

# 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](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New Cornerstone website launches

A new website has been launched showcasing the current offering at Cornerstone, whilst providing updates for residents on a project to replace the Grade 2 listed library roof.

Also launched alongside the website is a new video which provides detail on the roof replacement project, providing residents with information on the complex project as well as a behind the scenes look at the process for mining the slates required for the roof and interviews with the team working on the project.

The new website currently covers:

- The history of all aspects of Cornerstone and background to the site
- Learning opportunities and outreach events
- Information on the roof replacement project, including FAQs and updates

• Kettering Library's temporary arrangements and services on offer

The planning application for the replacement roof and listed building consent is expected to be heard in the Autumn.

The Cornerstone team can also be found on Facebook, X and Instagram.

# Discover the magic of winter at the Nene Park Winter Festival

Open on 16 selected dates from Saturday 30th November through to Christmas Eve, Ferry Meadows will transform into an enchanted forest filled with magical surprises.



Hosted by Nene Park Trust, this year's festival promises an unforgettable evening for visitors of all ages. Follow the willow sculpture trail, enjoy captivating performances, experience an outdoor cinema screening under the stars and explore magical activities. Indulge in a delicious menu of festive food and drink, and then visit the Christmas Shop for seasonal treats and gifts.

This year, as part of a collaboration with the National Literacy Trust in Peterborough, Nene Park are delighted to introduce a brand-new addition. Local author and illustrator Ellie Sandall has created an



exclusive storybook, inspired by the enchanted forest, as a gift for you to enjoy at home.

Gather your family and friends and make lasting memories at the Nene Park Winter Festival. Tickets are just £10.50 per person, with

free admission for children under 3. Your ticket also includes parking, with entry sessions available at 4pm, 5:30pm, and 7pm. Best of all, every ticket purchased helps support the ongoing care and upkeep of Nene Park.

Find out more and book your tickets now at [www.nenepark.org.uk/winter-festival](http://www.nenepark.org.uk/winter-festival)

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# IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Parents and carers are now able to apply for a Reception place in a primary or infant school, a Year 3 place in a junior school, or a Year 7 place in a secondary school for the September 2025 intake.

Parents and carers can apply for a place in Reception if their child will be four years of age on or before 31st August 2025. The closing date for applications for places in Reception and Year 3 (junior school) is 15th January 2025.

The closing date for applications for Year 7 places is 31st October 2024. Parents must apply before the closing dates for their applications to be considered as on time.

All on-time applicants will receive an offer of a school place on the National Offer Days – 3rd

March 2025 for secondary places and 16th April 2025 for Reception places. Applicants will then be provided with information on the next stage of the process.

All applications, whether postal or online, must be received by the closing

date to be considered as on time. Late applications will not be processed until after the National Offer Day – they will be processed in rounds after National Offer Days.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan do not apply for a school place through Admissions, there is a separate process. For details on this, you should contact the allocated case worker or generic information can be found on the Local Offer.

Cllr Scott Edwards, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, said: "I would encourage all parents who are applying for a school place for September 2025 to make sure they submit their applications as soon as possible and before the deadlines given.

"The process in place allows families to tell us which schools they would prefer to send their children to. Whilst most people

are successful at securing a place at their preferred school, there are steps that parents can take to maximise their chances. Submitting an application form on time is the most crucial step, followed by nominating a second and third preference school and including your closest school as one of your preferences."

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "Starting or changing school is a big step for everyone and we hope that the process in place makes the application process as smooth as possible."

An independent school admission appeals process is

available for families who wish to appeal against refusal of a place at any school for which they have applied.

You can find out more about applying for a school place in North Northamptonshire and how to submit an application online.

Being offered a place by particular school does not mean that a child will automatically be entitled to travel assistance to that school. Parents and carers should read the Home to School Transport policy carefully to understand the eligibility criteria before applying for a school place.

## GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY  
JAN PEARSON

Start your family history journey before it's too late! Having been responsible for sorting out the effects for a few friends and relatives over the years after they had died, there is nothing worse for a family historian than to find nothing.

Sometimes, when people move house, they have a massive clear-out – I know that I did! But what I didn't do was get rid of family documents, photographs and other related paraphernalia. They came with me and are now in their own allotted space. However, it is not unknown for such things to be thrown away.

If you have relatives – older or even contemporary – ask them if they have such things hidden away and if you can see them. Some folk might want to hang on to them but others might say, "Well I have and they are in the loft somewhere." Be prepared to rummage!

If you find photographs, look at them together. Whilst many people are happy to reminisce and chat to you about family history, you may find that some people are a bit more reluctant. Older relatives might not initially want to talk about things such as a child being born before the marriage of their parents. If you can, try to patiently explain why you want to talk about the family and

how the information could really help. You could promise to share your findings with them, which may make them curious to find out about the rest of the family.

Direct questions are useful for establishing facts such as "What was your Grandmother's name?" but also use plenty of open questions such as "What do you remember about...?" for most of the time, as that way you can unearth a wealth of memories. If you have an unobtrusive recorder, with the relative's permission, it would be an ideal way of making sure that you do not miss anything and make the time spent seem more like a chat than an interview.



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# South Midlands devolution bid on the cards

*North and West Northamptonshire Councils have partnered with four other authorities in the South Midlands on an expression of interest to Government toward devolution.*

Government announced in July that devolution would be a central strand for boosting economic growth, inviting local leaders to identify regional partnerships which could benefit from enhanced powers in areas such as transport, housing, skills and employment.

Councils in Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and North and West Northamptonshire have successfully worked together for many years as part of the Central Area Growth Board, more recently becoming the South Midlands Authorities (SMA). They have worked jointly on a submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

As well as enhanced powers, a devolution deal

could also leverage in millions of pounds of future investment into the area.

Following on from the expression of interest, government will produce a framework which will provide more detail on how and when devolution could become a reality and what the specific benefits could be for the SMA.

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "This is an exciting step forward on working collaboratively with neighbouring unitary councils on how we can create the conditions to bring increased prosperity to our region."

"This is a very exciting time and the move towards devolution fits perfectly with our Big 50 aspirations to create a proactive, proud and prosperous area for all of our residents."

Cllr Adam Brown, Leader of West Northamptonshire Council, said: "Working with our neighbours demonstrates

to Government that we have the will and the means to manage greater resources more locally.

"During the first three years of our two new councils, we have demonstrated time and again that we can work together for the benefit of our residents."

"This latest step offers us the opportunity to extend that direct partnership link with our neighbours to the south."

Both North and West Northamptonshire Councils, along with the other four SMA authorities, have already approved the establishment of a joint Committee governance

model for the area as part of their South Midlands Authorities management of the former Local Enterprise Partnership functions.

The new governance model replaces the current Central Area Growth Board and in particular its decision-making powers.



## JOIN US IN HONOURING OUR HEROES: KNIT OR CROCHET A POPPY FLOWER TO ADORN RUSHDEN!

As Remembrance Day approaches, you are invited to be part of a special community project in Rushden that pays tribute to those who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

Whether you're a knitting expert, a crochet enthusiast, or just looking to learn something new, everyone is welcome to craft a beautiful poppy flower to help decorate the town as a heartfelt symbol of remembrance.

- How to get involved:
- Grab Your Supplies: All you need is red and black wool, knitting needles or crochet hooks, and a little creativity!

- Follow a Pattern: Use your favourite pattern or get in touch for pattern ideas.
- Submit Your Poppies: Drop off your creations at Rushden Town Hall, Hall Park, Rushden NN10 9NG by Wednesday 30th October and they will then be displayed for all to see!  
Help create a sea of poppies across the town to honour the brave men and women who gave so much.
- Share Your Progress: Snap a photo of your poppies and tag Rushden Town Council. Thank you for helping us remember and honour our heroes this Remembrance Day!

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OCTOBER	
Sat 19	Bridgnorth & SVRW
Sat 19	Westonbirt National Arboretum
Fri 25	Watercress Line & Winchester
Sat 26	Blackpool Illuminations
Mon 28	Blists Hill Museum
Tue 29	West Midlands Safari Park
Thu 31	Black Country Museum OR Dudley Zoo
NOVEMBER	
Fri 1	London Museums OR Free Time
Fri 1	Shard & Free Time
Sat 9	Birmingham Christmas Market
Fri 15	Chatsworth at Christmas
Sat 16	Nottingham Christmas Market
Sat 16	Chocolate Festival Melton Mowbray
Sun 17	Blenheim Palace Christmas Market
Wed 20	Kew Gardens at Christmas
Sat 23	Banbury Christmas Market
Sun 24	Skegness, Christmas by the Sea
Sun 24	Thursford Christmas Spectacular
Thu 28	Bury St Edmunds
Fri 29	Worcester Christmas Market
Fri 29	Thursford Christmas Spectacular
Sat 30	Bath Christmas Market
Sat 30	Melton Mowbray Christmas Market
Sat 30	Cadbury World at Christmas
DECEMBER	
Sun 1	Rochester Christmas Market
Sun 1	Thursford Christmas Spectacular
Tue 3	Bluewater Shopping Complex
Tue 3	Lakeside Shopping Complex
Thu 5	Christmas Lunch River Cruise
Thu 5	Thursford Christmas Spectacular
Sat 7	Nottingham Christmas Market
Sat 7	Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Sun 8	Oxford
Sun 8	Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Mon 9	Thursford Christmas Spectacular
Thu 12	Windsor OR Windsor Castle
Fri 13	Ambassador Cruise Liner, Lunch
Sat 14	Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
Sat 14	Manchester Christmas Market
Sun 15	Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Sun 15	Thursford Christmas Spectacular
Mon 23	Abba Voyage
Sat 25	Skegness
JANUARY	
Fri 3	London's Christmas Lights & Fish n Chips
Sat 4	Boundary Mills, Grantham
Sun 5	Birmingham January Sales & Primark
Wed 15	Seasonal Surprise
Sat 18	Strictly Come Dancing
FEBRUARY	
Sat 1	York's Ice Trail - free event in the town
Wed 5	St Albans Market Day
Sat 8	Warwick & Leamington Spa
Sun 9	Birmingham International Tattoo
Wed 12	Boston Market & Baytree Garden Centre
Sat 15	Houses of Parliament
Sat 15	London Museums OR Free Time

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24-27 NOVEMBER	<b>A DISNEYLAND ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS - FROM £975.00 per room (based on 2 people sharing)</b>
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29 NOVEMBER-2 DECEMBER	<b>BELGIUM CHRISTMAS MARKETS - £519.00pp</b>
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DECEMBER	
2-6 DECEMBER	<b>A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS - £519.00pp</b>
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JANUARY	
27-31 JANUARY	<b>YORKSHIRE DELIGHTS - £379.00pp</b>
Burn Hall Hotel Huby, York. Half Board including excursions. Yorkshire is known for its Roman and Viking heritage, as well as its Norman castles, medieval abbeys, and 2 national parks. The largest area is North Yorkshire which covers nearly 3500 square miles and is known by the locals as 'God's own county', it is celebrated for its varied landscape. York, founded by the Romans, is home to the 13th-century cathedral York Minster, Tudor houses and medieval walls. The interactive Jorvik Viking Centre recalls the area's 9th-century Norse occupation.	

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# Spotlight on > Homes & Gardens

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# Back-to-School Month at Hermitage House Care Home in Thrapston

Residents and Staff at Hermitage House Care Home in Thrapston recently celebrated back-to-school with a themed month filled with school-themed activities, including a school disco, educational trips, themed lessons and even role-playing as Head Teacher, Prefect, and other school figures.

Wellbeing Coordinator Jessica Bennett shared: "Our residents and staff have thoroughly enjoyed Back-to-School Month. We carefully designed activities to support residents to reminisce about their school days and past careers. For example, Maureen, one of our residents with a lifelong passion for French, was thrilled to teach

her fellow residents French phrases, words, and songs." One resident commented on the French lessons saying: "We've loved challenging ourselves and being part of a French class again."

Customer Relations Manager Jessica Grayson also commented on the Back-To-School activities: "We recently collaborated with Kids Planet Nursery for a special 'learn about an author' day, focusing on the works of Julia Donaldson. Additionally, our residents went on a school-style trip to Sywell Aviation Museum, where they explored Northamptonshire's local history with an emphasis on the Second World War. Both of these events were designed to spark memories

of History and English lessons from our residents' school days."

Home Manager Jolene Anderson highlighted how much the residents have enjoyed the activities, especially Pauline, a former music teacher. "Back-to-School Month has been a huge success. Pauline loved stepping back into her teacher role and eagerly participated in the lessons and activities.

"One of the standout moments of the month was the school disco. Our residents danced and sang along to timeless classics from their younger years, including 'Suspicious Minds,' 'Sweet Caroline,' and wartime favourites like 'Oh My Darling Clementine.'"

**For more information about life at Hermitage House Care Home, please get in touch with our Customer Relations Manager Jessica Grayson at [jessica.grayson@countrycourtcare.com](mailto:jessica.grayson@countrycourtcare.com) or call 01832 430 084.**

# PHYSIOTHERAPY IN HIGHAM FERRERS

Physiotherapy is making a welcome return to Higham Ferrers this month as well-known chartered physiotherapist, Pierre Bonnaud is back.

Pierre treats all the usual physical injuries and specialises in the treatment of neuro-musculoskeletal injuries and chronic pains. He also has a particular interest in Parkinson's disease. His experience means he can mix manual therapy, individualised exercises and education to help you recover from injury and manage chronic pains.

For the past few years Pierre has been lecturing on the Physiotherapy degree course at the University of Northampton where he supports, teaches and runs the neuro-musculoskeletal module.

Knowing how early intervention can speed up recovery, he has re-opened his Saturday clinic in Higham.

Whether you're dealing with back pain, recovering from surgery or managing arthritis, chartered physiotherapists can play a crucial role in reducing your pain, improving your mobility and improving the overall quality of your life.

### Not just a page of exercises

Pierre's treatment plan for you will not just be a page of exercises! It may include hands-on techniques like massage and joint mobilisation, stretches and postural advice. It will also include



strengthening exercises and advice on what you can do to stop the pain coming back.

### Top Tips

One of Pierre's top tips is to pace yourself – if you do too much too soon it can slow the healing process, which means you lose confidence.

He also says to make sure your rehab programme isn't hard. Incorporate exercise into your normal activities, like when you're brushing your teeth or putting the dishes away!

He always aims to give you a routine to make you laugh – just to help motivate you to feel great again!

**For a free 20 minute consultation with Pierre call The Ashgrove Clinic on 01933 469043.**

# Your Health - Lymphoedema

### WORDS BY CLAIRE SHORT

Lymphoedema can be a horrible condition to manage. Physically it can lead to uncomfortable swelling, often in the arms or legs, making everyday tasks feel hard. Emotionally it can make you feel down because of the unsightly swelling.

The lymphatic system helps remove some waste products from the body. Lymphoedema happens when the system becomes blocked or damaged. It's often the result of surgery, radiation treatment, or other health conditions.

I spoke to reflexologist Kim Whittet, who uses Reflexology Lymphatic Drainage to treat lymphoedema, about simple things you can do at home to help manage lymphoedema and support your lymphatic health:

1. Keep moving! Gentle exercise, like walking or yoga, encourages lymph flow. It doesn't have to be intense – just a little movement to get things circulating.
2. Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Drinking plenty of water helps flush your system and keeps your lymphatic fluid moving smoothly.
3. Dry brushing. Before your shower, try gently



brushing your skin in the direction of your heart. It's a relaxing and effective way to stimulate lymph flow.

4. Elevate. If you have swelling in your arms or legs, take time to elevate them whenever you can. Gravity will give your lymphatic system a hand!
5. Wear compression garments. If prescribed, these can help prevent fluid buildup and keep swelling at bay.
6. Reflexology Lymphatic Drainage (RLD) – a researched technique that uses specific reflex points on the feet to stimulate the body's lymphatic system, encouraging the drainage of excess fluid. It's a relaxing treatment that can make a big difference when you're living with lymphoedema, helping reduce swelling and improve overall well-being. Have a well-drained week!

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

## LOW BACK PAIN? NECK PAIN? CURRENT TREATMENTS NOT WORKING?

### Do you suffer from...?

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- Spinal Stenosis
- Degenerative Disc Disease
- Spinal Arthritis
- Posterior Facet Syndrome
- Acute or chronic back pain
- Sciatica



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[reception@ashgrovehealth.co.uk](mailto:reception@ashgrovehealth.co.uk)

The Ashgrove Clinic, 11 Market Square, Higham Ferrers, NN10 8BT



## Nene Valley News - Events

### > SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER, 11.15-12.30PM

#### Cowper & Newton Museum Guided Tour

Learn about William Cowper, John Newton, Amazing Grace and 18th century life in Olney, through our fascinating artefacts. Usual admission applies - Limited to 10 places. Book via [info@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk), or pop into the shop to see if places are still available.

### > MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 8PM

#### Nene Valley Astronomical Society, A presentation by Dr Neil Phillipson

Mankind's Next Giant Leap. Chelveston Village Hall, Caldecott Road, Chelveston, NN9 6AT. Admission £5, including tea/coffee. For further details see [www.neneastro.org.uk](http://www.neneastro.org.uk), or call Kevin on 07731890594. Solar System exploration could bring vast benefits to Earth, and transform society for the better?

### > SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER

#### Flame & Thunder

Stunts & Drag Racing Family Firework Spectacular. Flame & Thunder is an action packed day for all the family featuring Drag Racing and Stunts galore. Witness a huge gathering of Jet Vehicles along with cars and bikes from various classes of Drag Racing on track. There is plenty more action off track including, Monster Trucks, Live Stage, Fun Fair and much more. The climax of the day will be a spectacular Firework Display.

Flame & Thunder is an amazing family day

out this October, on the Northamptonshire & Bedfordshire border.

### > MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 10.30-11.45 AM

#### Steve Dimmer Halloween Magic Show

Raunds library High Street NN9 6HT. Contact Ann Rooney 07561 073898. Free event but entrance ticket needed-available from Raunds library and post office.

### > THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER, 5-6PM

#### Cowper & Newton Museum - Hallowe'en

Children's Event: Have fun this Hallowe'en in the Summer House Garden. 'Trick or Treating' with a difference as you follow the trail of fairy doors for clues...more information to follow - keep an eye on our website events page as details unfold! Suitable for children under 10 years old. Usual admission applies.

### > FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

#### Fireworks Frenzy

Santa Pod Raceway presents Fireworks Frenzy - a fireworks display designed to blow the whole family away!

The display will be computer fired and fully choreographed to a bespoke soundtrack designed especially for us.

Inflatables, Go Karts, Fun Fair plus Mini Monster Truck Mania for the little ones! With caterers, traders and bar!

Fireworks Frenzy is an amazing family event this November to celebrate Bonfire Night, on the Northamptonshire & Bedfordshire border.

## Keir Giles: Who Will Defend Europe? An Awakened Russia and a Sleeping Continent

For almost three years Ukraine has been the front line of Europe, protecting us all by holding back Russia's plans for conquest and expansion. But now, the war could come much closer to home. The outcome of the US presidential election will decide Ukraine's future - but Vladimir Putin has made it plain his ambition doesn't stop there. And the Kremlin's campaigns of murder and sabotage across the continent and in the UK have already resumed, while Russia has been rebuilding its army faster than Ukraine has been able to destroy it. If the US steps away from the defence of Europe, and the British Armed Forces are hollowed out and still shrinking, who is left to protect us?

Local author Keir Giles's new book "Who Will Defend Europe?"

looks for the answers. In his talk for "Authors in Oundle" Keir will explain what Putin's plans for Europe mean for us - and how

the front-line states have been preparing to be the next line of our defence. He will discuss what the US election results means for the UK, and what must be done to safeguard our future against an aggressive Russia bent on attacking us.

KEIR GILES has spent his career watching, studying and explaining Russia.

Keir's work has appeared in a wide range of academic and military publications across Europe and in North America, and he is a regular contributor and commentator on Russian



affairs for international print and broadcast media. He is a Senior Consulting Fellow at the UK's Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), and also works with the Conflict Studies Research Centre (CSRC), a group of deep subject matter experts on Eurasian security formerly attached to the British Ministry of Defence. He is a regular contributor to research projects on Russian security issues in the U.S., UK and Europe.

**Thursday 7th November at 7.45pm - 8.45pm. The Whitwell Room, The Talbot Hotel, New St, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4EA. Tickets £8 (£7), £1 off early bird tickets bought before 24th October, available from Oundle Bookshop, (cash only) or online [www.authorsinoundle.co.uk](http://www.authorsinoundle.co.uk), Enquiries contact [info@authorsinoundle.co.uk](mailto:info@authorsinoundle.co.uk)**

## NEW LOOK CHOIR CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS IN STYLE

A massively rejuvenated, Northampton Male Voice Choir (NMVC) is busy gearing up for yet another sparkling choral event to herald in the Christmas season.

Now an annual event in the choir's very busy calendar, NMVC's "Christmas Celebration" concert will be held on Saturday 7th December 2024 in St Giles Church, Northampton, NN1 2BN, starting at 7.00pm.

NMVC Chairman, Mark York said "Boosted this year by an intake of 28 splendid new choristers, we promise to get you well and truly in the Christmas mood in your build-up to "The Big Day". There'll be a rousing audience sing-a-long to a selection of everyone's favourite Christmas carols and other seasonal songs, both old and new, all led by the choir and conducted by our charismatic

Musical Director, Stephen Bell, who will also comper the evening."

MD, Stephen, added "Both NMVC and NMVC Lite are sounding brilliant at the moment, so the Christmas concert will be such a thrill to hear. Singing at its very best!"

Now numbering nearly 80 choristers, NMVC will also be showcasing some exciting new additions to its Christmas repertoire and, as usual, there'll be some extra-special surprises pulled from the NMVC Christmas stocking during the evening!

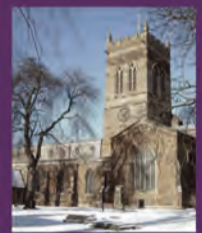


**Tickets: Adults - £12, Concessions and U16s - £10; U11s - Free. Ticket price includes refreshments. Buy tickets online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/nmvc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nmvc) For ticket enquiries, contact Phil Temple on 07806 846282 NMVC website: [www.nmvc.co.uk](http://www.nmvc.co.uk) NMVC YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCWCKnjss8p1LrOT1NonSf0KQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWCKnjss8p1LrOT1NonSf0KQ) Follow NMVC on FaceBook**

Northampton Male Voice Choir Presents

# A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Directed by Stephen Bell



7pm Saturday 7 December 2024  
St Giles Church Northampton NN1 2BN

Adults - £12 Concession and U16s - £10 Under 11s - Free

Ticket price includes refreshment

Purchase tickets online via the QR code below or visit [ticketsource.co.uk/nmvc](http://ticketsource.co.uk/nmvc)



Contact Phil Temple for ticket enquiries on 07806 846282





# SPOOK-TACULAR HALLOWEEN WORKSHOP AT RUSHDEN HALL!

Are your little witches and wizards ready for a workshop full of scary surprises!

This Halloween, Rushden Hall will be hosting a series of Halloween workshops and are inviting all brave souls to join them for an unforgettable experience!

Prepare for a frightfully fun time at one of the spooky Halloween Workshops for Children!

### What's in Store?

Animal Handling – If You Dare! Get up close and personal with a fascinating selection of creatures! From slithering snakes to creepy crawlies, our animal friends are here to give you a thrill.

But be warned – some might be a little bit spooky! Do you have what it takes to handle them?

### Halloween Costume

Make sure to come dressed in your spookiest Halloween attire!

### Why You Shouldn't Miss Out!

This is not just a workshop – it's a full-on Halloween adventure for children who love the thrill of spooky fun! Perfect for young ones looking to experience Halloween in a safe, magical, and exciting environment.

Whether you're bravely holding an animal, creating spooky crafts, or hunting for treasure, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Spaces are limited! Due to high demand and limited spots, we encourage you to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Secure your place for a fang-tastic day of Halloween fun! RSVP today to guarantee your space.

**FREE! SPOOKY HALLOWEEN WORKSHOP**

FOR AGES 4 & ABOVE

THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER, 2024  
AT RUSHDEN HALL, HALL PARK, NN10 9ES  
45 MIN SESSIONS  
9:30AM - 3:45PM

COME AND MEET A RANGE OF MINI-BEASTS, REPTILES, MAMMALS AND BIRDS. DIRECT HANDLING IS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED - IF YOU DARE...!

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01933 316216 | [info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk) @ f X @rushdencouncil

Thursday, 31st October, Rushden Hall, Hall Park, Rushden.  
Visit <https://bit.ly/4ghYO6v> to book your space.

## WORLD CONKER CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Organisers were hoping for the sport to be included in the 2024 Paralympics, especially as it is an ideal sport for any disability, especially the T32-34 wheelchair users and the visually impaired T11-13 classifications. Unfortunately, this didn't prove possible for this year. They do encourage any disability and age to enter the World Conker Championships, the children's competition being free.

The horse chestnut trees look healthy this year with an abundance of 'conker weapons' ready for this year's Championships. This is despite the leaf miner moth attacks which are still affecting them and leaving them with brown leaves. Around 4,000 prime conkers are needed from which they are graded to be the same shape, size and consistency. They are then

precision drilled, ready to be laced (on leather boot laces) for the several hundred players on Championship Day.

The World Conker Championships takes place within the picturesque village of Southwick, where the event is hosted in the grounds of the village pub and supported by the locals.

Last year's Ladies Champion was Jasmin Tetley and the Men's Champion was Marc Hunter. As ever this is a great opportunity to become a world champion and it is hoped to have a good number of overseas competitors again. It is such an honour to be crowned a World Champion, as seen in the Olympics. So, whatever your age, come and show your conkering skills. And remember, the children's competitions are FREE for those budding Junior World Conker Champions.

**World Conker Championships, Sunday October 13th 2024**  
[www.worldconkerchampionships.com](http://www.worldconkerchampionships.com)

**Richard Howard, President, Ring Master & Chief Steward (Adult ring), M: 07958 798388, E: [td060242@gmail.com](mailto:td060242@gmail.com)**



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- the Hawthorns resident

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# £927 RAISED FOR DIABETES UK

People were so determined to see Tim Stubbs present 'Reflections of Life, Part 2' on 27th September that they battled through floods, road closures and inclement weather to attend, making it a full house.



Tim is such an accomplished storyteller and it was an evening of nostalgia, fun and laughter. Local businesses had kindly donated raffle prizes and at the end of the night the excellent total of £927 had been raised for Diabetes UK.

The organisers are very grateful to Tim Stubbs, Stuart of Stu-Pots shop in Oundle for selling the tickets, local businesses for donating the raffle prizes and all who helped in any way to make this event such a resounding success.

Photos from the night can be found on the Cotterstock Village Facebook

## Remembrance Day 2024

### Attention all knitters and crocheters!

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# Executive set to discuss air quality planning document

Following the approval of North Northamptonshire Council's Local Air Quality Strategy in July, the council's Executive discussed a new area wide document which has been produced to help reduce the impact of new development on air quality in North Northants.

The Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was consulted on earlier in 2024 and has been designed to assist developers and their air quality consultants to submit planning applications which mitigate and, if possible, improve the impact of air quality via their proposals.

If approved by Executive, the document will be published and available to all developers who will be advised to read the document prior to submitting a planning application.

If the SPD is adopted, NNC's Environmental Protection team will assess dust mitigation submissions and air quality assessment submitted via the Planning process.

Measures in the SPD include advice on:

- When air quality modelling is required
- Installation of low oxides of nitrogen gas boilers
- Need for construction management plans for all construction activities that create dust
- Locating outdoor green spaces away from busy roads
- Green infrastructure and planting

Clr David Brackenbury, the council's Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, said: "The draft SPD was subject to public consultation and the final document will now be reviewed by the Executive.

"If approved, officers will be able to assess relevant planning applications for compliance with the mitigation measures set out, including when air quality modelling is needed, green infrastructure and planting, plus the locations of outdoor spaces.

"We are continuously monitoring the impact developments might have on the surrounding area and this document will further help with this work."

**North Northamptonshire Council's Executive will meet on Thursday 10th October at 10am at the Corby Cube and the papers are now available online.**

# OCTOBER HALF TERM ADVENTURES AT NENE PARK

Find out what's happening and when, with our guide to October half term adventures in the Park:

## > WEEK-LONG ACTIVITIES

### 50% off Watersports at Nene Outdoors:

Open daily between 11am and 5pm, choose from dragon and swan pedalos, row boats, stand up paddle boards, kayaks and canoes. With 50% off you can try them all! Book your activities online to avoid the queues and use code OCT50NO to claim your discount.

**Complete the Holiday Trail:** Learn all about the fascinating world of fungi in our latest holiday trail!

**Head over to our pop-up Fun Park:** Join in the excitement at our pop-up Fun Park this October half term!

**Young Heritage Rangers Week:** This FREE week-long experience from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November is for young people aged 14 to 17 years old, interested in history, art, nature and the great outdoors.

**Daily Boat Trips:** Enjoy a tranquil trip around Overton Lake and onto the River Nene on our electrically-powered passenger boat.

**Ride the Ferry Meadows Railway:** Sit back and enjoy the ride! Trains will operate daily, weather permitting.

## > WILDLIFE WORKSHOPS & FAMILY EVENTS

### Animal Tracks and Signs - Monday 28th

**October:** Discover the creatures that live in Ferry Meadows using the signs they leave behind, and create your own plaster track to take home.

### Autumn Crafts - Tuesday 29th October:

Forage for natural flora, beautiful colours and interesting shapes around Ferry Meadows, then get creative turning natural materials into autumnal masterpieces to enjoy at home!

### Archery Taster Sessions - Tuesday 29th

**October:** Unleash your inner Robin Hood or Maid Marian! Our archery sessions are 45 minutes long and take place at Nene Outdoors.

### Meeting Magical Mammals - Wednesday

**30th October:** Join a ranger for a walk around Ferry Meadows to discover all about the small mammals that live here!

### Family Gardening at Nene Nursery -

**Wednesday 30th October:** Come along and join us between 10.30am and 12pm to take part in a variety of seasonal gardening activities, suitable for all ages and abilities.

### Sensory Crafts at Nene Nursery -

**Wednesday 30th October:** Join us at 1pm and enjoy spending an hour at our plant nursery in its autumnal glow and try out a craft or two. Free to attend!

### Wildlife Boat Trip - Thursday 31st October:

Join our expert ranger on our electric passenger boat for a guided trip of Overton Lake and the River Nene, learning all about the wonderful wildlife we spot along the way.

### Climbing Wall - Thursday 31st October:

The climbing wall will be back at Nene Outdoors, with sessions running throughout the day.

### Nature Tots & Wild Home Ed Groups -

**Friday 1st November:** Join our Friday Nature Tots or Wild Home Educator groups for nature-themed fun at Lynch Farm. Book your first session for free by emailing [education@neneparktrust.org.uk](mailto:education@neneparktrust.org.uk).

**To find out more about our half term events and activities, and to book your tickets, please visit [www.nenepark.org.uk/october-half-term](http://www.nenepark.org.uk/october-half-term). Contact 01733 234193 or email [services@neneparktrust.org.uk](mailto:services@neneparktrust.org.uk) for more information, accessibility advice or directions.**

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (RICHARDSONS LANE, LODDINGTON) (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 Richardsons Lane, Loddington as set out below.  
**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Richardsons Lane, Loddington from the junction with Orton Road.  
**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during fire hydrant repairs.  
**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 28th October 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 3 days.  
**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use Main Street and Harrington Road.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N344 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/573

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (CHURCH STREET, HARGRAVE) (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 Church Street, Hargrave as set out below.  
**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Church Street, Hargrave from the junction with Brook Street to outside Pinewood.  
**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during replacement of sluice valve and chamber.  
**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 30th October 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 3 days.  
**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use B645, Shelton Road and road to Mere Farm.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N349 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/577

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (KINGS MEADOW LANE, HIGHAM FERRERS) (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 Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers as set out below.  
**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers from the junction with North End to The Walnut Tree.  
**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during new gas connection works.  
**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 4th November 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 19 days.  
**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** n/a cul-de-sac location.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N444 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/652

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (CHURCH STREET, OUNDLE) (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 Church Street, Oundle as set out below.  
**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Church Street, Oundle from outside The Cripps Library.  
**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during stop tap replacement.  
**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 6th November 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 3 days.  
**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** n/a cul-de-sac location.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N446 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/654

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (UPPER GEORGE STREET, HIGHAM FERRERS) (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 Upper George Street, Higham Ferrers as set out below.  
**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Upper George Street, Higham Ferrers from outside no.42.  
**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety for up 3 days.  
**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 5th November 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 3 days.  
**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use George Street, Simpson Avenue and Newman Lane.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N453 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/658

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (STAMFORD ROAD, DUDDINGTON) (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 Stamford Road, Duddington as set out below.  
**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Stamford Road, Duddington from the junction with A43 to High Street.  
**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during mains works.  
**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 14th October 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 5 days.  
**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use High Street.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N336 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/568

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (ELTON ROAD, FOTHERINGHAY) (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 Elton Road, Fotheringhay as set out below.  
**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Elton Road, Fotheringhay from Elton Bridge to Ranger Pigs (Pig Farm).  
**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during parapet repairs.  
**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 14th October 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 2 days.  
**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** follow diversion.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N347 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/575

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (WINDMILL BANKS, HIGHAM FERRERS) (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 Windmill Bank, Higham Ferrers as set out below.  
**LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES:** That length of Windmill Banks, Higham Ferrers from Simpson Avenue to Stanwick Road.  
**REASON FOR RESTRICTION:** The restriction is required for safety during installation of new crossing point.  
**PERIOD OF CLOSURE:** The proposed Order will come into effect on 24th October 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 16 days.  
**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:** use A6, John Clark Way and Higham Road.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N368 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/591

Dated this 12th day of October 2024

SANJIT SULL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) (Interim)

# Award for **Diamond Runners**

*Diamond Runners is a running club based in Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Raunds and was recently nominated in the Club of the Year category (East Midlands) of England Athletics' Regional Volunteer Awards 2024.*

The club made it to the final three after a panel had reviewed all the nominations. The top clubs were then put to a public vote with Diamond Runners coming 2nd in the East Midlands.

This is a real achievement for the club, which was started up less than five years ago, and very soon had to come to terms with how to continue a running club under the restrictions imposed by

COVID-19 and lockdowns.

The club is also keen to help the local community and recently supported Titan Fitness, who held a charity fundraising day for the fight against knife crime.

Diamond Runners also go out 'plogging' (a term that combines jogging and litter-picking) in the local area and recently joined up with the Wellie Wombles litter-picking group.



If you are interested in joining Diamond Runners for a run or just to find out more about litter-picking (no running required), you can contact them by email: [diamonddrunners@outlook.com](mailto:diamonddrunners@outlook.com) or via Facebook

## Street naming and numbering policy in North Northamptonshire to be discussed

**Creating a consistent approach to naming and numbering streets across the North Northamptonshire Council area was discussed at a meeting of the authority's Executive.**

The policy provides guidance for developers and residents and covers new developments, both residential and commercial, numbering of properties on existing named streets and renaming and numbering of existing streets. There are currently a few slightly different policies in operation.

Clr David Brackenbury, the council's Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, said: "This new Street Naming and Numbering policy amalgamates previous approaches and updates the policy in accordance with changes in law.

"It's important that consistency is maintained in a clear and accessible policy, so that residents and developers are familiar with the rules of street names and property numbers and that these rules are clearly applied for the benefit of all parties."

The Council has the legal responsibility to ensure that streets are named and properties numbered. It can approve or reject property addresses submitted by developers or the general public and prescribe its own addressing schemes.

The prime objective in naming streets is to facilitate easy identification of premises by, amongst others, the emergency services, the postal services and the public.

The Council has powers to charge for the provision of its discretionary services, with the expectation that any charges should not exceed the actual cost of the service.

The charges will be published on the Council's website and will be reviewed annually to ensure costs are covered.

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