

# Nene Valley NEWS

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### HOMEBUILDER HELPS WILDLIFE TRUST BCN

Conservation charity The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire (BCN), has received a £1,500 donation from Barratt Homes to assist with its vital work.

The donation was made as part of the Barratt Foundation, which is designed to support national and local charities, large and small, across the UK to leave a legacy in the communities in which the housebuilder operates.

Nathan Long, Corporate Partnership Manager at The Wildlife Trust BCN, said: "We were thrilled to have been chosen to receive this donation. It is a real morale boost for our staff and hardworking volunteers.

"Everyone at The Wildlife Trust BCN would like to offer Barratt Homes our most sincere thank you. Without funding such as this we would be unable to provide green spaces to the local community and unable to protect wildlife and habitats."

The Wildlife Trust BCN manages over one hundred nature reserves across the three counties all of which are free and open to the public to enjoy.

# Raunds cemetery buzzing with new habitats for nature

The 2nd Raunds Beaver Colony has brought a burst of biodiversity to Raunds Cemetery, creating bird boxes, bat boxes, and bug hotels to provide a haven for local wildlife.

The young Beavers, aged 6-8, crafted a variety of nature homes using materials supplied by Raunds Town Council, learning practical skills while fostering a deeper understanding of conservation.

The newly created habitats will provide shelter and breeding

grounds for various birds, bats, and insects, enriching the cemetery's ecosystem.

"The 2nd Raunds Beaver Colony have spent a number of weeks constructing dwellings for all creatures great and small," said Scouts Leader, Karl Burnage. "Busy Beavers built beautiful bug, bird and bat houses with material supplied by Raunds Town Council."

The project not only showcases the spirit of environmental stewardship among young people in Raunds, but also strengthens Raunds Town Council's bid for accreditation in the Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme.

"Raunds Town Council is

proud to facilitate projects such as this, which bring together our young people and our natural environment," said Steve Tucker, Town Clerk. "Demonstrating community collaboration is a key pillar for accreditation in the Conservation Scheme, and the hard work of the Beavers further strengthens our bid, whilst also enhancing the cemetery as a peaceful place for reflection, surrounded by nature."

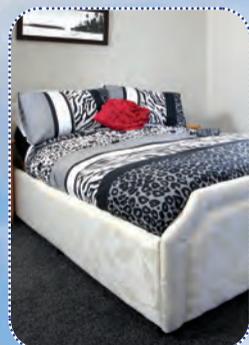
Visitors to the cemetery can now spot the handcrafted boxes tucked into quiet corners of the grounds, offering safe havens for a range of local species. The Town Council hopes that this project will inspire further community involvement in its conservation efforts.



SHOWROOMS: 69-71 WASHBROOK RD • RUSHDEN • NORTHANTS NN10 6UR [action2mobility.co.uk](http://action2mobility.co.uk)

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## HISTORIC NORTHAMPTONSHIRE VILLAGE LAUNCHES BLUE PLAQUE ROUTE

The vibrant and charming village of Nassington will unveil its Blue Plaque Route on 27th April at 12noon. The launch will take place outside early 17th-century Nassington House, on Church Street opposite the village green.

The Blue Plaque Route features 45 properties displaying some key points of interest for those following the route map, along with QR codes (linked to [www.nassingtonhistory.com](http://www.nassingtonhistory.com)) which reveal further details of historical significance. An accompanying illustrated brochure is also available to buy locally.

Chair of the Nassington Parish Council, Sam Attenborough, will launch the Blue Plaque Route. Sam will be accompanied by Henry VIII and his six wives. Whilst King Canute once had a connection to the Prebendal Manor, also situated in the village, he was sadly unable to accept his invitation to attend.

The history of Nassington is carefully curated in an archive managed on behalf of the Parish Council by local historian and lifelong resident Karen Palenski. Karen has spent hundreds of hours sifting, sorting and recording papers, records, maps and images of

the numerous historic properties in the village. She has also interviewed residents and visitors about their experiences and recollections and delivered a host of illustrated talks about the social history of the area. With significant connections to Mary Queen of Scots and Richard III, the village has a wealth of history to explore and share.

Reflecting on the project, Karen says: "Nassington is a fascinating place. It boasts the oldest house in Northamptonshire (Prebendal Manor) and at one time comprised seven pubs, a dairy, two laundries, two bakeries, a tray maker, a tailor's shop, a draper, a wheelwright and a carpenter, among other businesses. The Blue Plaque Route is about creating awareness of the social and economic history of the village while also enabling ease of access to its engaging story."

Sam Attenborough adds: "The Parish Council is very pleased to support this project. Nassington has a rich history with regard to its buildings, as well as the human stories. Many of these involve generations of the same families, some of whom still live in the village today."

## GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY  
JAN PEARSON

Last time, I mentioned certificate copies for events in England and Wales. In those early days, the Registrars also had to make house calls to record the information about those who had died. Where there was an outbreak of cholera, for example, I rather think that he would have been reluctant to visit such an area. Therefore, death registrations may also have been missed.

But remember: the information on a death certificate is only as good as the knowledge of the person registering the death. Therefore, ages may be slightly out from evidence gathered from elsewhere. Think back to how I mentioned last time that it was always a good idea to check a couple of years either side of a possible birth year.

It can also come as a bit of a shock to discover how an ancestor died. Do you remember that I mentioned a few weeks ago that I had discovered that an ancestor of a friend of a friend had died in a ditch following an epileptic fit? It explained why he

died at a relatively young age – 55.

One of my great, great grandfathers died at the age of 42 in 1867, his death certificate showed that he had "cut his own throat whilst not of sound mind"! It took me a further seven years to discover the circumstances by uncovering a newspaper report of the inquest, so never give up!

Also, remember that events were recorded in the area in which they took place. It is always good to check the registration districts surrounding the one where your ancestor lived but don't be surprised if the event happened further away. Accidents happen – my great uncle died in Kent whilst he was on a motorbike trip, so his death was registered in Maidstone. However, his home was in Hertfordshire in the St Albans registration district.

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## Wind farm funding powering local communities

More than £250,000 has been awarded to community groups, charities and volunteer-led organisations across rural Northamptonshire since 1st April 2024, from wind farm funds managed by Northamptonshire Community Foundation.

The funds support communities close to wind farms in various rural areas, including Clay Coton, Crick, Lilbourne, Yelvertoft, Winwick, Cold Ashby, West Haddon, Guilsborough, Burton Latimer, Cranford, Rushton and Pipewell.

Recently awarded grants from the Winwick Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund have enabled the provision of a new Automatic External Defibrillator for Winwick village and replacement floodlights to benefit West Haddon Junior Football Club. From the Burton Wold Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, recent grant awards have supported the creation of a community garden at Burton Latimer Library and the running of 12 free women's self-defence and keep fit workshops.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation has been managing wind farm funds for 12 years. The charity's Chief Executive, Rachel McGrath, said: "Small, rural towns and villages are so often

overlooked when it comes to funding, and we are committed to changing that.

"From our longstanding wind farm funds to our more recently established Rural Community Needs Fund, the funding distributed by Northamptonshire Community Foundation reaches all four corners of the county and supports our most vulnerable communities. In fact, 3 in 20 Northamptonshire residents were impacted by our grant making during the 2023/24 financial year."

The foundation is also focused on tackling climate change in Northamptonshire and has recently re-opened the Creative Climate Action Fund and launched the Small Green Arts Fund.

Both funds aim to raise awareness of the climate crisis. In 2025, the Creative Climate Action Fund will support up to three local groups with grant awards of up to £50,000 for creative projects that build awareness around climate change and encourage people to make behavioural changes to protect the environment.

From the Small Green Arts Fund, grants of up to £3,000 will be awarded to arts, culture and craft projects across the county, which are responding to and raising awareness of the climate crisis.

**Northamptonshire Community Foundation is the county's largest independent grant maker. During the 2023/24 financial year, the foundation awarded more than £2.9 million in grants to grassroots charities and community organisations across the county. Read more here: <https://www.ncf.uk.com/impact>**



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You can also subscribe to Nene Valley News for £1.50 per issue.

Nene Valley News is produced by KM Media & Marketing, County House, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln LN6 3PW.

Copy dates for Nene Valley News

Publication date: Saturday 10th May  
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 30th April

Publication date: Saturday 24th May  
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 14th May

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# NATIONAL TRUST EMPLOYEE JOINS THE RACE FOR NATURE, RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON TO RAISE MONEY FOR LYVEDEN

Bradley Danahar, Property Operations Manager at Lyveden, a National Trust property in Northamptonshire, will be taking on the London Marathon this month to raise money for the National Trust. All funds raised will go towards vital conservation work and creating exciting visitor experiences at Lyveden.

After seeing first hand the importance of their work protecting natural and historical places, Bradley was inspired to help raise funds for his charity. Since accepting the marathon challenge, Bradley has spent the best part of this year training, getting his friends and colleagues involved in the process.

Bradley said: "I set myself a goal of running at as many National Trust properties as possible and running with as many staff members as I could. I knew this would help motivate me by seeing the amazing work done by the National Trust and our people. I have since run at seven National Trust places and with loads of staff!

"The best part of my training, which I didn't expect, has to be the social element. I have been

posting regularly on my social media platforms and began calling my journey 'Running with Bradley'. What started as a bit of a joke has turned into a small running club.

"I have run with so many different people over the past four months. Running has opened the door to meeting new people and brought me closer to friends and colleagues, while giving me the opportunity to have meaningful conversations and ask others how they are, as well as

opening up myself. I would never have thought of this benefit when I first said yes to doing the marathon."

Having beat his original fundraising target of £1,000, Bradley is now hoping to raise £2,000. All the funds raised will go towards supporting the conservation efforts at Lyveden as well as creating accessible and engaging experiences for visitors. If you would like to support Bradley's efforts, please visit <https://2025tcsclondonmarathon.enthouse.com/pf/bradley-danahar>



Lyveden Bradley after his run at Baddesley Clinton

## Places allocated for children starting in Primary and Infant schools in North Northamptonshire in September 2025

A total of 3,789 reception places have been allocated to children across North Northamptonshire.

A total of 92.7% of applicants (3,514 children) have been allocated a place at their first preference school in 2025 (93% for 2024).

4.9% of applicants have been allocated a place at their second preference school in 2025 (4.5% in 2024) while 0.7% have been allocated a place at their third preference school in 2025 (0.6% in 2024).

98.3% of applicants have been allocated a place at one of their preferred schools in 2025 (98.1% in 2024), while 98% of applications were made online in 2025 (98.5% in 2024).

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

### Junior school places (Year 3)

There were 972 applications, with 100% of pupils being allocated a place at their first preference in 2025 (99.8% for 2024).

Charisse Monero, Director of Children's Services, North Northamptonshire Council said:

"I would like to pass on my best wishes to every pupil starting a new school in September – supporting all children in their education is a priority for the council.

"Starting school is a huge step to take and I wish all the new students well as they embark on their learning journey."

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

The next round of Primary School place allocations (for late applicants) will take place in May 2025.



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### APRIL

Sat 26 Oxford  
Sat 26 Oxford Castle  
Wed 30 Bury St Edmunds Market Day

### MAY

Sat 3 Carriages of Cambridge with St Ives  
Sun 4 Lincoln  
Thu 8 Tina Turner  
Thu 8 Les Misérables  
Thu 8 Living Crafts Hatfield House  
Fri 9 Stamford Market & Boundary Mills  
Sat 10 Malvern Spring Show  
Sat 10 Springfield  
Sat 10 Spalding Flower Parade  
Sun 11 Hunstanton  
Mon 12 Derbyshire & Peak District  
Wed 14 Wye Valley River Cruise & Lunch  
Sat 17 Clacton on Sea  
Sun 18 Melton Mowbray Cheese Fair  
Sun 18 Camden Markets  
Wed 21 Mystery Full Day & Lunch  
Sat 24 Warwick Market Day  
Sat 25 Hovercraft Experience to Ryde  
Sun 25 Brighton  
Mon 26 Twycross Zoo - Bank Holiday  
Tue 27 Coventry Market Day  
Tue 27 Coventry Transport Museum  
Thu 29 Family Seaside Mystery  
Fri 30 Cannon Hall Farm  
Sat 31 Call the Midwife Chatham Dock Yard  
Sat 31 Rochester  
Sat 31 Skegness

### JUNE

Sun 1 Great Yarmouth  
Sun 1 Coronation Street Tour  
Tue 3 Melton Mowbray  
Wed 4 Sheringham & NNRW  
Thu 5 Chesterfield Flea Market  
Sat 7 Hunstanton  
Tue 10 Nottingham Cruise & Lunch  
Thu 12 Nantwich Market Day  
Sat 14 Cromer  
Sun 15 Gardeners World & Good Food Show  
Fri 20 National Arboretum & Lichfield  
Fri 20 National Arboretum  
Sat 21 Swanage  
Sun 22 Great Yarmouth Wheels Festival  
Tue 24 Windsor Luxury Afternoon Tea Cruise  
Sat 28 Hovercraft Experience to Ryde  
Sun 29 Sheringham

### JULY

Sat 5 Llangollen Horse Drawn Boat Trip  
Sat 5 Llangollen Railway & The Classic Transport

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### MAY

18-22 MAY  
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### JUNE - JULY

8-14 JUNE  
**BANTRY AND THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY - £899pp**

The Maritime Hotel, Bantry. Half Board including excursions. Bantry is in the heart of West Cork and is a region of lush vegetation, palm trees and semi-tropical flowers. Hemmed in by high mountain ridges, an azure blue sea and cascading mountain streams, it is a place of unparalleled beauty where the landscape changes with every mood of wind and sky. In this breath-taking mountain scenery, with meandering streams, lakes and woods, where megalithic monuments and ruins of monastic settlements dot the countryside, visitors can find peace and tranquillity.

29 JUNE - 6 JULY  
**THE BLACK FOREST - £1019pp**

The Waldeck Spa Resort, Bad Durrheim, Germany. Half Board including excursions. The Schwarzwald (Black Forest) comprises a swathe of deep-green woodland draped across the granite and Sandstone Mountains of Baden-Württemberg in south-west Germany. As the setting of countless Grimm Brothers' fairy tales, the Black Forest happily plays up to its image as a land of cuckoo clocks, cherry gateaux, outlandish traditional garb, hefty half-timbered farmhouses and hill upon hill of dark evergreen forests, celebrated for their unspoilt beauty.

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## COMMEMORATING VE-DAY 80

### 8 MAY 2025 RUSHDEN

#### RUSHDEN WAR MEMORIAL

09:00 FLAG RAISING  
 09:01 VE DAY TRIBUTE  
 09:05 EXHORTATION  
 THE LAST POST  
 TWO MINUTES SILENCE OBSERVED  
 REVEILLE  
 KOHIMA  
 09:10 LAYING OF WREATHS AT WAR MEMORIAL  
 DAVID COLEMAN, RUSHDEN TOWN MAYOR TO LIGHT THE 'LAMP LIGHT OF PEACE'  
 ATTENDEES TO BE GIVEN CANDLES TO LIGHT



#### HALL PARK BEACON LIGHTING

19:30 HALL PARK OPEN FOR STREET PARTY PICNICS  
 20:00 RUSHDEN MISSION BAND MUSIC  
 21:10 STANDARDS MARCH IN  
 WELCOME ADDRESS BY DAVID COLEMAN, RUSHDEN TOWN MAYOR  
 EVENTS HISTORY PRESENTED BY DAVID HAWKER  
 READINGS AND PRAYERS  
 EXHORTATION  
 LAST POST  
 TWO MINUTES SILENCED OBSERVED  
 REVEILLE  
 KOHIMA  
 THE TRIBUTE BY DEPUTY LORD LIEUTENANT  
 21:30 BEACON LIGHTING



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# Rushden to commemorate 80th Anniversary of VE Day with community events

Rushden Town Council will host a day of remembrance and reflection on Thursday 8th May 2025, to mark the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

The commemorations will honour those who served during World War II and provide the local community with the opportunity to come together in tribute and remembrance.

## > MORNING CEREMONY – RUSHDEN WAR MEMORIAL, 9AM

The day will begin with a formal ceremony at the Rushden War Memorial, including:

- Flag Raising
- VE Day Tribute
- Exhortation, followed by The Last Post
- Two Minutes' Silence and Reveille
- Reading of the Kohima Epitaph
- Wreath-laying by local representatives and community groups
- Lighting of the 'Lamp Light of Peace'
- Distribution of commemorative candles for attendees

## > EVENING CELEBRATION – HALL PARK, FROM 7.30PM

The community is invited to bring picnics and join an evening of reflection and celebration at Hall Park, with live music from the Rushden Mission Band beginning at 8pm.

A commemorative service will follow, including:

- Standards March-In
- Welcome Address from Rushden Town Mayor
- Historical Presentation on VE Day
- Readings and Prayers
- Exhortation, Last Post, Two Minutes' Silence, Reveille, and Kohima
- A formal tribute delivered on behalf of the county by the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant
- Lighting of the Beacon at 9.30pm, in unison with towns and cities across the UK

These events aim to honour the past, bring the community together in remembrance, and reflect on the continued importance of peace and unity.

For more information, please contact: Rushden Town Council – [info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk)

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## VE DAY 80 Celebration

### Thursday 8 May 2025

### What's On

**9.00am** - Official VE Day Flag raising Ceremony at the Town Hall

**6.15pm** - Unveiling of VE Day Commemorative Benches in St Peter's Church Memorial Gardens

**Followed by:**

**6.30pm** - Ring Out in Celebration St Peter's Church Bell Ringers

### Street Party Event Town Square

**7.00pm** - Official Opening by the Mayor

**7.10pm** - Local Schools Performance

**7.30pm** - The Candy Girls - Vintage Trio

**8.15pm** - Local Choirs Performance

**8.45pm** - The Candy Girls - Vintage Trio

**9.30pm** - Lighting of the Beacon  
**'LIGHT OF PEACE'**

An event organised by Raunds Town Council  
[@Raundscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/Raundscouncil)

Supported by North Northamptonshire Council  
[www.raunds-tc.gov.uk](https://www.raunds-tc.gov.uk)

## WHAT'S ON AT COWPER & NEWTON MUSEUM

### 1st, 15th and 29th May, 10.30am-12noon: Refreshments in the Courtyard

This enjoyable, relaxing event takes place every other Thursday morning during the summertime (see website for all this year's dates). Delicious homemade cakes, a choice of tea, coffee, specialty tea or juice and a relaxing stroll around our beautiful 18th century, tranquil gardens - All for only £6. [www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk)

### 4th May, 10.30am-12.30pm: Olney Outer Circle Guided History Walk

Join one of the museum's knowledgeable guides for a picturesque tour of the edge of town historical sites that cannot be reached by any other guided walk! From pre-historic and Roman to the present. There are no stiles on this steady but undulating 5 mile/8km walk, but there may be some muddy patches after prolonged rain, so please wear suitable footwear. £12 (children under 16, £4) Book via [events@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:events@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk) / ring 01234 711516/or ask in the shop. [www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk)

### 7th May, 1pm-2pm: Beginner's Gardening Club – Planting out and basic design for summer cut flowers

Ready to dig into the world of gardening? Whether you're new to growing your own flowers and vegetables or just want to brush

up on your skills, this Beginner's Gardening Club is the perfect place for you! Fun, hands-on workshops led by the museum's knowledgeable garden volunteers. Only £2 per session with your annual pass (or £4 without a pass). Check our website for session themes throughout the year. Book in advance per session. [www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk)

### 10th May, 11.15am - 12pm: Museum Guided Tour in the home of William Cowper

Find out about how the lives of William Cowper and John Newton came together, through Cowper's poetry and prolific letter-writing, the Olney Hymns including John Newton's famous hymn 'Amazing Grace' of 250 years, and key artefacts collected over the 125 years of the museum's history. Spaces limited to 10 people. Book via [events@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:events@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk) / ring 01234 711516/or ask in the shop. Cost: Free with your annual pass or purchase your pass on the day for £10. Children under 16 years FREE (accompanied by an adult).

### 24th-31st May, 11-4pm: Half Term Holiday

Garden and museum trails and crafts for children. No need to book in advance. Usual admission and opening hours apply. [www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk)

## NENE VALLEY NEWS - EVENTS

### > SUNDAY 27TH APRIL, 10.15AM

#### Morning Worship with Holy Communion

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

### > SUNDAY 27TH APRIL, 10AM-4PM

#### Northamptonshire 2025 Heritage Fair

Chester House Estate NN8 2DH. Free entrance and parking. Details at [www.northants-fhs.org/fairs-events](http://www.northants-fhs.org/fairs-events)

### > WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL, 7.30PM

#### Peterborough Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (DEF) Annual General Meeting

Followed by a talk on Turnaround Ministry by Revd Rob Wood, Curate of St Peter's Church, at St Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave NN15 6SR. All welcome.

### > SUNDAY 4TH MAY, 10.15AM

#### Morning Worship

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

### > SUNDAY 4TH MAY, 9.40AM

#### Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Julie on 07796 281247. 5 mile walk from Irthlingborough to Stanwick.

### > SATURDAY 10TH MAY, 10AM

#### Bluebell event

Midshires Covert, Kelmars Road, Harrington NN6 9ND – including campfire food. 07943 307873.

### > SUNDAY 11TH MAY, 10.30AM

#### Countryside walk organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden: 'The Keysoe Row walking show'

A four-mile walk in the north Bedfordshire countryside. Meet near the Kymbrook Primary School, Kimbolton Road (B660) in Keysoe Row, MK44 2HH in time to start at 10.30am.

### > SUNDAY 18TH MAY, 9.40AM

#### Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for sharing. Contact Ann 07469 186731. 5.5-mile walk, Raunds to Stanwick Lakes.

### > TUESDAY 20TH MAY, 6.30PM

#### Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park. Contact Jo 07758 8450908. Leisurely evening walk in the Higham Ferrers area.

### > SUNDAY 1ST JUNE, 9.05AM

#### Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for sharing. Contact Cindy 07752 993777. 6.5-mile walk from Earls Barton to Summer Leys.

## Authors in Oundle is proud to welcome acclaimed novelist Tracy Chevalier

*Tracy Chevalier: The Glassmaker – Friday 30th May, 7pm-8pm, Great Hall, New Street, Oundle PE8 4GH.*

Bestselling historical novelist Tracy Chevalier talks about her new work, *The Glassmaker*, a story set in 15th-century Venice, which skips across time.

*The Glassmaker* is vivid, inventive and spellbinding: a virtuoso portrait of a woman, a family and a city that are as everlasting as their glass.

The setting is Venice, 1486. Across the lagoon lies Murano. Time flows differently here – like the glass the island's maestros spend their lives learning to control. Women are not meant to work with glass, but Orsola Rosso flouts convention to save her family from ruin. She works in secret, knowing her creations must be perfect to be accepted by men. But perfection may take a lifetime.

Skipping like a stone through the centuries, we follow Orsola as she hones her craft through war and plague, tragedy and triumph, love and loss. Her creations will adorn the necks of empresses and

courtesans from Paris to Vienna – but will she ever earn the respect of those closest to her?

Tracy does a lot of research for her novels since they are mainly set in other times and places. She likes to learn skills that her characters do, as she says that it's easier to understand them and describe them. She tried painting when she wrote *Girl with the Pearl Earring*; quilting for *The Last Runaway*; needlepoint for *A Single Thread*; and making glass beads for *The Glassmaker*.

Tracy Chevalier has been visiting Venice regularly since her honeymoon there 30 years ago. She is the author of eleven novels, including *A Single Thread*, *Remarkable Creatures* and *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, an international bestseller that has sold over five million copies and been made into a film, a play and an opera. Following the success of this book Tracy was able to write full-time.

**Tickets £14 (£9) available from Oundle Bookshop (cash only) or online from [www.authorsinoundle.co.uk](http://www.authorsinoundle.co.uk). For enquiries contact [info@authorsinoundle.co.uk](mailto:info@authorsinoundle.co.uk)**

## Musical memories and great gardeners

The well-known and acclaimed Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir is to star in a special concert in Higham Ferrers this weekend.

"The choir is coming back by popular demand. People loved the choir the last time they visited Higham Ferrers, so we just had to invite them back to perform," said Carol Fitzgerald, secretary of The Friends of St Mary's which is staging its annual Arts Weekend on 26th and 27th April.

The organisers expect the choir will be a big drawcard at the Saturday evening event in St Mary's Church. Many of the choir starred in the final

of Britain's Got Talent with Northants Sings Out, Carol added.

The Sunday afternoon event – Gardeners' Question Time – is also certain to attract quite a crowd to the town's historic Bede House. Gardening lovers will be able to get advice from three nationally renowned experts: Bunny Guinness; Susie Pasley-Tyler of Coton Manor Garden; and Joe Whitehead, head gardener at Burghley House.

Tickets for both events are available from [artsweekendhigham.com](http://artsweekendhigham.com) or from Sidey Design in the town's Market Square.



Wellbeing Walks are fun, friendly and FREE local walking groups, open to all ages and abilities.

Led by North Northamptonshire Leisure, the volunteer run walks, offer **over 20 walks across North Northamptonshire**, and we are actively looking to set-up more! The walks are in a variety of locations and range in length, so there is a suitable walk for everyone.

Walking is a low-impact activity that is easy on your joints and can be done at any age or fitness level. Walking has many health and wellbeing benefits including:

- maintaining a healthy weight
- reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression
- improving your mood
- boosting self-esteem
- connecting you to nature, which is proven to reduce stress, lower your blood pressure and boost immune function.

A significant benefit of joining a walking group is the social aspect. Our Wellbeing Walks can help you meet new people, build friendships, and provide a sense of community.



Whether you are looking to improve your physical health and mental wellbeing, or simply looking to meet new people, a walking club can provide a supportive and enjoyable environment to achieve your goals.

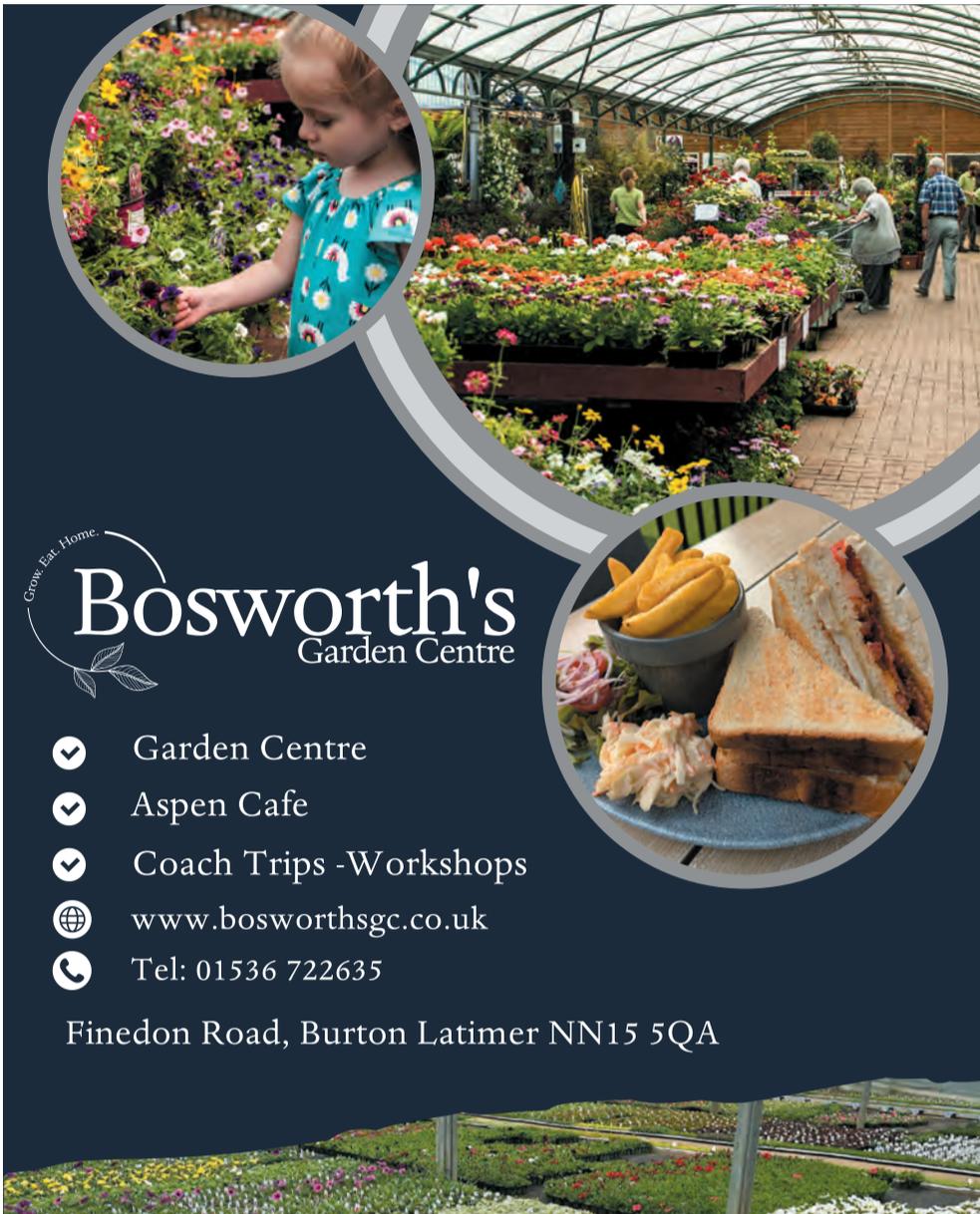
### We are now looking for volunteer walk leaders!

Do you enjoy walking? Why not share your passion and become a walk leader?

Walk leaders provide a safe, supportive, and welcoming space for participants of all abilities to enjoy low-level activity, to meet new people and enjoy paths and greenspaces within their local area.

If you are interested in finding out more, visit: [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/wellbeingwalks](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/wellbeingwalks) or scan QR code





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# Nene Valley news

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Deadlines for all classifications: 5pm Monday prior to issue date. A complete version of our Terms and Conditions can be found online at [www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk). Pay by credit/debit card or cheque. All major credit/debit cards accepted. For help and information please call 01522 692542 or visit [www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk)

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH MK17 (PART) – BRIGSTOCK)  
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit pedestrians from proceeding along that length of Public Footpath MK17 (Part) in Brigstock as specified below. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said length of footpath are unaffected. RIGHT OF WAY TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: The route of MK17 (part) to be closed starts on Park Walk at point A on the map at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP9436 8512. The route travels generally south for approximately 153 metres to point B at NGR 9432 8498.

The route to be closed is shown by a solid black line between points A - B. REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required in the interest of health and safety during environmental investigatory works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The Order will come into effect on 7th May 2025 and will continue in force for a period of six months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for this Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such extent as is indicated by the display of notices.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: The alternative route starts at point A on the map at NGR SP9436 8512. The route travels approximately 350 metres north west along the footway to point C at NGR SP 9411 8536. The route then travels generally south westerly along footpath MK18 for approximately 568 metres to point D at NGR SP9361 8510. The route then travels generally south east along footpaths MK19 and MK17 for approximately 719 metres to point B at NGR SP9432 8498. The alternative route is shown by a broken black line between points A - C - D - B. If you require any further information please contact Sarah Cureton on 07500 579332. PKG/ROW/159-N

Dated this 26th day of April 2025  
SANJIT SULL  
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) (Interim)



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#### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(BROOKS ROAD, RAUNDS)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Brooks Road, Raunds as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Brooks Road, Raunds from outside no.26 – no.36.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during new water connection works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 21st May 2025 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to three days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Raunds Road, Denford Road and Brooks Road. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N972 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/258

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(CALDECOTT ROAD, CHELVESTON)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Caldecott Road, Chelveston as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Caldecott Road, Chelveston from B645 to Upper Higham Lane.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during carriageway patching works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 20th May 2025 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 eleven days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Chelveston Road and Upper Higham Lane. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N1004 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/272

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(CHELVESTON ROAD, RAUNDS)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Chelveston Road, Raunds as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Chelveston Road, Raunds from Wellington Road to Darsdale Drive.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during gas enablement works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 19th May 2025 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 29 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use A43, A6 and Chelveston Road. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N1007 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/275

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(RINGSTEAD ROAD, GREAT ADDINGTON)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Ringstead Road, Great Addington as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Ringstead Road, Great Addington – by Addington Brook.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during pole works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 19th May 2025 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 one day.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Addington Road, High Street, Thrapston Road, Kettering Road, Bridge Street, Midland Road and Ringstead Road. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N1002 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/288

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(LONG ROW, WOODFORD)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Long Row, Woodford as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Long Row, Woodford – for its entire length.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during fibre ducting works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 16th May 2025 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to three days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: n/a cul-de-sac location. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N1036 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/301

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

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of West Street, Kings Cliffe as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of West Street, Kings Cliffe from outside no.45.

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 April 2025 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: use Park Street and Wood Street. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N907 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/206

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(BRICK KILN ROAD, RAUNDS)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Brick Kiln Road, Raunds as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Brick Kiln Road, Raunds from opposite no.22.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during new fire supply works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 6th May 2025 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to three days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use A45, Chelveston Road, Higham Road and Raunds Road. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N920 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/232

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

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Grafton Road, Brigstock as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Grafton Road, Brigstock – between Brakehill Family Farm and Park Cottages.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during pole replacement works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 6th May 2025 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 one day.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Sudborough Road, Kettering Road and Slipton Road. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N981 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/233

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(THE GREEN, WOODFORD)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of The Green, Woodford as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length The Green, Woodford from the junction of Addington Road to Whittlesea Terrace.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during fibre ducting.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 8th May 2025 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 five days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Church Green and Club Lane. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N1034 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/299

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(HIGH STREET & NEWTON STREET, WOODFORD)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along those lengths of High Street and Newton Street, Woodford as set out below.

LENGTHS OF ROADS TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: High Street – no. 56a to Newton Street and Newton Street – for its entire length.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during fibre ducting.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 9th May 2025 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the roads will be restricted for up to seven days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: High Street, Kettering Road, Denford Road and Ringstead Road. Newton Street – n/a cul-de-sac location. If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N1035 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/300

Dated this 26th day of April 2025  
SANJIT SULL  
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) (Interim)

**Thurning Village Fairy Trail**  
★  
Thurning Feast Field PG8 5RE  
£5 per person, under '2's free!  
Sat 10<sup>th</sup>/Sun 11<sup>th</sup> May 12-5pm ★

Fairy Houses, Fairy Quiz, Crafts,  
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Teas, Cakes, Bar, BBQ, Tombola,  
Ponie Rides. Free car parking.

Magician on Sunday afternoon!

SORRY NO DOGS: SOME RESTRICTED  
AREAS FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

Proceeds- St. James' Church, Thurning Village  
Hall & a local charity (tbc)

Enquiries: Alisonajp@aol.com ★

# Family NOTICES

Nene Valley News can help you make those important family announcements.

**Walker, Aaron/  
Hunt, Nicola**  
Married on April 2 2014,  
at St Andrews Church.  
The couple had their  
honeymoon in Paris.

**Happy 1st  
birthday**

Chloe Booth have a  
wonderful day.  
Love from Mummy, Daddy,  
Nanna & Grandad xxx

For help and information to  
place your notice please call  
**01522 692542** or visit  
[www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk)

# BILLING AQUADROME UNVEILS LUXURY HOT TUB GLAMPING PODS

Meadow Bay Villages is delighted to announce a brand new addition to Billing Aquadrome's accommodation offering: Azure Horizons, a stunning collection of high-end glamping pods with hot tubs designed to provide the ultimate getaway experience.

This exciting £1 million development brings a new level of comfort, style and convenience to one of Northamptonshire's premier holiday destinations.

The Azure Horizons collection features 20 state-of-the-art glamping pods, offering guests an indulgent retreat in the heart of the countryside. Each unit is thoughtfully designed with luxury in mind, providing a seamless blend of modern amenities and rustic charm.

All glamping pods boast high-end interiors, including a double bedroom,

twin beds on the mezzanine level, en-suite toilet and shower as well as Freeview TV and free superfast WiFi to help guests stay connected whilst immersed in nature.

To ensure a five-star experience, each unit is equipped with top-tier inventory, including a coffee maker, Ninja Stack air fryer, artisan crockery, luxury towels and plush robes, elevating the home-away-from-home feel.

There are two exclusive pod types:

- The Retreat (15 pods): Designed for those who love outdoor living with

added indulgence, these pods feature a private hot tub, bistro table with built-in BBQ and wine cooler as well as premium interior specifications. Three of these units are pet-friendly, ensuring that four-legged friends can enjoy the experience too.

- The Brook (5 pods): Provides a tranquil escape for those looking for peace and relaxation, these pods sleep four and feature a fully kitted kitchen, smart TV and a breathtaking stargazing skylight. Two of these units are pet-friendly.

Nikki Rathie, Holidays Director at

Billing Aquadrome, said: "We are thrilled to introduce Azure Horizons to Billing Aquadrome. Glamping and hot tub holidays continue to grow in popularity, and with these high-spec pods, we're offering an elevated holiday experience that combines adventure with luxury. Whether you're seeking a romantic escape, a family getaway, or a break with friends, Azure Horizons is the perfect choice.

"We also understand the desire for pet-friendly holidays without compromising on luxury and comfort

– we have designated a number of our pods as 'pet-friendly' and we have a number of pet-friendly shows in our activity schedule, so the holiday really is for the whole family!"

This new investment is testament to Meadow Bay's ongoing commitment in the holiday resort which includes the creation of new facilities: an amphitheatre and open-air cinema, a water park, a boardwalk around Billing's natural lakes, a BMX pump track, Himalayan adventure golf course and upgraded holiday accommodation.



Bookings are now open and demand is high. To secure your perfect glamping escape, visit: <https://meadowbay.com/billingaquadrome/#bookingModal>



The Hawthorns  
NORTHAMPTON

## MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Enjoy a worry-free and active retirement at the Hawthorns, where community living is at our heart.

The Hawthorns' Well-being Co-ordinators provide a daily programme of stimulating and engaging activities, social events, trips out, exercise classes and interest clubs to keep your mind and body active and support you in staying healthy.

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