

# Nene Valley

## news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### New Executive Member confirmed

A new Executive Member for Health and Leisure on North Northamptonshire Council has been announced.

Cllr Brian Benneyworth, who represents the Rothwell and Mawsley ward, will take over the role with immediate effect.

The role had been filled by Cllr Barry O'Brien, who is stepping back to focus on personal commitments. He will continue to represent the Gretton and Weldon ward as a councillor.

Cllr Benneyworth, who has been with the authority since the election in May, said: "I'm tremendously proud to take on the role of lead member for Health and Leisure for the Council.

"This is such an important position on the Executive as it plays a key part in improving the health and care needs of the people of North Northamptonshire."

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Council, said: "I'd like to thank Barry for all his hard work and commitment in the first few weeks since the election – he has been a tremendous asset as we get the new Administration up and running.

"I would like to welcome Brian on board and look forward to working with him as we develop our priorities for the next year and beyond."

## Never Give Up Team wins national award for transforming lives of rough sleepers

North Northamptonshire Council's Never Give Up Team has been named Team of the Year (1,000 to 15,000 homes) at the Housing Heroes Awards 2025, in recognition of its outstanding contribution to tackling rough sleeping and transforming lives across the region.

The award celebrates a team that has not only delivered exceptional results but also redefined how homelessness support can be delivered, through compassion, creativity, and a relentless commitment to making a difference.

The Never Give Up Project was established in May 2023 to support people who have been rough sleeping for an extended period and are experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness, including mental health issues, substance misuse, grief, debt, and previous incarceration. The project aims to help individuals gradually sustain an independent tenancy.

The project offers accommodation comprising

16 self-contained, newly refurbished flats throughout North Northamptonshire, and a team that provides tailored individual support. Tasks range from help with setting up utility bills, to assisting with recovery, and liaising with partner agencies.

The Never Give Up Team goes beyond basic support, providing creative solutions to help individuals stay on track, such as art therapy to help with grief, accompanying residents to the supermarket, and setting up piano lessons.

They also help individuals understand finances, set up savings accounts, and create personalised incentives for achieving goals they have set together.

Since May 2023, the Never Give Up Team has supported 26 people to date, helping to reduce the number of people sleeping rough long-term in North Northamptonshire from 13 in April 2024 to just 6 by December 2024.

Their work has led to many inspiring success stories, including individuals moving into permanent housing and sustaining their tenancies, overcoming lifelong alcohol dependence, and securing employment.

The judges said: "The application clearly demonstrates the passion and the tenacity of the small team that is having a life-changing impact for individuals as well as the wider community. A very impressive application."



Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing, said: "I'm incredibly proud of the Never Give Up Team for winning this award. Their dedication, compassion and sheer determination have made a real difference to people's lives across North Northamptonshire, and this recognition is a testament to the impact they've had.

"Too many people still face the harsh reality of rough sleeping

and homelessness – everyone deserves a safe place to call home and the chance to rebuild their lives.

"It's a proud moment for the whole council and a reminder of what can be achieved when we work together to support those most in need."

The award was presented at a ceremony in Manchester, where the team were celebrated for their passion, innovation, and measurable impact on the community.

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# HELP TO DESIGN AND SHAPE FUTURE ALCOHOL SUPPORT SERVICES IN NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

*North Northamptonshire Council's Public Health team is looking for your help to design and shape future alcohol support services which best meet the needs of its residents.*

They are asking for residents who are interested to complete a short anonymous and confidential online questionnaire on the council's website ([northnorthyants.citizenspace.com/public-health/alcohol-na/](http://northnorthyants.citizenspace.com/public-health/alcohol-na/)).

The multiple-choice questions centre around drinking frequency, consumption and behaviours. The team is also keen to have an insight into locations where residents consume alcohol, and where they buy it. They are also

looking to discover if challenges including Dry January or Going Sober for October are successful in our area and whether or not they have a longer-term effect. Key to the survey are also questions around possible harmful drinking and where residents might currently turn if they feel they need support.

Residents' feedback will inform and support future planning and design of alcohol support services and help them:

- Understand levels and patterns of people's alcohol intake, which can vary significantly between different populations
  - Compare these local results with national surveys conducted
  - Take effective action on alcohol-related harms and identify key priorities for improving services and planning future support
- Cllr Barry O'Brien, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Health and Leisure, said: "The Public Health team is keen to hear from people living across North Northamptonshire to help us gain an insight about people's drinking behaviours and patterns, including the reasons people choose not to drink alcohol.

"Your views will be included in an Alcohol Needs Assessment, which provides valuable insight into how alcohol use, misuse and dependency is impacting the local population's health and wellbeing with additional evidence gathered from data provided by local and national partners, stakeholder views and research.

"Your responses will be carefully analysed and combined with other data to guide decisions about funding, service improvements, and future planning. All

answers are anonymous, and no one will be able to identify you from your responses."

This survey closes at 11:59pm on 27th July 2025.

Please visit the Council's Drug and Alcohol support website page ([northnorthyants.gov.uk/drug-and-alcohol-support](http://northnorthyants.gov.uk/drug-and-alcohol-support)) which has information about current support services and how to contact them, should you need to seek any professional support if you feel your alcohol intake is causing problems or alternatively discuss with your GP.



## GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY  
JAN PEARSON

Last time, I was bemoaning the fact that I had ordered the wrong death certificate for my 4 x great grandfather because ages had not been available for the deceased. Imagine the struggle that I would have had if it had been for John Smith, it does not bear thinking about! However, one of my great grandfathers did have such a name.

I knew the area in which he was born but there were a fair few John Smiths all born in that area at the same time. How to identify which one was the right one? I had found the family in the 1851 census but did not know his mother's maiden name, so could not use that as a knock-out factor when ordering. Looking through the names of his siblings, one of them stood out – Pharaoh. You did not get many Pharaoh Smiths! I could order that certificate and therefore find out their mother's maiden name. Sadly, that was not to be. There were no Pharaoh Smiths registered, even though he had been born in 1837, after registration started. Another child was called Matilda and she was the only one

whose birth was registered in the correct place and time-frame. The certificate was duly ordered, the mother's maiden name was Swan! This enabled me to order John's birth certificate, using his mother's maiden name as a knock-out factor.

As with the death ages that I mentioned last time, until recently, the mother's maiden name was not available in the indexes unless the registration took place in 1912 or after. However, once again the GRO has come up trumps and, as long as you are registered, you can search for births right back to 1837 and that maiden name will be there! Oh yes – Pharaoh WAS there but under Swan... born before his parents wed! Checking for children under this system also enabled me to identify three others who had not appeared in the censuses but had been born and died between them.

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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 19th July**  
**Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 9th July**

**Publication date: Saturday 2nd August**  
**Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 23rd July**

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## RAUNDS COMMUNITY LIBRARY SEEKS TO ADD TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The team of Trustees and our 40+ volunteers run the library with active support from Library Plus through a Service Level Agreement. We have been running the library for over 5 years and have sustained a well-used library covering Raunds and the surrounding villages. We have extended this to become a community hub for over 20 small groups covering all ages and interests.

The trustees are all volunteers and we are looking to extend the Board's range of skills to carry us forward and build on our successful initiative. The commitment is only limited by an individual's time and enthusiasm but the Board meets monthly to discuss strategic matters whilst an Operations Group manages the day to day procedures.

**If you feel you have something to offer and would like to contribute for the benefit of our communities, please contact us on [raundscmal@gmail.com](mailto:raundscmal@gmail.com) addressed to the Chairman, and we can go into more detail.**



# North Northamptonshire Council supports Armed Forces Week

*As part of Armed Forces Week (22nd–28th June) representatives from North Northamptonshire Council came together to pay tribute to the women and men who protect the United Kingdom and those who came before them.*

Armed Forces Day flags were raised at all four of the council offices, with a small ceremony taking place at the Thrapston office attended by representatives from across the council, alongside the Leader and Deputy Leader of North Northamptonshire Council.

Armed Forces Week is a chance for individuals and organisations to show support for all those who make up the Armed Forces community, from currently serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets. Celebrations began on Monday 23rd June when the Armed Forces Day flag was raised on buildings and landmarks across the country.

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "It was a distinct honour to attend the flag raising ceremony and to pay tribute to the outstanding men and women who serve within our Armed Forces.

"However, our recognition and support must extend beyond this occasion or a single commemorative week. The council is a proud member of the Armed Forces Covenant and we

currently have the Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award for our support towards the Armed Forces community. We are working towards the Gold Award, which will further demonstrate our support, across the entire year, to the Armed Forces community in North Northamptonshire."

You can find out more about how the council supports the Armed Forces across the area on the council's dedicated Armed Forces Covenant web pages. To find out more about Armed Forces Day and events visit the Armed Forces Day website.



## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT TO TAKE ON THE RUNNING OF RAUNDS LIBRARY

As part of the Council's Community Managed Libraries Programme, North Northamptonshire Council are seeking a new partner for Raunds Community Managed Library, to take on the building and operate the public library.

Raunds Community Library Trust continues to run the library successfully but does not currently hold the lease for the building and the council is now looking for a partner who can take over all elements, including the lease.

The new partner will help ensure the best possible service for the local community going forward and the offer would be under an agreed Service Level Agreement.

The offer is as follows:

North Northamptonshire Council will provide and maintain:

- Access to the Library Management System in order to run a public library lending system as part of the countywide library offer, enabling customers to borrow and return library stock at any county library
- Public access computer providing internet access via the People's Network
- Self-service library kiosk
- Book stock on the day of transfer and an ongoing supply of new stock, which remains the property of the Council
- Training and ongoing support for volunteers

and/or staff running the Community Managed Library through a team of Community Managed Library Co-ordinators

The Community Managed Library will need to satisfy the council that they can:

- Cover all building and associated costs including leasing or purchase of the library premises or provide suitable alternative premises
- Provide sufficient staffing and/or volunteers to provide at least 12 opening hours a week for the public library

Cllr Gregory Wilcox, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Communities, said: "Raunds Library has been operating successfully as a Community Managed Library for the last few years, and we are looking to build on this success with a partner to take on the building and run the library.

"I would encourage anyone interested to submit their Expression of Interest and we hope that this unique opportunity will spark interest and enable the local community to continue to benefit from a dedicated library service in Raunds."

Anyone interested in exploring the offer further is asked to submit an Expression of Interest by email to [Feedback.LibraryPlus@Westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Feedback.LibraryPlus@Westnorthants.gov.uk) by 5pm on Friday 11th July 2025.



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# Spotlight on > Summer Days Out

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## > SUMMER WITH BOSWORTH'S GARDEN CENTRE

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"Beyond the garden centre itself, Bosworths

offers a fantastic range of experiences to make your summer even more memorable. Our coach trips are a customer favourite — carefully curated day excursions to beautiful gardens, flower shows, and other points of interest across the UK. Whether

it's a trip to a historic stately home or a renowned horticultural event, our coach trips provide a stress-free and sociable way to explore new places and enjoy the beauty of the season.

"For those looking to get creative or learn something new, our seasonal workshops are a wonderful way to spend a few hours. From summer planter demonstrations to hands-on floral design

and craft sessions, there's always something new to try. Workshops are suitable for all experience levels and are hosted by friendly, knowledgeable instructors in a relaxed setting.

"A visit to Bosworths wouldn't be complete without a stop at The Aspen Café, our welcoming onsite eatery. Whether you're popping in for a freshly brewed coffee, indulging in a homemade slice of cake, or enjoying a full lunch, our café is the perfect place to unwind. With indoor and outdoor seating available, you can soak up the summer atmosphere while enjoying locally sourced ingredients and seasonal specials."



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North Northamptonshire Council

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"This summer, make Bosworth's Garden Centre your go-to destination for a great day out. With everything from peaceful shopping and expert-led workshops to delicious food and organised trips further afield, there's something to delight everyone. Whether you're visiting solo, with friends, or bringing the family along, you'll find inspiration, relaxation, and a warm welcome waiting for you.

#### > SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

North Northamptonshire Council is launching a vibrant Summer Holiday Programme from 23rd July 2025, offering a wide range of activities for children and families across the North Northamptonshire. With events taking place in parks, leisure centres, and community spaces, the programme encourages young people to stay active, creative, and connected during the school break.

While some sessions are free, most are low-cost, making them accessible to a broad range of families. Highlights include Active Family



Fundays and Explorer Events, family swimming and holiday clubs to promote movement and engagement. In addition, the council continues to support the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, delivered by NSport, which provides meals and enriching activities for children on free school meals.

Residents can explore the full schedule and find local events via the Holiday Activities page on the council's website [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/holidayactivities](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/holidayactivities). It's a summer of opportunity, connection, and community for North Northamptonshire.

#### > FAMILY FUN AT RUSHDEN CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Rushden Classic Car Show, Hall Park, Rushden, Sunday 3rd August, 11am-4pm.

Bring the family along to view over 400 classic cars and a small selection of motorbikes. There will be 40 local craft stalls, a variety of hot and cold food, a licensed bar, classic film shows in the hall, live music, children's amusements, and more.

Public entry is by donation – recommended £3 per person or £10 per family. On-site parking is available for £10 per car - this will include your entry donation.

For more info, see [www.rhts.co.uk](http://www.rhts.co.uk) or email [administrator@rhts.co.uk](mailto:administrator@rhts.co.uk)



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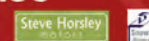
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**Sat 12** Skegness  
**Sun 13** Hunstanton  
**Mon 14** Bakewell Market  
**Wed 16** Rutland Belle River Cruise & Oakham  
**Sat 26** Southend on Sea  
**Sun 27** Weymouth  
**Tue 29** Trentham Estate & Monkey Forest  
**Wed 30** Battersea Power Station Lift Tour & Shopping (New shopping Destination)  
**Thu 31** London Zoo  
**Thu 31** Postal Museum, London

#### 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  
**Fri 8** Butterfly Farm & Stratford Upon Avon  
**Fri 8** Stamford Market Day  
**Sat 9** Broadstairs  
**Sat 9** Margate  
**Sun 10** Great Yarmouth  
**Mon 11** Norfolk Broads River Trip  
**Tue 12** Cadbury World  
**Wed 13** Rutland Belle River Cruise & Oakham  
**Thu 14** Windsor OR Windsor Castle  
**Fri 15** Canterbury OR Whitstable  
**Sat 16** Eastbourne Airshow  
**Sat 16** Hunstanton  
**Sun 17** Skegness Carnival  
**Tue 19** Cleethorpes  
**Wed 20** Wye Valley Cruise & Lunch  
**Thu 21** London Free Time OR Museums  
**Thu 21** Kensington Palace  
**Fri 22** Clacton Airshow  
**Sat 23** Epping & Ongar Railway with Fish n Chips  
**Sat 23** Weston Super Mare  
**Sun 24** Mablethorpe  
**Sun 24** Ramsgate Seaside  
**Mon 25** Skegness - Bank Holiday  
**Tue 26** Bournemouth  
**Wed 27** Black Country Museum  
**Wed 27** Dudley Zoo OR Little Venice to Camden  
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**Fri 29** Cirencester Market Day  
**Sat 30** Thorpe Park Resort  
**Sun 31** Whitby

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#### AUGUST

**10-14 AUGUST**  
**KENTISH MEN & COASTAL GEMS - £559pp**  
Ashford International Hotel, Ashford. Half Board including excursions. Discover the captivating essence of the Garden of England wending along lanes past lavender fields, orchards, vineyards and oast houses. Be enriched by England's oldest county, alive with its exciting past. Whether you're a history or nature lover, Kent will not disappoint you. Excursions include entrance to Leeds Castle and Chatham Docks.

**15-17 AUGUST**  
**SUPER SOAP WEEKEND - £339pp**

Cedar Court Hotel, Elland, Huddersfield. Half Board including excursions. Yorkshire is England's largest historical county. It comprises of four broad belts each stretching from north to south: the high Pennine moorlands in the west, dissected by the Yorkshire Dales; the central lowlands - including the Vale of York - draining into the Humber estuary in the southeast; the North Yorkshire Moors and Yorkshire Wolds in the east; and, in the far southeast, the Holderness plain along the North Sea. Excursions including Coronation St tour and trip to Harrogate.

#### SEPTEMBER

**5-8 SEPTEMBER**  
**VINTAGE VARIETY SHOW WEEKEND - £350pp**

Cedar Court Hotel, Elland, Huddersfield. Half Board including excursions. Yorkshire, is an historic county of England, in the north-central part of the country between the Pennines and the North Sea. Yorkshire is England's largest historical county. It entered the Industrial Revolution as a centre of woollen textile manufacturing in the towns of Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Wakefield, and Huddersfield, where rivers flowing from the Pennines provided both waterpower and a means of transport to the seaport of Kingston upon Hull. Includes all entertainment, pre-dinner drink each evening and a Murder mystery train ride.

#### NOVEMBER

**23-26 NOVEMBER**  
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# High Street and business support programme returns to boost small businesses in North Northamptonshire

*North Northamptonshire Council's popular support programme for independent High Street and retail businesses returns this summer, offering expert-led mentoring, training and practical guidance to help local businesses succeed.*

Delivered in partnership with Smarter Society and funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the programme offers a mix of workshops, one-to-one mentoring, webinars, and tailored business support, all available free of charge to High Street businesses across North Northamptonshire, including those in retail, hospitality, hair and beauty, and service sectors. In addition, a series of events with networking opportunities is open to any small business in the area looking for support and advice.

This year's programme includes:

- One-to-one mentoring support for 50 businesses
- Four in-depth training workshops covering topics including digital skills and AI, customer service, and social media
- Two networking events to connect businesses and

share insight

- Online resources and support

A key part of the programme is the commitment to engage with small business owners through Smarter Society's 'Beat the Streets' initiative, which sees the team actively visiting the 12 towns that make up North Northamptonshire, and small businesses operating there. This hands-on approach allows the team to get to know the business and understand the unique challenges they face to identify specific areas where support is most needed.

Cllr Jan O'Hara, Executive Member for Planning and Economic Growth at North Northamptonshire Council said: "We know how vital small businesses are to the local economy and to the life of our communities. Last year's programme directly supported 75 small businesses, helping them to build confidence, gain new skills and grow stronger in



challenging times.

"This year, we're building on that success with a refreshed programme offering expert-led mentoring, training, and practical advice. This brilliant programme develops skills, shapes ideas, and strengthens resilience. Through its delivery we're giving small businesses the best chance to succeed, helping our High Streets and town centres to thrive."

Brian Pinnell, Programme

Lead for Smarter Society said: "We're proud to continue working with North Northamptonshire Council on this important programme. Small businesses are at the heart of local communities, and we're here to help them adapt, grow, and succeed in what remains a very challenging environment."

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Council, said: "Our High Streets are the beating

hearts of our wonderful towns in North Northamptonshire and we're committed to doing what we can to support them – boosting businesses to keep communities thriving.

"Programmes such as this are essential in offering the much-valued help and advice and I'm delighted to see this support on offer."

The initiative will work alongside the Council's ongoing Hi Street! campaign,

which champions small businesses and encourages residents to shop local and explore what towns in the area have to offer.

The first virtual event is focussed on business therapy and is coming up on 22nd July at 10am. Businesses can find out more about the programme, register their interest and sign up for mentoring and events at [www.nnbusiness.co.uk](http://www.nnbusiness.co.uk)

## North Northamptonshire Council finance and governance review to ensure value for money for residents

*Plans for a comprehensive review of North Northamptonshire Council's finances, procurement and governance have been approved at a meeting of the authority's Executive.*

**The review will take place over the summer at the same time as a resident satisfaction survey takes place.**

All this information will then be collated and will help shape the budget setting process for the next financial year (2026/2027), identifying in-year efficiencies and improvements.

It is anticipated the work and its findings

will be reported back in the autumn 2025.

Specifically, the review will:

- Ensure that the Council is spending public money in an efficient way
- Ensure there is strong governance with high levels of transparency
- Promote openness and honesty
- Deliver services in a financially sustainable way

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "We're absolutely committed to making sure that we provide quality services for the people of North Northamptonshire and it's essential that we do this as efficiently as possible.

"There's some great work going on in the council and I know how hard-working and committed our staff are in striving to improve this wonderful area.

"What this review aims to do is improve on efficiencies that have already been made, making sure we offer value for

money for the taxpayer."

The efficiency review will be done by a multi-skilled team of officers and experts, with an executive working group established.

The Executive will also ensure that the relevant Scrutiny Committee is engaged with the process so that there is cross-party involvement.

Any findings and recommendations following the efficiency review will be reported and determined through the Council's established governance and reporting mechanisms.







# The Hawthorns

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# Nene Valley News - EVENTS

> **SUNDAY 6TH JULY, 10.15AM**  
**Morning Worship at Whitefriars Church**  
Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> **FRIDAY 11TH JULY, 7PM**  
**Fashion History Talk**  
Raunds Community Library, High Street Raunds NN9 6HT. Sharn Matthews, costume historian, giving a talk on fashion between 1870 and 1970. Tickets £5 available from the library and Raunds post office. Contact 01933 623747.

> **SATURDAY 12TH JULY, 1PM – 4PM**  
**Summer Picnic**  
Bassfords Recreation Ground. Free Entry.

> **SUNDAY 13TH JULY, 10.30AM**  
**Countryside Walk from Knotting**  
Meeting outside the church (MK44 1AF) for a 4-mile walk. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden, but all are welcome.

> **WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY, FILM STARTS AT 1:30PM**  
**Film Afternoon: Mad About the Boy**  
Saxon Hall. £2 Entry.

> **SATURDAY 19TH JULY, 9:30AM**  
**Raunds Saturday Market**  
Town Square. Free Entry

### Raunds Summer Picnic

Saturday 12th July 2025, 1-4pm

Bassfords Recreation Ground, Marshalls Road

Free Popcorn / Free Strawberries & Cream / Free Inflatables / Children's Entertainment / Live Music / Food & Drink Stalls

Bring your own picnic & blanket / Free parking at Millfield

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@Raundscouncil @RaundsTC @raundstowncouncil www.raunds-tc.gov.uk

## RAUNDS SATURDAY MARKET

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025 | Town Square

EXPLORE A VARIETY OF LOCAL STALLS OPEN FROM 9.30AM

LIVE Entertainment

GLITTER TATTOOS, BALLOON TWISTING, CIRCUS SKILLS, DINOSAURS

Glitter Tattoos and Balloon Twisting 10am - 11am  
Circus skills Workshops 11am - 12pm  
Dinosaurs meet and greets 12pm - 1pm

NEXT SATURDAY MARKET 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

If you would like a stall at a Raunds Town Council event, please contact 01933 622 087 or email [info@raunds-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@raunds-tc.gov.uk)

@RaundsCouncil @RaundsTC raundstowncouncil

> **SUNDAY 20TH JULY, 10:15AM**  
**Morning Worship at Whitefriars Church**  
Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden.

# Splash Park, Wellingborough to open outside school holidays

Following feedback from visitors, Splash Park in Wellingborough will be open for additional days this summer.

North Northamptonshire Council will be opening the facilities for pre-school children on Thursdays and Fridays either side of the school holidays, meaning the park will be open as below:

- On Thursdays and Fridays (10am-1pm) from Thursday 3rd July to Friday 18th July, the park will be open for pre-school children and their families.
- From Wednesday 23rd July to Sunday 31st August, the park will be open daily for general use from midday to 6:30pm (as in previous years)
- Then on Thursdays and Fridays (10am-1pm) from Thursday 4th September to Friday 26th September, the park will be open for pre-school children and their families.

Alongside the above, the park is open weekends and bank holidays until Sunday 28th September from midday until 6:30pm. Cllr Ken Harrington, the council's Executive member for Assets, Waste and Environmental Services, said: "Following feedback from visitors to the Splash Park, we are delighted to be able to offer this facility for use by the youngest residents of North Northamptonshire on Thursdays and Fridays outside the school holidays." Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "Myself and Cllr Harrington have both been long-standing Councillors in the area and know how popular the Splash Park is for families during the summer months. I am delighted that this facility continues to be popular and free community attraction."

# SUMMER NIGHTS RETURN TO FERRY MEADOWS

Get ready for an unmissable season of Summer Nights at Ferry Meadows – where evenings in the Park come alive with delicious local food and drink, live music, outdoor cinema and community-programmed film screenings. This fun-filled line-up is all part of Nene Park Trust's mission to bring people together to enjoy inclusive events in our beautiful green spaces. Here's what's in store:

> **FOODIE FRIDAYS**  
**Selected Fridays, see below | 5pm - 8pm | Lakeside, Ferry Meadows**  
Kick-off your weekends at Foodie Fridays throughout the summer. Bringing together some of Peterborough's top food and drink vendors, each serving up their own unique flavours, plus live music from talented local musicians and after-hours pedalos at Nene Outdoors. It's the perfect way to wind down your week!



> **COMMUNITY FILM SCREENINGS**  
**Fridays, 25th July – 29th August | 7pm | £6 per ticket**  
In partnership with Gateway Film Festival, Nene Park Trust presents a series of community-led film screenings, hand-picked by local groups to reflect the city's diversity. From feel-good family favourites to independent gems, enjoy a unique cinema experience beneath the summer sky.

> **SATURDAY CINEMA SPECIALS**  
**Saturdays, 9th & 23rd August | Tickets £11 adult & £8.50 child**  
Blockbuster films voted by Nene Park Trust followers will take over the big screen for two special Saturday nights. Bring a blanket, grab your snacks and relax with friends and family for an evening of entertainment in the great outdoors.



Date	Time	
27 June	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music
11 July	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music
25 July	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music
	7pm	Outdoor Cinema – Rio (U) <i>programmed by Culture Community</i>
1 August	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music
	7pm	Outdoor Cinema – Before Sunrise (30th Anniversary) (15) <i>programmed by Gateway Film Festival</i>
8 August	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music
	7pm	Outdoor Cinema – River (U) <i>programmed by Flourish</i>
9 August	4.30pm	Outdoor Cinema – Shrek (PG)
	7.30pm	Outdoor Cinema – Wicked Sing-A-Long (PG)
15 August	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music
	7pm	Outdoor Cinema – Shrek 2 (PG) <i>programmed by Queers on Cue</i>
22 August	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music
	7pm	Outdoor Cinema – The Bride of Frankenstein (PG) <i>programmed by Gateway Film Festival</i>
23 August	4.30pm	Outdoor Cinema – Moana (PG)
	7.30pm	Outdoor Cinema – Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy (15)
29 August	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music
	7pm	Outdoor Cinema – Singham Returns (12) <i>programmed by Bengali Sanskriti Club</i>
5 & 19 September	5pm – 8pm	Foodie Fridays – local food, drink and live music

Visit [www.nenepark.org.uk/summer-nights](http://www.nenepark.org.uk/summer-nights) for full event details, tickets and updates. Whether you're a foodie, film fan or just looking for a great evening out with friends and family, there's something for everyone at Summer Nights at Ferry Meadows.



# PEREGRINE FALCON CHICKS UPDATE

Over the past three weeks, all three peregrine falcon chicks at St Mary's Church have made remarkable progress. No longer fluffy nestlings, they're now unmistakable adults: sleek, feathered juveniles mastering essential survival skills.

- **Winged and ready:** The trio has moved from ledge-hopping to sustained fluttering, often gliding across the spire under parental supervision. The supervision sometimes includes the parent holding bits of meat to encourage the chicks to fly further.
- **Learning to hunt:** The parents have begun hands-on training by dropping captured prey mid-air for the chicks to catch. These airborne food-passes are critical learning for the chicks.
- **Steady progress:** The chicks were

witnessed a few times sitting on the ground looking confused, but this stage didn't last long and they're taking off with ease now.

What to watch for next:

- Longer, independent flights beyond the church ledges
- Fully self-sufficient foraging, without parental drops
- Gradual dispersal as juveniles establish their own territories

## A bit of fun:

One of the camera team at The Ashgrove Clinic spotted the cameras recording the chicks in a stand-off with a pigeon! They've put a video of this entertaining clip onto Facebook and Instagram. Look up The Ashgrove Clinic and watch the brave pigeon take control of the nexting box!



# Your Health – Keep drinking

WORDS BY CLAIRE SHORT

One of my older patients had to call an ambulance recently because she was feeling dizzy and unwell. We were very worried that something was going wrong with her heart, but it turned out she was dehydrated and felt much better after she'd had some IV fluids.

Of course this is an extreme case, but it's a reminder of how easy it is to forget to keep an eye on your fluid intake.

Staying hydrated isn't just about quenching your thirst – it's essential for keeping your joints, muscles and nervous system functioning smoothly.

How dehydration can worsen aches and pains: When your body lacks water, it affects everything from the discs in your spine to the fluid in your joints. These structures rely on proper hydration to cushion movement and absorb shock. Without enough fluid, you may notice:

- Increased joint stiffness
- Muscle cramps or spasms
- Headaches or light-headedness
- Heightened sensitivity to existing aches and pains

Dehydration also makes it harder for your body to flush out inflammatory waste products, which can aggravate pain from arthritis, fibromyalgia or injuries. Even mild dehydration can increase tension in the neck and back, particularly if you're already sitting poorly or stressed.

Top tips to stay well hydrated:



- Drink regularly throughout the day – don't wait until you're thirsty
  - Aim for 6-8 glasses of water daily, more if you're active or it's hot
  - Eat water-rich foods like cucumbers, melons, oranges and lettuce
  - Limit caffeine and alcohol, which can dehydrate you further
  - Keep a water bottle handy – especially in the car or at your desk
- Watch for these warning signs of dehydration:
- Dark yellow urine
  - Dry lips and mouth
  - Fatigue or brain fog
  - Dizziness
  - Constipation

If you're suffering with aches or recovering from an injury, a simple step like drinking more water could make a difference. Think of it as internal lubrication, and one of the easiest, cheapest ways to support your body each day.

Have a watery week!

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

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## North Northamptonshire libraries launch the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge

This summer, children aged 4-11 can visit Northamptonshire libraries from 5th July to help grow their imaginations with the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge.

Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors is the enchanting theme for the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge. Created by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, this year's Challenge encourages children to explore the connection between storytelling and nature.

Through reading, children will uncover magical creatures, vibrant plants, and enchanting landscapes brought to life by award-winning illustrator Dapo Adeola.

Libraries will be transformed into immersive gardens of adventure where children's imaginations can flourish, supported by free activities and resources. Story Garden aims to inspire curiosity, creativity and connection to the natural world — building reading confidence while promoting wellbeing.



Throughout the summer, children are challenged to read 6 books of their choice and for each book the children receive a sticker to place into their collector card. Upon completing the challenge each child will receive a medal and certificate!

Cllr Gregory Wilcox, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Communities, said: "The Summer Reading Challenge is the biggest event for children in the library calendar. Libraries across North Northamptonshire see a huge rise in visits from children and their families over the summer period from those taking part in the challenge or attending one of the many free events running from libraries."

Children can also participate in an array of free events and nature inspired activities in libraries this summer. For 2025 LibraryPlus have partnered with Family Learning and Teach Outdoors to create a diverse activity offer to keep children entertained: engage in the great outdoors with activities such as teddy bear festivals, nature crowns, seed paper making, planting, bird and butterfly feeders, bug houses, princess parties and magic shows. Plus, we have teamed up with local country parks to support nature trails and fun days!

Sign up for free anytime at your local library or visit Summer Reading Challenge to begin your adventure.

## North Northamptonshire Council launches new five-year Housing Strategy

*North Northamptonshire Council's first dedicated Housing Strategy 2025-2030 for North Northamptonshire residents, was agreed at the authority's Executive Board meeting on Tuesday 17th June, following a public consultation that ran from 21st February to 11th April.*

**The strategy addresses key housing issues for the authority in delivering its housing duties and the aspirations of residents, now and over the next five years. The strategy: developed through extensive co-production with stakeholders, responds to these challenges through four strategic housing priorities to:**

- Build new homes across all tenures where people are proud to live.
- Improve the quality of the council's existing housing stock to provide decent, energy-efficient and safe homes.
- Prevent homelessness to ensure everyone has access to decent, safe and secure homes.
- Support people to live healthy and independent lives in homes suited to their needs.

The North Northamptonshire Housing Strategy 2025-2030 can be viewed via the council's housing protocols, policies and strategies webpage.

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, stated: "It is wonderful news that North Northamptonshire Council has

launched the North Northamptonshire Housing Strategy 2025-2030. This housing strategy is a major policy item for the council. It represents an important moment in meeting the housing needs and aspirations of residents and communities solely within North Northamptonshire.

"A key strength of the strategy is that it was developed and prepared in collaboration with council service areas, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE), statutory partners, housing sector colleagues, residents and those who need housing services, advice or provision.

"This has ensured that everyone with an interest in the future of housing in North Northamptonshire has had the opportunity to shape the council's priority housing objectives and areas for action set out in the delivery plan over the next five years.

"The challenge now is to deliver these objectives. I look forward to ongoing engagement with council colleagues, planning services, Homes England, housing provider and delivery partners, as well as our North Northamptonshire residents, to bring the strategy to life over the next five years."

  
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## Jane – Move Management, Bereavement and Home Staging

Jane grew up locally but moved from her parents' home for work. Her parents managed well until Mum suddenly became ill and Dad went into respite care. Mum died soon after and Dad's respite care became permanent. Jane had to sell her parents' home to pay for care.

Jane called me, feeling helpless, being so far away and overwhelmed with so much to do. Meeting at her parents' home, we agreed a plan. Her priorities were to have someone at valuations, showcase the house to its best and then clear it.

Jane completed my home sellers' template, and I recommended three local estate agents. I was present for valuations on her behalf. Reporting their findings to Jane, she selected the agent. I staged the home and garden ready for the all-important marketing photographs, including the return of care aids, bringing out the best for potential buyers.

I grouped items labelled keep, donate, rubbish, or recycle. We kept in touch regularly, including video calls, so Jane could review without the long drive. Nothing was disposed of until Jane agreed.

I took some items for recycling, arranged the final house clearance and was there for the collection, as Jane didn't want to see items taken away.

This saved Jane a lot of stress and long journeys, so she was able to spend time with her dad and grieving for her mum.



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## 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](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)

### Family NOTICES

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

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(BROOK STREET, HARGRAVE)

(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 Brook Street, Hargrave as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Brook Street, Hargrave from the entrance of the sewage pumping station.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during the replacement of a leaking valve.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 28th July 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 Raunds Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler  
ref:- 25/26 – N126 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/416

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(STOKE DOYLE ROAD, OUNDLE)

(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 Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle from Wood Lane to Warren Bridge.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during works to locate the source of laying water.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 23rd July 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 13 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use A427, Kettering Road, Sudborough Road, A14 and A605.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler  
ref:- 25/26 – N180 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/446

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(BROOK STREET, HARGRAVE)

(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 Brook Street, Hargrave as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Brook Street, Hargrave from entrance to the sewage pumping station.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during works to replace a leaking valve.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 28th July 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 Raunds Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler  
ref:- 25/26 – N136 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/494

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(BACK LANE, RINGSTEAD)

(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 Back Lane, Ringstead as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Back Lane, Ringstead from outside no.25.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during pipe repairs.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 7th July 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 Denford Road, Church Street and Carlow Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler  
ref:- 25/26 – N126 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/457

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 have made an Order the effect of which is 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 surface dressing.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 8th July 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 9 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Upper Higham Lane and Chelveston Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler  
ref:- 25/26 – N056 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/459

Dated this 5th day of July 2025

SANJIT SULL

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



# Housekeeper Amanda honoured at Housing with Care Awards 2025

Hermitage House Care Home in Thrapston is delighted to announce that Amanda Smith, Head Housekeeper, has won the Housekeeper Award at this year's Housing With Care Awards – a prestigious recognition of excellence across the care sector.



"Amanda has been an integral part of Hermitage House since its opening in March 2023, joining the team on day one and quickly becoming a much-loved and respected figure among residents, families, and staff. Her official role may be Head Housekeeper, but to us Amanda is so much more – she is the heart of our home," says Home Manager, Jolene Anderson.

Her responsibilities include maintaining the cleanliness, comfort, and overall atmosphere of Hermitage House, ensuring that every resident's space is not only tidy but welcoming and personal. Amanda approaches her role with an attention to detail that is nothing short of exceptional. Whether it's arranging treasured items on a bedside table, ensuring pillows are just right, or adding a vase of fresh flowers by a window, Amanda ensures that each resident's room reflects their personality and feels like home.

"Amanda is the glue that holds Hermitage House together," said Steven Ireland, Senior Hospitality Projects Manager. "Her work goes far beyond keeping things clean – she

creates a sense of belonging. Everyone knows Amanda, and everyone turns to her for support. She has a natural way of putting people at ease."

In 2024, Amanda was promoted to Head Housekeeper. She continues to lead by example, nurturing a calm and comfortable environment that allows residents to feel truly at home.

"Her efforts were formally recognised with a trophy and certificate at the recent Housing with Care Awards ceremony. The recognition is a proud moment not only for Amanda but for the entire team at Hermitage House and the wider Country Court family," said Jolene Anderson.

"We are thrilled to see Amanda recognised on a national stage," said Steven Ireland. "She exemplifies everything we stand for—compassion, dedication, and genuine care. Amanda doesn't seek praise, but she certainly deserves it."



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



 **Hermitage House**  
A Country Court Care Home

## Bi-weekly Coffee Mornings

**Every other Wednesday 10am - 12noon**  
\*Starting from 15th January 2025

We warmly welcome our local community to enjoy a complimentary selection of teas, coffees, and homemade cakes. It's a perfect opportunity to meet new friends and share good company.

**No need to book - just pop in on the day!**

To learn more or to reserve a table, please contact Jess, our Customer Relations Manager on 01832 430 084.

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