests and dignitaries who enjoyed a three-course dinner with entertainment presented by Big Bopper Entertainment. Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

All monies raised from the evening will be donated to the Mayor's Charities, which are Rushden Town Band and Rushden and Wellingborough Guide Dogs, at the end of Cllr Smith's Mayoral year.



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