

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Future identity
of 'Cornerstone'
discussed**

North Northamptonshire Council held a workshop recently to look at the future identity and name of an important site in Kettering, currently referred to as 'Cornerstone'.

Thirty-five representatives from the council, key stakeholders and partners from the local area including the town council, Civic Society and Friends of groups all took part in the session.

Attendees were asked to consider a proposal around developing a unified 'Heritage Quarter' that showcases and promotes the area – connecting the buildings and groups that use the different parts of the site. All attendees were also given the opportunity to suggest alternative names for the site and explain what the site means to them.

Whilst works continue on the Kettering Library roof, the temporary library continues to be a top performer, with excellent results in the Summer Reading Challenge and consistently high footfall.

Feedback from the session will be reviewed before a new identity for the site is developed by the council. Further updates will be published in due course.

NURSERIES TAKE ON **FOUR** **STORIES A DAY** CHALLENGE

More than 650 children from Busy Bees nurseries have joined the 'Get the Reading Buzz' pledge – a nationwide initiative aiming to share 45 million books with children in 2026.

The pledge brings together more than 350 Busy Bees nurseries and over 37,000 children across the UK, all aspiring to enjoy at least four books a day, reclaiming storytime as a joyful experience that fosters a love of reading from the very beginning.

Families are invited to join in, rediscovering the enjoyment of reading at home together and helping children to reach this momentous milestone.

The initiative comes at a critical moment. Recent figures show that just one in three children enjoy reading in their free time, and fewer than one in five read daily. Alarming, one in 10 children do not own a book, and only half (50.5%) of parents now read with their

child each day, down from two-thirds (66.1%) in 2019.

In response to this decline, Busy Bees nurseries across Northamptonshire are embedding reading into every part of the nursery day, with children enjoying up to at least four stories, supported by dedicated story times and book-rich learning environments designed to nurture early literacy skills and a lifelong love of reading. The nurseries are also working closely with parents, providing practical guidance, resources, and book recommendations to help families build consistent

reading habits at home.

With 2026 marking the National Year of Reading, experts warn that early reading experiences are more crucial than ever. Reading together during a child's earliest years is proven to support language development, confidence and imagination – foundations that shape children's academic outcomes well beyond their early years.

Jenny Shaw, Academic Lead Researcher and Developer at Busy Bees, said: "Every day in our Northamptonshire nurseries, we see how a simple story



can capture a child's curiosity. Reading is more than just a moment, it's a spark that ignites imagination, supports early language development, builds confidence and deepens connections between parent and child.

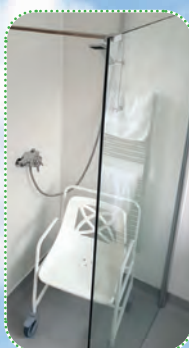
"These figures highlight a concerning national trend, and we know that to reverse it, we must ignite that reading spark

long before a child reaches primary school. Our nurseries are dedicated to creating daily opportunities for children to enjoy stories."

To find out more about how Busy Bees is helping families 'Get the Reading Buzz' and its Bee Curious Curriculum, visit: www.busybeeschildcare.co.uk/bee-curious/welcome-to-bee-curious

Busy Bees is encouraging families across the UK to write their own chapter of their book and fill their story with moments that matter. If you book a visit and enrol with Busy Bees between 16th February and 30th April 2026, you will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win £1,000 of holiday vouchers. Full T&Cs available at www.busybeeschildcare.co.uk

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Your voice matters: Council asks for residents' views to shape the future of leisure services

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a public consultation inviting residents to share what matters most to them in their local leisure centres.

The council is reviewing how leisure and active communities' services are delivered in the future and is calling on residents to take part in the consultation survey to help share what matters to them.

The purpose of the 'Your Leisure, Your Future' consultation is to gather evidence, understand community priorities, and explore potential options. Feedback collected from residents will help inform the future operating

model for leisure centres in North Northamptonshire.

The council is encouraging all residents to take part in the survey, regardless of their current activity levels or abilities. Residents do not need to be a member or user of leisure facilities to share their views. The consultation is seeking feedback around a broad range of sport, physical activity and wellbeing opportunities, as well as wider health support programmes.

Three possible levels of service are being considered for the leisure facilities and community activity programmes in North Northants:

- **Core Offer:** A baseline level of service focusing on essential leisure provision such as access to gyms, pools, and basic programmes.
- **Community Plus:** Includes the Core Offer, with additional community-focused programmes such as health and wellbeing classes, targeted activities for specific groups, and improved outreach into local communities.
- **Transformational:** This includes the above, plus services designed to deliver major improvements in health, wellbeing, innovation and social impact - including

expanded rehabilitation programmes, specialist equipment, co-located services (for example, locating health and leisure services within one facility) and facility improvements.

Councillor Brian Benneyworth, Executive Member for Health and Leisure said: "Leisure services are an important part of keeping our communities active in a way that's right for them, and we want to make sure the council's leisure services continue to meet people's needs in the future. This consultation is a chance for all residents to tell us what matters most to them in their local leisure centres.

"Their feedback will help to inform and shape the right level of service for North Northamptonshire. We want to ensure that the future model and investment is prioritised where it will make the greatest difference. I would encourage everyone to take part and have their say."

Councillor Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council said:



"Our Corporate Plan makes a commitment to support community life, leisure and shared spaces. The leisure facilities consultation gives all residents

the chance to share what matters to them most, and their views will help to shape the future of leisure centres and leisure services in North Northamptonshire."

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

One thing that not everybody realises is that Civil Registration of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales did not start until 1st July 1837. Even then, although marriages and burials could not take place without a certificate being involved, birth registration was another matter!

Picture this: it is December 1852 and blowing a wintery gale. Fred Carter wraps himself up against the elements and steps outside to walk from his hillside farm to the town where the Registrar lives to make sure that the birth of his newborn son is recorded. Three hours later, Fred knocks on the door, only to find that the Registrar is away. "Blow that for a game of soldiers!" thinks Fred, "I'll come back when the weather clears." However, what with the lambing season and other farm work needing doing, the thought leaves Fred's head, never to return.

Fast forward 170 years and Fred's several times great grandson is feverishly mapping out his family tree. However, there is no trace of Fred's youngest boy.

This is not the first time that this quandary has been

hit and I doubt that it will be the last.

Until 1874, Registrars were entitled to be away – the duties were undertaken on top of their usual occupation, the latter being how they earned their main wage. Not only that, it was the parents' responsibility to register the births of their children.

It was not until after this time that legislation was tightened up. The wording of the new laws made it clear that registration was compulsory and that penalties existed for those not doing so. From this time on, Register Offices had fixed times for opening and were in fixed business premises. Mind you, these were not yet purpose-built offices as the Registrars still had their day jobs to consider, so it would not be uncommon to visit the local tailor or carpenter to register your child. I have visions of, "Could you turn my trousers up and register my son, Mr Jones?"

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SOLICITORS

Innovative project to improve access to council information

People with learning disabilities and autism are set to take part in an innovative new project to help "break down barriers" and make it easier to access council information.

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a new initiative involving individuals with lived experience of disabilities to develop Easy-Read documents to level the playing field and help keep people more informed.

Easy Read is a way of making written information easier to understand usually combining short, jargon-free sentences with simple, clear images to help explain the content.

Not only can it support people with a learning disability access information, it can also support people who speak English as a second language, people who find it hard to read and write, people who have memory problems, or people who are in a hurry or are stressed.

There are currently about 50 people with learning disabilities and autism supported



by the council's Learning Independence Volunteering Employment (LIVE) team, which helps them build independence, learn skills, volunteer, find paid work, and achieve personal goals.

The project will invite these individuals, known as Experts by Experience, to help convert council documents into Easy Read formats.

Cllr Eddie McDonald, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adults and Health Partnerships, said: "Up until now, we've not really had a consistent approach to creating Easy Read documents, so we're delighted

to be working with people in North Northamptonshire who have genuine insight into creating information that is fully accessible to all our residents. If people find leaflets, documents or other council information difficult to understand, it can lead to a lack of engagement which means people can miss payments or benefits they're entitled to, or get into debt. It can really limit opportunities, including the chance to find employment. This project will break down barriers and help people make more informed choices, which can lead to life-changing opportunities."

Find out more about North Northamptonshire Council's LIVE team and how to get involved on the council's website.

New Tailored Energy Advice Service aims to help residents cut bills and stay warm

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a new Tailored Energy Advice Service (TEAS), a free, impartial tool to help residents understand how they can make their homes warmer, more energy efficient and cheaper to run.

TEAS is powered by Homewise, a trusted digital energy advice tool developed by the Energy Saving Trust. The tool provides a clear picture of the improvements that would work best for each property. Residents can access the service on a computer, tablet or smartphone. By entering their postcode and answering a few short questions about their home, the tool uses more than 90 verified data points to assess how energy is used in the property.

Based on this information, residents receive a personalised action plan showing:

- Recommended home improvements to save energy
- Estimated costs and potential bill savings
- Possible carbon reduction benefits

The tool offers three types of action plans, allowing residents to choose a route based on their goals, budget, or preferred level of guidance. The personalised plan can be downloaded instantly and includes links to further trusted advice and grant funding opportunities

This service supports the Council's wider work to tackle fuel poverty, improve local housing quality, and enable the transition to a low carbon future.

Residents in North Northamptonshire can start their tailored home energy plan on the Homewise website.

Cllr Ken Harrington, Executive Member for

Assets, Waste and Environmental Services, said: "Many residents want to reduce their energy bills and make their homes more comfortable, but it can be difficult to know where to begin. Our new Tailored Energy Advice Service takes the guesswork out of home improvements by offering trusted, independent advice tailored to each individual property.

"Whether someone is considering insulation, heating upgrades or renewable options, this tool provides clear recommendations, estimated costs and practical next steps. We are pleased to offer this support as part of our wider commitment to helping households stay warm, reduce energy use and work towards a more sustainable future."

The launch of the Tailored Energy Advice Service also follows the Government's announcement of its Warm Homes Plan, a national programme outlining measures intended to improve home energy efficiency and reduce household energy costs.

Announced in January, the £15 billion plan sets out proposals including insulation, solar panels, heat pumps and battery installations. It also outlines support for low-income households, new requirements for the rental sector, and government-backed low or zero-interest loans for homeowners.

This national focus on warmer, cheaper-to-heat homes reinforces the importance of giving North Northamptonshire residents trusted, personalised advice, which TEAS now provides.

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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

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
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Thu 30	Tiptree, Ploughman's & Colchester

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APRIL

13-17 APRIL - CAPTIVATING KENT COAST - £599PP

Best Western Plus Burlington Hotel, Folkestone. Half Board including Excursions. Folkestone lies on the southern edge of the North Downs at a valley between two cliffs. Today it is a cosmopolitan port with easy access to the channel, the delights of France and the rest of Europe. There is always something to do here with all-year-round festivals and entertainment with Folkestone's music and theatre attracting stars from far and wide to perform. Excursions include a trip on the Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway and the Battle of Britain Museum.

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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CHARITY RECEIVES £1,500 DONATION FROM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HOMEBUILDER

Project 16:15, a charity that provides support to the homeless communities around Northamptonshire, has received a £1,500 donation from leading homebuilder David Wilson Homes.

Established in 2017, the charity started by providing hot drinks and breakfasts to rough sleepers from a mobile food van during one of the coldest winters in recent memory.

In 2020, Project 16:15 became

fully registered as a charity and now operates 365 days a year providing food, essentials like sleeping bags, and above all, respect to homeless people.

Stan Robertson, CEO at Project 16:15, said: "We were

very excited to have been chosen to receive this donation from David Wilson Homes. As a small charity run by volunteers, we rely on donations such as this one to keep providing the essential work we do.

"At Project 16:15 we believe the value of a person is not measured by what they have, but by their innate value of being themselves. That is why we treat everyone we meet with the utmost respect and believe this goes a long way. When someone is treated with decency, they are for more inclined to trust you and accept help.

"We received £1,500 from David Wilson Homes, more than we would normally spend in a month, which will help fund meals, survival equipment and the continued running costs of our café, directly supporting those on the street.

"On behalf of everyone at Project 16:15, I would like to offer David Wilson Homes our most sincere thank you. To support small local charities like ours

makes so much difference and I wish more companies would do the same."

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

Ben Kalus, Managing Director at David Wilson Homes South Midlands, said: "As a leading housebuilder we strive to support the communities in and around the areas in which we build and were delighted to be able to offer Project 16:15 a donation to support the fantastic work it does.

"We hope this donation can help the charity in its mission, whilst letting its hardworking team know that their work is both recognised and appreciated."



Shawn from David Wilson Homes presenting Stan from Project 16:15 with their cheque



Shawn buying food from the charity's community cafe

Visit the website: Project1615outreach.org. For information on developments in the area, visit David Wilson Homes in Northamptonshire.

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RUSHDEN LAKES TO CROWN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE'S KINDEST RESIDENT

Rushden Lakes has launched a search to find Northamptonshire's kindest person.



Corby resident, Ann Holmes pictured at Rushden Lakes after being crowned the Kindest Person in Northamptonshire by the destination in 2025

Last year, the title went to Corby resident Ann Holmes, who was nominated by her son for her unwavering support in raising her grandchildren and for the vital role she played in caring for her niece, Shauna, after Shauna's mother sadly passed away from cancer.

This year, to mark Random Acts of Kindness Day, Rushden Lakes is once again inviting you to nominate someone who goes above and beyond for others or their community.

To enter, simply email CustomerServices@rushdenlakes.com by 6pm on Friday 6th March.

Your nominee could be selected as the winner and receive £500 in gift cards to

spend on their chosen Rushden Lakes brand(s)*.

Your email must include your full name, the nominee's full name, an explanation of why they deserve to be crowned Northamptonshire's kindest person, and confirmation that they live in Northamptonshire, in order for the entry to be valid.

Donna French, Rushden Lakes Centre Manager said: "Last year, we were touched to receive more than 85 heartfelt nominations in our search for Northamptonshire's kindest person. Reading through each entry was a pleasure, with so many stories rooted in community spirit, generosity and genuine kindness.

"We'd love to see even more people put forward someone they believe deserves

recognition - whether it's a person who volunteers their time, consistently puts others first, or is simply the kindest soul they know. We can't wait to review this year's nominations."

After the closing date, all eligible entries will be judged against specific criteria by a small judging panel. Entry criteria includes the individual being over the age of 18 and currently living in Northamptonshire. Full entry details and T&Cs can be found on the Rushden Lakes website.



Keep up to date with exciting Rushden Lakes activities on their social channels. Follow on Facebook, @RushdenLakesSC, Instagram: @rushdenlakesc and X: @RushdenLakesSC. *A brand list to choose from will be provided to the winner. Physical gift card availability may vary.

"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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Nene Valley News - EVENTS

> 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 1ST MARCH, 10.15AM

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

> FRIDAY 6TH MARCH, 1.30PM

Rushden Whitefriars Church Retireds' Group, bingo - Rushden Full Gospel Church, High Street South NN10 0QX, Details on 07929 5672.

> SUNDAY 8TH MARCH, 10.30AM

Countryside Walk organised by Whitefriars Church - Rushden: a 4-mile walk in the countryside between Wollaston and Bozeat. Meet on Wollaston Road (near the bypass) near its junction with Fullwell Road (NN29 7LX). Details on 01933 316927.



> 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.

WHAT'S ON AT:

COWPER & NEWTON MUSEUM

> TUESDAY 3RD MARCH, 11AM- 4.30 PM

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

> FRIDAY 6TH, FRIDAY 13TH, FRIDAY 20TH, FRIDAY 27TH MARCH - 7-8.30PM

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: <https://cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk/support-us/georgian-dancers/>

> SATURDAY 7TH-SATURDAY 14TH MARCH, 11AM-4PM

National Lottery Open Week - To show appreciation for grants received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, anyone with a National Lottery ticket, Scratchcard or Instant Win Game can unlock a special day out exploring the historic

house, beautiful tranquil gardens, and art gallery for half the usual admission price during the 'National Lottery Open Week'. Redeem the offer with a National Lottery ticket, Scratchcard or Instant Win Game, to be shown on arrival. www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.co.uk

> SATURDAY 14TH MARCH, 11.15-12.30PM

Museum Guided Tour at the Home of William Cowper - Step inside the historic home of poet William Cowper and uncover the remarkable story behind one of Britain's most influential literary and spiritual partnerships. Discover how the lives of William Cowper and John Newton became closely intertwined — through Cowper's poetry and prolific letter-writing, the Olney Hymns, and Newton's world-famous hymn 'Amazing Grace'. Places limited to 10 people. Book via events@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk / ring 01234 711516/ or ask in the Shop. Tour price: FREE with your annual pass. If you don't have an annual pass, purchase yours in the Shop on arrival — only £12 to enjoy a year of visits. www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.co.uk

> WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH, 11AM-12PM

Guided Tour - The Transatlantic Slave Trade - Join a guided tour to find out more about the Transatlantic Slave Trade explained through the museum's collection, held to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade — a United Nations (UN) international observance designated in 2007 to be marked on 25th March every year. Places limited to 10 people. Book via events@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk / ring 01234 711516/ or ask in the Shop. Tour price: FREE with your annual pass. If you don't have an annual pass, purchase yours in the Shop on arrival — only £12 to enjoy a year of visits. www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.co.uk

> MONDAY 30TH MARCH, 7-9.30PM



The Swan Inn and Bistro Quiz Night - Quiz ticket £5. The Swan Inn and Bistro, Olney, are kindly hosting this quiz to raise funds for the Cowper and Newton Museum garden paths restoration. Venue: The Swan Inn and Bistro, 12 High St South, Olney MK46 4AA. Tables of 6-8, however, you are more than welcome to come on your own on the night and we can seat you on a table to make up the 8. Raffle Prizes: Donations of raffle prizes would be most welcome. The Swan are offering a reduced price quiz menu for £11 which is entirely optional. Quiz and Food bookings: Please email info@theswanolney.co.uk

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.

PETERBOROUGH CELEBRATES FESTIVAL BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR

Nene Park Trust is once again proud to be hosting this much loved community festival for Peterborough at Ferry Meadows 16th-17th May 2026.

Back for its fifth year, this free-to-attend weekend festival at Ferry Meadows promises to be another fabulous celebration of the city and all the reasons to love it - its culture, its music, its diversity and talented communities.

This year the festival is linking in with the National Year of Reading with the weekend planned to be filled with stories - not just in books but in music, poetry, performances, communities and in everyone's lives and experiences. Join in to tell your story!

You can also look forward to all the things you love about the festival - world food vendors, a lively bar, amusements, local craft stalls and plenty of surprises around every corner.

Put the date in your diaries and keep an eye out on the

Nene Park Trust website (www.peterboroughcelebratesfestival.co.uk) and social media channels for more updates over the coming weeks. The team at Nene Park Trust can't wait to celebrate the city and its stories with you on 16th-17th May!



FAMILY CAMPING RETURNS TO BILLING AQUADROME

Billing Aquadrome Holiday Park is delighted to announce the return of camping for the 2026 season, in a brand-new, dedicated area designed with families in mind.

As part of its continued commitment to creating a family-friendly destination, Billing Aquadrome will be reintroducing family camping in a move to bring back a much-loved British tradition. Bookings will open in March 2026, with demand expected to be high following the return of this much-anticipated offering.

To celebrate the relaunch, families can sign up now to be the first to know when bookings go live. As part of the launch, 26 families from the sign-up list will each win a three-night break, redeemable at any time throughout the 2026 camping season (April-August).

The revitalised family camping will feature a purpose-built camping zone, complete with its own modern amenities block and a dedicated play area. Guests will also have full access to all of Billing Aquadrome's attractions, amenities and entertainment venues.

To enhance the overall experience, Billing Aquadrome is offering this premium camping experience with 150 generous electric pitches, each measuring 8 metres by 10 metres, providing more space, comfort and a higher-quality stay for families.

A transparent pricing system will be in place, with each pitch booking covering a family of up to four people, with no additional charges for

pets, gazebos, pup tents, or extra equipment. Whether it's a family tent, camper setup, or a fully kitted pitch, guests can bring what they need without worrying about any hidden extras.

Nikki Rathie, Holidays Director at Billing Aquadrome, said: "The return of camping for 2026 is something we know many families have been eagerly awaiting. By reintroducing a premium family camping experience, we're able to offer a much-loved family holiday experience at Billing Aquadrome which complements the other holiday styles on offer.

"The site at Billing Aquadrome first opened as a holiday park in 1945, shortly after World War II, offering caravan and camping accommodation. Over the decades it grew into one of the UK's best-known camping and holiday parks, presenting a multi-generation staycation tradition stretching back to the mid-20th century, so it's fitting that we're reintroducing camping as part of our on-going commitment to offering exceptional holiday experiences.

"This launch marks an exciting new chapter for the park following a year of major investment and regeneration, allowing families to enjoy the tradition of a camping holiday whilst making the most of the fantastic facilities and entertainment that Billing Aquadrome now has to offer."

The relaunch of camping follows a £17 million regeneration programme completed over the past year, transforming Billing Aquadrome into one of the UK's most exciting and inclusive holiday parks.

To enter Billing Aquadrome's '26 for 2026' camping holiday competition, visit <https://meadowbay.com/billingaquadrome/family-camping/> for more details and to be in with a chance of winning a three-night family camping stay. Each free holiday entitles a family of four (with the option to purchase places for up to two additional family members) to a three-night camping stay, including one car per pitch (terms & conditions will apply)



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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**.

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

Family NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
(A6116 ISLIP BYPASS/ISLIP ROAD/LOWICK BYPASS)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along those lengths of A6116 Islip Bypass/Islip Road/Lowick Bypass as set out below.

LENGTHS OF ROADS TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: Those lengths of A6116 Islip Bypass/Islip Road/Lowick Bypass from Kettering roundabout to Main Street, Lowick.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 17th March 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 roads will be restricted for up to 10 nights (20.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs).

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use A14, A43, A6003 and A6116.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler
ref:- 25/26 - N751 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/174

Dated this 28th day of February 2026
KAMILA COULSON-PATEL
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(EAST NORTHANTS DISTRICT)
(WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES)
(CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2009 (AMENDMENT No. 26) ORDER 2026

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

A COPY of the proposed Order, together with plans showing the exact lengths of roads to which it relates and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected on the Council's website at www.northnorthants.gov.uk (search traffic regulation orders) and may also be inspected at Kier Highways, Brixworth Depot, Old Harbrough Road, Brixworth, Northants, NN6 9BX at a time and date specified by appointment only by calling 01604 529700.

MAKING REPRESENTATIONS OR OBJECTIONS any person wishing to object to, support, or comment on the proposed Order must do so in writing to: Traffic Orders Section, Kier Highways, Highways Depot, Old Harbrough Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BX or by email to NNCParkingenquiries@kier.co.uk, stating the grounds for their objection or representation, to be received no later than 21st March 2026

Dated this 28th day of February 2026
KAMILA COULSON-PATEL Director of Law & Governance
(Monitoring Officer) Ref: P/2115

SCHEDULE PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANYTIME RESTRICTIONS (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES)

High Street, Denford - Proposed double yellow lines from Freemans Lane into High Street for 45 metres.

Oakley Road, Rushden - Proposed double yellow lines both sides at junction with Pytchley Road. Various Roads, Stanwick - Proposed double yellow lines at both sides of the junction for 15 metres with Samuels Close, at High Street between property boundaries of no's 1-3 for 55m metres and outside the Church on Church Street for 30 metres. Heme Road, Oundle - Proposed double yellow lines extending from existing lining ending at boundary with property no. 28 for 35 metres. Newton Road, Rushden - Proposed double yellow lines for 10 metres outside property no 38 in between existing lining. Various Roads, Titchmarsh - Proposed double yellow lines at the junction of School Lane and Chapel Street both sides of the junction and south side of the carriageway at the junction of School Lane and Park Road and for 40 metres Chapel Street opposite the junction with The Green.

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF NO WAITING AT ANYTIME RESTRICTIONS (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES)

Church Street, Stanwick - Proposed removal of double yellow lines for 20 metres outside the Public House on Church Street.

PROPOSED CHANGE FROM RESTRICTED WAITING (SINGLE YELLOW LINES) TO NO WAITING AT ANYTIME RESTRICTIONS (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES)

Various Roads, Irthlingborough - Proposed change from single yellow lining to double yellow lines outside property no 71 High Street and property no 2 Park Road.

PROPOSED DISABLED BAY

Linnetts Lane, Higham Ferrers - Proposed disabled bays x 2 opposite Barratt Close.

PROPOSED ENFORCEMENT OF SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS (AT ALL TIMES)

School Lane, Titchmarsh - Proposed enforcement of School Keep Clear markings outside of the school in operation at all times.

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The perfect combination for Mother's Day at Stanwick Lakes

Afternoon tea, live jazz and lakeside views, with The Maestro, Lincoln Noel. Sunday 15th March 2026, from 2pm.

This Mother's Day, we invite you to celebrate with a relaxed Afternoon Tea experience in the lakeside café, accompanied by live jazz-inspired

music from The Maestro, Lincoln Noel. The event offers a scenic and elegant way to spend quality time with loved ones, set against a

serene and natural backdrop.

Maestro Lincoln Noel brings a rich performance background in theatre, jazz and live events, delivering a thoughtful mix of jazz-influenced melodies, classic show tunes and light pop favourites. His live set will run from 2pm to 4pm, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for the afternoon.

Guests can enjoy a traditional Afternoon Tea menu featuring freshly

prepared finger sandwiches, warm scones with clotted cream and jam, and a selection of cakes and pastries. Drinks include tea, coffee, or a sparkling option for an extra-special treat. Two sittings are available: 1.30pm–2.45pm and 3pm–4.15pm.

Afternoon Tea options include:

- Afternoon Tea: from £24.95 per person
- Sparkling Afternoon Tea: from £31.95 per person

- Children's Afternoon Tea: from £15.95 per child (must be booked alongside an adult Afternoon Tea)

This Mother's Day experience is ideal for families, friends and anyone looking to mark the occasion with a springtime celebration in a beautiful setting.

Spaces are limited, and early booking is recommended. A £10 deposit per person is required at the time of booking.



Lincoln Noel Live at Stanwick Lakes



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Lakes**

To book visit: <https://stanwicklakes.org.uk/events/a-mothers-day-treat-afternoon-tea-with-live-jazz/>

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