

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Leisure campaign
offers something
for everyone**

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a new campaign to inspire more residents to enjoy their local leisure facilities. The campaign highlights the wide range of year round activities available for all ages and abilities, with information shared across council websites, social media and leisure venues.

One of the activities being spotlighted through the campaign is walking sports – low-impact, slower-paced versions of sports such as football, cricket and netball designed to be welcoming and accessible.

Councillor Brian Benneyworth, Executive Member for Health and Leisure said: "I'm proud that North Northamptonshire Council offers a wide range of opportunities to support residents to feel stronger and healthier – and our walking sports sessions are a great example of this. Finding, or perhaps re discovering, an activity you enjoy is often the key to staying active and maintaining strength, health and mobility."

More info can be found on the council's website: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/parks-sports-and-leisure

HIGHAM'S HIDDEN HISTORY REVEALED

The mystery of what Higham's missing medieval – and royal – castle probably looked like has been solved.

This follows an intensive 10-month geophysical survey when a team of archaeologists used a combination of three different research methods to help discover some of the mysteries of the castle and to find out what it might have looked like.

"We certainly discovered more than we had hoped to find," said a delighted Olwen Mayes, chair of the Higham Ferrers Archaeological and Research Society (HiFARS), when the results of the research were recently revealed to guests in the town's historic Chichele College.

She marked the occasion by commissioning her cousin Wendy Cooper to make a special castle-shaped cake.

The stone-built Higham Ferrers

castle was in its heyday in the Middle Ages when it served as the headquarters of the Northamptonshire landholdings of the Duchy of Lancaster, and then from 1399, was owned by the Crown.

But it was demolished in the early 16th century when Henry VIII granted the owner, Sir Richard Wingfield, permission to dismantle the castle and take materials from the site to build the Tudor wing at Kimbolton Castle.

The HiFARS committee made several attempts to secure funding to undertake geophysical surveys of the castle site to discover what the findings might reveal – and then in early 2024 came good news.

After a team from the Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA)

said they were interested in carrying out a survey, Stephen Parry, a director of his company, Finham Heritage, secured a generous grant from the Castle Studies Trust to carry out the all-important geophysical surveys.

With other funding going on for several years, further grants were received from Councillor Chris O'Rourke's Mayoral Fund at Higham Ferrers Town Council, the East Northamptonshire Council Empowerment Fund of Councillor Bert Jackson and Tony and Jennifer Norman, thus enabling archaeologists Stephen Parry, as well as John Walford and Graham Arkley (both of MoLA), to undertake the project, supported by HiFARS members.

As the site is a scheduled ancient monument, a licence



Olwen Mayes, right, chair of HiFARS, commissioned a castle cake to celebrate the findings of the Higham Ferrers Castle research. Jeremy Cunningham, left, chair of the Castle Studies Trustees, and Stephen Parry, lead archaeologist, were among the VIPs

had to be granted from Historic England for the work to take place. The survey covered various land parcels to the north of St Mary's Church.

The team used ground penetrating radar in a bid to locate the main buildings, a magnetometer to identify any substantial ditches (moats)

around the castle as well as the remains of any walls, hearths and pits, and they also undertook an earth resistivity survey – with the support of HiFARS members – to provide further detailed information about any buried wall foundations or other structural remains.

Continued on page 2

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A boost for local biodiversity

North Northamptonshire Council has successfully secured £27,368 of grant funding from The Tree Council to support new tree planting in public areas across the locality.

The grant has been awarded through the Trees Outside Woodland (TOW) programme, which supports the planting of new trees on land that is publicly accessible, or of benefit to the public.

Thanks to this funding, the Council will be planting 500 new 'standard' trees between January and March 2026. The young trees, measuring between 2m and 2.5m on arrival, have been grown to establish straight trunks and shaped canopies, making them ideal for a wide range of public spaces.

More than 35 different species will be planted, helping to increase canopy cover and improve tree species diversity across North Northamptonshire. The programme will also help to replace trees lost in recent years due to natural decline and storm damage.

Residents can explore an interactive tree map on the council's website, showing where individual trees and clusters will be planted, along with details of the species due to be planted.

Councillor Ken Harrington, Executive Member for Assets, Waste and Environmental Services at North Northamptonshire Council said: "We're delighted to be adding these new trees across North Northamptonshire. Not only will they enhance the character of our neighbourhoods – they make our streets and parks feel more welcoming and improve our wellbeing, as well as offering food, shelter and resting spaces to wildlife.

"I'd like to thank our team who worked so hard to secure the grant funding and for their specialist work to carefully select the species range and get the trees in place. It all adds to our tree strategy to deliver long term ecological benefits and keep maintenance needs to a minimum. This latest set of planting will benefit residents for generations to come."

PHOTOGRAPHY: REPRODUCED BY KIND PERMISSION OF MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY



Hunting for Higham's castle: John Walford, project manager (geophysics) of the Museum of London Archaeology uses magnetometry equipment to help determine what Higham's ancient castle looked like

Continued from page 1

Ancient accounts told that the castle had been substantial, boasting two baileys (courtyards), each enclosed with defensive stone curtain walls.

The survey revealed that the foundations of a curtain wall and other buildings of the inner bailey still survive under the garden of the Green Dragon Hotel, Stephen Parry revealed in the Castle Studies Trust Blog.

"Other building remains survive to the north, within the likely extent of the outer bailey," he continued.

"The foundations of a square gatehouse, measuring 6m by 5m, were revealed across the line of the curtain wall and would have provided access from the outer bailey.

"Inside the curtain wall, the foundations of a large rectangular building measuring 12m by 7m may have been the great hall, which documentary sources indicate was rebuilt after a fire in 1409-1410. Other foundations within the curtain wall

suggest the presence of other buildings that may have predated the fire."

Now, in view of the findings and documentary evidence, the research suggests that Higham Ferrers Castle may have looked like Tamworth Castle in Staffordshire.

"The important distinction is that Tamworth Castle is on a high mound, whereas Higham Ferrers Castle was not on a hill, but surrounded by an earthen bank," Stephen Parry explained in an interview.

To follow the analogy with Tamworth to its conclusion, Higham Ferrers castle should include the King and Queen's chambers, chapel and kitchen. However, "as yet, no structures have been identified" the blog continued.

Olwen Mayes, the HiFARS chair, said that she never expected that the survey findings would be the size and shape that they were.

Asked what comes next, she said that the hope was to eventually get funding for excavation work.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Last time, I was talking about the abandonment of children, one of whom might have been your ancestor.

The numbers of children admitted to the parish poorhouses was so high that they were unable to cope. The mortality rate amongst children under the age of 5 was as high as 74% in some places and something had to be done.

The year 1739 saw the first Foundling Hospital created by Royal Charter appear in London, the master being Thomas Coram, and was for the "reception, maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children".

However, the attraction of leaving a child at this hospital grew so much that just one in five children could be accommodated. So, 1756 saw Parliament passing a resolution that places should be set up around the country and funds made available for this.

If you know that your ancestor came from a particular area of the country, it is certainly worth contacting the local County Archives to see what records they might hold. Although some are a tad

patchy, they might offer a nugget of information to help your research. If one of those areas was London, then the records for the Foundling Hospital are held by the London Metropolitan Archives.

Thomas Barnardo arrived in London in 1866 and was horrified at the number of homeless children sleeping on the streets. His first "Home" was set up by 1870, his policy being that girls should be trained for domestic work and boys taught a trade. Many were sent to Canada and Australia to start new lives so, if you are tracing family from those parts, being a 'Barnardo's Baby' could answer questions about how they came to be there.

Although records from the Workhouse, Foundling Hospital or Barnardo's may still not tell you everything, there is hope for the future with the various DNA research programmes happening. Watch that space!

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MAYOR'S AWARDS 2025 - 2026

Rushden Town Council is seeking nominations for the Mayor's Awards for Services to the Community for the year 2025 - 2026. The Mayor's Award is given to an individual for their work and commitment within the community of Rushden over a number of years and must be a resident of the Town. Past Mayor's Award winners cannot be nominated again, and group nominations are not eligible.

Please submit the name and address of nominees, together with the reason for their nomination, to the Town Clerk at Rushden Town Council, Rushden Hall, Hall Park, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9NG, or e-mail the Town Clerk at info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk. All nominations should be received by **Friday 20th March 2026**.

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NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CELEBRATES THE VITAL ROLE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

North Northamptonshire Council celebrated Global Community Engagement Day on 28th January, recognising the important role that engagement with residents, partners and local organisations plays in shaping public services and informing key decisions.

Global Community Engagement Day highlights and celebrates the importance of involving communities in decisions that affect them. This year's theme, 'Strength in Numbers', reflected the impact that collaboration, shared learning and mutual support can have across local areas.

The Council engages with residents in many ways, gathering views to inform decisions, shape policies and improve services to ensure they remain responsive to local needs.

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "Global Community Engagement Day is an opportunity to recognise the

vital role that our communities play in shaping the work of the Council and the services we provide. Engagement is not just about gathering views, it is about listening, learning and working together to build a stronger North Northamptonshire.

"I want to thank every resident, partner and organisation who has shared their experiences with us. Your voice genuinely makes a difference in helping us make better decisions, improve our services and remain focused on what matters most to local people, so we can deliver services that truly reflect local needs.

"We are committed to strengthening that partnership

even further in the year ahead."

2025 engagement highlights

Over the past year, residents have engaged with the Council across a wide range of activity:

- Over 40 consultations and engagement activities were published on the Your Voice Matters consultation hub, attracting almost 10,000 responses. Outcomes are published on the 'We asked, you said, we did' webpage to show how feedback influences decisions.
- Adult Social Care began their Co-production journey, strengthening links with people who access services, unpaid carers and the local

Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector. Experts by Experience helped shape the recommissioning of supported living services, and much more.

- The Council's first Residents' Satisfaction Survey received nearly 4,000 responses. Findings informed the new Corporate Plan 2025–2029 and helped prioritise areas for improvement.
- Adult Social Care now has over 60 Experts by Experience, whose insight directly influences service design. The new Together for Care Forum provides a monthly space for meaningful collaboration.
- Children's Services strengthened youth participation through the Youth Advisory Council, which helped deliver the first North Northamptonshire



Youth Summit. Over 100 young people attended, with more joining online. The summit provided learning and influence on topics that matter to young residents and opportunities for debate on topics such as votes at 16 and the BIG50.

How you can get involved

You can find out more about activities that influence Council decision making and have your say on public services by joining the consultation register and/or residents' panel. Visit the 'Get Involved' page of the Your Voice Matters hub for more information.

You can also express your interest to get involved as an Expert by Experience with Adult

Social Care on the website.

Looking ahead

Over the next year, the Council aims to:

- Increase participation in engagement and consultation activity
- Continue improving how it involves residents and partners in shaping services and priorities for 2026 and beyond
- Strengthen Co-production in Adult Social Care and broaden opportunities for Experts by Experience
- This is just a snapshot of the Council's work. More information can be found on the North Northamptonshire Council website: www.northnorthants.gov.uk

Have your say on proposed Public Space Protection Order and gated road in Wellingborough

In a bid to cut crime and anti-social behaviour North Northamptonshire Council is working in partnership with Northamptonshire police in proposing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and gating an area of known activity.

Hillside Road, Little Harrowden, Wellingborough is being habitually used for environmental crime such as fly tipping, littering, anti-social behaviour and crime.

North Northamptonshire Council is proposing to introduce a PSPO on the road which runs parallel with Kettering Road (A509) for a period of three years, to reduce crime and disorder in the area. The order would authorise the installation of gates and also prohibit certain activities within the area.

A PSPO enables the Council and Police to issue fines and other sanctions against individuals breaching the conditions of the Order when it is proportionate and appropriate.

The PSPO would include the following prohibitions:

- Consumption of alcohol on street
- Use of Intoxicating Substances
- Engaging in any form of sexual activity in a public area within the area of the PSPO
- Using the public space as a toilet
- Depositing any litter or unlawfully depositing any waste/fly tipping within the confines of the PSPO.

The PSPO would be in force all hours of the day, every day and any breach would be a criminal offence.

A map showing the PSPO and the location of the Vehicle Restriction Barrier Gates is available.

Councillor Gregory Wilcox, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Communities, said: "The introduction of a PSPO would give the police and the council more powers to tackle unwanted activity in this section of Wellingborough.

"We know people in the town have real concerns about anti-social behaviour, and we are committed to working with the community and our partners to address this.

"This consultation is a key opportunity for residents to have their say on whether a PSPO should be introduced and the road gated. I would strongly encourage people to take part and share their views."

How to have your say

You can share your feedback on the proposed Gating PSPO for Hillside, Little Harrowden by answering a few short questions via the survey. Visit northnorthants.citizenspace.com/pspo/gating-pspo-hillside/

Alternatively you can respond via email or post: Email: SaferCommunitiesTeam@northnorthants.gov.uk

Post: Safer Communities Team, North Northamptonshire Council, 1st Floor, Deene House, New Post Office Square, Corby, Northants NN17 1GD.

This consultation will close at 23.59 on 1st March 2026.

For information about how consultation and engagement responses are managed, please see the consultation and engagement privacy notice



FEBRUARY

Tue 17 Melton Mowbray
Wed 18 Seasonal Mystery
Thu 19 Ely Market Day
Fri 20 London Museums OR Free Time
Fri 21 Tower Bridge
Sat 21 Tewkesbury Market Day & The Valley
Sun 22 Orchids at Kew Gardens
Tue 24 Barnsdale Gardens Snowdrops

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
Wed 14 Saffron Walden Market Day
Wed 14 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

Sat 4 Norwich
Mon 6 Great Yarmouth
Tue 7 Black Country Museum
Tue 7 Dudley Zoo
Wed 8 London Museum or Free Time
Wed 8 Tower of London
Thu 9 Fakenham & Sheringham
Fri 10 Wolds Wildlife Park
Sun 12 Ideal Home Show
Thu 16 Little Venice to Camden Markets
Sun 19 Skegness
Sun 19 Starlight Express
Thu 23 Mystery Trip with Lunch
Sat 25 Oxford
Sat 25 Oxford Castle
Wed 29 Bury St Edmunds
Thu 30 Tiptree, Ploughman's & Colchester

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APRIL

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MAY

14-18 MAY – A SAILING STORY FROM THE SOLENT TO SUSSEX – £699PP

Solent Hotel Whiteley, Fareham. Half Board including excursions. Hampshire is the perfect blend of city, coast and country, blessed with the natural beauty of two National Parks and thriving culture, with history and heritage at its heart. Whether you spend time on Hampshire's coastline, on the beach, walking coastal paths, or at some of its seaside towns and villages, Hampshire has a lot to offer and is a lovely place to be. Excursions include a hovercraft return trip across the Solent and a trip to Portsmouth.

JUNE

8-12 JUNE – TREASURES OF THE NORTH – £599PP

Redworth Hall Hotel, Newton Aycliffe. Half Board including excursions. County Durham has a mixture of mining and farming heritage, as well as a heavy railway industry. Its economy was historically based on coal and iron mining. It is an area of regeneration and promoted as a tourist destination. Excursions include York with the famous Shambles cobbled streets. Durham including the UNESCO World Heritage site inscribed castle and cathedral sitting atop a dramatic outcrop and a trip to Beamish Museum.

NOVEMBER

23-27 NOVEMBER – POTTERS FIVE LAKES ALL INCLUSIVE TURKEY AND TINSEL – £699PP

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> BOSWORTH'S GARDEN CENTRE

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

for gardening enthusiasts and families alike.

At the heart of the garden centre lies the Aspen Café, a warm and inviting space perfect for relaxation. Whether you're starting your day with a hearty breakfast, enjoying a leisurely lunch, or indulging in afternoon tea, the café offers a diverse

menu to cater to all tastes. It's an ideal spot to unwind after exploring the extensive plant collections or to catch up with friends over freshly brewed coffee.

Beyond its horticultural offerings, Bosworth's boasts an impressive array of giftware. From elegant home décor items to unique



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kitchenware and thoughtful gifts for special occasions, there's something to delight every visitor. The curated selection ensures that you'll find the perfect item, whether you're treating yourself or searching for a memorable gift.

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

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

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

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

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A collage of images showing a young girl in a floral dress looking at plants, a large greenhouse filled with various plants, and a plate of food including a sandwich, fries, and salad.

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CALL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP BEAT THE CRIMINALS

Social media, gaming, and online shopping are just some of the ways criminals are targeting young people to steal their money.

According to the regulator Ofcom, more than 90 per cent of young people have experienced online scams. These include bogus offers for goods and services, 'get rich quick' schemes, online dating, card and banking fraud, identity theft, cash machine scams, and online job adverts asking for an upfront fee, as well as counterfeit sports events and concert tickets.

Now, young people in North Northamptonshire are being urged to fight back against the criminals and protect others against scams.

The national Young Friends Against Scams initiative, supported by North Northamptonshire Council's Trading Standards team, is calling on young people to become a 'Friend Against Scams'. They can also attend a short awareness session in person or complete the online training.

The role will equip young people with a better understanding about the different types of scams they may be vulnerable to, and how to report them.

Cllr Elizabeth Wright, Executive Member for Children, Families and Education, at North Northamptonshire Council, said: "With young people spending more and more time online, they can be very susceptible to scams, and it's important to be vigilant. Realising you've been targeted by criminals can be difficult, and with advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), criminals are becoming more sophisticated and making their scams more convincing. Becoming a 'Friend Against Scams' is a great way to learn how to protect yourself, your friends, and your family."

Cllr Kirk Harrison, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Regulatory Services, said: "Scams are crimes that can have a significant long-lasting impact on the wellbeing and finances of the victim. Protecting consumers from scams continues to be a priority for Trading Standards at both a local and national level. I would encourage everyone to join Friends Against Scams so we can collectively make a difference and empower our communities to take a stand against scams together."

Schools, youth group leaders, and other educators are also being encouraged to get involved and become 'scam champions' to help spread the message to young people, aged 11 years old and over, and their families.

By signing up, they'll receive materials covering scams that affect young people, such as social media, gaming, online shopping and more, as well as scams that could affect their family members and community such as doorstep crime, postal scams, telephone fraud and online scams, while also raising awareness of the signs that someone may be a victim of a scam.

The 'Scam Champions' resource pack includes:

- Young Friends Against Scams training PowerPoint
- Lesson plans (60-minute and 30-minute versions)
- Assembly presentations on scams affecting young people (20 minutes)
- Interactive activities and games
- Certificates of completion

To access the resources visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/young-friends

As well as supporting the campaign, North Northamptonshire Council will also be sharing social media messages about how people can get involved.

To find out more visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk or email friendsagainstscams@surreycc.gov.uk or call 0300 123 5488.

The Team would also welcome any feedback or further opportunities to collaborate on scam awareness among young people.

If anyone believes they have been the victim of a scam, it can be reported to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133, or people can report a scam or fraud at www.reportfraud.police.uk



Philippa Forrester to give talk at Stanwick Lakes

The wildlife expert, writer and presenter will be live and in conversation on Tuesday 24th March.

Philippa brings her expertise as a wildlife presenter and conservationist to Stanwick Lakes for a compelling talk about 'Why Stanwick Lakes so important for wetland wildlife.' Learn about the remarkable species and habitats that call the reserve home, and discover why protecting local wetlands matters globally.

As an independent charity, this offers a fantastic opportunity for Stanwick Lakes to support vital conservation work, education programmes and the ongoing care of this special wetland landscape. It's events like these, alongside memberships, donations and voluntary work, to name a few, that allow it to continue the important conservation and charitable work it does.

This event takes place on Tuesday 24th March,

from 2pm in the event marquee. After the talk, put your questions to Philippa in a live Q&A, then get your copy of her latest book, *Wild Woman*, personally signed.

This promises to be an inspiring talk, ideal for anyone with an interest in wildlife, conservation and rewilding. Early booking is recommended.

To make the occasion extra special, afternoon tea will be available to enjoy in the Visitor Centre on the day and can be booked alongside your ticket – a lovely way to turn the event into a truly memorable experience. Prices from £24.95 per person.

Book now: <https://stanwicklakes.org.uk/events/philippa-forrester-talk/>



COULD YOUR WILL BE CHALLENGED BY YOUR SPOUSE OR ADULT CHILD?

Many people think making a Will is only about choosing who receives their possessions, but it is just as important to ensure you make proper provision for the person closest to you.

By way of an example, a second marriage and a desire to ensure your share goes to your children from your first marriage when you die. Your spouse may then be living in a house which partly belongs to your children with insufficient capital to maintain that house or live in the style which they enjoyed during your marriage.

When reasonable financial provision is not made, as above, the law allows that person to bring a claim against your estate, which can be expensive and deeply upsetting at such a difficult time.

If you are unsure what level of provision is appropriate, it is important to obtain specialist guidance. We can help you review your circumstances and prepare a Will that meets your intentions to seek to reduce the risk of future challenge.

You may be reading this and feel that the provision left for you in a Will was unreasonable or unfair. The claims referred to above are not limited to spouses or partners but the criteria as to what is reasonable differs.

Contact Wilson Browne on 0800 088 6004 for a free initial free appointment to discuss how we can assist.

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SOLICITORS

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL UNVEILS **SUICIDE PREVENTION BENCH** AT ADA SALTER SPINNEY

Raunds Town Council has unveiled a new Suicide Prevention Bench at Ada Salter Spinney, creating a welcoming space for reflection, connection, and access to help for anyone who may be struggling. The project has been delivered in partnership with the charity Legend on the Bench and generously sponsored by C2e Construction.

The bench was officially unveiled on Wednesday 28th January by the Mayor of Raunds, Cllr Richard Levell, alongside Raunds Town Councillors and representatives from Legend on the Bench, C2e Construction, and Kelly's Heroes. The installation represents a positive step in strengthening local mental health support and promoting wellbeing across the community.

Each Legend on the Bench installation is designed to offer comfort and reassurance. The bench includes discreet plaques with 24-hour support contact numbers, a QR code linking directly to online mental health resources, and soft built-in lighting so it remains visible and welcoming after dark — a small but meaningful symbol that support is always close by.

Mayor of Raunds, Cllr Richard Levell,

said: "We are proud to introduce this bench to Raunds as a visible reminder that no one is alone. It represents our commitment to looking out for one another and ensuring that anyone who needs support can find it easily and without judgement. Sometimes a quiet space and a clear path to help can make all the difference."

Legend on the Bench was founded by former professional footballer Micky

Hazard and his sister Michelle, with the aim of creating simple, accessible points of support in everyday public spaces. Their growing network of benches across the UK helps communities start conversations, reduce stigma, and make reaching out feel easier.

A spokesperson for Legend on the Bench said: "Our benches, inscribed with the words Someone is Always Listening, serve as a vital reminder that no one

should ever sit alone in their struggles. They are designed to facilitate that vital connection, providing a safe space where a simple conversation can truly save a life."

The installation has been fully funded by C2e Construction, a Wellingborough-based company committed to improving mental wellbeing within its industry and beyond. As part of the project, the company is also helping to raise awareness of Kelly's Heroes, a local charity dedicated to mental health support and suicide prevention.

Deven Ellwood, Owner, C2E Construction Ltd said: "As a local construction company we see first-hand the pressures our industry is under, and the tragic reality that construction workers are still far more likely to die by suicide than people in most other sectors. As employers, neighbours and friends, we cannot ignore that. By funding this suicide prevention bench in partnership with local charity Kelly's Heroes, we want to create a visible reminder that it's okay to talk, to ask for help and to look out for each other. If even one person sitting on that bench feels able to reach out instead of suffering in silence, it will have done its job."



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NENE VALLEY NEWS - EVENTS

> SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 10.15AM

Morning Worship - Whitefriars Church, Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX. Guest preacher: Major Deborah Feeley (Salvation Army)

> MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

Nene Valley Valley Astronomical Society: A presentation by Dr Ben Rider-Stokes – Meteorites and the formation of the Solar System. Chelveston Village Hall, Caldecott Road Chelveston NN9 6AT. Admission £6 including tea/coffee and biscuits. For more information please see www.neneastro.org.uk or call Kevin on 07731890594. Meteorites will be displayed for handling, including a piece of the Moon and Mars.

> 17TH-28TH FEBRUARY, 10.30AM-1.30PM

Cowper & Newton Museum - Welcome back! Historic house, two tranquil gardens, art gallery and shop open for half days. For all details go to www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.co.uk. Use your valid annual pass or purchase yours for the new season for only £12. Children 16 years and under (accompanied by an adult) and students under 25 years with a valid ID card go FREE!

> 20TH & 27TH FEBRUARY, 7PM-8.30PM

18th-Century Dancing Fridays - The Olney Centre, High Street, Olney, Bucks MK46 4EF. Find out more about how to join the troupe. Gentle, fun exercise learning 18th-century assembly rooms dance: cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk/support-us/georgian-dancers/

> SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 10.15AM

Morning Worship with Holy Communion - Whitefriars Church, Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> SUNDAY 1ST MARCH, 10AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Meet at Woodford High Street. Contact: Daphne 07709 569415. 3.5 mile walk in the Woodford area.

> SUNDAY 15TH MARCH, 9.20AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact: Mary 07811 916918. 7.5 mile walk around Pitsford Reservoir.

> SUNDAY 29TH MARCH, 9.50AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact: Zara 07737 161150. 7.5 mile walk from Rushden Lakes to Stanwick Lakes. 10am start from Rushden Lakes.

Lucy Ash: The Baton and The Cross

For more than a millennium, the Russian Orthodox Church has shown astonishing survival skills - from the Mongol yoke to tsarist demagoguery and enlightenment, from Soviet atheism to the chaotic 1990s.

Now again, it is at the right hand of power, sanctifying Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. In this provocative new book, Lucy Ash reveals how, under Putin, religion is being stripped of its spiritual content and used as a weapon to control the population. Orthodox clerics and their acolytes distort theology as they preach Slav Christian

supremacy and drag Russia backwards into a new Middle Ages. Combining historical research with vivid present-day reportage, *The Baton and the Cross* explores the impact the Church has on millions of lives – from the tower blocks of big cities to far-flung villages in Siberia. Delving into the underbelly of politics, state security and big money, Ash shows how these forces have formed an unholy alliance with Orthodoxy in the dystopia of 21st-century Russia.

Lucy Ash is an award-winning presenter of radio and TV documentaries. An expert on

Russia and post-Soviet countries, she was first sent to Moscow by the BBC in 1990 and has been covering the region's social, political, and cultural issues ever since. *The Baton and the Cross* is her first book.

Lucy will be in conversation with Keir Giles at Great Hall, Oundle School. Keir's work has appeared in a wide range of academic and military publications across Europe and in North America, and he is a regular contributor and commentator on Russian affairs for international print and broadcast media.

Thursday 19th February, 7.30pm-8.30pm, Great Hall, New Street, Oundle, PE8 4GH. Tickets £14 (£9) available from Oundle Bookshop (cash only) or online from www.authorsinoundle.co.uk, enquiries contact info@authorsinoundle.co.uk

Saturday Night at the Movies

Yarwell & Nassington Britannia Band's main Spring concert will take place in Nassington Church on Saturday 2nd May at 7.45pm. The theme will be music from the big screen. From the sound of superheroes to the ballads of love stories, the old and the new... there is something for everyone.

Tickets are available from all the usual places, Nassington Stores, Moulds Butchers, Instep Foot Clinic as well as online. If you are not able to make the 2nd May the band will also be playing a similar programme at Brookside Methodist Church in Peterborough on Saturday 14th March, 7pm.

But that is only the start. The band are also privileged to have been asked to play at Peterborough Cathedral on Saturday 13th June, helping to raise funds for the Cathedral. It is sure to be a very special night.

Tickets are already available online. And finally, the band are also planning a mass band joint concert with Rushden Town Band in Oundle in May.

Rushden Town Band, until recently, have been a championship section band so it will be a musical treat. More details and date to follow.

For more info visit ynbb.co.uk

FEBRUARY HALF TERM ADVENTURES AT FERRY MEADOWS

Get ready for a fun-filled February half term at Ferry Meadows! With a mix of workshops and outdoor family activities, there's plenty to enjoy for all ages from Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February.

Find out what's happening and when, with our guide to half term fun in the Park:

Activities on every day:

- **Watersports at Nene Outdoors:** Make a splash with daily watersports hire at Nene Outdoors. Save 30% off pedalo hire with code FEBHALFTERM.
- **Hire a Bike:** Discover the Park on two wheels! Our bike hire is available daily, with a range of styles and sizes to choose from, plus free helmets with every hire.
- **Follow the Holiday Trail at Ferry Meadows:** Pick up a trail sheet from the Visitor Centre for £1 between 10am and 3pm, answer the questions as you explore the Park and return to claim your prize to grow at home.
- **Complete the Holiday Trail at Thorpe Meadows:** Follow the trail around the Rowing Lake to find fun questions about what animals love! Pick up a trail sheet from Thorpe Meadows Cafe for just £1 between 9am and 3pm.
- **Free Craft at the Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre:** Giddy up for Chinese New Year and the Year of the Horse by creating your very own cardboard horse. All the materials you need are available, just ask a member of the team to get you started. Available between 10am and 3pm.
- **Ride the Ferry Meadows Railway:** Sit back and enjoy the ride! Trains will operate daily, weather permitting.



Events by date:

> TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

FREE Make a Bird Feeder Workshop - Give the birds a tasty treat! Drop into this FREE workshop and make your very own natural bird feeder to take home. No need to book, just drop by The Den between 11am and 2pm and get crafty.

> TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

Indoor Archery

Channel your inner Robin Hood or Maid Marian at Nene Outdoors. Perfect for ages 8 and up. Test your aim and see if you can hit the bullseye!

> THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

FREE Romans of Ferry Meadows Workshop - Step back in time and discover the Romans of Ferry Meadows! Drop in to handle real artefacts and make your very own Roman craft to take home. No need to book, just drop by The Den between 11am and 2pm and have some Roman fun.

> THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

Climbing Wall - Reach new heights at Nene Outdoors! The climbing wall is back with sessions all day, perfect for kids (age 4+) and adults. Who will be the first to hit the top?

For more details on all Half Term activities, and to book your places, please go to www.nenepark.org.uk/february-half-term. Contact 01733 234193 or email visitor.services@neneparktrust.org.uk for more information, accessibility advice or directions.



FINESHADE WOOD LAUNCHES MAGICAL ROOM ON THE BROOM TRAIL

Forestry England Fineshade Wood invites families to step into a magical forest adventure with the new Room on the Broom Trail.

Bringing Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much loved story to life, this enchanting trail offers a spellbinding experience for families to enjoy throughout 2026. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the beloved book, the trail is packed with activities, fascinating forest facts, and plenty of hands-on fun. It's the perfect way for families to explore the great outdoors.

From 27th January, visitors can join Witch and her friends on a spellbinding journey through the forest. Along the way, children will help Witch find her lost hat, bow and wand, and collect magical ingredients to complete her spell. Each stop on the trail is packed with fun activities, fascinating forest facts, and a sprinkle of woodland magic – perfect for young explorers and families looking for an unforgettable day out.

Aysha Shaw, Forest Centre Manager said: "We're thrilled to bring the magic of Room on the Broom to Fineshade Wood. This trail

is a wonderful way for families to connect with nature, enjoy a beloved story, and create unforgettable memories together. With fun activities and enchanting surprises along the way, it's the perfect adventure for young explorers."

To make the adventure even more special, families can pick up a Room on the Broom trail pack for just £4. Each pack includes a themed lanyard, magic spell cards, stickers, a pencil, and a pop-out craft to create your very own witchy wand.

The Room on the Broom trail continues the successful partnership between Forestry England and Magic Light Pictures, which began in 2014, bringing Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's beloved characters to life in natural settings. Filled with woodland magic, captivating storytelling, and family fun, this new trail offers the perfect way for families to enjoy the great outdoors together throughout 2026.

For more details visit: www.forestryengland.uk/room-on-the-broom

Moulton College students get hands-on work experience through roof replacement project

North Northamptonshire Council has teamed up with, principal contractors Messenger BCR Group and Moulton College to provide students with a unique work experience opportunity.

Whilst work is ongoing to replace the library roof on Cornerstone in Kettering, students specialising in stonemasonry joined Messenger to gain hands-on experience working on two of Kettering's most significant heritage buildings: Kettering Library and the Alfred East Art Gallery.

The placements are designed to build confidence, strengthen technical skills and open pathways into employment across the heritage, culture, tourism and construction sectors.

Cllr Greg Wilcox, the council's Executive Member for Communities, said: "With traditional trades like stonemasonry, real life opportunities like this are invaluable for students and I am so pleased we were able to facilitate getting Moulton College pupils on site.

"The Culture, Tourism and Heritage team are looking to build on this further – working closely with further and higher education providers across the local area to create meaningful personal and professional development opportunities across the service.

"Whilst work continues on site it is great that, like with our Heritage Open Days event last year, we are able to take this opportunity to give a unique perspective, whilst helping students learn and prepare for the future."

Richard Ball, Head of Faculty - Construction Trades and Heritage Skills at Moulton College said: "Work experience placements such as this are so important for our students. Whilst we can teach them skills and knowledge at college, nothing beats real site experience. We are extremely grateful to both North Northamptonshire



Moulton College student Aiden Jackson on site alongside Messenger Site Manager Wayne Gray and Messenger Stonemason Gareth Williams

Council and Messenger for working with us on this project."

Wayne Gray, Site Manager at Messenger BCR, said: "It's been a real pleasure welcoming the Moulton College students on site and seeing first-hand their enthusiasm for heritage work. These buildings are an important part of Kettering's story, and giving students the chance to work on them helps connect traditional skills with the next generation of craftspeople. At Messenger, we're passionate about protecting historic buildings and just as committed to securing the future of heritage trades by investing in hands-on training and meaningful opportunities like this."

This initiative builds on a strong and positive relationship with Moulton College that began at The Chester House Estate, expanded to Cornerstone

in Kettering, and North Northamptonshire Council is now set to grow further through new opportunities with Discover Northamptonshire and the Corby Heritage Centre.

The library remains temporarily relocated in the upper floor of the modern extension of Cornerstone for the foreseeable future and the library team continue to offer a full range of services and group activities.



Your Health - Neck pain after hitting your head

**WORDS BY
CLAIRE SHORT**

Falling off a ladder or hitting your head on a headrest in a car are two easy ways to get neck pain from a bang to the head. Even if you feel your head is fine and you think you've got away with it, your neck may have a different opinion after a day or two.

Neck pain after an impact, whether from a fall, a bump, or a sudden jolt, is very common. The good news is that most cases are not serious. However, they should never be ignored.

During a hard bang to the head, the neck goes through some rapid movements in multiple directions. Muscles tighten instinctively to protect you, joints compress, and the soft tissues in the area get strained. This often leads to stiffness, aching, headaches,

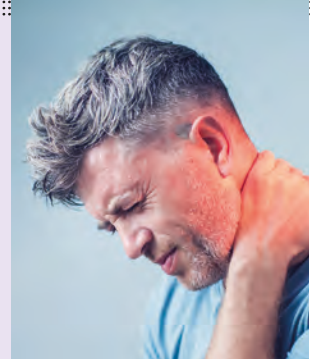
or a feeling that your neck just isn't quite right.

Like a lot of soft tissue injuries, your symptoms might not appear straight away. Adrenaline masks pain, and inflammation takes time to develop, so you might not feel pain for a few days.

In most people, impact-related neck pain eases with rest, gentle exercises and gradual return to normal movement. Your neck is strong, adaptable, and built to recover.

Five sensible self-care tips

- **Keep moving** - Movement helps maintain circulation and reduces stiffness. Avoid sudden or forceful movements if it's sore.
- **Use hot or cold packs** - Cold is probably best in the early stages; heat might ease your muscle tension later.
- **Support your sleep** -



Aim for a comfort – change your pillows if necessary. Poor sleep slows recovery.

• **Get help** - Osteopathy, physiotherapy, acupuncture and massage can all help your recovery.

• **Take severe pain seriously** - Severe pain, pain that is worsening, pain after a significant fall, or symptoms such as weakness, numbness, or dizziness must be medically assessed to rule out more serious injury. Have a fall-free week!

Claire Short is a Registered Osteopath and runs The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers

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Further updates on the Cornerstone roof project will be published on the Cornerstone social media pages and website.

Council offers free family Xplorer events – diary dates for parents and carers

North Northamptonshire Council's Leisure and Healthy Schools teams, in collaboration with Freedom Leisure, are excited to offer FREE family Xplorer events during February half term.

What is Xplorer?

Xplorer is a fun, family-friendly navigation challenge that combines physical activity with problem-solving. Using a simple map provided on the day, families work together to find markers located around each park and complete puzzles. It's a great way to get outdoors, be active and boost wellbeing.

On arrival, families should look out for the Xplorer flag and desk, where they can collect a map and begin the challenge to locate 15 markers around the park. The last chance to pick up a map is around 25 minutes before each event ends.

After completing the activity, families can return to the Xplorer desk where children will receive a certificate and sticker to celebrate their achievements.

These free events run throughout half term with no booking required. Dates and locations are:

- Wellingborough – Swanspool Gardens (NN8 2BZ), Monday 16th February, 1 to 3pm
- Kettering – The Green Patch (NN16 0LU), Tuesday 17th February, 12 to 2pm
- Corby – Boating Lake (NN17 1QQ), Wednesday 18th February, 1 to 3pm
- Rushden – Hall Park (NN10 9ES), Thursday 19th February, 11am to 1pm

Xplorer activities are designed for families to enjoy together and it's important to note that children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.

Hall Park, Corby Boating Lake and Swanspool Gardens all feature pathways that make the activity accessible for wheelchair users. Free parking is available close to each venue and, with the exception of Swanspool Gardens, toilet facilities are also located nearby.



Councillor Brian Benneyworth, Executive Member for Health and Leisure at North Northamptonshire Council said: "These Xplorer sessions are a fantastic opportunity for children to get outdoors and enjoy exploring our wonderful parks - and offering them free of charge is an added bonus for families. Our Active Families team have worked incredibly hard to put these events together, ensuring children and their parents or carers can have fun and be active together this half term."

No booking is required but parents/carers who have any questions or require more information can email activefamilies@northnorthyants.gov.uk

For all the February half-term fun in North Northants, visit the council's half term leisure and sports webpage – it's packed with exciting activities for teens and children of all ages.

RUSHDEN LAKES UNVEILS RECYCLED TURTLE SCULPTURE AND INVITES PUBLIC TO NAME IT

Rushden Lakes has launched a public competition to name its new turtle shaped-recycling point, which arrived at the destination in December 2025. Positioned along the boardwalk, the eye-catching installation forms part of Rushden Lakes' ongoing commitment to enhancing sustainability and reducing waste across the site.

The turtle sculpture has been expertly crafted from recycled materials, including aluminium and RecyPrint - a PET based material created from recycled plastic bottles. These bottles are sorted by colour, ground into flakes, and transformed through 3D printing technology. Except for the camo netting, the entire structure is made from recycled components, and every element is fully recyclable.

Visitors and members of the local community are encouraged to play their part in tackling plastic waste by depositing their used plastic bottles at the installation. All collected bottles will then be donated to a local school, where they will be repurposed into creative art projects to be showcased at Rushden Lakes.

Donna French, Rushden Lakes Centre Manager said, "We're incredibly proud to welcome the innovative turtle recycling point to Rushden Lakes. There's only around ten of these recycling points across the UK,



with most installations taking the form of a fish or whale, so ours feels truly unique and special for our community. It's a creative and engaging way to encourage people to recycle, while supporting our wider mission to make the destination even greener and more efficient."

To celebrate the arrival of the new resident, Rushden Lakes is inviting the public to submit imaginative name suggestions via the online entry form by

6pm on Friday 20th February. One prize bundle is up for grabs, including £200 worth of physical gift cards for Rushden Lakes brands, a cuddly Thimble Turtle Jellycat, and a WWF 'Adopt A Sea Turtle' package in the winner's name.

The chosen name will be proudly displayed on a plaque on the turtle, along with the winner's name. Full terms and conditions are available on the Rushden Lakes website.

Keep up to date with exciting Rushden Lakes activities on their social channels. Follow on Facebook: @RushdenLakesSC, Instagram: @rushdenlakessc and X: @RushdenLakesSC

Health care specialists in Northamptonshire and Leicester combine efforts for best mental health practices

Domestic abuse affects millions of people every year, leaving lasting impacts on a person's physical and mental health. Survivors of domestic abuse often experience depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other serious mental health conditions. Yet, despite these links, and that domestic abuse costs health services £2.3 billion annually, it often goes unnoticed in mental health settings. The DREAMS project has developed a framework to help mental health professionals identify and respond effectively to domestic abuse.

The Detecting and Responding Effectively to Domestic Abuse in Mental Health Settings – or DREAMS – research project is a collaboration between Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) and

the University of Leicester. It aims to understand healthcare professionals' knowledge of, and barriers to, identifying domestic abuse. The project is led by Dr Kate Walker (NHFT) and Dr Emma Sleath (University of Leicester).

The project began in 2023, when questionnaires, interviews and focus groups were undertaken with mental healthcare professionals in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, as well as with survivors of domestic abuse, to:

- understand what mental health professionals know about domestic abuse and how they respond
- explore the experiences of both professionals and survivors, including barriers to asking about, and disclosing abuse
- develop a practical framework to help

staff identify and respond effectively

The research showed that opportunities to identify domestic abuse are often missed because staff don't initiate conversations, which is often due to insufficient training and confidence. Survivors emphasised the need for emotionally safe environments and trusted relationships to enable disclosure.

The DREAMS project team developed an Identification and Response Framework giving mental health professionals evidence-based guidance to confidently recognise, ask about, and respond to domestic abuse. Co-produced with staff and survivors, the framework focuses on three core elements: equipping professionals with proper knowledge and training; providing trauma-informed tools for safe

enquiry; and offering survivor-centred response approaches.

Co-lead of the project and Research Associate at NHFT, Dr Kate Walker, said: "Every person experiencing domestic abuse deserves to be seen, heard and supported. This framework can help ensure that when individuals reach out to mental health services, the system is ready to respond with compassion, safety and the right help at the right time.

"This project has shown the power of bringing people together: survivors, professionals, researchers and our partners at the University of Leicester. By combining lived experience with clinical insight and academic expertise, we

have created a framework that has the potential to truly improve how domestic abuse is recognised and responded to in mental health care."

Co-lead of the project and Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of Leicester, Dr Emma Sleath, commented: "The recently published Fit for the Future: 10-Year Health Plan for England recognises that experiences such as domestic abuse can deepen existing health inequalities. Our framework offers a vital opportunity to intervene in these experiences of violence in a survivor-centred, trauma-informed way, with the ultimate aim of improving safety and supporting better outcomes for those affected."

For more information visit the University of Leicester website and click on the DREAMS drop-down

Spread your wings this February half-term with an exciting programme of bird-themed events!

Explore the feathery side of Stanwick Lakes this February half-term, with a lineup of bird-themed activities. Choose from a mix of free, drop-in and bookable options, all designed to celebrate the diverse birdlife at our nature reserve and tie in with National Bird Box Week.



From our always popular nature trail to exploring the outdoors and our feathered friends with the rangers, or simply enjoying lots of crafts and pottery painting in the Visitor Centre, our activities offer a blend of adventure and education!

Join us for a fun feathery week full of activities suitable for all the family!

Find out more: stanwicklakes.org.uk/half-term-events-february-2026/

Activities include...

> 14TH-22ND FEBRUARY Fantastic Feathers Trail

Enjoy the fresh air this February half term and follow our Fantastic Feathers trail around the Solstice Lake. Spot the birds, match them to their feathers, and once completed, win a lovely wooden bird prize! £4 per pack, and simply drop into the visitor centre to purchase on the day

> 15TH FEBRUARY, 11AM-2PM Guide in the Hide

Come along to this free event and join Lara Jones, SPA

Engagement Officer, for chat about our feathered friends, and a helping hand to improve your bird ID skills. But what is an SPA Engagement Officer? Lara, is a nature conservation officer whose role focuses on the management and protection of a Special Protection Area (SPA). SPAs are internationally important sites designated under the EU Birds Directive to safeguard rare and vulnerable wild birds and their habitats, and we're proud that Stanwick Lakes is one of them.

> 17TH FEBRUARY, 1-3PM Mixed Media Bird Art Workshop for Young People (aged 10-18)

Join local artist Louise Berrill to create a unique piece artwork



of a beautiful bird with mixed media. The workshop will combine drawing, painting and collage to produce a mixed media masterpiece. Book now: stanwicklakes.org.uk/events/bird-art-workshop-for-young-people/

> 18TH FEBRUARY, 10AM-4PM



Big Birdy Craft Club

Join us for our very first Big Birdy Craft Club at Stanwick Lakes on Wednesday 18th February. Create some brilliant birdy themed crafts in our sessions. Book now: stanwicklakes.org.uk/events/big-birdy-craft-club/

> 18TH FEBRUARY, 11AM-2PM

Discover the Nene Valley Special Protection Area (SPA)

Drop into the Visitor Centre for a free meet and greet Lara Jones, SPA Engagement officer, who will tell you all about the amazing wildlife that call Stanwick Lakes and surrounding areas their home, and what is being done to protect it.

Owl Pellet Dissection Workshop

Find out what owls have been eating by dissecting their pellets! Will you find a mouse, a vole or maybe a shrew skeleton? Become a detective and find out! This event is perfect for young budding scientists aged 7 and over. Book now: stanwicklakes.org.uk/events/owl-pellet-dissection-workshop/

Nene Valley news CLASSIFIEDS

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (VARIOUS ROADS, BARNWELL) (40 MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order under Section 84 and Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to prohibit any motor vehicle from travelling at a speed exceeding 40 mph along those lengths of roads as specified in the Schedule below.

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

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

The Order will become effective on 16th February 2026.

Dated this 14th day of February 2026
KAMILA COULSON-PATEL
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

P/1980

- SCHEDULE
1. A605 Oundle Bypass, Barnwell – from a point 100 metres north of its junction with Barnwell Road extending 596 metres in a southerly direction.
 2. Oundle Road (exit slip road), Barnwell – from its junction with the A605 to its junction with Barnwell Road.
 3. Barnwell Road, Barnwell – from its junction with the A605 extending 87 metres in a north-easterly direction.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (PUBLIC FOOTPATH UG10 (PART) – RAUNDS) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2026

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 UG10 (Part) in Raunds 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: That Public Footpath UG10 (Part) in the Parish of Raunds to be closed starts at point A on the map at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL0032 7300. It extends in a generally south easterly direction for approximately 166 metres to point B on the map at NGR TL1147 7292.

The routes to be closed is shown by solid black lines between points A – B.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required in the interest of health and safety due to the unsafe surface condition.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The Order will come into effect on 18th February 2026 and will continue in force for a period of six months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for this Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such extent as is indicated by the display of notices.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: The alternative route starts at point A at NGR TL0032 7300. The route travels into Derling Drive, south along Mountbatten Way to point C at NGR TL0023 7273. The route then heads east along Footpath UG12 for approximately 123 metres to point D at NGR TL0034 7268. It then heads north along footpath UG11 for approximately 272 metres to point B at NGR TL0047 7292.

The alternative route is shown by a broken black line between points A – C – D – B.

If you require any further information please contact Sarah Cureton on 07500 579332.

ROW/202-N

Dated this 14th day of February 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (WOODFORD ROAD, GREAT ADDINGTON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2026

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 Woodford Road, Great Addington as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Woodford Road, Great Addington from Spinney Cottage to Barnfield.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during vegetation clearance.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 23rd February 2026 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 1 day.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Ringstead Road, Station Road, Denford Road, Kettering Road, Thrapston Road and Addington Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler

ref:- 25/26 – N643 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk

PKG/T26/073

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (STOKE DOYLE ROAD, OUNDLE) (TEMPORARY 30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from exceeding 30 mph 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 alongside the cemetery.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during 5.278 works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 14th February 2026 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 to 30 mph for up to 7 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: n/a.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler

ref:- 25/26 – N672 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk

PKG/T26/074

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (BENEFIELD ROAD, BRIGSTOCK) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2026

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 Benefield Road, Brigstock as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Benefield Road, Brigstock from opposite the Old Water Tower.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 25th February 2026 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 30 days (weekdays only).

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: follow signage.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler

ref:- 25/26 – N647 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk

PKG/T26/087

Dated this 14th day of February 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)



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Maternity bereavement 'Daisy Suite' appeal exceeds £150,000 target

People who experience the loss of a baby at Northampton General Hospital (NGH) will soon have access to an enhanced care and support suite.



Thanks to generous donors, Northamptonshire Health Charity has now exceeded its £150,000 fundraising target to build the Daisy Suite, a new dedicated private, calm and compassionate space where Bereavement Midwives can provide emotional and practical support.

Currently, parents returning for follow-up appointments after the loss of a baby must revisit the maternity day unit and wards, the same places where they first received the heartbreaking news. This can make an already difficult time even more distressing.

The Daisy Suite will allow parents to talk with clinical teams in privacy and feel supported away from the busy ward environment.

The Daisy Suite is named after a Celtic legend in which daisies are scattered to comfort parents following the loss of a baby. Over time, the daisy has become a symbol of remembrance for children, making it a truly meaningful name for this space.

Construction has now started and works are expected to be completed

by summer 2026.

Alfie Dufield-Wright, Head of Fundraising, said: "Every story shared, every donation, and every fundraiser has helped bring the Daisy Suite closer to reality. We couldn't have done this without our supporters thank you for being part of this journey."

How you can continue to help

Reaching £150,000 is a huge achievement, but with your continued support, Northamptonshire Health Charity can do even more. Additional funds will help to continue to enhance maternity bereavement services across University Hospitals of Northamptonshire, improving environments, resources, and support for families experiencing baby loss. Every contribution helps the Charity provide enhanced care, privacy, and compassion for families across Northamptonshire.

Visit www.nhcharity.co.uk/daisy to get involved and make a difference

"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.



Say thank you by leaving a legacy to help fund cutting-edge equipment, research, and improved patient care for generations to come.
For more information visit: NHCharity.co.uk/legacy or Call: 01604 626927

Scan here to find out more



Northamptonshire
Health Charity

Fundraising for:



Kettering General Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust



Northampton General Hospital
NHS Trust



Northamptonshire
Integrated Care Board



Northamptonshire Healthcare
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Reg. Charity no: 1165702