

Nene Valley NEWS

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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SPOTLIGHT ON CHRISTMAS

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NENE PARK TRUST AND GRASMERE FARM JOIN FORCES FOR SECOND SEASON

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NEWS IN BRIEF

£5,000 grants now available
North Northamptonshire Council has opened the latest round of community funding grants for 2024/25 – with grants of up to £5,000 available.

In total £120,000 of grant funding is available for voluntary and community groups to apply for, to help improve the quality of life for local residents and increase community involvement.

The scheme is open to community and voluntary sector organisations, registered charities, town and parish councils and not for profit organisations including clubs, School PTAs and 'Friends of' groups.

To be considered for a grant of up to £5,000, projects need to demonstrate how they support one or more six key commitments outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan. These include helping people live healthier, more active, independent and fulfilled lives, ensuring communities are connected to one another and providing sustainable, modern public services.

The application form along with full details of the criteria and guidelines is available on the Council's website. The closing date for applications is 2nd December 2024.

High Sheriff raises more than £4,000 to support local community foundation

Since May 2024 Amy Crawford JP, High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, has raised £4,151.70 to support local grant making charity Northamptonshire Community Foundation in its work to improve the lives of the county's most vulnerable residents.

In May, Amy undertook five 10km treks across Northamptonshire alongside Northamptonshire Community Foundation Chief Executive Rachel McGrath

and raised £2,750 for the High Sheriff's Initiative Fund. The fund is managed by the foundation and awards grants to local charities and community organisations

working to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour across the county.

In October, the High Sheriff hosted the Northamptonshire Courts Service at All Saints Church, Northampton, at which donations made by attendees raised £1,401.70 for the same fund, bringing the total raised this year to £4,151.70.

Rachel McGrath, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire Community Foundation, said: "We are incredibly thankful to the High Sheriff. The funds that Amy has raised will make a huge impact. Every penny will be distributed through the Northamptonshire High



Sheriff's Initiative Fund, as grant awards to local groups carrying out vital work to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in our community.

"Generous fundraisers and supporters like our High Sheriff enable us to continue our charitable work and target our county's most urgent needs. We're very grateful."

In previous years, grants awarded from the Northamptonshire High

Sheriff's Initiative Fund have funded projects including training volunteers to offer practical and emotional support to vulnerable families in their own homes; wellbeing courses aimed at diverting young people away from crime, and supporting those already in the criminal justice system, and music workshops and training for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

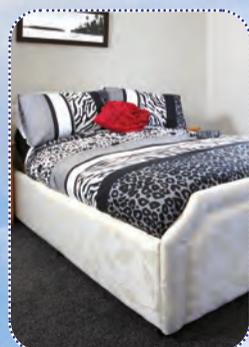


To find out more about the High Sheriff's Initiative Fund, or about fundraising for Northamptonshire Community Foundation, visit www.ncf.uk.com

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North Northamptonshire Council awarded £210,000 grant to help identify future of the Chester House Estate

North Northamptonshire Council has been awarded a grant of over £200,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to commission a piece of work which will help shape the future governance and long-term options for the Chester House Estate.

The grant, which was made possible thanks to National Lottery players, follows on from internal scoping work completed in 2023 which looked at how best to run the council's cultural, tourism and heritage assets.

The work identified that the Chester House Estate is now in a financial position to move forwards into a new governance model, and all options will be explored. Other cultural,

tourism and heritage assets under North Northamptonshire Council's control are not currently in a place to be considered.

The council owns several other excellent assets, such as Stanwick Lakes, which are leased to charitable trusts to operate, with the council providing funding and officer support as appropriate under relevant contractual or legal agreements.

The grant received will cover two parts:

- Trust scoping – the council needs to explore how a trust would work including finances, ownership of asset, future council liabilities, what the trust model would look like and how to make the next steps a reality. Once this phase has been completed, a full proposal with options will be taken to North Northamptonshire Council's Executive and Full Council for consideration.
- If the proposals are approved and a decision is taken to proceed with moving the Chester House Estate into new governance, funds will be used to implement the charitable trust and new governance.

At present, no decision has been made on how the Chester House Estate should operate in the longer term. But council officers will start work on scoping out options in the coming weeks.

Cllr Helen Howell, North Northamptonshire Council's Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, said: "Since opening three years ago, the Chester House Estate has gone from strength to strength, developing the offering on site and growing the number of events throughout the year, whilst providing a home for small, growing businesses, opportunities for students and visitors along with access

to acres of parkland to enjoy and a beautiful farmhouse cafe. The Estate is designated as an ancient scheduled monument with Grade II* protected buildings, and 10,000 years of history for visitors to access.

"We are very grateful to National Lottery players and The National Lottery Heritage Fund for supporting this piece of work. This work is about securing, protecting and future-proofing such an excellent asset for the whole of North Northamptonshire. The site attracts visitors from across North Northamptonshire and further afield – the Chester House Estate has become the area's go-to destination for family-friendly events and we hope this continues to be the case as the site moves forward."

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "We are now in a position where we should look to the future of the Chester House Estate and the governance options for the site to ensure it continues to thrive for many years to come. The grant we have received from National Lottery Heritage Fund will help us look at the options, scope out the site's future and make a measured decision."

More details on the progress and next steps will be published through the council's channels.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS WORDS BY JAN PEARSON

Tread carefully. There might be family secrets that have remained hidden for more years than you can imagine.

When researching my tree, I discovered that one set of my great great grandparents on my Dad's side married 6 months after my great grandmother was born. Her daughter (my Dad's mother) was always a bit of a snob – everything had to be "just so" and she looked down her nose at anyone who might not be "upright and honest". When I told Dad what I had found, he roared with laughter and said, "I bet your Grandma is spinning in her grave that you have discovered that!" Oh yes, her father (my great grandfather) also spent 2 weeks in Saffron Walden gaol for "threatening Farmer Hagger with a hayfork." Not such a squeaky clean background after all!

But don't be at all surprised if you do uncover secrets. My Gran (Mum's Mum) never celebrated her wedding anniversaries. She never even mentioned that "today would have been my nth anniversary if Jim was still alive." After Gran died, I discovered why. She was 7 months pregnant with my uncle when she married her first husband and 3 months with my Mum when she wed my Grandad. Today, such happenings are almost

part of daily life but back then...

Treat family information about birth and marriage dates with caution unless you have concrete evidence such as certificates.

Grandma always said that she was the youngest of eight children. The 1911 census shows how many children the woman had in that marriage and, when that census was released, I then discovered that there were three other children! More to research! However, Grandma could be forgiven for getting the numbers wrong as two had died before she was born and the other died when Grandma was under two years old. She had obviously never been told – and she was not the youngest after all!



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NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ESTATE SHORTLISTED FOR MULTIPLE AWARDS

The Chester House Estate – a heritage site based in Irchester – has been shortlisted for three awards, celebrating their unique heritage programmes and progress since their opening in 2021.

The Estate has been shortlisted for a national Archaeological Achievement Award by the Council for British Archaeology for the Irchester Field School, a collaborative community research and learning project in partnership with the University of Leicester.

The Irchester Field School is core to a wide-ranging partnership between the University of Leicester (UoL) and North Northamptonshire Council. In summer 2024, more than 10,000 people attended collaborative programmes and events focused on the archaeology of the small Roman town of Irchester and the Nene Valley. The Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre, which houses more than 20,000 boxes of archaeological finds from Northamptonshire, is located at the Chester House Estate. This combination of a nationally significant heritage site, an incredible blend of knowledge and expertise, and hands-on research and learning

opportunities for all ages, make this collaboration unique.

The Estate have also been shortlisted for two awards at the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, 'Small Business of the Year' and 'Business Person of the Year' for Head of Culture, Tourism and Heritage at North Northamptonshire Council, Jack Pishhorn.

Cllr Helen Howell, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism said: "As the site celebrates its 3rd birthday, this award nomination really is the icing on the cake and is testament to the dedicated staff and volunteers who work daily to ensure the Estate's success.

"The programme has seen 10,000 people engaging with the Estate's unique history since 2021, through research alongside professional archaeologists, volunteering with conservation and finds washing, school trip visits and international students engaging in studies."

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "The Chester House Estate has always been about locality - local visitors, history and businesses and now a finalist for local awards to recognise the success of the Estate, alongside national recognition for the Irchester Field School.

"We are extremely proud of the Estate and all that it has achieved over the past three years, I have my fingers crossed and hope that the team come away with the top prize – it really would be testament to the staff, volunteers and partners."

Sarah Scott, Professor of Archaeology, University of Leicester, said: "The Chester House Estate has become a very special place for our students and staff.

"It is fantastic to investigate and celebrate everyday life in Roman Irchester with colleagues from the Estate and the Archaeological Resource Centre, including volunteers with amazing local knowledge, expertise and a passion for making archaeology accessible to all."

Early enquiries to get involved with the Irchester Field School programme 2025 are now open on The Chester House Estate website. Find out more about The Chester House Estate Find out more about the Irchester Field School programme

Your Voice Matters... consultation launched on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a review into a Hackney Carriage and Private Licensing Policy to ensure it reflects the transition to an area wide hackney carriage zone from 1st April 2025.

The revised policy, currently out for consultation, also takes into consideration updates to Department for Transport guidance, impacting legislation and operational learning including feedback from the Trade.

From 1st April 2025, the current four hackney carriage zones will be replaced by a single North Northants' wide zone and this consultation is one part of the process, alongside a separate review of the current geographical knowledge test for hackney carriage drivers and joint hackney carriage and private hire drivers and the adoption of new Hackney Carriage Byelaws which will also take place before the new zone is introduced.

Cllr David Brackenbury, the council's Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration (which covers taxi licensing), said: "Now we have agreed that there will be one taxi zone for the

whole of North Northants from 1st April 2025, it is important that we look at the related policy and how it should be updated to reflect the changes made, both at a local and national level.

"We want the updated policy to enable the best service and we welcome comments from the Trade and all stakeholders and residents, so please do get involved."

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "Since the decision was taken to move to one zone, officers have been looking at all impacted areas to ensure everything is ready for April 2025 and this consultation will be supported by a wider piece of consultation work about the knowledge test that many drivers undertake."

Your Voice Matters...

Consultation and engagement activities can be completed online via North Northamptonshire Council's Consultation and Engagement Hub and the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy review will be open until 9th December 2024.

Alternatively, you can email taxilicensing.kbc@northnorthants.gov.uk



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NOVEMBER

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
Thu 28 Bury St Edmunds
Fri 29 Worcester Christmas Market
Sat 30 Bath Christmas Market
Sat 30 Cadbury World at Christmas

DECEMBER

Sun 1 Rochester Christmas Market
Tue 3 Bluewater Shopping Complex
Tue 3 Lakeside Shopping Complex
Thu 5 Christmas Lunch River Cruise
Sat 7 Melton Mowbray Christmas Market
Sat 7 Nottingham Christmas Market
Sat 7 Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Sun 8 Oxford
Sun 8 Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Thu 12 Windsor OR Windsor Castle
Fri 13 Ambassador Cruise Liner, Lunch & Show
Sat 14 Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
Sat 14 Manchester Christmas Market
Sun 15 Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Sat 28 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
Tue 18 Melton Mowbray
Wed 19 Seasonal Mystery Tour
Thu 20 Ely
Fri 21 Cotswold Farm Park - Adam Henson
Sun 23 Orchids at Kew Gardens
Tue 25 Barnsdale Gardens Snow Drops

MARCH

Tue 4 Springfields
Tue 4 Spalding
Thu 6 Cotswold Tour
Sat 8 York OR Jorvik Viking Centre
Sat 8 National Railway Museum

Check out our website for further days out

www.rbtravel.co.uk



NOVEMBER

29 NOVEMBER-2 DECEMBER BELGIUM CHRISTMAS MARKETS - £519.00pp

Hotel Alize, Half Board. Mouscron is a Walloon city and municipality located in the western part of Belgium, near the border with France. Some of the tourist attractions you can find in Mouscron are Eglise Saint-Barthelemy, the largest church built in the 19th century in the neo-Gothic style; Parc du Chateau, a large park that surrounds a beautiful castle and Les Moulins de la Marliere, a group of windmills built in the 18th and 19th centuries to name just a few.

JANUARY

27-31 JANUARY YORKSHIRE DELIGHTS - £379.00pp

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.

FEBRUARY

10-14 FEBRUARY 2025 SEASIDE MYSTERY - £359.00pp

Half Board including Excursions, £359pp. On the way to our chosen hotel we stop usually for morning refreshments and somewhere for lunch and arrive at our 'mystery' hotel in plenty of time before dinner. On the 2 - 4 day, after a leisurely breakfast and usually much discussion about what the day might have in store, we depart for a full day excursion. On the final day, we make our way home via another place of interest. A different experience every time.

MARCH

9-12 MARCH 2025 FLOATING ON THE RIVER SEINE IN PARIS - UPPER DECK £609PP/MAIN DECK £599.00pp

Full Board including Excursions. The MS Renoir floating hotel is a premier ship that sails on the Seine, a historic and authentic river with breathtaking views. On the deck there are comfortable sun lounges and a large shaded area. Paris is one of the world's great cities with attractions such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Louvre to name just a few. Paris is also famous for its rich history, beautiful architecture and cultural diversity. Entertainment includes a Cabaret Show on one night and dancing on another.

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Spotlight on > CHRISTMAS



> OSBORNE'S SPORTS & TOYS
This December marks Osborne's Sports and Toys' 70th Christmas. Ever since their first Christmas in 1955, the Osborne family have been helping Santa to bring toys to children at this special time of year.

The shop is currently run by Will Osborne, the late Mr Jim Osborne's and Mrs Pam Osborne's son, his wife Libby, her daughter Anna and granddaughters Kasey and Esme (all pictured).

The shop is still run in the traditional way as started by Mr Osborne and sells traditional toys as well as the latest offerings. Next April marks their 70th year of trading,

so look out for some retro window displays of old toys sold over the last 70 years and a 70th anniversary celebration weekend!

> OUNDLE CHRISTMAS MARKET
Oundle Town Council will hold its annual traditional Christmas Market on Saturday 7th December from 10am to 5pm.

With over 100 stalls filling the Market Place, Queen Victoria Hall, and West Street with a fabulous array of food, gifts, and goodies – you're sure to find that perfect gift or something extra special just for you.

Santa will be in his Grotto outside The Talbot Hotel surrounded by

his reindeer, sleigh and elves, with the Fun Fair close by to entertain the kids. There will be lots of festive cheer to enjoy with a Brass Band and carol singing by the Christmas Tree on Market Place and the wonderful Herbie Lamb Quartet will return for a live performance in Queen Victoria Hall.

Get ready for some Christmas magic! Gather by the Christmas tree at 3.30pm for the switch-on and see the dazzling Christmas light display. You won't want to miss this festive moment!

There will be lots of FREE parking with disabled parking areas close to the town.

A map of the stalls and details about the free parking will be posted on Oundle Town Council's website Oundle.gov.uk and Facebook @ [www.oundle.gov.uk](https://www.facebook.com/oundle.gov.uk)

> SANTA PAWS IS BACK IN HIGHAM FERRERS!

Santa Paws will be at The Ashgrove Clinic during Higham's Christmas Sparkle on Saturday 23rd November. Dogs of all shapes and sizes will be welcomed by a team of Santa's helpers, who will show you to Santa's grotto for some stunning photographs.

Last year huge numbers of our four-legged friends enjoyed this very

special opportunity to meet "Santa Paws" and to have their photo taken with him by a local professional photographer. The beautiful photos make lovely presents or Christmas cards.

The event was fully booked and raised over £600 for the charity Medical Detection Dogs, who will be there on the day, maybe with a Medical Detection puppy!

The Ashgrove Clinic, well known for aesthetics, pain treatments, women's health and laser treatments, will reinvent itself as Santa's Grotto for the day and there will be bags of delicious treats provided by the event's sponsor, Bertie's Pet Shop



Osborne's Sports & Toys



Oundle Christmas Market



Oundle Christmas Market

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Oundle Christmas MARKET

FREE PARKING	Saturday 7 December 2024 10.00am - 5.00pm	3.30PM CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON
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100+ Stalls - Santa's Grotto - Reindeers - Hot & Cold Food
Gifts - Goodies - Brass Band - Fun Fair - Carols

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Santa Paws

in Higham. There will also be practitioners in the building, so you can ask them questions about wrinkle treatments, sports injuries, back pain and arthritis while your dog has the photoshoot!

Women's health specialist, Brooke Robinson, told us that dogs need to book in advance, so if you want to get that lovely Christmas photo, give the clinic a call on 01933 469043.

> CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON AT BOSWORTH'S GARDEN CENTRE



Bosworth's Garden Centre

Starting late November, Bosworth's is your go-to destination for Christmas trees, with local delivery available or to take away.

"Throughout December we have a festive menu available in Aspen Cafe. Save the date for 16th December when we have our launch day, where Santa will be making a spectacular entrance with his elves from 9am with festive entertainment.

"Our singing reindeer will be raising funds for Cransley Hospice again this year and of course our magical Christmas displays are open throughout with the latest trends and decorations. We hope to see you soon."

> HELP BUY A PRESENT FOR SOMEONE IN HOSPITAL THIS CHRISTMAS

It might only be November, but the festive season is fast approaching and the Northamptonshire Elf Service has started working to make sure every inpatient across Northamptonshire receives a gift this Christmas.

"To help make this a reality, our Christmas Raffle of Joy is here and ready to sleigh your way! We have some holly jolly prizes that will make your festive holidays even brighter including a top cash prize of £2,000 (kindly provided by Barratt Homes). To buy your raffle tickets visit our website at NHCharity.co.uk

"If you think you could be one of our super selling Elves and help sell tickets to friends

and family, please get in touch at greenheart@nhcf.co.uk"

Want to make a difference right now?

"If you'd like to start spreading the festive cheer early, you can make a Christmas donation today. Your generous support will help bring smiles to patients' faces, delivering Christmas gifts and ensuring that no one is left out this Christmas. Every little bit helps to light up someone's Christmas."

Donate today at NHCharity.co.uk

"And the festive cheer doesn't stop there! Elf Service Week begins on the 9th December, and we'll be decking the halls and spreading joy to those who need it most. Whether you're keen to fundraise, get involved or simply help share the magic, we'll be counting on our elves (that's you!) to help us make it a Christmas to remember. Visit our website to find out what you can do to help at NHCharity.co.uk.

"Let's make this season truly elf-tastic!"

> SING FOR SERVE

It's nearly that time of the year again – time for the annual Sing For Serve carol concert in Rushden and you are invited.

Sing For Serve is an annual event organised by the charity Serve to provide an afternoon of festive fun.

Serve is a charity which helps the elderly and those with disabilities live independent lives, and organises community events throughout the year, including the annual carol concert.

It brings together a '60s band, school choirs and festive entertainment at Park Road Baptist Church in Rushden.

This year it takes place on Wednesday 11th December, from 2pm to 4pm and tickets are free.

Fundraising Manager, Nick Tite said: "The event is always well attended and extremely popular for both younger and older people – a good sing-song, yuletide tunes and festive fun. What better way to get set for the Christmas break?"

"We would encourage you to get in touch early and order your ticket."

The event also hosts the annual Susan Hollowell Award – a ceremony to honour those in the East Northamptonshire area who give up their free time to volunteer to help others,

You can order your ticket from Nick by contacting the Serve offices on 01933 315555 or on 07738 190756, or by emailing him at nicholas.tite@serve.org.uk

You are also welcome to pop into the offices in West Street, Rushden NN10 0RT.

You can also contact Nick or call into Serve's offices if you would like to nominate someone for the Susan Hollowell Award.



Sing for Serve

Bringing Joy To Our Hospitals



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A £10 donation could buy a gift for a patient in hospital this Christmas.

CELEBRATING ELF SERVICE WEEK

Get together for a week of festive fundraising from 9th December.



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Santa's Grotto

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Real Christmas Trees in stock from the end of November. (Delivery available)



Rushden Academy Social Action Squad makes a difference

From 30th September to 4th October, students from Rushden Academy were busy in the community doing as much as they could to make a difference in local people's lives. Their SAS week included planned activities like a Coffee Morning with the elderly people, Reading Activities with Year 3 and 4 students, litter-picking, gardening to make a Wellbeing Garden, and painting an SAS mural in the school.



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Nene Valley News - Events

> SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 10.30AM

Countryside Walk

'Walking Wildly West of Welly' – a three-mile walk on footpaths in wooded and parkland areas on the edge of Wellingborough, near the Park Farm Industrial Estate. Meet at 10.30am in Medway Drive, just off Sywell Road, Wellingborough NN8 5WW. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden – all welcome. Details from Andrew Presland, 01933 316927.

> SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 9.25AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Marion on 07754 810902. 7-mile walk in the Lowick area taking in Sudborough, Slipton and Twywell.

> SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 10.15AM

Morning Worship (Mission Sunday)

Whitefriars Church, Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

Rutland Sinfonia Concert

St Peter's Church, Oundle. Tickets £5-£15. www.rutlandsinfonia.org.uk. Mozart Piano Concerto No. 24, Bruckner Symphony No. 4 ('Romantic').

> SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 10.15AM

Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Whitefriars Church, Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 10AM TILL 4PM

Art & Craft Fayre

Masonic Hall, Wellingborough Road, Rushden NN10 9YJ. Free Entry, car parking available. "There will be a variety of stalls from Waxology, jewellery, pottery, crafts and beautiful art from local artists to homemade cakes and goodies, tombola and a children's colouring competition. Plus this year we are providing refreshments."

> WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 5PM

St Rumbald's Church, Stoke Doyle, invites you to enjoy a performance of 'The Snow Queen'

Tickets £15 from liz.sdoyle@hotmail.com or Mob 07713396130. Mulled wine and festive fare served after the performance.

> SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 9.20AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Place: Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Mark on 07462 422097. 6.5 miles circular walk from Warmington, walking past Fotheringhay and Elton.

> SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 7.30PM

Christmas Concert

Oundle and District Choral Society will perform their Christmas concert in St Peter's Church, Oundle, singing Handel's Messiah, Part 1; Vivaldi's Gloria, and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols. Tickets are £12, available from members or on the door. A glass of wine and festive mince pie are included in the ticket price. Do join us!

> SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER, 9.40AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact: Daphne on 07709 569415. Christmas Hat 3-mile walk from Seasons Garden Centre Burton Latimer.

> SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER, 10AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park. Contact Daphne on 07709 569415. Last walk of 2024, a 5.5-mile walk in the Higham Ferrers area.



Rushden to observe Remembrance Day with a series of events and annual parade

Rushden Town Council, in partnership with the Royal British Legion Rushden Branch, invites the community to join in a series of events to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Event Schedule:

> WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 10.45AM

Garden of Remembrance Service for Schools

The Royal British Legion (Rushden) Branch will host a Dedication Ceremony at 10.45am at the Rushden War Memorial and Garden of Remembrance. This event provides an opportunity for local schools to participate in paying tribute to those who have served.

> SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day Parade & Service

The parade will assemble at 10.15am outside Rushden Hall, Hall Park, and proceed to the War Memorial. A commemorative service will follow, including the laying of wreaths and a two-minute silence at 11am. The ceremony will then continue at St Mary's Church at 11.15am.

All members of the public are invited to join in this traditional event, which unites the community in honouring the sacrifices of the Armed Forces.

- **Parade Assembly:** 10.15am, outside Rushden Hall, Hall Park
- **Service & Wreath Laying:** 11am, Rushden War Memorial

- **Continued Service:** 11.15am, St Mary's Church
- **Details:** The parade will march from Rushden Hall to the War Memorial, where a service will be held, including the laying of wreaths and a two-minute silence. The service will then continue at St Mary's Church.

> MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER, 11AM

Armistice Day Silence

Rushden will join the nation in observing a two-minute silence at 11am to remember and honour our Armed Forces community, past and present. This act of remembrance will be held at the Rushden War Memorial.

- **Location:** Rushden War Memorial
- **Details:** Rushden will join the nation in a two-minute silence to honour the Armed Forces community, both past and present. Residents are encouraged to attend and pay their respects.

Lest We Forget

Rushden Town Council and the Royal British Legion Rushden Branch encourage all residents to participate in these commemorative events, as we come together to reflect and pay our respects.

**For further details, please contact:
Rushden Town Council, Tel:
01933 316216. Email: tracey@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk**

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.

RAUNDS FILM AFTERNOON



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Showing at Saxon Hall, Raunds on Wednesday 20th November 2024

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Film starts at 1:30pm

No under 18's permitted without an adult

£2 entry (includes tea/coffee & cake)

Email info@raunds-tc.gov.uk or Ring 01933 622087 between

9:00 am – 2.30pm to reserve your seat.



During World War 1, a group of British miners are recruited to tunnel underneath no man's land and set bombs from below the German front in hopes of breaking the deadly stalemate of the Battle of Messines.
Running Time: 97 minutes

An event provided by Raunds Town Council

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Rushden REMEMBRANCE 2024

WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

Garden of Remembrance Service for Schools

The Royal British Legion (Rushden) Branch will be holding a Dedication at 10.45am, Rushden War Memorial and Garden of Remembrance.

SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day Parade & Service

The parade will assemble at 10.15am outside Rushden Hall, Hall Park and will march to the War Memorial where a service will be held, together with the laying of wreaths and a two-minute silence at 11.00am. This service will continue in St Mary's Church at 11:15am.

MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

Armistice Day

Rushden will join the nation for a two-minute silence at 11am, to pay respects to our Armed Forces community, past and present. The War Memorial, Rushden.



Lest we forget



www.rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk

01933 316216 | info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk

[@rushdencouncil](https://www.facebook.com/rushdencouncil)

Have your say on blueprint for protecting biodiversity in North Northamptonshire

People are being asked to have their say on a blueprint for how biodiversity can be restored and enhanced across the local area.



The draft North Northamptonshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has a focus on protecting and restoring key habitats and priority native species.

The draft strategy links green spaces to improve wildlife movement and strengthen the area's resilience to climate change.

The delivery of the LNRS will rely on collaboration between local authorities, environmental organisations, landowners and the community. The draft strategy provides a framework for guiding conservation efforts to create a thriving, sustainable landscape which would benefit everyone.

Cllr Harriet Pentland, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Climate and the Green Environment, said: "The Council has long recognised that the success of our natural environment is intrinsically linked to the wellbeing of our communities.

"Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is not just an environmental imperative but a social and economic one as well. In alignment with this vision, we have committed significant resources and

effort to ensuring that our Local Nature Recovery Strategy is robust, evidence-based, and responds to local needs."

This strategy is part of a broader national effort driven by the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the Environment Act 2021, which mandates the creation of LNRSs across the country.

Under the local LNRS, North Northamptonshire is divided into three landscape areas, which are based on Natural England's defined 'National Character Areas' but have then been informed by local understanding and geography.

Rockingham Forest – A historic area of ancient woodland, rolling farmland, and villages. Once a royal hunting ground, it is rich in wildlife and biodiversity. Here the focus is on restoring ancient woodlands and supporting species like the Red-shanked carder bee and hazel dormouse.

Nene Valley – Following the River Nene, this area has wide floodplains, wetlands, and historic towns. It is known for its scenic views and diverse birdlife. Here the strategy prioritises protecting

internationally important wetlands and managing recreational pressures on bird populations.

Ise Valley – A rural valley shaped by the River Ise, with gentle hills, farmland, and a network of settlements. It is a key wildlife corridor with scenic walking routes. Here, efforts are to conserve wetlands and implement species-specific practical actions for water vole and birds such as the curlew.

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "The goal of this strategy is to create a thriving, sustainable landscape where nature flourishes, ecosystems are resilient and local communities benefit from a healthier environment.

"We have some wonderful natural areas here in North Northamptonshire each with their distinct character and it's essential that every effort is made to conserve and enhance them.

"I would encourage as many people as possible to have their say on the strategy to make sure that we've got everything right and we have stable foundations to move forward on a very important piece of work."

People can have their say via the online survey:
<https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/place-and-economy/lhrs>

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Nene Park Trust lamb collaboration with Grasmere Farm launches for a second season

It's time to dig out your autumnal recipes and winter warmers – Nene Park lamb is back!

For a second year, Nene Park Trust is joining forces with the award-winning Grasmere Farm to produce a retail range of locally sourced lamb, reared on the Trust's Rural Estate in Castor and Ailsworth.

Nene Park lamb is available for customers to buy directly from the Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre and Grasmere's retail outlets in Stamford, Bourne, Market Deeping and at Vine House Farm.

Nene Park lamb is produced through the share farming partnership between Nene Park Trust and first generation farmers, brothers Craig and Ryan Baxter. The partnership places the utmost importance on the welfare of its animals, ensuring they live happy, healthy lives, grazing outside all year round through a farming system that is entirely forage-based. The result is 100% grass-fed lamb with delicious flavour and tender, succulent cuts, which consistently receive five-star feedback from customers!

Working with Grasmere Farm guarantees the continuation of the local journey, with produce expertly prepared by their team of experienced butchers, and ensures complete traceability as the product makes its way from park to plate.

Will Bowell, Retail Manager at Grasmere Farm said: "We are proud to partner with Nene Park Trust, whose commitment to sustainable farming aligns perfectly with our values. Their lambs, raised on wildflower-rich fields, offer unparalleled quality and flavour, ensuring our customers receive the

finest, locally sourced produce. This year, we are also pleased to stock mutton, a product not readily available in butchers' shops these days, but one that is already proving very popular both in our stores and online."

Nene Park's share farming partner Ryan Baxter said: "It is a real privilege to continue our partnership with Grasmere Farm – a local, family run butchers with a reputation for quality, to process and retail lamb from Nene Park. From the very beginning of our farming journey at Nene Park, the vision was to farm sustainably and

supply pasture-fed, slow-grown lamb products to a local audience. This partnership is key to the success of our journey, with Nene Park lamb readily available to a wider customer base."

Carefully selected by the experts at Grasmere Farm, the product range found in stores will include traditional style lamb shanks, legs and chops alongside delicately flavoured burgers, kebabs and pinwheels. Nene Park lamb boxes are also available to purchase from the Grasmere Farm website, with delivery direct to the customer's door.



To find out more about Nene Park lamb and the share farming partnership please visit www.nenepark.org.uk/park-to-plate

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Nene Valley news

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(THE HEDGES, 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 The Hedges, Higham Ferrers as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of The Hedges, Higham Ferrers between no.56 and no.58.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during foul sewer connection.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 25th 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 5 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use St James Close and Handcross Way.
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler
ref:- 24/25 – N450 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/660

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

(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 Harley Way, Brigstock as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Harley Way, Brigstock for its entire length.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during resurfacing of passing places.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 19th 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 4 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Causin Way.
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler
ref:- 24/25 – N513 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T24/677

Dated this 9th day of November 2024

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

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Moulton College and NBJ (London) Ltd cement long-term skills partnership

Moulton College has praised a local joinery firm for the pivotal role it plays in developing the skills of its Furniture Studies students.

NBJ (London) Ltd specialises in cabinetry and interior woodwork for commercial and prime residential architects and projects, with the firm's work featured in St Paul's Cathedral, Cambridge and Oxford Universities, and the Barbican Concert Hall in London.

The company was set up by owner Neil Burke in 1982 and now employs over 55 people, including former Moulton College student,

Jonah Cotton, and current third year student, Jonathan Bull.

Based in Husbands Bosworth on the Northamptonshire-Leicestershire border, the firm works closely with Moulton College, offering work experience placements and apprenticeships. Neil and his team also provide Moulton's course tutors with industry insight and advice on the curriculum to ensure work-

ready students, as well as donating materials for the cohort to hone their skills on.

Now, in recognition of their close relationship and the opportunities the company offers its students and staff, Moulton College has presented NBJ with a Skills Heroes award.

Adam Palmer, Lecturer – Furniture Studies, explains: "We were delighted to visit Neil Burke and the NBJ team at their workshop recently to present them with their Skills Heroes award. Neil and his team have done so much for our students by helping to develop their skills, which in turn improves their career prospects.

"There is a growing skills gap in heritage joinery, specialist woodwork and the furniture-making industry, and as such there are so many job opportunities out there for the right people. Our Furniture Studies courses focus on furniture design and making and have been co-designed and developed with employers to ensure our students can develop their skills at college and in the workplace.

"By working with potential future employers such as NBJ, our students get to experience first-hand what bench joinery and working on heritage craft projects is like, as well as

utilise the specialist tools we have here in our College workshop to create bespoke pieces of furniture."

Neil Burke of NBJ adds: "We are delighted to have received a Skills Heroes award from Moulton College. Working closely with colleges and schools to inspire the next generation of bench joiners and specialist craftspeople is important, not only for the future of our company but for the woodworking trade and wider construction industry as a whole.

"Partnering with Moulton College means we can help shape the curriculum to ensure students are taught relevant skills, while those interested in work placements with us can learn from our dedicated workforce. It is also a great opportunity for us to welcome future talent at NBJ."

Moulton College works closely with employers from a range of industries to help develop the skills of its students. This includes workplace behaviours and expectations, ranging from communication and time management to team working and resilience, in addition to developing general and sector-relevant practical skills.



Interested in working with Moulton College? Visit www.moulton.ac.uk to find out more

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