

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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BRIGHT WITH
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
SWITCH-ON**

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Celebrate
the gift of
shopping local**

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a festive advert celebrating the magic of our local high streets and the small businesses that make our towns special. While big-brand campaigns dominate screens, this advert reminds residents that the true magic of Christmas is right on their doorstep.

The advert features an emotive spoken word poem, 'What Does Christmas Mean to You?', written by local poet Jazmine Cartwright, founder of Rushden Rhymes and a passionate advocate for community storytelling. Her words take viewers on a nostalgic journey through the sights, sounds, and feelings of Christmas, highlighting that the true magic lies in supporting local.

Filmed across North Northamptonshire's towns and high streets, the Christmas video features real local families and showcases festive scenes in independent shops, cafés, markets, and family-run businesses, places that have been part of cherished traditions for generations.

Watch the video and read the poem at: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/xmas25

Mayor's Christmas Card Competition – Winner and Runners-Up announced

Rushden Town Council has announced the results of the Mayor's annual Christmas Card Competition.

This year saw an exceptional number of high-quality entries from young residents across the town. The Mayor and Consort expressed their admiration for the creativity and effort shown by every participant, making the judging process particularly challenging.

Winner Announced

Rushden Town Council congratulated Holly of Southend Junior School, whose artwork was selected as the winning design. Holly's design has been professionally printed and used as the Mayor's official Christmas card for 2025.

Runners-Up

The Council also extends warm congratulations to this year's runners-up:

- Imogen, Rushden Primary Academy
- Alfie, Denfield Park School

Both entries were highly commended by the judging panel.

Prizes and School Awards

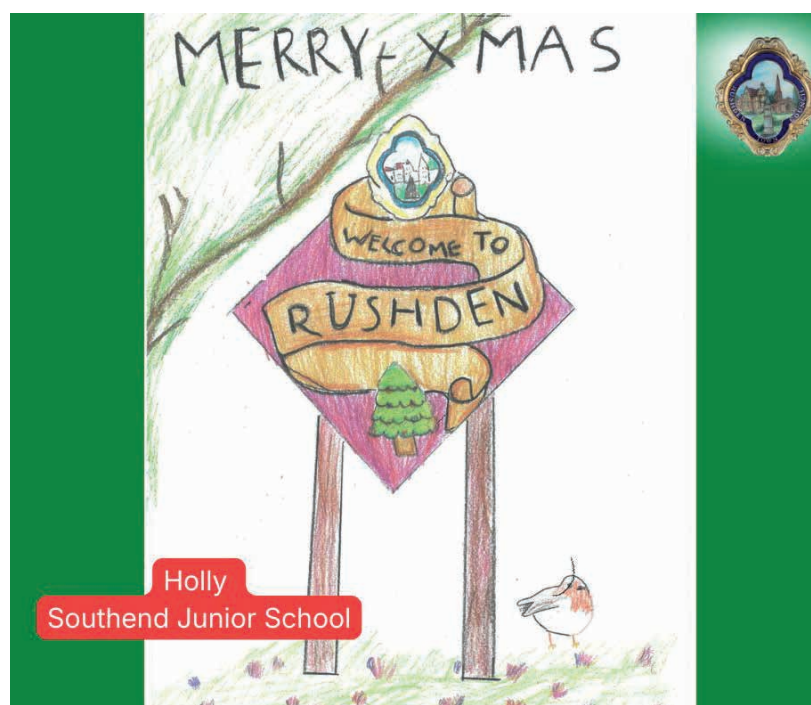
Each winner and runner-up will receive an individual prize. In recognition of their support for the competition, the schools of all three young artists will also each receive a book voucher.

Photographs from the official presentations with the Mayor will be

shared on Rushden Town Council's official channels once these have taken place.

Rushden Town Council and the Mayor, Cllr Gill Mercer, would like to thank all

the children who participated this year for their enthusiasm, creativity and contribution to this cherished community event.



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EVENT HELD TO CELEBRATE RAUNDS LIBRARY

On Saturday 29th November, Raunds Community Library Trust held an event to celebrate the group taking over the lease of Raunds Library.

Under the Community Managed Libraries programme, a number of libraries were offered out to be community managed in 2019. North Northamptonshire Council provides book stock, computers and a self-service to enable the libraries to continue to operate as part of the countywide libraries network. All building costs and any staffing/volunteers to deliver library services are the responsibility of the group running the library.

During 2020, a group of volunteers at Raunds Library were able to open and run the library under a Tenancy at Will from the Council. This group has since formed the Raunds Community Library Trust (RCLT), which has recently taken over the lease for the library.

Peter Wathen, Chair of the Library Trusts said: "The library is a well-used and valuable asset to the town and surrounding villages. We are looking

forward to increasing what we can offer to the community and working with local organisations and businesses to achieve this aim."

The lease was previously taken on by the Creating Tomorrow Academy Trust, with students able to gain work experience through the day-to-day running of the library, alongside other volunteers. The direction of travel for the Academy has now evolved in a different direction and the Library Trust has now taken on the lease.

Raunds Community Library Trust will be taking the library forwards with a group of enthusiastic volunteers, to enable local residents to continue to benefit from library services and a whole range of interesting, informative and entertaining activities.

Cllr Greg Wilcox, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive member for Communities, said: "It is great that the successful work by the Raunds Community Library Trust is continuing, and we wish the dedicated team of volunteers all the best."

Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome and can visit the library for more details.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Following on from last time and me mentioning 'name collectors', it is worth bearing in mind that there is also the Guild of One Name Studies. This organisation will help its members set up a study by offering guidelines on how it should be done, or assist with bringing people together who are already underway with a study of the same name. It also has an interest in other types of surname study, such as DNA projects. More information may be found on their website: one-name.org

However, if you do become involved in a one-name study and publish the results, you are likely to attract enquiries from all over the world. This can be very interesting as you get to communicate with people from all walks of life, but there can also be a downside. If you find yourself in the position of being the all-knowing expert on a name, you can get so many enquiries that you spend your time answering them and getting involved in sorting out

their family's history instead of your own!

If you have a reasonably unusual surname, it is worth looking to see if anyone else is carrying out a one-name study of that name. It may help with your own research but beware: always treat the research of others with a degree of scepticism, if you don't know how thorough they have been.

I was delving into my Barker family from Castle Camps recently and was not having much success with one particular person. Trees on ancestry had her as dying in 1885 – all copied from each other and no sources given – but I had discovered that she had married in 1884 and was very much alive and kicking in the 1891 census! Yes, sometimes it can be helpful to see what others have in their trees but always double- or even triple-check!

Genealogy Specialists, Tracing Our Past, Discovering Our Genes (TOP DOG)
www.genealogy-specialists.com

Former Moulton College student Lydia recognised at prestigious awards

A talented student who attended Northamptonshire-based Moulton College has been named as a finalist for a prestigious land-based and environmental award, thanks to her commitment to her studies.

Lydia Hargrave, from Northampton, attended the 2025 Land-based & Environment Learner (LBEL) Awards, which took place on Thursday 27th November at the National Conference Centre in Solihull, West Midlands.

Organised by Lantra, one of the leading awarding bodies for land-based industries, and Landex, the representative body for land-based colleges and universities, the LBEL awards were hosted by wildlife TV presenter Kate Humble. The evening brought together finalists from across the UK to celebrate the achievements of students and other emerging talent in the land-based, environmental and animal care industries.

Lydia, who studied for the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Animal Management (Science Stream) at Moulton College, was nominated by staff for a Learner of the Year Award in recognition of the outstanding dedication she showed during her two-year course.

Carley Daniels, Head of Faculty – Animal Welfare and Management at Moulton College, says: "During her time at the College, Lydia was an exceptional student who consistently demonstrated a commitment to learning, practical excellence, and a true passion for animal welfare."

Outside of her studies, Lydia, who is now



Lydia with Moulton College tutor Jack Howsin

undertaking a Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of Nottingham, participated in a range of activities during her time at Moulton College, including a conservation study trip to South Africa and a spell volunteering at the European Lynx Conservation Centre in Seville, Spain.

Closer to home, she has completed work experience placements at a cattery, a pet shop, and veterinary practices and supported lambing and calving on Moulton College's own farm, impressing employers with her professionalism, initiative, and passion for animal welfare. Lydia will also shortly return to the College on behalf of the University of Nottingham to speak to current students aspiring to study Veterinary Medicine.

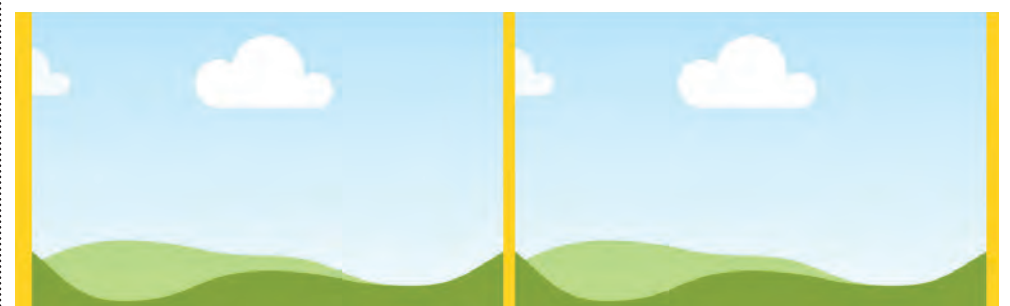
Visit Moulton College online to learn more about the range of Animal Welfare and Management courses on offer.



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A report discussed at Executive proposed a balanced revenue budget for north Northamptonshire Council for 2026/2027, as well as outlining the medium-term financial plan for the following three years.

The proposed net revenue budget for 2026/2027 is £431 million, excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant. This money provides a range of services to residents and businesses across the area including care to vulnerable adults and children, education, the collection and disposal of waste, highways maintenance, economic development, housing and support for those that are homeless.

Cllr Graham Cheatley, the Council's Executive Member for Finance, Efficiency and Change, said: "The financial climate remains extremely demanding, but we're determined to provide quality services to the people of North Northamptonshire and we've managed to do this while setting a balanced budget.

"These are our draft proposals. With Executive approval, these plans will then be consulted upon and it's important that we get as much feedback as we can to help further refine our proposals."

Council Tax

Government has permitted local authorities such as North Northamptonshire Council to increase the Council Tax rate by 4.99%, including 2% for the adult social care precept, in recognition of the difficult financial climate.

The authority is proposing an increase allowed by Government in council tax of 4.99%. This increase would contribute around an additional

£10.9m per year towards inflationary and demand-led pressures to enable services to be maintained and would represent a Band D level of Council Tax for North Northamptonshire Council of £1,918.23 for 2026/2027. This means that North Northamptonshire Council's Council Tax rate will be in the lower third for unitary councils.

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a separate ring-fenced account within the Council for the income and expenditure associated with its housing stock.

The HRA does not directly impact on the Council's wider general fund budget or on the level of council tax. Income to the HRA is primarily received through the rents and other charges paid by tenants and leaseholders.

This year's Draft Budget for the HRA is in a balanced position while crucially the medium-term is also showing a balanced position.

There is also a proposed rent increase of 4.8% for the next financial year, which accords with the Government's rent setting policy for 2026/2027. Any funding received by the HRA is retained within the HRA and will be used to support investment into the Council's housing stock through improvements and maintenance.

Next steps

A consultation on the proposals runs until midnight on 23rd January 2026. The Executive will then meet in February to consider final budget proposals for recommendation to Full Council.

North Northamptonshire Council approves Corporate Plan to improve lives over the next four years

North Northamptonshire Council has formally adopted its Corporate Plan up to 2029 following approval at a meeting of Full Council on Thursday, 11th December.

The plan sets out a clear blueprint for how the Council will work to improve the lives of residents across the area over the next four years. It focuses on delivering high-quality services and driving positive change through four key priority themes:

- **Family** – supporting children, families, and vulnerable residents.
- **Community** – building safer, stronger, and more connected communities.
- **Prosperity** – driving economic growth, housing, and infrastructure.
- **Smarter, Faster, Fairer Public Services** – improving service delivery and accessibility.



The Corporate Plan reflects feedback from a public consultation held in September, which attracted 467 responses and showed strong support for the Council's priorities. A total of 90% of respondents agreed with the Family and the Community priority themes, 85% with the Prosperity theme and over three-quarters supported the commitment to smarter, faster, and fairer public services.

Leader of the Council,

Cllr Martin Griffiths, said: "This plan is about delivering real change for North Northamptonshire. Whether that's safer neighbourhoods, better roads, improved housing, or more jobs and investment, we're committed to working smarter and in partnership to make a lasting difference for our residents."

The plan also responds to findings from the recent Residents' Satisfaction Survey, ensuring the Council's strategic direction is grounded in local insight.

For more information and to view the Corporate Plan, please see the report papers for the Full Council meeting.

Bosworth's Garden Centre

Christmas

New for 2025 - Our Magical Sleigh Ride VR - Santa's Grotto
Booking open online now!
Real Christmas Trees from the end of November.
Festive Workshops & Coach Trips
Festive Displays open from mid October

Merry Christmas From Bosworth's

Festive menu throughout December!

Bosworth's Garden Centre
 110 Finedon Road, Burton Latimer, Northants NN15 5QA
bosworthsgc.co.uk
 01536 722635

RB Travel
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JANUARY
 Sat 3 Boundary Mills, Grantham
 Wed 21 Seasonal Mystery

FEBRUARY
 Wed 4 St Albans Market Day
 Sat 7 York Ice Trail - free event in the town
 Wed 11 Boston Market & Baytree Garden Centre
 Sat 14 Warwick & Leamington Spa
 Sun 15 Birmingham International Tattoo
 Tue 17 Melton Mowbray
 Wed 18 Seasonal Mystery
 Thu 19 Ely Market Day
 Fri 20 London Museums OR Free Time
 Fri 20 Tower Bridge
 Sat 21 Tewksbury Market Day & The Valley
 Sun 22 Orchids at Kew Gardens
 Tue 24 Barnsdale Gardens Snow Drops

MARCH
 Tue 3 Springfields
 Tue 3 Spalding
 Thu 5 Cotswold Tour
 Sat 7 York OR Jorvik Viking Centre
 Sat 7 National Railway Museum
 Tue 10 Derbyshire & Peak District
 Sat 14 Saffron Walden Market Day
 Wed 18 Seasonal Mystery
 Sat 21 Greenwich
 Sat 21 Cutty Sark
 Sat 21 National Maritime Museum
 Sun 22 Thriplow Daffodil & Country Fair
 Thu 26 Canterbury OR Canterbury Cathedral
 Fri 27 Stratford Upon Avon
 Sat 28 Hever Castle & Gardens - Anne Boleyn

APRIL
 Sun 12 Ideal Home Show at the weekend

MAY
 Sun 31 Abba Voyage (New date added)

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MARCH
8-14 MARCH WINTER WINE & BEER AND THE ROMANTIC ROAD - £989PP
 Hotel Gasthof Zum Storch, Schlusselfeld. Half Board including excursions. In the southern part of the Bamberg district of Germany, surrounded by picturesque hills, the town has a rich history with numerous historical buildings, such as the town parish church of St. Johannes Baptist or Thurnau Castle from the 18th century. The Franconian Open-Air Museum Fladungen with its faithfully reproduced half-timbered houses, and the Banz Monastery from the 11th century. Walking tours, brewery tour and wine tasting included.

20-23 MARCH VINTAGE VARIETY SHOW WEEKEND - £529PP
 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. Includes Haworth Express, Harrogate and all entertainment.

24-28 MARCH A TOUCH OF CLASS - £719PP
 The Belmont Hotel, Sidmouth. Half Board including excursions. Sidmouth is a gateway to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. A large part of the town has been designated a conservation area. Sidmouth lies on the Jurassic Coast, and the coastline is dominated by the vivid red sandstone cliffs, which date back to the Triassic period. Along the front is the Millennium Walkway, which stretches the length of the beach and is made of pebbles, providing the perfect backdrop for an afternoon stroll. Excursions include Cream tea and Boat cruise.

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FREE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES TO COINCIDE WITH SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Saturday December 6th marked Small Business Saturday, a national campaign that shines a spotlight on the vital role small businesses play in our communities and encourages people to shop local. With this in mind, North Northamptonshire Council highlighted the wide range of support currently available to help local businesses grow and succeed.

Free carbon reduction support
North Northamptonshire Council is offering free support to help local businesses and community organisations reduce energy use and lower carbon emissions.

Support includes:

- A carbon footprint calculation tool
- Guidance to develop a Carbon Reduction Plan
- Webinars on net zero and strategic planning

*Free before January 2026.

Whether you're just starting out or already making progress, this initiative is designed to help you take meaningful steps toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

You can find more information and apply for support on the Powering Change website.

This project is funded by the UK government through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Funding opportunities – South Midlands Growth Grant

The South Midlands Growth Hub has launched the South Midlands Growth Grant, a £1.8 million programme to accelerate SME growth, drive innovation and support decarbonisation ambitions.

Grants of £300 to £50,000 are available for businesses across Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire to invest in innovation, adopt new technologies and enhance green credentials.

Full details can be found at: South Midlands Growth Hub website.

Hi Street Campaign

North Northamptonshire Council's Hi Street campaign celebrates the fantastic businesses North Northamptonshire is home to. The campaign raises awareness of the area's diverse high streets, town centres and beyond, encouraging

people to shop and support local.

The campaign launched a festive advert celebrating the magic of our local high streets and the small businesses that make our towns special. While big-brand campaigns dominate screens, this advert reminds residents that the true magic of Christmas is right on their doorstep. The advert is live on the Hi Street social media channels and on the council website.

If you're a local business and would like to get involved in the Hi Street campaign, there are lots of ways to take part. Businesses can feature in future marketing activity, join promotional opportunities, and help showcase what makes our high streets unique.

Find out more about the Hi Street campaign on the council website and follow on Facebook and Instagram.

Free Festive Parking

As part of the Christmas festivities, and



to support local businesses, North Northamptonshire Council will be offering free parking in Kettering and Corby town centres on the following Saturdays:

- 20th December

This applies to all council pay and display car parks in Kettering and Corby town centres, excluding Corby railway station car park.

Also in Wellingborough, the Commercial Way multi-storey car park will remain open through to the end of the pantomime season at The Castle Theatre.

Cllr Jan O'Hara, Executive Member for Planning and Economic Growth, said: "Small Business Saturday is an important reminder of the role small businesses play in our local economy.

"Our focus is on giving businesses the tools and opportunities they need, from free carbon reduction support and guidance to our Hi Street campaign promoting our small businesses, and signposting to funding opportunities like the South Midlands Growth Grant. These initiatives are about helping businesses adapt, grow and thrive into the future."

Find full details of North Northamptonshire Council's business support offer on the council website.


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Rushden shines bright as Christmas lights switch-on brings festive magic to the High Street

Despite a wet and windy start, Rushden's Christmas Lights Switch-On event dazzled once again as crowds of residents and visitors flocked to the High Street for an afternoon of festive cheer, live entertainment, and community celebration.



Rushden Town Council extends a thank you to everyone who braved the weather to make the event such a success. Special appreciation goes to:

- All stallholders and food vendors
- Mr Topper
- Mr Twister the Magic Balloon Man
- Brushed Beauties Face Paint Co.
- Beat Route Radio
- Lightning Lloyd
- Katie Rose (Vocalist)
- Woodbine Reindeer
- John Scarrott and Sons Funfair
- Father Christmas
- And of course – the mischievous Grinch, who stole the show (sorry Santa!)

Additional thanks go to Medisec Ltd, First Line Medical Ltd, Rushden Town Council staff, councillors, volunteers, and – most importantly – the public, whose enthusiasm and attendance created a truly magical start to the festive season.

Festive Fun on the High Street

This year's event featured a bustling Christmas market, free face painting, reindeer visits, funfair rides, festive food and drink, and live performances throughout the afternoon. Santa's Grotto welcomed excited children from early afternoon until all gifts were joyfully given away.

Visitors were also treated to a special festive tale, as Father Christmas heroically saved Christmas from the Grinch – who caused plenty of cheeky chaos up and down the High Street but couldn't stop the Christmas spirit from shining bright.

The official Lights Switch-On took place at 4.30pm, led by the Mayor of Rushden, illuminating the High Street with seasonal sparkle.

Programme highlights Included:

- Performances from Melodies Theatre Academy, Michelle Gibbs Academy of



Dance, Katie Rose Parker and Rushden Academy.

- Santa's arrival on his sleigh at 1pm
- A festive face-off between Father Christmas and the Grinch
- The Mayor's Light Switch-On ceremony at 4.30pm
- Live music carrying celebrations into the early evening

A Community Celebration

"Rushden's Christmas Lights Switch-On is one of the highlights of our year," said Rushden Town Council. "The turnout, despite the weather, shows the incredible community spirit of our town. We are proud to bring families together to celebrate the magic of Christmas."

Where's the Grinch?

Rumour has it the naughty Grinch is still lurking somewhere along Rushden High Street... so keep your eyes peeled! Whether he's searching for Christmas spirit to steal or simply posing for photos, he's certainly adding an extra spark of fun to this year's festivities.



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Nene Valley News - EVENTS

> SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 9.45AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing.
Contact Mark on 07462 422097. The last walk of 2025 is a 4.5 mile walk around Wrath Park Country Park.

> SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 10.15AM

All Age Worship

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

> SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 7PM

Carol Singing

At the front of Rushden Full Gospel Church, High Street South, Rushden – all welcome.

> TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER, 6.30PM-8.30PM

Community Carol Service

At the shopping precinct, Grangeway, Rushden - all welcome.

> THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 10.15AM

All Age Christmas Day Celebration

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

> SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER

All Age Agape Communion Service

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

> SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER, 9AM-2PM

Raunds Farmers' Market

Don't miss the final market of the year! Fresh local produce, artisan food, handmade crafts, and more, all in Raunds! Raunds Town Square. Meet local growers, bakers and makers for a community market experience.

> TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER, 10.30AM-11.15AM

Steve Dimmers Crimbo Limbo Magic Show

Raunds Community Library, High Street, Raunds NN9 6HT. Contact 01933 623747
Tickets available from the library and Raunds post office. Free event.

> SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY, 9.20AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing.
Contact Karin & Andrew on 07952 350540.
1st Walk of 2026 is a 7.5-mile walk around Pitsford Reservoir.

To submit your event please contact us via our website www.nenevalleynews.co.uk or call 01522 692542. Please supply in the following format: Date, event, place, time, admission fee (if applicable), contact information, 15 word description.

Moulton College joins Nature's SAFE to boost animal conservation efforts

Northamptonshire-based Moulton College has announced an exciting new partnership with Europe's leading wildlife cryo-biobank, Nature's SAFE, as part of efforts to help protect endangered species.

Led by conservation scientists and animal fertility experts, Nature's SAFE is a charity dedicated to preserving living cells and tissues from threatened animals, ensuring their genetic material is available to support future conservation and restoration programmes.

Dr Alice Clark, Communications Manager and Conservation Scientist at Nature's SAFE, explains: "Around 18,000 animal species worldwide are formally recognised as being at risk of extinction – the real number is likely higher. By banking living cells and working with managed breeding programmes, Nature's SAFE aims to give conservationists a vital tool to restore genetic diversity in dwindling animal populations,

improving their health, resilience to climate change, and chances of long-term survival."

As part of their work, Nature's SAFE partners with more than 90 zoos, wildlife parks, and rescue centres across the UK to capture samples from species at risk, using advanced cryopreservation techniques to preserve cell structure and viability for future use. To date, the charity has preserved samples from over 350 different species of mammals, reptiles, fish, amphibians, birds, and coral, including the Sumatran tiger, the ring-tailed lemur, and the Eurasian red squirrel.

By partnering with Moulton College, which houses more than 140 different species at its Animal Welfare Centre, Nature's SAFE is set to expand its genetic archive further.

Dean Sharman Frost, Animal Facilities Manager at Moulton College, explains: "I first learned of Nature's SAFE at a talk given by founder and chair, Tullis Matson. As a College, we play a key role in animal welfare

education and conservation, and our Animal Welfare facilities are home to a wide range of different species, from cockroaches to meerkats. We are passionate about safeguarding endangered species, so we are delighted to have become a partner of the Nature's SAFE conservation network."

Moulton College offers a range of animal welfare, veterinary and zoology courses from Level 1 through to degree level. Students are taught best practice skills, studying within the College's Animal Welfare facilities. These facilities meet the highest UK standards, with Dean's team dedicated to providing the best care and exceptional training for the College's animals and students respectively.

Dean adds: "As cell samples become available, our team will work closely with Nature's SAFE, helping to safeguard species for generations to come. Nature's SAFE is an incredible charity, and we are proud to support their vital conservation work."

Visit www.moulton.ac.uk to learn more about the range of Animal Welfare courses on offer. To find out more about Nature's SAFE, visit www.natures-safe.com

Don't miss out on seeing Father Christmas at the Chester House Estate this December



With Christmas fast approaching, Father Christmas and his elves are making it a festive season to remember at the Chester House Estate.

The site, overseen by North Northamptonshire Council, has a packed agenda - perfect for the whole family:

- Father Christmas Experience - an immersive adventure where you will meet Father Christmas, his Elves, and also enjoy a number of festive activities whilst you are here! At the end, just before leaving the enchanting workshop and magical grotto, each paying child will also be able to choose their own gift! (tickets must be purchased for this via the Chester House Estate website)
- Outdoor Christmas market - a seasonal selection of local businesses selling a range of gifts from jewellery, candles, crafts and more on 20th and 21st December from 10am-4pm
- Enjoy the beautiful courtyard setting where



you'll find hot choc, mulled wine, pulled pork baps with pigs in blankets and other treats!

- The estate will also welcome the Alpacas, so you'll be able to wish them a Merry Christmas up close and personal!
- Enjoy live music from visiting Carol Singers.
- You can also buy your Christmas Trees on site as well – courtesy of Easton Way Farm
- There will also be a number of festive photo opportunities setup throughout the event.
- Also, the Estate is offering specially designed earlier sessions that are SEND friendly.

Cllr Greg Wilcox, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Communities, said: "Christmas at the Chester House Estate is always the most magical time of the year with plenty going on and something for the whole family. This year, the Estate team have everything covered from Christmas trees for sale on site through to the very special Father Christmas Experience.

"Tickets are always popular - so I would encourage you to book now to avoid disappointment."

Christmas at the Chester House Estate is taking place every weekend leading up to Christmas, with additional dates on Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Christmas Eve.

Tickets for the Father Christmas Experience must be pre-booked via the Chester House Estate website to ensure a magical experience for all guests.

If you would like to attend, please email alex.valentine@northnorthants.gov.uk



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This could include your assets, guardianship of your children and any specific gifts you wish to make.

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If you need to update your Will ask about our free Will health check.

*Appointments must be booked on Monday 2 February 2026 for an appointment within 28 days. Other terms apply – see wilsonbrowne.co.uk/terms or call for details.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR2 (PART) – COTTERSTOCK)
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit pedestrians from proceeding along that length of Public Footpath MR2 (Part) in Cotterstock as specified below. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said length of footpath are unaffected. RIGHT OF WAY TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: The route to be closed starts on Public Footpath MR2 in the parish of Cotterstock at point A on the map at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 504634/290204. The route travels South for approximately 17 metres to point B on the map at (NGR) SP 504628/290189. The route to be closed is shown by a solid black line on the map between points A - B.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required in the interest of health and safety – refurbishment works on lock for environment agency including scaffolding and painting the gate which is adjacent to the existing bridge. This will require scaffolding to be placed on the bridge in some cases.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The Order will come into effect on 23rd December 2025 and will continue in force for a period of six months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for this Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such extent as is indicated by the display of notices.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: The alternative route starts on Public Footpath MR2 in the parish of Cotterstock at point A on the map at NGR SP 504634/290204. This Footpath travels generally West for approximately 9 metres to point C at NGR SP 504262/290204. The route travels south for approximately 10 metres across the temporary bridge to point D at NGR SP 504622/290195. The route then proceeds in a generally South East direction for 9 metres to point B NGR SP 504622/290195. The route is shown by a broken black line between points A - C - D - B.

If you require any further information please contact Tim Honeyball on 07718 366365. ROW/200-N

Dated this 20th day of December 2025

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

LICENSING ACT 2003
APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Layla Leighton has applied to North Northamptonshire Council for the grant of a Premises licence in respect of **Ferrers & Vine 1 Uk Car Hire, 2, Westfields Terrace, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, NN10 8BB** and intends to carry out the following licensable activities:

Sale of Alcohol, Monday-Sunday 10:00-22:30.

Any representation must be made by writing to: North Northamptonshire Council, Regulatory Services Licensing Administration, Thrapston Offices, Cedar Drive, Thrapston NN14 4LZ or by email to: licensing@northnorthants.gov.uk by 30.01.26

The application may be viewed on the council's licensing register at www.northnorthants.gov.uk or by appointment at the above offices. To attend the offices please email: licensing@northnorthants.gov.uk

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is not exceeding £5,000.

Name of individual/solicitor or agent **Layla Leighton**



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Award-winning inpatient unit unveiled in boost for young people's mental health care

A brand new inpatient unit is now open in Northamptonshire, offering a friendly and supportive live-in environment for young people with mental health difficulties.

The Sett has moved from its old standalone site to the specially designed new facility at Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's (NHFT) Berrywood Hospital in Northampton.

The award-winning design features a purpose-built extension and includes an activity room, informal communal areas, classrooms, a therapy room, kitchen, outdoor spaces and comfortable bedrooms for the young people.

Created in partnership with service users, families and team members, the new Sett is now next door to NHFT's other child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) inpatient unit, the Burrows. Together they provide 20 beds for young people needing inpatient care in a safe setting.

The new facility has been years in the planning and development, and it earned three design prizes at the national Building Better Healthcare Awards just ahead

of its opening in November. The project was delivered by Fleet Architects and T&B Contractors and managed by NHFT's Estates team, with input throughout the process from young people and ward staff.

Dr Tiff Webster, Director of Children and Young People's Services at NHFT, said: "It really is fantastic news that our refurbished Sett is now fully up and running. It's a first-class facility that's been designed around young people's needs, offering inpatient care and spaces for therapy, learning and relaxing all in one space.

"Our colleagues at the Sett have always done a brilliant job providing high-quality care and support for our service users. But making the move from the old standalone site to Berrywood, they now have improved access to the hospital's support network, so it's now even easier for them to work with young people to deliver the best possible

experiences and outcomes."

Marie James, NHFT Service Manager for Inpatient CAMHS, added: "We consulted with young people before and during the design of the building and what they were asking for was that it didn't feel like a hospital.

"I think the architects have really taken that on board. It feels so different to the rest of the hospital. It's very bright, open and you just get that different kind of vibe, which is more in line with what the young people wanted."

NHFT's Estates team supports the Trust's services by providing the right premises for the provision of care. Contract manager Caroline Machray said: "We are absolutely delighted with the final result of the Sett refurbishment and relocation – especially the new extension. The project involved essentially fitting the existing service into a quite a limited space, but Fleet Architects surpassed expectations with their



innovative design."

Recognition has come with two gold and one silver prize at the Building Better Healthcare Awards.

Jaime Bishop, Director at Fleet Architects, said: "The awards are a huge recognition not only of the design but also of the commitment and vision of everyone at NHFT, who helped make it happen. This is a wonderful example of what can be achieved through trust, collaboration and shared

purpose. We're genuinely proud to see this work – and the Trust – recognised on a national stage."

NHFT is the lead provider for the East Midlands CAMHS Collaborative, which was named Provider Collaboration of the Year at the prestigious Health Service Journal Awards in recognition of its work to bring CAMHS care closer to people's homes, improve the support available in the community and reduce the need for young people to be admitted to inpatient care.

Explore the newly refurbished Sett and find out more about what the designers and ward staff think in this video: youtu.be/TpxZMpgwB4E?si=WOErkZkcbVlc4BGv

"To the wonderful teams who have supported and cared for me. I'll never forget your kindness."

Denise, treated for breast cancer at Northampton General Hospital, is leaving a gift in her will to Northamptonshire Health Charity.

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Scan here to find out more



*This image is illustrative, but Denise's words are real.



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