

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Telephone: 01522 692542

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INSIDE this issue



SPOTLIGHT ON HOMES & GARDENS

PAGE 04



MOULTON COLLEGE FLORISTRY STUDENT BLOOMS ON LOCAL FLOWER FARM

PAGE 12

NEWS IN BRIEF

BABY CHARITY RECEIVES £3,000

Baby Basics Northampton has received a £3,000 donation from David Wilson Homes to assist with its work helping new mothers and their newborn babies.

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

Working alongside the NHS and other organisations, Baby Basics Northampton supplies Moses basket starter packs to families in need, filled with essentials for a baby's first three months. These not only ensure a safe sleeping space for newborns but also promote early bonding, reduce stress, and help combat hygiene poverty.

Sabrina Oakey, Co-Founder and Head of Operations and Development at Baby Basics Northampton, said: "When David Wilson Homes reached out to say we had been chosen to receive the £3,000 donation, we were absolutely thrilled. It's always amazing to have the support of businesses that genuinely care about the community. This generous contribution will make a real difference, and we're so grateful for the kindness and belief in what we do!"

NHS FUNDRAISER ATTENDS ROYAL GARDEN PARTY

During the Covid-19 pandemic, David H. Woods started growing plants to raise donations to help the NHS – and he is still doing it today. As of 20th May 2025, the total donated was £37,848.88

David's amazing plant stall, in the village of Woodford, is open every day of the year, including the day he and his wife Hilary Jane attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, hosted by the Prince and Princess of Wales on behalf of the King, plus other members of the Royal Family. David left his son Matthew, who lives nearby, in charge of the stall.

David couldn't believe how close to the Palace his reserved car parking space was. He said: "It was fun driving there, we felt like VIPs and had a wonderful afternoon."

David was named in the King's Birthday Honours list last year to be awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for 'services to the community in

Woodford, Northamptonshire and to Charitable Fundraising for the NHS'.

It's an amazing story, especially considering David fights the pain of MS every day, following his diagnosis back in 2005. Having retired early, in 2011, David now devotes almost all his time to growing plants to help the NHS, which in return helps him keep active and gives him so much satisfaction, helping others and encouraging people to love gardening.

David's plant stall and donations "just keep growing" and as he says, "enjoy your garden" and "make gardening fun".

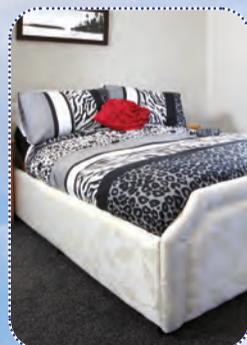


If you love gardening and wish to support David, please follow his Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/158400812212160/> where he posts every day of the year before the stall opens, giving photos of what is available, Tiktok videos and a running total of how much has been donated. Donations, to help the NHS, via NHS Charities Together, can be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/>

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GRANTS ON OFFER TO HELP MAKE ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Households across North Northamptonshire are being encouraged to apply for government funding designed to help improve the energy efficiency of their properties.

The Warm Homes: Local Grant is a government funded scheme delivered by North Northamptonshire Council.

It provides grants for energy performance and low carbon heating to low-income households living in privately owned homes, to help achieve

energy bill savings and carbon savings. Upgrades are open to all fuel types, including on gas households (those heated by mains gas) and off gas

households (those heated by electricity, oil, coal or liquid petroleum gas).

Energy performance upgrades and low carbon heating improvements could include insulation, air source heat pumps or solar panels.

To be eligible, homes must:

- Be privately owned (either by you or your landlord)
- Have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D, E, F or G – if you do not know your home's EPC, you can find out when you apply

Household income must usually be £36,000 a year or less. If you earn more than that, you might still be eligible if either:

- You live in a certain postcode area
 - Someone in your household is getting certain benefits
- George Candler, North Northamptonshire Council's

Executive Director for Place and Economy, said: "This government funded scheme has been designed to ensure that those on the lowest incomes can make changes to their homes and make them more energy efficient.

"Schemes like this not only benefit individual households but also help towards our collective

commitment to reduce carbon emissions across North Northamptonshire.

"We would encourage anyone who thinks they might be eligible to look at the information online and apply before the deadline."

To check eligibility and apply, please visit North Northamptonshire Council's website.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY JAN PEARSON

This week, I'm still staying in Scotland as I love their certificate information! Now we come to their marriage certificates. For both the bride and groom it will show:

- Name and surname
- Usual or present residence address
- Age
- Rank or profession
- Condition (bachelor, spinster, etc.)
- Birthplace and when/where it was registered
- Parents' names (including mother's maiden name) and their occupation
- If a Regular marriage, the signature of the minister and witnesses
- If an Irregular Marriage, the date of extract sentence of conviction or decree of declaration and in what court pronounced
- When and where registered and signature of registrar

The wonderful difference between the English/Welsh marriage certificates and those from Scotland is that they contain details of the happy couple's mothers – including the mother's maiden name. This helps considerably when trying to track down the correct birth certificates.

But, apparently, the certificate will also provide details of when and where the marriage took place, whether or not Banns were read, or if it was by licence.



A couple of notes: If the person was a widow or widower, it was also stated if this is their second or third marriage. A note of the number of children (living or dead) from any previous marriage was also recorded.

The term Irregular Marriage meant that it could result from mutual agreement, by a public promise followed by consummation, or by cohabitation. A few words about Irregular Marriages: Some people think that "Living in Sin" was invented in the 1960s, but it is an ages-old practice – especially before matrimonial laws made divorce more accessible. Remember: bigamy was known as the 'Poor man's divorce'!

A Regular Marriage meant that Banns were read on three consecutive Sundays in Church and then a licence was obtained. An Irregular Marriage was with a mutual agreement and couples presented themselves as husband and wife. They would just make a public promise.

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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 21st June
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 11th June

Publication date: Saturday 5th July
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 25th June

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New Leader and Executive confirmed for North Northamptonshire Council



The new Leader of North Northamptonshire Council has been formally announced as Cllr Martin Griffiths following the annual meeting of the authority.

The Leader of the Council leads the development of council strategy and priorities to meet community needs. The Leader works alongside council officers who are responsible for putting councillors' priorities and strategies into action.

This was the first time North Northamptonshire's newly elected councillors met in a formal setting since the elections which took place earlier in

May. The meeting, which was held on Thursday 22nd May at the Corby Cube, also saw Cllr Eddie McDonald declared as deputy leader of the council.

Cllr Griffiths has also selected the council's new Executive, who are responsible for setting the strategic and policy direction of the Council.

The council's Executive team is comprised of:

Leader of the Council – Cllr Martin Griffiths

- Alongside being Leader of the Council, Cllr Griffiths oversees areas of North Northamptonshire Council including Big50, housing, human resources and devolution.

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adults and Health Partnerships – Cllr Eddie McDonald

- Cllr McDonald is the Council's Deputy Leader and also oversees adult services, adults commissioning, health and social care integration and safeguarding of adults with care and support needs.

Executive Member for Finance, Efficiency and Change – Cllr Graham Cheatley

- Cllr Cheatley oversees areas including

finance, internal audit, revenue and benefits, IT and customer experience.

Executive Member for Assets, Waste and Environmental Services – Cllr Ken Harrington

- Cllr Harrington oversees areas in the council including climate and environment, country parks, bin collections and household waste recycling centres, grounds maintenance and the council's assets

Executive Member for Children, Education and Families – Cllr Elizabeth Wright

- Cllr Wright oversees services including Northamptonshire Children's Trust, commissioning, education, SEND and Family Hubs.

Executive Member for Highways and Travel – Cllr Chris McGiffen

- Cllr McGiffen oversees areas including roads, transport and parking.

Executive Member for Planning and Economic Growth – Cllr Jan O'Hara

- Cllr O'Hara oversees services in the council including economic development, planning and planning policy and flood and water management.

Executive Member for Regulatory Services – Cllr Kirk Harrison

- Cllr Harrison oversees areas including licensing, environmental health, trading standards, registrations (births, deaths and marriages), building control and private sector housing.

Executive Member for Communities – Cllr Gregory Wilcox

- Cllr Wilcox oversees services including community safety, tourism and visitor economy, community services (including libraries) and adult learning.

Executive Member for Health and Leisure – Cllr Barry O'Brian

- Cllr O'Brian oversees areas including public health commissioning, leisure and health and safety.

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "It is an honour and privilege to be the new Leader of North Northamptonshire Council.

"I am really looking forward to getting started, alongside a new Executive who bring with them a great deal of knowledge, and working cross party within the council, to drive real change

across North Northamptonshire in the best interest of all residents."

Also, during the meeting, the new Chair of North Northamptonshire Council was confirmed, with Cllr Helen Campbell taking on the role for the next civic year, with Cllr Maurice Elgin as Vice Chair. The chair is a largely ceremonial role including chairing full council meetings.

Cllr Helen Campbell, Chair of North Northamptonshire Council, said:

"I am truly honoured to have been chosen as the next Chair of North Northamptonshire Council. Over the next year, I look forward to getting out and meeting as many residents as possible, whilst representing North Northamptonshire further afield."

Following the election on 1st May 2025, the 68 councillors on North Northamptonshire Council comprise:

- 39 Reform
- 13 Conservative
- 8 Green Party
- 4 Labour
- 1 Liberal Democrats
- 1 Independent
- Plus 2 vacancies in the Higham Ferrers ward

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29 JUNE - 6 JULY THE BLACK FOREST - £1019pp
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20 - 24 JULY STEAM, GIN & NEW FOREST - £559pp
Norton Park Hotel, Sutton Scotney, Winchester. Half Board. The county of Hampshire's coastline extends for miles and miles and is relatively unspoilt, you will see some unforgettable coastal views. The New Forest has popular attractions too, such as the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. To the north of Hampshire you can discover fascinating museums and country houses. Travel back in time at the Milestones, a living history museum where costumed actors help bring the streets of old to life. Tour includes Sapphire Gin, and Watercress Line.

26 - 30 JULY SUMMER MYSTERY - £599pp
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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
Sat 28 Hovercraft Experience to Ryde
Sun 29 Sheringham

JULY

Sat 5 Llangollen Horse Drawn Boat Trip
Sat 5 Llangollen Railway & The Classic Transport Show
Sun 6 Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival
Sun 6 Elvis Evolution Exhibition
Tue 8 Bicester Shopping Village
Sat 12 Skegness
Sun 13 Hunstanton
Mon 14 Bakewell Market
Wed 16 Rutland Belle River Cruise & Oakham
Wed 23 Sandringham Flower Show
Thu 24 Shropshire & Little Switzerland
Sat 26 Southend on Sea
Sun 27 Weymouth
Tue 29 Trentham Estate & Monkey Forest
Wed 30 Battersea Power Station Lift Tour & Shopping (New shopping Destination)
London Zoo
Postal Museum, London

THU 31
THU 31

AUGUST

Fri 1 Chester
Fri 1 Chester Zoo
Sat 2 Buckingham Palace & Afternoon Tea
Sat 2 Whitby
Sun 3 Sheringham
Tue 5 Cromer
Wed 6 Hovercraft Experience to Ryde
Wed 6 Haworth & KWVR
Thu 7 Southwold
Thu 7 Liverpool
Thu 7 Liverpool's Open Top Bus
Thu 7 Beatles Story Tour, Liverpool
Thu 7 Butterfly Farm & Stratford Upon Avon
Fri 8 Stamford Market Day
Fri 8 Broadstairs
Sat 9 Margate
Sun 9 Great Yarmouth
Sun 10 Norfolk Broads River Trip
Mon 11 Cadbury World
Tue 12 Rutland Belle River Cruise & Oakham
Wed 13 Windsor OR Windsor Castle
Thu 14 Canterbury OR Whitstable
Fri 15 Eastbourne Airshow
Sat 16 Hunstanton
Sat 16 Skegness Carnival
Sun 17

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Spotlight on > HOMES & GARDENS

> THE FURNITURE CENTRE

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> BOSWORTH'S GARDEN CENTRE

Nestled in the heart of Northamptonshire, Bosworth's Garden Centre in Burton Latimer has been a much-loved family owned establishment since 1959. Over the decades, it has blossomed into a comprehensive destination for gardening enthusiasts and families alike.

At the heart of the garden centre lies the Aspen Café, a warm and inviting space perfect for relaxation. Whether you're starting your day with a hearty breakfast, enjoying a leisurely lunch, or indulging in afternoon tea, the café offers a diverse menu to cater to all tastes. It's an ideal spot to unwind after exploring the extensive plant collections or to catch up with friends over freshly brewed coffee.

Beyond its horticultural offerings, Bosworth's boasts an impressive array of giftware. From elegant home décor items to unique kitchenware and thoughtful gifts for special occasions, there's something to delight every visitor. The curated selection ensures that you'll find the perfect item, whether you're treating yourself or searching for a memorable gift.

A standout feature of Bosworth's is its expansive plant area, showcasing a vast selection of flora. Remarkably, many of these plants are cultivated in the centre's own onsite nursery, which produces over a million plants annually. This commitment to homegrown quality ensures that customers receive



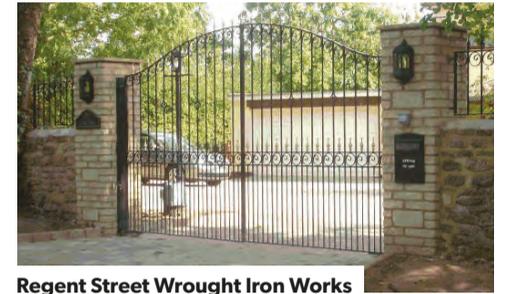
Bosworth's Garden Centre

quality plants, perfect for enhancing any garden.

Bosworth's is dedicated to fostering a sense of community and learning among its customers. The centre regularly organises workshops tailored to inspire and educate, covering a range of gardening topics and techniques. Additionally, for those eager to explore renowned horticultural sites, Bosworth's offers coach trips to various destinations. This year we ran a trip to Keukenhof and it was a huge success.

Throughout its evolution, Bosworth's Garden Centre has remained steadfast in its mission to provide exceptional service and high-quality products. The knowledgeable and friendly staff are always on hand to offer expert advice, ensuring that every visitor's experience is both enjoyable and informative. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a novice looking to cultivate your green thumb, Bosworth's offers a welcoming environment to inspire and assist you on your gardening journey.

In summary, Bosworth's Garden Centre in Burton Latimer is more than just a garden centre; it's a community hub where passion for plants, dedication to quality, and a love for learning come together to create a truly enriching experience for all who visit.



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Barbara's son contacted me as they were struggling. Her family was helping at weekends, but Barbara found it hard to make decisions and they had a deadline as the house was being sold. I worked with Barbara

to decide what she really needed in her new home. I had the time to listen to the memories of each item but kept Barbara focused on decluttering. We agreed how to dispose of items she couldn't take with her.

Unfortunately, Barbara was hospitalised part-way through the move, but we had discussed her belongings, even though they weren't all organised, so I was able to work with her family to finish decluttering and pack. I arranged for everything to be moved briefly into storage, including her precious piano,

which required specialist removal.

When her new home was ready, I unpacked Barbara's possessions and prepared her rooms ready for her discharge from hospital. Her mobility had deteriorated, so I needed to plan furniture to allow for this, and place items within easy reach.

If you'd like help with any of this, please contact me on 07535 143497 or liz@thehomesorter.co.uk APDO members are fully insured, confidential and bound by a code of ethics, so you can trust a professional.



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This year, the Thrapston-based catering and hospitality specialist adds two standout global brands to its exclusive portfolio: Wilmax England™ tableware and Tilia™ hospitality furniture. Both are now available in the UK and Northern Ireland through WhitCo's Customer

Experience Centre.

Founded in the UK in 2010, Wilmax England offers more than 3,000 products across fine porcelain, crystal and thermo glassware, bamboo boards, cutlery, and barware – making it a trusted name among chefs, hoteliers, and home entertainers worldwide. Their

elegant designs bring refinement and durability to every setting, indoors or out.

Tilia, meanwhile, is one of Europe's most respected names in hospitality furniture. With award-winning ranges of indoor and outdoor chairs and tables, Tilia designs for real-world performance – stackable, easy-to-clean, and built to withstand the demands of busy cafés, restaurants, and leisure venues. Their collections are as thoughtful and timeless as the moments they help create.

See, touch, and compare the latest collections and bring new meaning to the way your guests dine.

"At WhitCo, we believe beautiful spaces deserve beautiful solutions. That's why we're proud to welcome Wilmax England™ and Tilia™ to our exclusive brand



portfolio - now available across the UK and Northern Ireland and can be experienced at our Customer Experience Centre.

"Wilmax collections combine timeless elegance with everyday durability. Whether you're curating a restaurant menu or styling your table at home, there's a Wilmax piece for every dish, mood, and moment.

"Tilia brings a different kind of brilliance - hospitality furniture designed for real-world spaces. We're proud to represent Tilia as their exclusive UK and Northern Ireland partner and to offer furniture solutions that match the pace, needs, and vision of modern

hospitality.

"Whether you're designing a hotel courtyard, fitting out a café terrace, or enriching your own outdoor dining experience, we invite you to explore the possibilities in person.

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Run by Health Exchange – Living Well Taking Control, on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council and their Public Health team, the free 12-week Weight Management Programme is designed to help individuals achieve their health goals. The programme can be accessed through self-referral or your GP.

Over 12 weeks, participants will receive practical advice on nutrition, exercise, and mindset, with each week building on the last to maintain motivation. The behaviour change support provided will help you start and maintain healthier habits, with expert guidance and support every step of the way.

The course is a mix of sessions in person and online learning, with demand-led delivery across North Northamptonshire. The experienced Health Coaches will support individuals to stay on track and feel confident in making lasting changes.

To be eligible for the service the following criteria apply, you must:

- be a resident of North Northamptonshire
- be aged 18 years old or over
- not be currently pregnant
- have a BMI of 30 or higher for individuals of white ethnic background, or 27.5 or higher for individuals from all other ethnic groups. BMI or

Body Mass Index, is a measure that assesses whether an individual's weight is healthy for their height. The NHS BMI calculator can be used to check BMI.

The programme and referral information is accessible via the North Northamptonshire Council website. Referrals, both from professionals and self-referrals, are now being accepted via the following routes:

- Webpage referral form: <https://www.lwtcsupport.co.uk/weightmanagementprogramme>
- Email: weightmanagement@lwtcsupport.co.uk
- Phone: 0300 302 0652
- General enquiries: info@lwtcsupport.co.uk

Jane Bethea, Director of Public Health North Northamptonshire, said: "Having a healthy body weight can not only help you to feel better but is also known to reduce the risk of a number of health conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

"Each week, you'll explore a new theme that builds upon the last – covering essential topics such as balanced nutrition, physical activity, behaviour change, and mindset. Through a combination of expert-led sessions, practical resources, and actionable strategies, the hope is that you'll be empowered to make informed choices and stay motivated as you move towards your goals."

Living Well Taking Control has been chosen



by the council to deliver the 12-week courses to residents for the next two years. The professional organisation also provides diabetes prevention programmes across the county and are experts in their field.

Rachel Georgiou, Head of Prevention Services, Living Well Taking Control, said: "Living Well Taking Control is honoured to have been selected to work with North Northamptonshire Council to deliver our 12-week Weight Management Programme.

"Our experienced Health Coaches are here to guide and encourage you every step of the way. They'll help you set realistic goals, overcome barriers, and celebrate progress – ensuring you feel confident and supported in creating lasting

lifestyle habits.

"By the end of the 12 weeks, you'll not only have the tools to manage your weight effectively, but also the confidence to maintain your progress for the long term.

"We are deeply committed to supporting individuals in achieving healthier lifestyles and improving their overall wellbeing. Our team is excited to continue delivering high-quality, evidence-based support to help the people of North Northamptonshire make sustainable, positive changes in their lives."

Contact Information:
Sarah Newall
sarah.newall@northnorthants.gov.uk



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NENE VALLEY NEWS - EVENTS

> TUESDAY 10TH JUNE, 6.30PM

This is My Theatre performing 'The Three Musketeers' – St Rumbald's Church, Stoke Doyle. Doors open at 6.30pm when the live music starts. Admission: Donations to church funds welcome. Contact liz.sdoyle@hotmail.com. Enjoy drinks and canapés before this thrilling performance of 'The Three Musketeers' – 'All for one and one for all'.

> FRIDAY 20TH JUNE, 7PM

Quingo evening – The bingo and quiz mashup. Raunds Community Library. £5 per person. Refreshments available. Entry form from Library and raundslibrary@gmail.com

> SATURDAY 5TH JULY, 2PM

Newton Bromswold Village Fete – Church Lane. Contact Information - Helen Lines 01933 315864. Stalls and Games. Raffle. Afternoon Teas. Rushden Mission Band.

> SATURDAY 5TH JULY, 7.30PM

Creative Oundle presents The Ronnie Scott's All Stars – Taking to the stage at the Stahl Theatre, Oundle. Celebrate the 'Ronnie Scott's Story.' The performance by these highly accomplished jazz musicians captures the 60+ year history of the

iconic London jazz club in Soho, in a combination of live music from the jazz greats, projected images and footage, and hair-raising tales.

> SATURDAY 12TH JULY

Party at The Wharf – That perennial summer favourite, 'Party at The Wharf,' returns to Oundle on 12th July headlined by Bootleg Blondie, the world's no.1 official Debbie Harry and Blondie band, supported by the toe-tapping Vintage Rock n Roll band, together with local rockers, Disarray.

> SATURDAY 12TH JULY, 7PM

Newton Bromswold Barn Dance – Church Lane, Newton Bromswold. Contact June on 07703 476689. Tickets Adult £12.50 and Children £5. Ticket includes food. Kelly's Eye band.

> FRIDAY 18TH JULY, 7PM

Handlebards theatrical troupe – The hilarious Handlebards theatrical troupe cycle into town on Friday 18th July, bringing their unique brand of Shakespeare to the Common Room Garden, Oundle in a performance of Much Ado About Nothing at 7pm. This bicycle-powered production is sure to have the audience rolling around with laughter, so expect silly songs, energetic slapstick and audience participation.

RENOWNED CARICATURIST CAPTURES FAMOUS FACES

Adrian Teal is an internationally renowned caricaturist, cartoonist, illustrator and writer. He was the principal designer of caricature puppets for the return of the hugely popular hit 1980s/1990s satirical TV show, Spitting Image, on stage and on screen.

He was also head of 3D celebrity caricature design on the award-winning ITV show Big Heads, and has caricatured for The Masked Singer. He has been a caricature consultant for Framstore and BBC2; and he has produced a cover and written/illustrated historical spreads for the BBC's QI books. He has illustrated for QI merchandise and marketing material, as well as for the TV show itself.

Adrian has been a contestant in the internationally renowned ArtPrize competition in the USA, in

which he entered a six-by-eight-foot caricature painting about the history of America's most famous emblems. His historical articles have appeared in The Lancet, and History Today.

His freelance illustration clients have included the band Madness, Mercedes Benz, UBS, the comedy club Jongleurs, and Anglia TV. He has produced illustrations and political cartoons for national and international publications such as The Sunday Telegraph, The Times and Time Out.

He also contributes illustrations and material to Dr. Lindsey Fitzharris's YouTube series Under the Knife. Their second children's book for Bloomsbury, Dead Ends!, will be released in October 2025.

www.adrianteal.com

Standing In The Wings presents: The Wind in the Willows – A magical outdoor theatre experience for the whole family

Experience the magic of The Wind in the Willows this July – where community, creativity, and a love of theatre come together in a heartwarming summer adventure.

Rushden, Northamptonshire, 19th–20th July – This summer, audiences of all ages are invited to step into the enchanting world of The Wind in the Willows as Standing In The Wings brings Kenneth Grahame's beloved tale to life in a delightful open-air production at Hall Park, Rushden as part of their fifth anniversary celebrations.

Join Mole, Ratty, Badger, and the irrepressible Mr. Toad on a heartwarming journey filled with friendship, mischief, and adventure. From tranquil days on the riverbank to Toad's wild obsession with motorcars, this lively adaptation captures the spirit of the classic story with humour, heart, and a touch of nostalgia.

A celebration of local talent

This is more than just a performance – it's a celebration of the local community. Featuring a vibrant cast of local actors and dancers, and supported by a dedicated team of local technicians and creatives, The Wind in the Willows showcases the incredible talent right here in Northamptonshire. It's a community production made by the community, for the community.

Performance Schedule:

- Saturday 19th July: 2pm & 7pm
 - Sunday 20th July: 2pm & 7pm
- Venue: Hall Park, 81 Saint Mary's Avenue, Rushden NN10 9ES. Tickets: Adults £7, Children (under 14) £5, Babies in arms (0-24 months) Free. Please note: No refunds available.

Event Highlights:

- Free on-site parking
- Licensed bar and ice cream van
- Family-friendly entertainment suitable for all ages
- Open-air setting – bring your own chairs or blankets
- Performances proceed in most weather conditions



In loving memory – Fundraising for RNLI

This production is extra special as it also serves as a tribute to Garry Mawbey – a cherished member of our team, a mentor, and a dear friend. In Garry's memory, we will be raising funds throughout the weekend for the RNLI, an organisation close to his heart. We invite all who attend to join us in honouring his legacy and supporting this vital lifesaving charity.

About Standing In The Wings: Standing In The Wings is a Northamptonshire-based theatre and events company dedicated to providing drama coaching, holiday clubs for young people, and captivating theatre productions. With a passion for storytelling and community engagement, they bring classic tales to life for modern audiences.

Photographs: Oskar Konrad

Peterborough Choral Society presents

12th July
7.30 pm

Thorney Abbey
PE6 0QA

Tickets £17
available from our website or on the door (Under 18's free)
Refreshments will be available

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RAUNDS SATURDAY MARKET
Saturday 21st June 2025 | Town Square

EXPLORE A VARIETY OF LOCAL STALLS OPEN FROM 9.30AM

LIVE Entertainment from
WILDLIFE DISPLAYS

From 10am - 1pm

Enjoy an exciting and interactive animal experience!

Learn amazing facts and interact with a variety of animals.

NEXT SATURDAY MARKET 19TH JULY

If you would like a stall at a Raunds Town Council event, please contact 01933 622 087 or email info@raundstc.gov.uk

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RAUNDS FILM AFTERNOON

Come & meet new friends

Showing at Saxon Hall, Raunds on
Wednesday 18th June 2025

Refreshments served from 12:45pm
Film starts at 1:30pm

This film is fully licensed

No under 18's permitted without an adult

£2 entry (includes tea/coffee & cake)

[@RaundsCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/RaundsCouncil) [@RaundsTC](https://www.instagram.com/RaundsTC) [@raundstcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/raundstcouncil)

Email info@raunds-tc.gov.uk or Ring 01933 622087 between 9:00am – 2.30pm to reserve your seat.

An event provided by Raunds Town Council

PADDINGTON IN PERU brings Paddington's story to Peru as he returns to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown Family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey through the Amazon rainforest and up to the mountain peaks of Peru. Running Time 103 Minutes

HIGHAM'S PEREGRINE CHICKS FLYING THE NEST

The three peregrine falcon chicks nesting in St Mary's Church, Higham Ferrers, are growing fast – and it won't be long before their parents have a very empty nest! Hundreds of people have been following their journey via the live stream from cameras mounted inside the nesting box.

The chicks hatched a few weeks ago under the watchful eyes of proud locals and keen birdwatchers from near and far. And this week they've transformed from fluffy white bundles into sleek, alert young falcons, now only sporting the odd downy feather.

Thanks to the cameras, viewers can watch their flight feathers developing in real time, and see how much more active they've become. They now regularly pace the nest, flap their wings, and peer curiously at the world outside. It won't be long before they take to the skies, following their parents in spectacular dives reaching over 200mph.

For now, Mum and Dad are still hard at work, bringing in

pigeons and smaller birds to feed their growing brood.

Keep an eye on the live stream in the coming days – you might catch a glimpse

of the chicks stretching their wings and hopping along the ledge, building up the strength and courage for that all-important first flight.



Watch them live at www.ashgrovehealth.co.uk/falcons

Your Health – Bed rest

My father-in-law has always been very active – in his late 80s he was still able to look after the garden and keep it looking beautiful. So when he broke his hip this year and ended up in hospital for three months, it was a big shock for his body.

He faced several complications after surgery, which meant he has been in bed for most of his hospital stay. Yes, for three months!

He's slowly getting back on his feet now, but being immobile for that long has definitely affected his body. It's a reminder of how important it is to stay active, to prepare for the times when your body might not be able to do as much, no matter how old you are.

Here's what we noticed:

- **Muscle weakening** – Without regular use, muscles start to waste away. It's made walking and even standing a real challenge for him.
- **Joint stiffness** – Lying in bed means joints aren't being moved much, leading to reduced flexibility and more aches.
- **Poor circulation** – Staying still can affect blood flow, increasing the risk of clots and making healing slower.
- **Bone thinning** – Lack of weight-bearing activity weakens bones further, not ideal after a fracture.
- **Mood and energy dips** – It's easy to feel low when you can't do what you used to.



So, keep moving while you can. Of course, the type of movement will depend on your age and your levels of activity or injury, but whether you're training for a competition, walking around the block, lifting a few weights or just doing balance exercises at home, every little helps. If you're worried about whether you're doing the right thing, there are lots of great clubs and trainers locally who will help, no matter what your age and ability.

Remember the motto: Move better, feel better, live better!

Claire Short is a Registered Osteopath, and runs The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers. Send your questions to claire@ashgrovehealth.co.uk

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Will butterfly populations “bounce back”?

Creating a wildlife haven in your garden could help



Small Tortoiseshell on Verbena bonariensis
by Josie Latus

With lighter evenings and trees in full blossom, it's clear that spring has arrived – a perfect reminder to start getting your garden ready for Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count.

After the declaration of a Butterfly Emergency last year, it's more important than ever to create a wildlife-friendly garden.

The Big Butterfly Count, running from 18th July to 10th August, invites everyone in the UK, from countryside dwellers to city residents, to participate in counting butterflies.

Research shows that 80% of butterflies have declined since the 1970s and the Big Butterfly Count is a quick and easy way for people to take action for their survival.

Dr Richard Fox, Head of Science at Butterfly Conservation, said: “Following last summer's Big Butterfly Count results, which showed a significant

decline in the number of butterflies participants observed, we need everyone to get involved this year.

“Will butterflies bounce back or will their populations continue to decline following a terrible year in 2024?”

“Your counts will help to give us a clear picture and anything you can do to make your garden more butterfly-friendly increases the chances of butterflies surviving, and your chances of seeing them in your garden.”

Creating a garden that supports wildlife doesn't have to mean a messy, overgrown space. By making mindful choices, you can create a beautiful garden, terrace or balcony, soak up some vitamin D, and make a positive impact on pollinators like butterflies and moths. Here are five simple ways to transform your garden into a wildlife haven:

1. BE A GROWER, NOT A MOWER

If you have a lawn, consider letting some of it grow wild! Long grass provides a rich habitat for insects and allows some species of butterflies and moths to complete their life-cycle by providing a place to lay eggs and food for caterpillars. It can also allow nectar-rich plants like clover, bluebells, and dandelions to bloom. If you're not keen on an unmown lawn, consider a more structured approach. Try mowing a curvy path through an area of long grass or sow a mini wildflower meadow to help boost butterfly populations through a designated patch that allows wildlife to flourish. Simple changes can

create a vibrant, wildlife-friendly space.

2. MAKE YOUR GARDEN A STEPPING STONE FOR WILDLIFE

Choose plants that attract wildlife and provide nectar and pollen for insects. Plants like buddleia, verbena, lavender, and marjoram provide nectar throughout the butterfly season. Colourful planted pots can look beautiful in patio gardens and on balconies as well as provide a resting place and sustenance for butterflies. With the right plants, butterflies might even make your garden their permanent home!

3. AVOID PESTICIDES AND INSECTICIDES

While pesticides may target unwanted pests, they also harm beneficial insects like bees, ladybirds and butterflies. Even “pollinator-friendly” products can contain pesticides, which are toxic to insects. Organic methods such as companion planting are a great alternative. For example, planting basil near tomatoes repels aphids, while nasturtiums attract beneficial insects and deter pests. By carefully selecting plants, you can create a healthy, chemical-free ecosystem in your garden.

4. DEADHEAD FLOWERS

By removing dead flowers, you encourage your plants to continue blooming, providing a longer food source for pollinators. Plants like buddleia, lavender, and cosmos benefit from regular deadheading and will keep your garden

alive with butterflies through the summer. Plus, spending time outside not only helps nature but helps reduce stress, improve mood, and improve sleep quality!

5. AVOID PEAT-BASED COMPOSTS

Peat bogs are critical habitats for many native species, including the Large Heath butterfly. The UK's peat bogs have formed over thousands of years but they aren't inexhaustible. Peat extraction is a major threat to these delicate ecosystems, so switching to peat-free composts – made from composted bark, coir, or wood fibre – can make a huge difference. If possible, consider making your own compost from vegetable scraps, grass clippings, and coffee grounds for an eco-friendly alternative.

With these simple, thoughtful actions, you can create a beautiful, butterfly-friendly garden that supports wildlife all year round. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, these tips will help you contribute to the well-being of pollinators and enjoy the beauty of butterflies on your own doorstep.

Getting involved in the Big Butterfly Count really is as simple as 1,2,3 following the steps on Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count webpage at www.bigbutterflycount.org

1. GET READY with the free Big Butterfly Count app or by downloading the butterfly ID chart
2. JOIN IN between 18th July and 10th August
3. ADD YOUR COUNTS via the website or app

HISTORY STEPS OFF THE PAGE AND INTO REAL LIFE AS THE ROMANS RETURN TO NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ESTATE

This summer, history will come to life as Roman Fest returns to The Chester House Estate – with its largest line-up to date and new activities for all to enjoy.

The two-day Roman-themed festival, organised in partnership with the University of Leicester's Heritage Hub, is a free event taking place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th June.

Popular favourites will be returning to the event, including Roman-style military demonstrations, tours of the archaeological digs and Roman themed stalls and crafts. New activities will be introduced including an expanded Living History itinerary, theatre shows and an extended pop-up archaeology lab. The festival also includes the unique opportunity to see an excavation in progress, ask questions of the experts and have the chance to wash real Roman objects found during the excavations.

Stalls from more than 35 local museums, community archaeology groups, archaeological companies and other heritage organisations from Northamptonshire and beyond will provide the opportunity for real Roman artefacts to be handled, and

historic demonstrations of ancient weaving, spinning, pottery and tile making, bone crafting and cooking techniques will be available to see.

Jane Bethea, Director of Public Health, Communities and Leisure at North Northamptonshire Council, said: “The Chester House Estate has a fascinating past, including 400 years of Roman history and Roman Fest really highlights this.

“This event is always the highlight of the Estate's calendar and provides a fun day out for the whole family, whilst also providing a great insight into the world of Roman Britain.

“Roman Fest is always extremely popular, so I would encourage you to book your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.”

Exclusive to this year, the Estate is showcasing a pop-up exhibition of artwork by Northampton College students, inspired by the Romans

and objects within the onsite Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC).

Sarah Scott, Professor of Archaeology and Director of the University of Leicester's Heritage Hub, explained: “We are delighted to be partnering on the Roman Festival at the Chester House Estate this June. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our collaborative research and archaeological expertise through guided tours of our live excavation and an interactive pop-up archaeology lab. Our students and staff are excited to be working alongside volunteers and staff from the ARC and the Chester House Estate investigating the small Roman town of Irchester which lies within the Estate.

“In addition to popular favourites, such as demonstrations from the Ermine Street Guard, you can learn

the basics of osteoarchaeology, examine real archaeological finds using microscopes and uncover the surprising role of insects in archaeology and health. There will be something for all ages.”

Roman Fest 2025 will take place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th June, 10am-4pm both days. This is a free event, however visitors must book a ticket due to the popularity of the weekend-long event. Visit The Chester House Estate website to book.



Claudius Way is the estate's main visitor car park and is accessed through the Prologis Park, Wellingborough. Visitors must use the NN8 2DH postcode to find this entrance. The Lime Avenue A45 entrance will strictly be for blue badge holders only.

CAPITAL GRANTS OF UP TO £25,000 NOW AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

Using funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, North Northamptonshire Council has launched two business capital grant schemes.

Until 8am on Monday 23rd June, the Rural Business Grant Scheme and the Business Growth Scheme are both accepting applications for capital grants of between £5,000 and £25,000.

The grants are designed to help micro and small businesses become more resilient and support growth. All projects must be delivered and spend claimed by 31st January 2026.

The grants are aimed at:

- micro and small sized businesses located within North Northamptonshire (must have fewer than 49 employees)

- businesses must have been trading for at least 12 months at the application closure date
 - businesses can only receive one grant per financial year
 - businesses are required to provide a minimum of 50% match funding
- George Candler, Executive Director of Place and Economy, said: "Grants like this make such a difference to businesses in North Northants, helping them to grow and be more resilient. There are still a few weeks to apply, so please do email the team, read the eligibility and apply before 8am on 23rd June 2025."

Anyone interested in applying should email ukspf@northnorthants.gov.uk with your business name and address to request an application form and guidance notes.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AWARDS RETURNS FOR 2025

North Northamptonshire Council and sponsors are delighted to announce the launch of the North Northamptonshire Active Communities Awards 2025.

The awards are a celebration event for health and wellbeing, physical activity and sport in North Northamptonshire. The honours recognise local individuals, groups, clubs, organisations and projects that have improved the lives of the community and encouraged North Northamptonshire residents to get active.

To make these awards happen, we need you, the public, to nominate the local sporting heroes, clubs and organisations for one of the following categories:

- Community Club
- Community Team
- Community Organisation/Group
- Community Activator
- Community Champion
- Health and Wellbeing Initiative
- Young Community Champion
- Get Active
- Disabled Sports Performer
- Young Sports Performer
- Sports Performer
- Outstanding Recognition
- Primary School Sports
- Secondary School Sports

Nominations can be submitted for North Northamptonshire individuals, clubs, schools, groups and projects that have improved the lives of the local community. More details along with the electronic nomination form are available via

the dedicated website, www.nnactiveawards.co.uk.

The nomination window will remain open until noon on 21st September. Soon after they will be closely considered by a shortlisting panel. Winners will be announced at an invite only ceremony on Wednesday 19th November at Sywell Aerodrome, Hall Farm, Northamptonshire, Sywell NN6 0BN.

Jane Bethea, Director of Public Health at North Northamptonshire Council, said: "North Northamptonshire Council is extremely proud of its strong and diverse community and recognises that there are many individuals, clubs, groups and organisations that support and enable North Northamptonshire residents to be active and adopt healthy lifestyles.

"With this in mind we are honoured to be hosting the annual awards for the fourth time in November 2025.

"It's our way of thanking those individuals, clubs, groups and organisations that have made a positive impact on the residents of North Northamptonshire's wellbeing levels.

"We will also have the opportunity to share the inspirational stories of individuals and their active journeys, to encourage others to start or continue their own journeys and to recognise and celebrate local, regional and international sporting excellence."

The sponsors for this year's 2025 awards are Northamptonshire Sport, Alliance Leisure, Gladstone, Ace Furniture, Arena Sports and Urban & Civic.

If you are a company or organisation that would like to become a sponsor for this year's North Northamptonshire Active Communities Awards there is still time to get involved, please get in touch by contacting rachel.ritchie@northnorthants.gov.uk 01536 807279.

Nene Valley news CLASSIFIEDS

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. 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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DISTRICT) (WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2009 (AMENDMENT No. 22) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 32, 35 to 39 and 45 to 55 and Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") to amend "The Northamptonshire County Council (East Northamptonshire District) (Waiting and Loading Restrictions and On-Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009" as specified in the Schedule below.

A COPY of the Order may be inspected at Kier Highways, Brixworth Depot, Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northants, NN6 9BX at a time and date specified by appointment only by calling 01604 529700. A copy of the Order can also be obtained on request by emailing NNCParkingenquiries@kier.co.uk

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or of any provisions contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act, or of any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may, within six weeks from the date of this Notice apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The Order will become effective on 9th June 2025.

Dated this 7th day of June 2025
SANJIT SULL,
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) (Interim) P/1977

NO WAITING AT ANYTIME RESTRICTIONS (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES)

Warth Park Way, Raunds – From points around the roundabout with exits to Brick Kiln Way and London Road towards the roundabout for Asda at all exits then for the full length of adopted Warth Park Way in a southerly direction. Robinson Road, Rushden – Junction protections from the boundary of no 20 to no 22. Hall Hill, Brigstock – From a point outside properties no 6-8. Victoria Street, Irthlingborough – Junction protections at junction with Wellingborough Road. Gladstone Street, Ringstead – Junction protection for junction with Denford Road. Main Street, Great Addington – From a point from the boundary of Carlers Farm northwards to the boundary of the 'hall' and opposite towards the junction to the east with Cranford Road for junction protection. Mill Road, Woodford – Extension of existing double yellow lines to cover the access to Victoria Court in Mill Road and towards the boundary of no 4 High Street before the h-bar. Wellingborough Road, Irthlingborough – From a point outside the boundary of the house of no 24 to a point outside no 34. Hove Road, Rushden – For a section to protect the bend opposite no 1 (the shop). Charles Street, Thrapston – Junction protection at junction of Highfield Road. Midland Road, Higham Ferrers – Junction protection at junctions with Victoria Drive and Castlefields Close. High Street, Denford – From a point adjacent to the 30mph signs on both sides and to protect the junction with Freemans Lane.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (MAIN STREET & MILL ROAD, YARWELL) (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 Main Street and Mill Road, Yarwell as set out below.

LENGTHS OF ROADS TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: Those lengths of Main Street and Mill Road, Yarwell – from Nassington Road – for its entire length.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during manhole access for maintenance.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 9th June 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 2 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Nassington Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N1046 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/374

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (ISLINGTON, TITCHMARSH) (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 Islington, Titchmarsh as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Islington, Titchmarsh from outside Ranway House.

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 10th June 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 3 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Church Street, A605 and Hungtindon Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N1049 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/377

Dated this 7th day of June 2025
SANJIT SULL
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) (Interim)

Family NOTICES

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

For help and information to place your notice please call **01522 692542** or visit www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

MOULTON COLLEGE FLORISTRY STUDENT BLOOMS ON LOCAL FLOWER FARM

Moulton College student Rebecca Whitbread is set for a blossoming future in floral craft, thanks to a unique work experience stint on a local flower farm.

Rebecca, of Duston, Northamptonshire, is studying for a Level 2 qualification in Floristry at the land-based college. Its specialist facilities include floristry workshops fitted with industry-standard cold storage and display and photography areas, where students learn the industry-relevant knowledge and hands-on skills required to carve out a successful career in floristry.

To fulfil the required work experience element of her course, Rebecca contacted Flower & Farmer, a Northamptonshire-based cut-flower farm that provides a range of locally grown flowers and foliage, bouquets and wreaths for weddings and events and wholesale flowers for businesses.

She explains: "I came to floristry later on in my career, having decided to pursue my passion for flowers and the outdoors. As part of my course, I needed to gain some hands-on work experience and decided to contact Flower & Farmer, who I had come

across a few years ago when I took part in one of their flower design workshops.

"I messaged the owner, Milly, to ask if she had any opportunities and was delighted to be invited to help out one day a week on the farm, which I hope to increase over the coming months when the flowers are fully in bloom."

Rebecca's hands-on experience at Flower & Farmer has included learning the basics of cut-flower growing, from tending the soil over winter, mulching, and planting, to the fundamentals of running a floral-based business.

Run by aunt and niece, Jo de Nobriga and Milly Naden-Robinson, Flower & Farmer was set up in 2018 at their family farm in Guilsborough, where the pair have set aside five acres and two polytunnels devoted exclusively to growing flowers. From spring through to autumn, the farm is a riot of colour and scent, with the land bursting with

dahlias, foxgloves, peonies and other seasonal English garden flowers.

Flower & Farmer's ethos is built on sustainability, with the team utilising environmentally friendly farming practices to grow its blooms and maintain a balanced ecosystem on the farm. Customers range from florists to brides-to-be, with deliveries across the Midlands and as far afield as London.

Rebecca adds: "I have learned so much during my time here already. Being able to get hands-on experience on the flower farm has given me a real insight into every aspect of what it takes to grow flowers as well as the preparation required to prepare blooms for florist buckets and bridal bouquets."

Flower & Farmer owner Milly says: "Rebecca has been a great asset to our team, and we are delighted to have her on board. Working on a cut-flower farm requires hard work, a love of the land,



Milly Naden-Robinson, Flower & Farmer owner (left) with Floristry student Rebecca

and the ability to muck in with the rest of the team, which Rebecca has done in spades during her time here."

Alison Scott, Floristry Course Manager at Moulton College adds: "Work experience is so valuable for our students, as it provides insight into employment and an idea of the opportunities available in the floral industry. We're grateful to local employers like Flower & Farmer, who

give students such as Rebecca the chance to learn and develop practical skills in the workplace."

Moulton College runs full-time Floristry courses, ranging from Level 1 to Level 3, which are guided by specialist staff and guest lecturers. The courses provide students with the skills and theoretical understanding needed to prepare for a future career in a rewarding industry.

Can you support a Moulton College student with work experience opportunities? We'd love to hear from you! To find out more about Moulton College and help us to shape your workforce of the future, please visit www.moulton.ac.uk/employers/work-experience-placements

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