YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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A6 ROAD SAFETY WORKS ON THE EXECUTIVE AGENDA

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LIVING HISTORY EVENTS AT LONGTHORPE TOWER

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Family Groups growing at Nene Park next month

Nene Park Trust is delighted to announce that its popular monthly Family Groups are growing in May, and relocating to the dedicated Forest School site at Lynch Farm in Ferry Meadows.

Moving the Family Groups to Lynch Farm will give even more local children the space to learn through exploring, play and hands-on experiences in the great outdoors, whilst most importantly having lots of fun!

Nature Tots

For their youngest adventurers, the fun Nature Tots group for toddlers and their guardians will introduce a new Friday morning session alongside its existing Monday offering. Starting on Friday 3rd May, both groups will meet every second week, with sessions following a variety of exciting themes.

Children will enjoy engaging in hands-on craft activities, plus plenty of time to explore the wonderful wildlife around us. Upcoming themes include Growing, Superworm, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Minibeasts.

Suitable for children aged 2-5, tickets are just £5.50 each with accompanying grown-ups attending for free.

Wild Home Educators

Additionally, their Wild Home Educators group designed for home schooled children and their families, is growing to accommodate older children. Starting in May, Forest School sessions for younger children age 5-11 will continue on a Monday afternoon, while sessions for children aged 11-14 will launch on Friday afternoons.

Both groups will meet biweekly, with inspiring themes
and activities changing
monthly. Sessions cover a
wide range of topics such
as tool use skills, wildlife
identification, outdoor survival
skills and sensory exploration.
Operating a flexible
approach, children are actively
encouraged to take the lead
while also having the option to
take breaks as needed.

Places are £7.50 per child, with free places for accompanying grown-ups.

The Family Groups are led by experienced members of the Nene Park Trust education team, who are passionate about nature-inspired learning experiences.





To book your places at upcoming Family Groups, please visit the website www.nenepark.org.uk/events. Detailed information about the home school offer is also available at www.nenepark.org.uk/home-educators.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New iDiscover service launches

Children and young people can now benefit from a brand new service from Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) to support their learning, growth and wellbeing.

iDiscover is a new community of children, young people and those who support them across Northamptonshire.

It offers a wide range of free and fun activities, resources and information to inspire young people aged under 25 to explore who they are, grow as people and learn new things.

Activities can include workshops, courses, webinars and more, covering a range of themes including managing stress and anxiety, healthy lifestyles and self-care, staying well at school or work, and creative activities to support wellbeing. Some activities will be available online and some in person – but all are completely free to attend.

How to join the iDiscover community

iDiscover is for all children and young people under the age of 25 as well as for family members, carers and friends.

To learn more, visit the iDiscover website: https://www.nhft.nhs.uk/idiscover



North Northamptonshire pools awarded £300K funding

Two swimming pools will soon boost energy efficiency and reduce running costs, thanks to a successful application to Phase II of the Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF).

The £303,482 from SPSF will benefit Corby's East Midlands International Pool and Rushden's Splash Leisure Pool.

Energy saving projects will now be developed to install a pool cover on the 20m pool, as well as LED lighting, at Corby East Midlands International Pool, run by North Northants Leisure.

Splash Leisure Pool, managed on behalf of the council by Freedom Leisure, will be able to replace their gas boilers, as well as scope out the potential installation of photovoltaic (solar) rooftop panels.

Cllr Helen Howell,
Deputy Leader of North
Northamptonshire Council and
Executive Member for Sport,
Leisure, Culture and Tourism
said: "These projects will make
a real difference to the energy
consumption at Corby's East
Midlands International Pool and
Rushden's Splash Leisure Pool.

"Pools consume a lot of energy as machinery must be run 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to keep them operational.

"This funding ensures that these two pools can reduce running costs and continue to be vital community hubs providing our residents with access to water to improve their physical and mental health and have fun together as families.

"We will continue to search out, and bid for, additional funding opportunities, to enable us to make further improvements and cost savings."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council said: "We recognise that we need to implement energy saving opportunities wherever possible in the leisure sector, especially those centres with pools.

"This is key to decreasing our carbon emissions for the future, so I am delighted we have been awarded this funding."

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY JAN PEARSON

It is very easy to fall into the trap that census returns were completed purely for the benefit of the family historian and then get rather put out if the information contained therein does not live up to expectations.

It was developed to analyse population numbers and thus provide a better understanding of socioeconomic changes. The first modern census was carried out in 1801 and then every ten years from then on – with the exception of 1941, when Britain had other things to deal with. Those early censuses were just used for statistical data and were subsequently destroyed – apart from just a few. I have an 1821 census record for East Hoathly in Sussex, where my several times Great Grandfather was living. It does actually provide his name and age, along with other members of his family, but the fact that it has survived is pure luck! Contact the local county Archive for the area that you are researching and they will tell you what exists for that county

Make sure that you have a list of the dates handy on which the censuses were taken. If you have an ancestor who was aged 12 in 1881, the temptation is just to subtract the 12 from 1881 and say that he was born in 1869. However, this was not necessarily the case. The 1881 census was taken on 3rd April Therefore, your ancestor could have been born any time from 4th April 1868 to 3rd April 1869 and still be aged 12. However, sometimes the person completing the return could think, "He will be 12 later this year, so I'll put that." Not helpful, these ancestors! So, when searching for birth records, always check a couple of years either way. Don't forget, though - the enumerator's instruction for the 1841 census was to round the age down to the nearest 5 years for anyone aged 15 and over, so a person aged 24 could appear as 20.

Genealogy Specialists, Tracing Our Past, Discovering Our Genes (TOP DOG) www.genealogy-specialists.com

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Publication date: Saturday 25th May Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 15th May



Uplift in adult social care pay aims to support the sector

North Northamptonshire Council will pay more money to contracted suppliers of social care services for vulnerable adults in the area, following a recent meeting of the Executive.

The increased payments to contracted providers are part of the annual uplift in a bid to bolster support for the sector and address the shortage of care workers, which is part of a national issue.

For 2024/25 the uplift is for across the full range of community-based provision which includes residential and nursing care, home care, day care, Shared Lives and supported living.

By targeting annual uplifts, the Council supports the ability of contracted care providers to develop strategies to tackle workforce challenges, including offering rates of pay that are competitive with other local sectors.

Alongside targeting inflationary uplifts, the Council continues to work in partnership with its contracted providers to make social care an attractive career proposition within North Northamptonshire.

Additionally, the authority has offered fully funded training to care staff working within the independent care sector and continued to develop a social care workforce strategy.

Cllr Gill Mercer, the
Council's Executive Member
for Adults, Health and
Wellbeing, said: "Providing
the best care possible for
adults in North Northants is
a priority for the council but
it's essential that we do what
we can to manage the costs
without compromising the
service.

"The sector has faced a significant challenge in recent months and so it's important that we do what we can to offer our support."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "While the challenges in the sector – largely as a result of the pandemic and competition for staff from other industries – is part of a national picture it's essential that we do what we can to address the issue locally."

Annual fee uplifts take into consideration market pressures and market sustainability. This includes the care market's ability to maintain adequate capacity and supply, whilst adhering to regulatory and quality requirements.

The uplifts also take into consideration central government's annual position on setting the National Living Wage. In 2024/25 the government has confirmed that the Living Wage will rise by 9.8% from £10.42 per hour in 2023/24 to £11.44 in 2024/25 for those aged 23 years and over.



Discover Northamptonshire & Northamptonshire Family History Society team up for Heritage Fair

Discover Northamptonshire are working in partnership with the Northamptonshire Family History Society, with support from Wicksteed Park to hold a Heritage Fair on Sunday 28th April at Wicksteed Park.

History, heritage and visitor attractions will be celebrated as part of the Heritage Fair. The event will be officially opened at 11am by Councillor Barbara lenney, Chairman of North Northamptonshire Council. Mr Oliver Wicksteed and wife will also be in attendance

Cllr Helen Howell, Deputy Leader of North Northamptonshire Council and Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, said: "This is a great opportunity for the public to come and find out more about our amazing heritage in Northamptonshire – from days out in the countryside, to historic homes, local museums and ancient churches. There will be a

wide range of groups and societies who look after and research their own local patch also attending on the day and we are proud to be supporting this event."

Northamptonshire Family History Society said: "We are proud to be involved in this event which will highlight the wide and diverse range of Northamptonshire's history and heritage."

On the day nearly 45 groups, societies and visitor attractions will be showcasing a different aspect of Northamptonshire's history and heritage. From Naseby Battlefield Project to demonstrations by Northants Weavers, Spinners & Dyers, alongside Deene Park, the home of the Brudenell family since 1514, to the 384th Bombardment Group museum there is something for everyone with an interest in the county.

Northamptonshire Archives and Heritage Service staff will be offering advice on how to

do historical research, what documents the archive has and how to look after your own precious heirlooms

Kettering Civic Society promotes cultural community events in the town and has produced a series of fractural magazines on the town's heritage. St Mary's School, Kettering are promoting the 125 year history of the school and want to gather the living history of those who have been part of the school over the years.

Wicksteed Park will be showcasing their year round heritage and community programmes as well as a handling table for children of items from their archives.

The event will also show the richness of the natural heritage of the county with the Wildlife Trust for Beds. Cambs and Northants promoting their great work in caring for nature and offering volunteering opportunities.

To see a full list of exhibitors - visit the Northamptonshire Family History Society website or contact: northantsheritagefair@gmail.com

Places allocated for children starting in primary and infant schools in North Northamptonshire in September 2024

places have been allocated to children across North Northamptonshire.

93.03% of applicants -3,592 children – have been allocated a place at their first preference school -(93.2 % for 2023)

4.51% of applicants have been allocated a place at their second preference school (4.3% in 2023) while 0.57% have been allocated a place at their third preference school (1.1% in 2023).

98.11% of applicants have been allocated a place at one of their preferred schools (98.6% in 2023), while 98.47% of applications were made online (99% in 2023).

Parents/carers who applied online before the closing date for their places in Reception are able to check their offer on the council's website.

Unit 4-6 Eastwood Road Oundle, PE8 4DF

(YEAR 3)

There were 951 applications, with 99.79% of pupils being allocated a place at their first preference (99.9% for 2023), while 99.97% were allocated one of their preferred schools (100% in 2023)

Cllr Scott Edwards, North Northamptonshire Council's executive member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, said: "I would like to pass on my best wishes to every pupil starting a new school in September and hope this is the start of an exciting new journey. Supporting all children in their education is a priority for the council.

"We continue to work hard to create additional school places across North Northamptonshire to meet the demand caused by our growing population, through building new schools and expanding existing sites across Leader of the Council, said: "Starting school is a huge step for all children to take and I wish them all the very best as they embark on their education.

"Over the past three years we've continued to invest in new schools and classrooms to help increase the number of school places and have further earmarked £12million of capital investment over the next four years.

"Investing in our children's futures is a key priority for the Council and we're committed to making continued improvements."

Where children have not been successful in getting a place at a preference school, parents have the right to appeal (through the independent appeals process).

The next round of primary school place allocations (for late applicants) will take place in May.



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A6 ROAD SAFETY WORKS ON THE EXECUTIVE AGENDA

£2.2m of funding from central government for safety improvements along a stretch of the A6 between Burton Latimer and the Chowns Mill roundabout were discussed at the recent meeting of North Northamptonshire Council's Executive.

In 2023, selected councils were invited to submit bids for road safety improvements along known high level road safety routes.

The Department for Transport announced in March 2024 that NNC was one of 15 authorities to receive funding under the programme. Executive noted and accepted receipt of the £2.2m of funding so that work can start on the next steps and improving the safety levels along this particular section of the A6.

Proposed interventions include:

• Signalisation of the junction of the A6 at Higham Road, Burton Latimer,

including the upgrade of pedestrian facilities.

- Reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph between Finedon and Burton Latimer.
- Measures along the length of the A6 to reduce speeds including central hatching
- Measures along the A6 between A14 and A510 to improve land adherence including edge lines, clearing roadside hazard. guard railing.
- Signalisation of the northern junction of the A6/Station Road near Irthlingborough. Cllr Matt Binley, the council's

Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "To reach this point, Officers worked with

the Road Safety Foundation to develop a recommended pack of interventions which it is hoped will reduce the number of incidents along this stretch of road.

"In the meantime, as ever I would like to take this opportunity to remind all motorists to drive safely and in accordance with the weather conditions.

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "Road safety is of the utmost importance and something residents are also always raising with us. The funding we have been allocated from central government will make a significant difference to this particular section of the A6."

A timeline will be set out



for delivering the scheme to complete the work within the 2024 - 2025 financial vear. Local members will also be kept up to date as the

project progresses This latest round of funding will go alongside the

previously announced funding for the highways network

across North Northants. The Executive met on Thursday 18th April at the Corby Cube and the papers are now available online.

Northants YFC County Rally Saturday 25th May 2024

Oundle YFC hosts this year's rally, 10am, £5 entry at Park Farm, Dusthill Road, Brigstock NN14 3NG With kind permission of the Millbank family

Come along for a great day out, with competitions, food stands, trade stalls and much more!

Plus the rally after party to celebrate the day's successes!









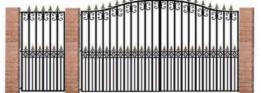


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BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS DISCUSSED BY NNC'S EXECUTIVE

Funding from the Department for Transport was discussed at the meeting of North Northamptonshire Council's (NNC) Executive on 18th April.

Members met to consider the funding for a host of improvements to facilities and services to buses across North Northants.

NNC has been allocated £2.045m of funding for bus service improvements in 2024/25 (in addition to previous allocations of £569,412 for both 2023/24 and 2024/25).

The money, from central government, is part of a national initiative called the Bus Service Improvement Plan which aims to improve local bus services. This money will be targeted towards actions which will deliver the best overall outcomes for bus services across North Northamptonshire

The Executive noted and accepted the allocation of Bus Service Improvement Plan Phase 3 funding and agreed to spend the grant in accordance with the grant conditions. This will allow for a significant programme of bus service improvements across North Northamptonshire including:

- To continue to fund existing bus services where they represent value for money or maintain essential connectivity for local communities;
- To increase service frequency or restore services withdrawn since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic where there is a reasonable prospect of the service becoming

the time for the service to achieve commercial viability. Cllr Matt Binley, the

council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "We know that buses are a lifeline for many communities and with this in mind, this money is

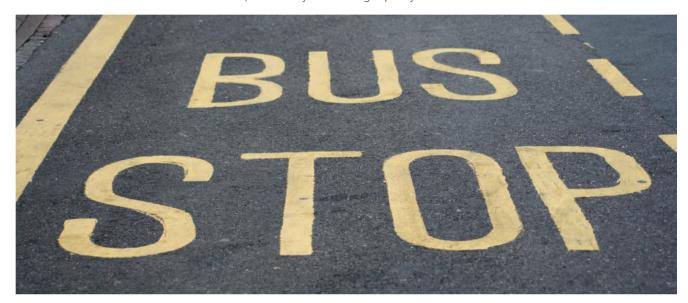
funding period to increase

extremely welcome. We are delighted that central government have recognised the need in North Northants and I look forward to discussing the report in more detail with fellow Executive members.'

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "Retaining high quality bus services

is a priority for us and this funding stream will have such a positive impact on local communities. From speaking to residents, we know that high quality bus services are vital to help reduce isolation and support local economies."

The papers are now available online.







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18th and 19th May 2024 10am to 5pm Entrance fee £5 for Over 16's (children free }

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Woodford Community and Sports Complex, Highfield, Woodford, NN14 4HD

Facebook @TheWoodfordVintageFestival



RB Travel

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Southwold Oxford OR Oxford Castle

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Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre
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APRIL - MAY

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (STANTON ROAD, BRIGSTOCK)

(STANTON ROAD, BRIGSTOCK)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2024

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 Stanton oad, Brigstock as set out below

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Stanton Road, Brigstock from outside no. 40 to 100 metres from the junction that joins

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during excavation of road crossings for LV connection.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 13th May 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 twelve days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use A6116, Sudborough Road, Lyveden Road and

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N588 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/208

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14

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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (BRICK KILN ROAD & NORTH STREET, RAUNDS) (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 those lengths of Brick Kiln Road and North Street, Raunds as set out below.

LENGTHS OF ROADS TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: Those lengths of Brick Kiln Road and North Street, Raunds from the junction of Elizabeth Close and Brick Kiln Road to the junction of Rotton Row and North Street.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during full ridth resurfacing works and pedestrian crossing (Section 278).

width resurfacing works and pedestrian crossing (Section 278).

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 6th May 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 roads will be restricted for up to its days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use London Road, Wellington Street, Grove Street, Brook

Street, High Street and North Street.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:-23/24 – N491 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/084

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (BRIDGE STREET, KINGS CLIFFE)

(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 Bridge Street, Oundle as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Bridge

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during new

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 29th April 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 ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Blathewycke Road, A43 Bulwick Bypass, Benefield

Road, Glapthorn Road, Cotterstock Road, Woodnewton Road, Oundle Road and Apethorne Road. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler

ref:- 23/24 – N563 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk

Dated this 27th day of April 2024

Executive Director of Customer & Governance (Monitoring Officer)



LIVING HISTORY EVENTS AT LONGTHORPE TOWER

Step back in time to medieval Peterborough at the fascinating Longthorpe Tower Living History events scheduled for this season, presented by the Medieval Sokemen re-enactment enthusiasts.

The events weave together as a journey through the 14th and 15th centuries, giving you the opportunity to explore the Tower's rich history and experience life as it was lived many years ago. Skilled costumed interpreters will regale you with tales of the Tower's families and households during notable times, offering a vivid glimpse

into daily life during this fascinating era.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to step back in time and experience the magic of Longthorpe Tower as never before! Visitors can book events individually, or book ahead and secure a spot at each event and save 10%. Keep reading to learn more about the exciting events planned for the months ahead.



The Whittlebury family reside at Longthorpe Tower in 1471 during a time of turmoil - the Wars of the Roses is underway and the Yorkist King Edward IV is launching a bid to get his throne back from the Lancastrians. Which side will Robert Whittlebury choose?

Join costumed interpreters to explore life in the 15th century, and watch as the family's soldiers perform a medieval Bill Drill.

Tickets are £10 each, with timed entry every 30 minutes from 10am until 3.30pm. Living History demonstrations will run throughout the day, with Bill Drills at 11am, 1pm and 3.30pm each day.



Experience Longthorpe Tower lit by the soft glow of candlelight and uncover the fascinating tales of this remarkable building through a guided tour led by costumed characters representing different eras in the Tower's rich history.

Meet characters from the illustrious Thorpe family who built the Tower and commissioned the remarkable wall paintings, and the Whittlebury family amidst the turbulence of the 15th century. Encounter figures from the Tudor period when the wall paintings were covered over, the Civil War when nearby Thorpe Hall was constructed, and from World War II when the paintings were rediscovered.

Tickets are £15 each, with timed entry every 30 minutes from 7pm until 9.15pm. This event is suitable for adults and children aged 10 and over.

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd November: A 15th Century Christmas

Delve into the past with costumed history enthusiasts as they bring to life the



traditions from a medieval Christmas. Discover how the festive season was celebrated 600 years ago, with yuletide feasts, medieval games and an opportunity to take part in a traditional Mummers' play!

Tickets are £10 each, with timed entry every 30 minutes from 10am until 3.30pm. Living history

demonstrations will run throughout the day, with Mummers' Plays at 11am, 1pm and 3.30pm each day.

Longthorpe Tower Living History events also include detailed interpretation of the famous painted chamber of Longthorpe Tower and there will be ample time for discussion and questions with expert guides.

To find out more and book your tickets please visit www.nenepark.org.uk/news/longthorpe-tower-living-history-events



