

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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We want to hear from you,
so please submit your
news story or event at
www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

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ON HOMES &
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LAKESIDE ACTIVITY
CENTRE PLANS**

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Peregrines update

If you've been watching the Ashgrove Clinic livestream of Higham's peregrine falcon family, you might have noticed something that looks a bit odd over the past two weeks.

For a while there were two eggs, but neither of the parents were sitting on them. The reason for this is that peregrines use a clever strategy called 'delayed incubation'. The female lays her eggs over several days, and only starts proper incubation once most or all are laid. If she sat on them from the start, the first chick would hatch much earlier than the last. That size difference matters as the biggest chick would dominate feeding, and the smallest might not survive.

By waiting, the eggs develop together and hatch within a similar timeframe.

Currently there are four eggs in the nest and the parents are now sitting on them, which means that you should be able to see the chicks hatching soon. Make sure you put it in your diary to check on them around the 16th April just in case they're early!

Watch them at
ashgrovehealth.co.uk/
falcons

RUSHDEN LAKES ANNOUNCES FREE RECRUITMENT EVENT

Recruit Rushden Lakes returns this April to showcase the 40-plus available job roles at the popular shopping and leisure destination, as well as roles within Northants Police, Fire and Rescue, and North Northants Council.

Join the free event on Tuesday 14th April at Leisure Terrace Level 1 (opposite Cineworld). From 10am to 1pm, visitors can explore current job opportunities and speak directly with employers from well-known brands such as River Island, Lago Lounge, The Entertainer, and Nando's.

The Department of Work and Pensions will be in attendance to support the event, with representatives from National Careers Service and Tresham College on hand to provide guidance and information to those seeking employment, or an exciting new opportunity. Expect CV workshops, careers and interview advice, and training courses to help develop new skills.

Invitations have been extended to representatives of North

Northants Council, Labour Party (Wellingborough), and Reform UK (Rushden Lakes).

Donna French, Centre Manager at Rushden Lakes said: "We're proud to be hosting our recruitment event for the ninth year. Since its launch, the initiative has helped more than 600 attendees secure local job roles, demonstrating just how valuable and impactful it has become."

"The event allows us to offer guidance and support while connecting our brands with talented candidates. We're also delighted to welcome representatives from the local Police, Fire and Rescue services, and the council, who will be showcasing the opportunities available within their sectors."

The full list* of Rushden Lakes brands you can expect at the event includes:



Discover new opportunities at Rushden Lakes' Recruitment Event this April

- River Island
- Wildwood
- Lago Lounge
- The Entertainer
- Nando's
- Bewitched
- Popeyes
- Magazine Heaven
- OCS (Rushden Lakes Security and Environmental Partner)

Rushden Lakes is open Monday – Saturday 8am – 6pm and Sunday 10am – 5pm. Individual restaurants and store opening times may vary. *The list of stores attending is subject to change.

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NUPTIAL AGREEMENT ADVICE FROM WILSON BROWNE

Planning a wedding or building a life together is an exciting time. Many couples are now also considering how they can protect their finances for the future. Pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements are becoming increasingly common and can provide reassurance and clarity for both partners.

A pre-nuptial agreement is entered into before a marriage or civil partnership, while a post-nuptial agreement is made after

the marriage has taken place. These agreements allow couples to record how they would wish their finances to be dealt with if they were ever to separate in the future.

For some couples, this may involve protecting assets built up before the relationship, safeguarding family businesses, or preserving inheritance. For others it simply provides an open and practical way to discuss financial expectations. At Wilson Browne, our approach is to guide

clients through the process in a supportive and constructive way, ensuring both parties receive clear independent advice, and the agreement reflects their individual circumstances.

We appreciate that no one enters their marriage expecting it to end. However, planning ahead can often bring peace of mind and help couples move forward together with confidence. We have an experienced specialist team who can advise and assist. Please call 0800 088 6004.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Talking of marriage certificates, which I was last time, don't forget to make sure that you check if the marriage took place in the Register Office. The Gran mentioned previously did for both of her weddings – the first was in haste (she was 7 months pregnant with my uncle...) and the second had threefold reasons: she was a divorcée, four months pregnant with my mother and a different religion to my grandfather. The clues are there, so perhaps worth a second look...

Death certificates are also useful – not just to check the cause of death – but to see who registered the death. I have a certificate that had the death registered by the man's 15-year-old son. There was no minimum age for registering the death – they just had to show that they were capable of doing so. By the way, if the death has the word 'Certified' after it, you know that the cause of death has been established by a doctor. If not, then a doctor was not involved. Remember – it cost money for a doctor to do so. Therefore, you may find some certificates where

the member of the family/friend has just told the Registrar a best guess. I have seen certificates with 'Act of God' or even 'Hysteria' given as the cause of death!

If the death was registered by the Coroner, then Coroner's records should exist. However, these can be difficult to track down. From 1752 to 1860, Coroners were required to file their reports at the Quarter Session. These records are held at local Archives.

However, quite often, there will be a report in the local newspaper of any inquest that took place. Reporters back in the day were not backward in reporting all of the gory details so, if like me you find a report of the inquest into your great, great grandfather's suicide, the reading is not for the squeamish!



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

Unwillingly to School - Review

WORDS BY
RICHARD WILDING

Many older adults remember their childhood with affection and can reminisce about their happy school days. Some, however, have far from happy memories of their time at school.

One such is Dr Mike Muncaster, a semi-retired lecturer living locally, who, at the age of eleven, was sent very much against his wishes to a boarding school in Leicestershire. He remembers his early years there as being thoroughly miserable, and much of his time was spent fuming against and resenting what he saw as petty rules and regulations.

His one small consolation, however, was to actively oppose and challenge their restrictions. This, of course, did not endear him to those who taught him. Throughout his time at the school, he kept a detailed account of school life in the form of a diary, chronicling daily events and their effects on him. After a successful career as a senior history master at a local boys' school, and in semi-retirement, he conceived the idea, during the long months of Covid restrictions, of writing a book based on his old school diaries.

Mindful of his own reluctance and being sent away as a child, he came up with the



Dr Mike Muncaster



very apt title Unwillingly to School. He contacted another local successful author, Mary Matthews, who writes as Georgia Rose, and she and her company published the book.

To readers who themselves have been to boarding school, it will no doubt remind them of their own time away from home, and to those who have never boarded, it will provide a fascinating glimpse into life in a 1960s grammar school.

This book has the potential to become a classic of its kind and will be available from Amazon in hardback, paperback, and Kindle format. The hardback and paperback formats can also be ordered through any bookshop.

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EAST MIDLANDS FACES RISING WATER POVERTY AS CHARITY CALLS FOR NATIONAL SOCIAL TARIFF

More older households across the East Midlands could be facing water poverty by 2029/2030, warns national charity Independent Age.

Latest figures show that in the East Midlands, 8% of pensioner households are already living in water poverty, a figure projected to rise to 12% by 2029/30 if nothing changes. This means 51,067 households are spending more than 3% of their household income on this essential utility.

In response to rising water bills, Independent Age has launched a petition calling on the UK Government to introduce a national social tariff to tackle the growing problem of water poverty.

The charity regularly hears from older people who are forced to ration their water use by washing less, flushing the toilet less often, and avoiding the use of their washing machines altogether. A national social tariff would provide standardised and consistent financial support for people of all ages living on low incomes across England and Wales, and has the potential to lift between 292,000 and 578,000 older people out of water poverty.

The petition follows a disappointing white paper in January 2026 where the UK Government did not take on board the recommendation from the Independent Water Commission to introduce a national social tariff for water. The charity points out that the current system of water companies providing their own social tariffs has led to an unfair postcode lottery.

Independent Age released YouGov polling recently, showing that around one in five people

(22%) in England and Wales are cutting down on water usage due to cost, and out of this group, around a third say it is negatively affecting their health (33%) and personal hygiene (31%).

Independent Age Chief Executive Joanna Elson, CBE said: "Water bills are continuing to soar, and behind the statistics, there are real people making drastic cutbacks to reduce their costs. We have heard from older people washing in sinks, letting dishes pile up over days, and avoiding flushing the toilet. This should not be happening.

"Please add your voice to our campaign calling on the UK Government to implement a national social tariff for water in England and Wales. This will protect low-income households from rising water bills and put an end to the unfair postcode lottery that blights the lives of those living in areas with less generous schemes. It's clear that the current system of each water company providing their own social tariff is no longer fit for purpose. Where you live shouldn't determine how much financial support you receive.

"The UK Government says that tackling the cost of living is its top priority. If that's true, it must take meaningful action to address the growing crisis of water affordability. Water is not a luxury – it is a necessity. No one should be forced to ration it."

To sign the petition, see: <https://campaigns.independentage.org/page/187255/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=independent-age-water-petition>

ST JOHN AMBULANCE APPEALS FOR 1,500 EMERGENCY RESPONDER VOLUNTEERS ACROSS ENGLAND

More than 120 opportunities exist in the charity's East Midlands region.

Leading first aid charity St John Ambulance is focusing on a major recruitment drive to find 1,500 new Emergency Responders to help keep people safe at events and in communities across England.

Opportunities exist in Northamptonshire and the charity is encouraging people to make contact or look for further details and submit applications via its website at <https://www.sja.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/emergency-responder/>.

Emergency Responders are part of St John's frontline first aid and clinical teams, providing essential care and reassurance when someone is hurt or suddenly taken ill, and supporting safe onward care where needed. New volunteers joining through this recruitment appeal will help deliver the charity's mission and meet demand from event customers, as training and deployments ramp up through 2026.

As an Emergency Responder, you'll be involved in many areas, keeping members of the public safe at events and in the community. You'll be a reassuring presence, offering treatment for a wide range of injuries and conditions, or contributing to a team delivering life-saving care in serious emergencies. You can expect to assess and treat patients, work independently and as part of a team, take charge of a first aid scene when appropriate, and provide clear handovers to colleagues and emergency services, all while representing St John Ambulance and its values.

The charity is particularly keen to hear from people who want to make a direct difference in their community, whether they're looking for a new challenge, valuable experience for a future healthcare career, or simply a meaningful way to give back.

Who can apply?

St John Ambulance is encouraging applications from people aged 18 and over who are calm under pressure, can communicate clearly, and are willing to learn. No previous first aid experience is needed as the charity will provide all the required training and support to help volunteers build confidence and competence in the role.

Emergency Responders are typically asked to volunteer around 100 hours per year, depending on local needs. All successful applicants will need to pass an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

"Volunteering with St John Ambulance is one of the most rewarding things you can do, and as an Emergency Responder you really are there in the moments that matter," said Kevin Munday, Chief Commissioner at St John Ambulance. "You might be the person who brings calm to a frightening situation, provides urgent care, or helps someone safely on their way home or into the hands of the NHS. We'll train you, support you, and you'll be part of a brilliant team – but what you bring is your compassion, your commitment and your willingness to step up when it counts."

New state-of-the-art skatepark opened in Wellingborough

North Northamptonshire Council has officially opened a new skatepark at Bassett's Close Park in Wellingborough.

The new facilities replace a well-used and popular community asset that needed an update.

Planning permission for the new skatepark was approved in late 2024 with work starting in November 2025 and now representatives from North Northamptonshire Council have joined with partners and users of the skatepark to celebrate the new facilities.

As part of the skatepark works, new solar lighting around the skatepark and CCTV cameras to monitor the whole park have been installed.

This project also forms part of wider investment in Bassett's Park – including new outdoor gym equipment, expanded play areas, repairs to fencing, new surfacing, and general improvements across the park. All of these upgrades help make Bassett's Close Park a welcoming, active, and healthy space for the whole community.

The new skatepark is located further away from homes in a more visible, busier area of the park – reflecting feedback that has been gathered from residents throughout the project.

Other benefits of the new skatepark include:

- Supporting vibrant healthy communities, just like other sports facilities
- Physical activity opportunities for children and



young people, particularly those not involved in traditional team sports

- A safe and challenging space for wheeled sports for participants to develop their skills
- A safe alternative to "street skating" for all age groups

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "We know that the skateboarding community of Wellingborough have been keen to see the existing skate park replaced with new, modern facilities. So, it's great to see that work has now been completed and the new skatepark can start to be used by residents of all ages."

The project is funded by contributions of £106 and capital monies. Teams from across the council including Environmental Health, Planning, and Safer Communities have worked on the project alongside Northamptonshire Police, Bendcrete Leisure and Wellingborough Skatepark Group.



APRIL

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

MAY

Sun 3 Lincoln
Tue 5 Springfields
Tue 5 Spalding
Wed 6 Come Alive London Show
Sat 9 Malvern Spring Show
Sat 9 Ludlow
Sat 9 Ludlow Food Festival
Sun 10 Hunstanton
Mon 11 Derbyshire & Peak District
Wed 13 Wye Valley River Cruise
Sat 16 Clacton On Sea
Sat 16 Anderton Boat Trip & Nantwich
Sun 17 Camden Markets
Thu 21 Banbury Market
Fri 22 Stamford Market & Grantham
Sat 23 Hovercraft Experience to Ryde
Sun 24 Melton Mowbray Cheese Fair
Sun 24 Brighton
Mon 25 Whipsnade Zoo
Tue 26 City Cruises Sightseeing in London
Wed 27 Battersea Power Station Lift Tour & Shopping
Thu 28 Family Seaside Mystery
Fri 29 Cannon Hall Farm
Sat 30 Skegness
Sat 30 Call the Midwife
Sat 30 Rochester
Sun 31 Great Yarmouth OR Abba Voyage

JUNE

Wed 3 Sheringham & NNRW
Thu 4 Chesterfield Flea Market
Sat 6 Hunstanton
Tue 9 Kings Lynn Market & Norfolk Lavender
Wed 10 Oliver Musical
Wed 10 Phantom of the Opera Musical
Sat 13 Cromer
Sat 13 Warwick
Wed 17 Nottingham Cruise & Lunch
Fri 19 National Arboretum
Fri 19 National Arboretum & Lichfield
Sat 20 Swanage
Sun 21 Gardeners World & Good Food Show
Sun 21 Great Yarmouth - Wheels Festival
Tue 23 Windsor Afternoon Tea Cruise
Wed 24 Matlock & The Peak Railway
Sat 27 Hovercraft Experience to Ryde
Sun 28 Sheringham

Check out our website for further days out
www.rbtravel.co.uk



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.

23-27 JUNE - PARIS, CHANTILLY & VERSAILLES - £799PP

Double Tree by Hilton, Bougival. Half Board including Excursions. Paris is one of the world's great cities and has it all. Attractions such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Louvre, to name just a few, are all famous throughout the world, while the boulevards and cobbled streets are oozing with character and ambience. Paris is also famous for its rich history, beautiful architecture and cultural diversity. Excursions include guided tour of Paris, cruise on Seine, Chantilly whipped cream workshop.

NOVEMBER

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

Five Lakes Resort, All Inclusive including entertainment. The fantastic Potters Five Lakes resort is the UK's newest all inclusive packed with countryside charm. With a wealth of indoor facilities including indoor pool, sauna, table tennis, badminton, snooker, darts and so much more. En-suite rooms include TV with premium channels, tea and coffee making facilities, free Wi-Fi. This holiday includes traditional Christmas dinner, Craft Workshop, entertainment including Christmas Game Show and Quizzes.

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Spotlight on > Homes & Gardens



> BOSWORTH'S GARDEN CENTRE

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

At the heart of the garden centre lies the Aspen Café, a warm and inviting space perfect for relaxation. Whether you're starting your day with a hearty breakfast, enjoying a leisurely

lunch, or indulging in afternoon tea, the café offers a diverse menu to cater to all tastes. It's an ideal spot to unwind after exploring the extensive plant collections or to catch up with friends over freshly brewed coffee.

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

memorable gift.

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

> REGENT STREET WROUGHT IRON WORKS

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"We can only do this because every gate is built to each customer's individual specifications and as a family business we believe in giving old-fashioned service with genuine low prices."

For more details visit www.regentiron.co.uk or call 01536 485892.

> COLOUR, CRAFT AND KERB APPEAL

There's a reason word-of-mouth still counts for everything in the decorating trade. When someone lets you into their home, or trusts you with the exterior their neighbours see every day, the relationship matters as much as the roller and brush.

Matthew Wade Decorators is a family business, and that shows in the way they work. No armies of subcontractors, no vague timelines. Just consistent, skilled decorating with the kind of attention to detail that tends to generate the next job before the last one's even dry. They also keep a close eye on what's



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Matthew Wade Decorators Ltd

coming through in interiors and exteriors, so we asked them what's worth knowing at the moment.

The mood in interiors has shifted away from the cool greys that dominated the last decade. Warmer tones are everywhere now: ochres, dusky pinks, rich greens that work surprisingly well in north-facing rooms. Limewash plaster effects continue to grow in popularity, particularly in older Lincolnshire properties where the slight texture feels appropriate rather than fashionable. The key, as any good decorator will tell you, is preparation. A beautiful colour badly applied is still a bad result.

Outside, the focus tends to be on longevity. Proper surface preparation, the right primers, quality exterior paints built for our climate. It's the unglamorous side of the job, but it's what

separates a finish that lasts from one that doesn't, and it's where Matthew Wade Decorators' experience and industry accreditations really earn their keep.

If you're planning a refresh, room by room or whole house, they're well worth a conversation.

> THE FURNITURE CENTRE

"At the Furniture Centre, we have been designing, building and delivering high quality furniture for over 15 years. From our base in Northamptonshire, we are proud to create and supply both traditional and contemporary styles of upholstery, living, dining and bedroom furniture for every type of home and office. Today, we are also a top supplier to park homes and leisure lodges across the UK, thanks to our track record for quality, service and value."

Company Office and Showroom: The Furniture Centre Limited, Pytchley Lodge Road Industrial Estate, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN15 6JQ. Showroom Open: Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm.

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Furniture Centre



Furniture Centre

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"As a family-run business, our approach is simple: treat every project as if it were our own. From full kitchen and bathroom renovations to wider construction and home improvement works, we pride ourselves on delivering a complete service from concept to completion. With over 40 years of combined industry experience, our team understands that no two homes – or homeowners – are the same.

"What sets us apart is not just the work we do, but how we do it. Home improvements can often feel overwhelming, which is why we provide a single point of contact throughout every project, ensuring a smooth, stress-free process from start to finish. Whether it's transforming a dated bathroom into a modern, practical space, or opening up a kitchen to create the heart of the home, our focus is always on quality, detail and customer satisfaction.

"In an industry where trust is everything, being reliable, transparent, and consistent matters. That's why we're committed to maintaining high standards across all aspects of our work – no matter the size of the project.

"Because at the end of the day, it's not just about improving houses – it's about creating homes people truly love to live in."

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Nene Valley News - EVENTS

> SUNDAY 12TH APRIL, 10.30AM

Countryside Walk organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden - A 4-mile walk in the countryside north of Sharnbrook. Meet in Lodge Road, Sharnbrook near its junction with Yelnow Road/Colworth Road. Details on 01933 316927.

> SUNDAY 12TH APRIL, 10.30AM

Countryside walk - 4 to 5 miles from Lodge Road, Sharnbrook MK44 1JP. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden. Details on 01933 316927.

> WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL, 7.30PM

Debbie, Bishop of Peterborough, talking on 'What will the Church of England be like in five to ten years?' - St John's Church Hall near St John's Church, Corby NN17 1XF. All welcome. Details on 01933 316927.

> SATURDAY 18TH APRIL, 10AM ONWARDS

Volunteering event - Midshires Covert, Kelmash Road, Harrington NN6 9ND - including food cooked on the campfire. Details on 07943 307873.

> SUNDAY 19TH APRIL, 10.15AM

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

> FRIDAY 24TH APRIL, 2PM

Author Talk: Thomas Richard Brown - Raunds Library, High Street, Raunds NN9 6HT. A talk by the author on his journey from writing to publishing. Refreshments available. Tickets £7.50 available from the library or Raunds post office. Contact Tel. 01933 623747.

> SATURDAY 25TH APRIL, 7.30PM

Oundle and District Choral Society Spring Concert - St Peter's Church, Oundle. Purcell - Dido and Aeneas Handel - Four Coronation Anthems Tickets £15 (£5 for children) available from Ticket Source or choir members. Please go to www.oundlechoralsociety.org.uk

> SUNDAY 26TH APRIL, 10.15AM

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

A NEW ERA FOR FINESHADE WOOD CAMPSITE

Forestry England has announced that the popular overnight parking area at Fineshade Wood, Northamptonshire, will reopen as a fully operated campsite under the Forestry England banner, following a competitive tender process that saw Camping New Forest Ltd appointed as the new operator.

Camping New Forest currently manages 11 campsites across the New Forest National Park and is well-known for delivering authentic, environmentally responsible camping experiences rooted in education, conservation, and community engagement.

Located in north Northamptonshire, and part of the former royal hunting forest of Rockingham Forest, Fineshade Wood can be found between Stamford and Corby on the A43, and is widely considered by locals to be a hidden gem.

Following a short temporary closure of the overnight offer to prepare the site, visitors will soon be welcomed back to enjoy upgraded facilities and the reassurance of friendly onsite wardens. The location, previously run by Forestry England as a motorhome parking area, is beginning an exciting new chapter, with thoughtful improvements planned to enhance the experience even



further over time.

Denis Dooley, CEO of Camping New Forest, said: "It is an exciting opportunity for us to expand and take on the running of another campsite. Our primary remit is education, and visitor experience, environment and community are at the heart of everything we do."

Our vision is to create high-quality, authentic campsites that communities can be proud of - places that improve local sustainability and give visitors unforgettable experiences; learning about, exploring and embracing nature through camping. We are excited to work with Forestry England and the Fineshade Wood visitor centre to build on the existing experience and enhance what this special woodland site can offer."

Hayley Skipper, Director

of Operations - Commercial Visitor Development at Forestry England, added: "This marks an exciting new chapter for Fineshade Wood and the community we serve. Camping gives people fresh ways to enjoy the forest, connect with each other and feel closer to nature."

"Fineshade Wood is a haven for nature-lovers, walkers and cyclists of all abilities, with great play areas and a family activity trail, sensory garden, and fantastic visitor centre and café, all right on the doorstep for campers. It's the perfect spot for a forest getaway and a great location for your next adventure outdoors."

"Above all, camping helps us continue Forestry England's mission to care for our forests and make them special places for people to enjoy."

Campers can stay at Fineshade Wood Campsite from £13.60, from 1st April, and can book at www.fineshadecampsite.co.uk

Printed in Kettering – The Musical! – Coming to Oundle this May

A note from the writer Ian

Winfrey: The composer Tom Lehrer is undoubtedly the star of this show. For those people unfamiliar with his music and lyrics, I can assure you they will bring a smile to your face and cheerfulness into your heart. He was a remarkable man who died last year aged 97 after having a career firstly as a composer and then a maths university lecturer in the USA. He was also a very generous man and before his death released all his music from copyright.

I have always been a great admirer of his word craft with lyrics and music. I decided it would be fun to try and weave his songs into a story and make a musical. All I needed was a plot line for his songs - Mamma Mia! used ABBA, surely it could not be too difficult for Tom Lehrer's songs?

They always say "write about something you know about". I grew up in a family business that owned provincial newspapers, including a title in Kettering. During the 1980s new technology for printing newspapers was being introduced causing a lot of friction with the powerful newspaper print unions. The newspaper editor in Kettering was surrounded and besieged by pickets for many months and fought valiantly on - publishing a reduced size newspaper.

An industrial dispute may

16th-17th May 2026

No. 1473

PRINTED IN KETTERING

The Musical!

Saturday 16th May 2026 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday 17th May 2026 at 3:00 pm.
Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle, PE8 4EJ.
Tickets £16
Bar and Snacks available.

The story is set in the offices of the Kettering Gazette in the 1980s. Dialogue is by Mr. Ian Winfrey and Music is set to the songs of Mr Tom Lehrer. (arr. Dr K Wishart where necessary).

A Nene Voices Production

Don't miss this new work, full of action, music and humour.

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<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nenevoices>

seem an unlikely plot line for a humorous musical. However, with the precedent of the success of the musical Made In Dagenham, I decided to pursue this avenue for the storyline. To complete the musical I have been greatly helped by the musical director Kate Wishart and director Liz Williams of Oundle-based Nene

Voices.

All we need now is an audience. Come and join us for a relaxed evening's entertainment - café style - at The Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle - Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May - featuring Tom Lehrer favourites such as Poisoning Pigeons and Masochism Tango.

Tickets from Ticketsource - book soon, there is limited seating available! www.ticketsource.co.uk/nenevoices

Higham Ferrers' historic legacy feted as today's heroes continue the story

Known for its history, heritage and heroes, Higham Ferrers has always had "makers, dreamers and doers," guests at a film premiere heard. "The real heroes are the people who keep this story alive," the narrator continued.

And helping to keep those stories centre stage are volunteers, members of various local organisations, including Higham Ferrers Tourism, who were hosting the premiere of their latest film, Higham's History, Heritage and Heroes.

The film was based on last year's Northamptonshire Heritage Forum annual History Day, which was hosted by Higham Ferrers Tourism and held in the town's Hope Methodist Church. With visitors descending on Higham Ferrers from around the county, the packed event proved a resounding success.

Various History Day speakers told about the town's unique link with such well-known historical and literary figures as Archbishop Henry Chichele and author H.E. Bates. The visitors also heard the story of the ancient flint axe, which was gifted to the Tourism Committee, and how members and those from the Higham Ferrers Archaeological and Research Society (HiFARS) took the axe to Leicester University to be authenticated. They also heard about the work of various groups which meet at the Chichele

College and the neighbouring Duchy Barn.

And as the town's history and the focus of the continuing work unfolded, the cameras rolled, capturing History Day on film.

Now, the result - the movie about 'Higham's History, Heritage and Heroes' - has been screened at a premiere and afternoon tea, when the Tourism Committee welcomed their guests: local members of the Serve and Social Prescription organisations along with Councillor Jennie Bone of the North Northamptonshire Council (NNC).

Councillor Bone's NNC Empowerment Grant paid for the filming and the premiere afternoon.

Premiere guests heard that such was the success of History Day that the town had received more visitors, all interested in Higham's unique history.

As a result, several new town tour guides have been trained to cater for the renewed interest, Liz Barnatt and Carol Fitzgerald of the Tourism Committee explained. The new tour guides were also guests at the premiere.

The film's narrator wrapped up the movie by saying: "Higham's fortunes have risen and fallen, but its spirit endures... Every discovery, every act of kindness, every memory shared: that's another chapter."

Nene Park Trust invites you to see Lakeside Activity Centre plans

Nene Park Trust has announced details of a public drop-in session to see the revised plans for the long-awaited Lakeside Activity Centre.

Although planning permission was granted back in 2021 for an activity centre on the old Lakeside car park in Ferry Meadows, the Trust has faced delays in getting construction started due to rising costs and a changing, climbing market. The team has now developed some exciting and practical revisions to the original plans, which provide for a simpler, lower building with a smaller footprint. These plans will be submitted to Peterborough City Council Planning Department in April.



There are still challenges for this important project for Peterborough, not least securing further funding and successfully amending the planning permission. Despite these challenges, the revised Activity Centre will offer the people of Peterborough and visitors an exciting new indoor leisure and sporting venue to keep everyone active all year round.

Of course, this has always been Nene Park Trust's vision. With a primary focus on bouldering, now the most popular form of climbing, the centre will offer

widely accessible activity to all ages and skill levels. Everyone from beginners to aspiring Olympians can come, have fun, train and compete here. When the redesigned tower is added to the building as phase two of the plans, lead climbing (rope climbing) will be added to the climbing offer. The centre will also include a small café, accessible toilets and changing rooms.

The project has already secured significant investment, including from the UK Government's Towns Fund programme, and through Nene Park Trust's own resources. The Trust is in advanced conversations with experienced climbing centre operators on the running of the centre. Subject to approval of the revised plans and the remaining funding being secured, construction will begin in autumn 2026 with the opening date for the first phase of the centre in autumn 2027.

Nene Park Trust would like to invite the public to come and

see the revised plans and talk to the team. There will be an information event on Monday 13th April, 4-7pm at The Lakeside Hub in Ferry Meadows, next to Nene Outdoors and the Lakeside Kitchen and Bar. Free parking will be available for anyone wanting to come along.

Matthew Bradbury, Chief Executive of Nene Park Trust commented: "We're confident that these revised plans for the activity centre at Ferry Meadows offer an exciting development for the Park and the city of Peterborough.

"As a charity, our objective is to provide recreation for the public through the Park and its facilities, both for Peterborough's residents and all our visitors and through the activity centre we would be able to offer indoor recreation, in all weathers, all year round. Climbing – especially bouldering – is a growing sport across the UK – and as it now features in the Olympics it's great that we can support aspiring climbers of all ages to fulfil their dreams.

"We've listened very carefully to all feedback provided on our



original plans and we feel that a smaller, more affordable, less intrusive building, will satisfy many of our regular visitors while still delivering a huge amount of impact and fun."

To find out more about the revised plans, take a look at the detailed FAQs on the Nene Park website and keep an eye out for further updates on the planning application and outcome.



Director of Public Health urges eligible families to apply for the NHS Healthy Start card

North Northamptonshire Council's Director of Public Health is urging eligible parents, carers and those who are pregnant to apply for the NHS Healthy Start card.

The card provides weekly financial support to help families buy milk, infant formula, fruit, vegetables and pulses.

It also means they can get free Healthy Start vitamins which they can collect from their nearest Family Hub. The vitamins provided include folic acid, vitamin C, and vitamin D for pregnant/breastfeeding individuals, and vitamins A, C, and D for children.

The Healthy Start card provides two functions:

- Acts as a prepaid card for fruit and veg etc...
- Acts as your proof to collect free vitamins (and baby vitamin drops) from your Family Hub

If a resident is receiving a qualifying benefit and is pregnant or has parental responsibility for at least one child under the age of four, they can apply directly through the NHS to access the Healthy Start scheme. Apply online or by calling the Healthy Start helpline on 0300 330 7010.

Local services are also available that can offer information to parents on how to access this programme, they include Kettering local midwifery service and the Northamptonshire health visiting service.

North Northamptonshire Local Family Hubs can also provide information and practical support to residents across the county, no appointment necessary.

Family Hub staff are available to help with Healthy Start applications for a Healthy Start Card, general advice, and wider support. There are four Family Hubs in North Northamptonshire, Kettering, Wellingborough, East Northants Rushden, and East Northants Oundle.

Dr Jane Bethea, North Northamptonshire Council's Director of Public Health, who works to protect the health of approximately 360,000 residents, said: "We all want the best for our children and that starts during pregnancy up to when they become adults and beyond. The financial support which can be accessed via the Healthy Start Card can help parents to buy vegetables and milk for their children which perhaps they may not have been in a position to

prioritise. The card also means that they can get free vitamins for their children at one of our four Family Hubs."

Dr Jane Bethea is also urging all families to visit their local Family Hub with their children to discover the range of information and services on offer. They support families with children 0-19 or up to 25 years old if they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). <https://familyhubs.northnorthants.gov.uk/family-hubs>

Family Hubs are friendly and safe spaces for babies, children, young people and their parents/carers to go and meet new people, join in activities, or get the support you need.

The Family Hubs team will help you find and access help from different services in the local area.

Cllr Brian Benneyworth, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Housing said: "If people are unsure how to apply for the Healthy Start Card, they can pop along to one of the Family Hubs and the friendly team will be able to go through the process together with them, step by step.

"This offer is there and we want parents and carers to have every opportunity to access support for their children's health and wellbeing. Why not pop along today? You can just turn up and there is no need for an appointment."

The NHS Healthy Start scheme provides a prepaid card that can be used in most supermarkets to purchase healthy essentials. Eligible residents receive:

- £8.50 per week for each baby under 1
- £4.25 per week for each child aged 1-4
- £4.25 per week from the 10th week of pregnancy

Families can visit their nearest Family Hub, where staff can provide face-to-face assistance, or contact the team via email on familyhubs@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Family Hubs deliver a range of joined-up services focusing particularly on parenting, infant feeding, early language, and perinatal mental health. By connecting families with the community and services available to them, the Hubs will help address their needs and enable them to build positive relationships with their children and their community.

New information service for Deaf and hard of hearing adults appointed by councils

People from the Deaf and hard of hearing community will continue to receive support from a new information and advice service launching in Northamptonshire from April.

Following the announcement, earlier this month from charity Deafconnect that they were to close at the end of March, North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council have secured RJ Community CIC to run the service from 1st April.

RJ Community CIC, which supports Deaf, Deafblind, and people with hearing loss to access information, advocacy, training, and community activities, said it was “delighted” to be providing services for people across Northamptonshire.

The council had proactively engaged with a range of organisations regarding a replacement service and have received a number of expressions of interest before this new appointment.

Ruth Godden, CEO, RJ Community CIC, said: “We are delighted to be working with North Northamptonshire Council to continue providing vital

support for Deaf, Deafblind and hard of hearing people across the area. We recognise how important continuity of support is, and we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition while building a strong, responsive service shaped by the community. At RJ Community CIC, we believe in ‘your community, your way’ – delivering inclusive, accessible services that reflect local needs. We look forward to working with residents and partners to make a positive and lasting difference.”

Cllr Eddie McDonald, North Northamptonshire Council’s Deputy Leader and Executive member for Adult Services, said: “We know how important these services are to Deaf and hard of hearing residents across North Northamptonshire, and we have acted quickly to make sure support continues without interruption. I’m pleased to welcome RJ Community CIC, whose expertise and community-focused approach will help us

build a strong and responsive service for the future. Our priority is ensuring that people feel supported, connected, and confident that their needs will continue to be met.”

Cllr Laura Couse, West Northamptonshire Council’s Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Public Health said: “Our priority is to ensure residents who are Deaf or hard of hearing continue to have relevant services that are easily accessible, inclusive, and tailored to support their independence and wellbeing. We welcome RJ Community CIC as our new partner and look forward to working together to enhance the support available across West Northamptonshire. This partnership provides an opportunity to strengthen how people access information and advice, and to ensure services are designed in a way that removes barriers and promotes greater inclusion.”

To book an appointment with RJ Community CIC:

- community@rj-cic.co.uk
- 07721 064179 (text/WhatsApp/video) /0333 533 2373
- www.rj-cic.co.uk

Let the Easter fun begin!

Residents across North Northamptonshire can enjoy a fun-filled Easter holiday, with a fantastic range of active and engaging things to do – whatever the weather.

North Northamptonshire Council is highlighting a host of leisure opportunities this Easter, including leisure centre activities, holiday clubs and special seasonal sessions.

Children, older teens and families can get active and enjoy an exciting programme both indoors and outdoors, making the most of the school break. Two weeks of activities are lined up across the North Northants area, including:

- Swimming fun: family swims, floats, inflatable and 1-1 lessons
 - Sports: football, pickleball, tennis, basketball and badminton
 - Junior and teen gym sessions
 - Kids clubs and inflatable play sessions
 - FREE Xplorer outdoor family adventures; maps provided and clues to hunt out!
- Councillor Brian Benneyworth, Executive



Member for Housing, Health and Leisure said: “We’re pleased to offer a variety of affordable, family-friendly activities across North Northamptonshire this Easter. From outdoor adventures to leisure centre sessions, there’s something for all ages to enjoy while staying active and connected during the school break.”

Get inspired and active this Easter – view the full programme on the council website.



EXPLORE ENGLAND’S HIDDEN WINE COUNTRY

Uncork your next adventure in one of England’s most surprising and scenic wine destinations: the East Midlands.

Two Northamptonshire vineyards, Stonyfield Vineyard and New Lodge Vineyard, are among ten pioneering producers featured in the newly launched East Midlands Wine Trail, inviting visitors to explore the region’s growing reputation for distinctive English wines.

The trail, supported by WineGB and WineGB Midlands & North, links vineyards across Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire, offering a taste of the region’s quiet wine revolution, over 50 years in the making. They provide wine lovers with the opportunity to discover the region’s vineyards at their own pace, enjoying tastings, vineyard walks and direct encounters with the people behind the wines.

Well connected by the M1 and A1 corridors, the East Midlands is increasingly recognised as an accessible and rewarding destination for wine tourism, combining rural landscapes with historic towns and cultural landmarks.

Collaborating with other vineyards across the region showcases the diversity and quality of wines being produced in the heart of England.

Stonyfield Vineyard

Hidden between Blisworth village and the Grand Union Canal, Stonyfield Vineyard is a small family run vineyard. Established 15 years ago, Stonyfield is focused entirely on sparkling English wine. Their wine wins awards regularly – including national Best in Class (twice) – and is available only at the vineyard, by word of mouth and at a few select outlets.

The vineyard is open by arrangement, on the second Sunday of each month, and on all Sundays in the high summer, when it offers guided tours, cheeseboards, and the opportunity to sit in the garden overlooking the vineyard and canal. Families and dogs always welcome!

“We are delighted to participate in the East Midlands Wine

Trail, and welcome the opportunity to show off our award-winning wines. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our hidden gem.” said John Vaughan, one of the family partnership.

New Lodge Vineyard

Situated in the Northamptonshire countryside near Earls Barton, New Lodge Vineyard welcomes visitors to experience English wine in a relaxed rural setting with beautiful views over the Nene valley. The vineyard, established over 25 years ago, produces still and sparkling wines, which have won many awards. English wine is evolving quickly, and the East Midlands has an exciting story to tell.

“Being part of the East Midlands Wine Trail is a wonderful opportunity to introduce more people to the wines being made in this region,” said Rebecca Beveridge, director of New Lodge Vineyard.

“Visitors are often surprised by the quality and character of English wines produced here in Northamptonshire. The trail encourages people to explore vineyards as destinations in their own right – to meet the producers, walk through the vines and understand the landscape that shapes the wines.”

A New Destination for English Wine

The East Midlands Wine Trail encourages visitors to plan their own routes through the region, exploring vineyards alongside historic market towns such as Brackley, Uppingham and Stamford, as well as cultural attractions and countryside landscapes.

To enhance the experience, visitors can collect a Vineyard Passport from participating vineyards and gather stamps as they travel the trail, with a reward for those who complete all ten vineyards within a year.

The new website and wine trail can be found here – start your journey: www.eastmidlandswinetrail.co.uk/ Facebook: @Eastmidlandswinetrail

Trail Participants

- Amber Valley Vineyard, Derbyshire (www.ambervalleyvineyards.co.uk)
- Scaddows Vineyard, Derbyshire (www.scaddowsfarm.com)
- Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire (www.belvoircastle.com)
- Welland Valley Vineyard, Leicestershire (www.welland-valley-vineyard.com)
- Silkstone Vineyard, Lincolnshire (www.silkstonevineyard.com)
- Wressle Vineyard, Lincolnshire (www.wresslevineyard.com)
- South Ormsby Estate, Lincolnshire (www.southormsbyestate.co.uk)
- Stonyfield Vineyard, Northamptonshire (www.stonyfieldwine.co.uk)
- New Lodge Vineyard, Northamptonshire (www.newlodgevineyard.co.uk)
- Hanwell Wine Estate, Nottinghamshire (www.hanwellwine.co.uk)



YOUR HEALTH – TONGUE TIE

WORDS BY
CLAIRE SHORT

One of the things new parents often hear mentioned, somewhere between feeding and sleep routines: Tongue tie. A small phrase that can carry quite a lot of worry.

We covered this recently on Ashgrove TV during our March show on tongue tie, where one of our paediatric osteopaths talked through what it is and why it matters. And when it doesn't. The show prompted plenty of questions, which suggests it is still a worry for many new parents.

In simple terms, tongue tie happens when the strip of tissue under the tongue, called the frenulum, is tighter or shorter than usual. This can restrict how the tongue

moves. For babies, that movement is surprisingly important. Feeding relies on a coordinated pattern of sucking, swallowing and breathing. If the tongue cannot move freely, feeding can become less efficient and sometimes uncomfortable for both baby and mum.

I think it's important to say, though, that not all tongue ties cause problems. Some babies feed perfectly well and need no intervention at all. Others may struggle more, and that is usually when parents start looking for answers.

Things to look out for can include:

- Difficulty latching or staying latched during feeds
- Clicking noises while feeding
- Long or very frequent feeds without seem to be

satisfied

- Sore nipples for breastfeeding mothers
- Baby seeming frustrated or unsettled during feeds.

None of these signs confirm a tongue tie on their own, but they might mean it would be sensible to get advice.

One thing that often reassures parents is understanding that feeding is not just about the tongue itself. The way a baby's neck, jaw and whole body move can also play a part. This is why it's important to check the neck and shoulder muscles during an assessment.

If you know a new mum who is feeling unsure, encourage her to ask a professional for support. Sometimes, it just helps to know everything is OK.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (LOWICK LANE, ALDWINCLE)

(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 that length of Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle from Main Street to Baulk Lane.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during new water connection works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 29th April 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 3 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Main Street and Lowick Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler
ref:- 26/27 – N019 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/244

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (PARK STREET, KINGS CLIFFE)

(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 Park Street, Kings Cliffe as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Park Street, Kings Cliffe from West Street to The Dovecote.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 13th April 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 5 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use West Street, Wood Street and Station Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler
ref:- 26/27 – N009 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/199

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (HIGH STREET, DUDDINGTON)

(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 High Street, Duddington as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of High Street, Duddington from Todds Hill to Mill Street.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 13th April 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 5 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Stamford Road, A47, A43 and High Street.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler
ref:- 26/27 – N008 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/200

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (HARLEY WAY, BENEFIELD & PILTON)

(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 Harley Way, Benefield and Pilton as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Harley Way, Benefield and Pilton from Lyveden Manor to Churchfield offices.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 20th April 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 3 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: follow signage.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler
ref:- 26/27 – N007 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/201

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (LOWER STREET, 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 Lower Street, Great Addington as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Lower Street, Great Addington from Bank House to Chapel Close.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 23rd April 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 2 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Addington Road, A6, A510 and Cranford Road.

If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler
ref:- 26/27 – N003 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/205

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (POLEBROOK)

(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 NP3 in Polebrook as specified below. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said length of footpath are unaffected.

RIGHT OF WAY TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: The route to be closed starts on Public Footpath NP3 in the parish of Polebrook at point A on the map at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 505679/286711. The route travels generally East for approximately 730 metres to point B at NGR 506398/286698.

The route to be closed is shown by a solid black line between points A-B.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for health and safety due to concerns around flooding.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The Order will come into effect on 20th April 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: There is no suitable alternative routes.

If you require any further information please contact George Foster on
01604 529700 ROW/210-N

Dated this 11th day of April 2026
KAMILA COULSON-PATEL, Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Higham Ferrers to welcome 'Saint George' and dragon as unique link to patron saint is celebrated

Higham Ferrers, which has a direct historical link to the patron saint of England, is now planning an inaugural St George's Day celebration.

A special guest – a St George lookalike – will grace the gathering on his horse and of course, in keeping with ancient legend, there will also be a roaring dragon.

Centuries-old tales told how the mounted St George slayed a dragon to protect a princess.

With the town bedecked in the red-and-white St George's

cross flags, the fun event will unfold at the town's Saffron Road Recreation Ground on Saturday afternoon, 25th April, two days after the country's traditional St George's Day.

Organised by the Higham Ferrers Town Council, local children have been invited to take part in a fancy-dress competition, wearing "anything medieval" and dressing in costumes such as those worn by kings, queens, dragons or jesters.

Teams from local pubs will battle it out during a tug-of-war challenge – a winner's shield is up for grabs – while a horseshoe demonstration by a farrier is certain to attract the crowds.

And a classic car exhibition is bound to prove popular.

There will also be face-painting, a hog-roast, various stalls, tombola and cakes.

Councillor Penny Van Spall, chair of the St George's Day Organising Group, said a lot of research and planning had gone into the event.

"It promises to be an interesting and fun day," she said.

According to research by the town's tourism committee, it was Higham Ferrers's most famous son, Higham Ferrers-born Archbishop Henry Chichele, who secured St George's place as the only patron saint of England.

After the English won the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, Archbishop Chichele decreed St George as a special patron and protector of the English.

He further decreed that the feast day of St George (April 23rd) – the day St George died – should be the most important celebration in England.

When King Edward III created a new order of chivalry in 1348 – the Knights of the Garter – he made St George the patron saint of the order, which remains the highest British civil and military honour obtainable.

History reveals that St George, who was not English – he was born in Cappadocia (now Turkey) – was probably a high-ranking soldier in the Roman army who is thought to have died as a martyr for his Christian faith in Palestine.

He was seen as brave,

heroic and noble, a saint who personified the ideals of chivalry.

And while he was not a knight and he did not fight dragons, such stories survived as people liked the story of dragons and knights to show how valiant their patron saint was.

Shakespeare also paid tribute to St George in Henry V, in the king's famous rallying battle cry before the Battle of Agincourt... "Cry, 'God for Harry! England! and St George.'"

Higham Ferrers mayor, Councillor Gary Salmon, whose charity fundraising this year is supporting volunteer youth groups, including Scouts, pointed out that as well as being the patron saint of England, St George is also the patron saint of the Scouting movement.

The fun starts at 1pm with the arrival of St George, followed by the fancy-dress competition at 2pm and the tug-of-war at 2.30pm. The dragon will parade the grounds in between the events and Beat Route Radio will broadcast throughout the afternoon.



Medieval memories: Local children might want to wear similar costumes as worn by Christian, Michael and Heather

ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATION

SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND

25TH APRIL 2026 1PM-4PM

SEE ST GEORGE ON HIS HORSE AND THE ROARING DRAGON

STALLS, FOOD AND DRINK, TOMBOLA

ST GEORGE HISTORY EXHIBITION

MEDIEVAL FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

TUG OF WAR COMPETITION

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

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...AND MORE!

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO
www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk

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