

Nene Valley

news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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news story or event at
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Active Communities Awards 2026

North Northamptonshire Council, alongside its valued sponsors, are delighted to announce nominations are now open for the Active Communities Awards 2026.

The awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals, clubs, organisations and projects that inspire people across North Northamptonshire to lead active, healthy lives.

From grassroots sport to community wellbeing initiatives, the awards shine a spotlight on those making a real difference in their communities.

Whether it's a coach who goes the extra mile, a club that brings people together, or an individual achieving incredible sporting success, the Council is encouraging the public to put forward their choices.

Online nomination forms, along with full details of the awards and eligibility criteria, can be found on the official website. The nomination window will remain open until noon on Sunday 13th September. A shortlisting panel will carefully review the nominations before finalists are invited to attend the awards ceremony. Winners will be announced at an invite only ceremony on Wednesday 18th November 2026 at Kettering Leisure Village.

BONES, A GIANT STUMP AND MOVIE STARS

It is not everyone who has a body in their garden, Catherine Knight said as she showed visitors around her sweeping flower beds and lush plants...

But that is exactly what Catherine and her husband Andrew have in the beautiful garden of their Higham Road home.

Catherine told how human remains were discovered when Andrew and a couple of friends were digging out the garage foundations to prepare for an extension.

The police and a forensics team were called in and it was established that the remains, which included a jawbone and skull, had belonged to a 30-year-old pre-Industrial Revolution man.

Given the option of having him removed, the Knights decided to keep him. And they named him Colin after a friend, Colin Sanders, who had been helping to dig out the garage foundations

and who had discovered the human remains.

"He, Colin, had been in the ground for such a long time that we decided to let him rest in peace," Catherine said. A laminated notice marks the spot where he was re-interred by the Knights, and reads: 'Here lies Colin. Rest in peace.'

Their garden was one of 11 private gardens and four community gardens on show to the public during Higham Ferrers Tourism's annual Secret Gardens event.

The Knights told a stream of visitors that when they moved in 25 years ago, the garden was full of cat poo and grass that was so long it had toppled over.

There were conifers that were taller than the houses bordering the bottom of the garden, there

were weeds galore and steps that were hidden by ivy.

They chopped some 30ft off those towering trees, with Andrew – an avid do-it-yourselfer – building the various structures around the garden, including the patios, a treehouse, a summerhouse, all the paths and steps, the pond and fountains.

They built the treehouse for their four children, which included a fireman's pole. They added a veranda 10 years ago and the treehouse now boasts an art easel and is the ideal place for a spot of reading.

Having totally transformed their garden over the years, they say they still find things to do.

Star turn

Meanwhile, over at Mick and Anne Waite's showcase garden



Andrew and Catherine Knight were only too happy to share their gardening story with visitors

in Shelley Drive, visitors were talking about the impressive lawn and Mick's fascination with movie stars.

His collection of hosta plants, which he has been growing for 20 years, are named after famous male movie stars, such as Gary Cooper and Clark Gable, while the trees are named after female stars, like Sophia Loren

and Grace Kelly.

And artwork from famous movie titles, like The Good, The Bad and the Ugly, decorate the garden sheds.

But as some visitors commented, the real star is Mick himself for his perseverance in producing such a landmark garden.

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

Never stumped

Across in Nene Road, Keith and Lorna Nicholson were not stumped about what to put in their blank canvas of a new garden. They decided on an unusual feature: a 250-year-old oak tree stump which they have planted upside down, with the roots on show.

"We bought it from Devon and it cost more to ship it here than the cost of the tree itself," Keith recalled.

"It weighed over a ton and it took five men to get it out of the lorry and into the garden. It is positioned on big plastic pallets with holes for drainage," Keith added.

The tree stump is surrounded by wild flowers which feature throughout the garden, attracting bees and butterflies.

The Nicholsons called in Landscape Concept, who work at the Chelsea Flower Show, to do the design and the planting and say it makes sense to call in professionals for the basics, as you can then build on from there.

Their garden features a Japanese red acer tree, which had been on show at Chelsea for five years and they had to wait for last year's show to be over before they could get it.



A 250-year-old upside down tree stump feature is a talking point in Lorna and Keith Nicholson's garden

Their garden also includes a water feature and a waterfall.

"You can hear the waterfall and birds and it is all very peaceful," Lorna added.

The garden is lit up at night, adding to the calming atmosphere.

Liz Barnatt, the chairperson and organiser of the Secret Gardens, said the event had been a resounding success with visitors coming from as far afield as Bedford.

"The Secret Garden hosts shared a wealth of ideas with their visitors and we will be having a 'thank you' event for them soon," she said.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Have you taken advantage of the GRO system for having a pdf of a certificate emailed to you, rather than wait for it to arrive through the post? (Note: this just applies to birth and death certificates, not marriage.) I had a sister of my great grandmother Millicent disappear into the ether after the 1871 census, when the family had been living in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

By 1881, Millicent and her mother Harriet (plus some siblings but not Alice) were living in Brighton. There was no trace of her in the 1881 census, nor could I find a marriage. However, later in 1871 there was a death of a 10-year-old Alice in the Ticehurst Registration District. Feeling a bit doubtful that this could be my Alice, I sent for the certificate all the same – and it was the right one! She had died of Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever) at the 'Temporary Hospital, Frant Forest'. This then required some more digging to find out about Frant. It turns out to be a very small village on the edge of Sussex and Kent – so much so that the village straddles both counties – and is also just two and a half miles from

Tunbridge Wells. It seems that Alice was sent to the hospital so that she could be isolated – Scarlet Fever being extremely contagious. But why 'Temporary Hospital'? This required more digging and so I posted the query on my forum – the link to which is under my name. Within two hours I was given information about a couple of newspaper articles of the time explaining that there was a fever epidemic in Tunbridge Wells, resulting in the need for an isolation hospital and so one was hastily erected in Frant Forest, just along from the cemetery.... Also, a contemporary map was found that showed the hospital site. Fantastic lot, those members!

The Ticehurst registration district, although in Sussex, is adjacent to the Tunbridge Wells registration district, so it pays to check those next door!

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Flair for storytelling

It would be no exaggeration to say that were you to stick a pin in a map of the Nene Valley you would have a fair chance of landing on an aspiring author. Thrapston is no exception, having three that I know of, one of whom is well known locally having been involved over the last 47 years in all aspects of local government, education and several societies formed for the benefit of townspeople and those from surrounding villages.

Originally destined to become a teacher, Glyn James pursued a career in what would now be called IT, starting at the London Stock Exchange and from there after a number of career moves finally ending up in Thrapston from where he commuted to Milton Keynes for ten years before retiring.

A founder member of U3A when it came to Thrapston, Chairman of the Governors of Prince William School and of the local Town Council, he found the time as his first foray into authorship to write The Top School, the history of a local primary school in the Huntingdon Road that had been relocated to Market Road.

So deeply was he involved in local affairs that it wasn't until a period of redundancy that he was able to engage seriously in the writing of his first novel, Sitting Well in Order. It tells of a group of people on a canal boat holiday and explores their different characters and relationships and the tensions that can arise when people of various ages and backgrounds are in close proximity for some time.



The central character, George, will appear as his young self in Glyn's second novel Sharp Sleet, a coming of age story that considers the influence of fundamentalist religion on a young man's developing attitude to life and sex and is a thought-provoking reminder of the reader's own adolescence – as George wrestles with his conscience, comparing the dictates of his awakening desires with those of the religious beliefs by which he had formerly tried to live. In both novels Glyn's fascination with people's differing characters and their interactions with one another is very much apparent as the storyline develops. Both books have the potential to become bestsellers with the author's easy and relaxed style of writing. They stand alone but when you have read one you will want to read the other.

They are both available on Amazon in both print and Kindle format.

Words: Richard Wilding



JULY

Thu 9 Newmarket Races Ladies Day
Sat 11 Badminton RHS Flower Show
Sat 11 Skegness
Sun 12 Hunstanton
Mon 13 Bakewell Market
Fri 17 Rutland Belle River Cruise & Stamford
Wed 22 Sandringham RHS Flower Show
Thu 23 Shropshire & Little Switzerland
Sat 25 Southend On Sea
Sun 26 Weymouth
Tue 28 Trentham Estate & Monkey Forest
Wed 29 Battersea Power Station Lift Tour & Shopping
Thu 30 London Zoo
Fri 31 Postal Museum, London
Fri 31 Chester
Fri 31 Chester Zoo

AUGUST

Sat 1 Buckingham Palace & Afternoon Tea
Sat 1 Whitby
Sun 2 Festival of Quilts
Sun 2 Sheringham
Tue 4 Cromer
Wed 5 Haworth & KWVR
Wed 5 Hovercraft Experience to Ryde
Thu 6 Emmerdale Village Tour
Thu 6 Liverpool
Thu 6 Liverpool River Cruise & Afternoon Tea
Thu 6 Liverpool's Open Top Bus
Fri 7 Butterfly Farm & Stratford Upon Avon
Fri 7 Stamford Market Day
Sat 8 Broadstairs
Sat 8 Margate
Sat 8 Skegness Carnival
Sun 9 Norfolk Broads River Trip, Wroxham & Horning
Mon 10 Canterbury
Wed 12 Whitstable
Thu 13 Southwold
Thu 13 Windsor OR Windsor Castle
Fri 14 Rutland Belle River Cruise & Stamford
Sat 15 Eastbourne Airshow
Sat 15 Hunstanton
Sun 16 Great Yarmouth
Tue 18 Cleethorpes
Wed 19 Wye Valley River Trip & Lunch
Thu 20 London Free Time or Museums
Thu 20 Kensington Palace
Fri 21 Cirencester Market Day
Sat 22 Epping & Ongar Railway & Fish & Chips
Sat 22 Weston Super Mare
Sun 23 Bognor Regis Seaside
Sun 23 Mablethorpe
Tue 25 Bournemouth
Wed 26 Black Country Museum
Wed 26 Dudley Zoo
Thu 27 Kew Palace & Gardens
Thu 27 Little Venice & Camden Markets
Fri 28 Clacton Airshow
Sat 29 Alton Towers

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



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

31 AUGUST–4 SEPTEMBER - HARROGATE & THE YORKSHIRE DALES - £699PP

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrogate. Half Board including Excursions. Set in the heart of Yorkshire, the Harrogate District is one of the most spectacular areas of England with attractive towns and villages, historic houses, castles, abbeys, and beautiful countryside. Expect exquisite gardens, beautiful parks, and handsome tree-lined boulevards. With its handsome historic buildings and verdant gardens, Harrogate is one of Yorkshire's most elegant destinations. Enjoy tea at the famous Bettys tearoom or relax with a visit to the luxurious Turkish baths. Holiday includes entrance to Newby Hall and Wensleydale Creamery.

OCTOBER

12–16 OCTOBER - BOURNEMOUTH, HIGHCLIFFE & SWANAGE - £579PP

Durley Dean Hotel, Bournemouth. Half Board including Excursions. Bournemouth is among Britain's best-loved seaside towns. Its mild climate makes it a popular resort both in summer and in winter, and is well supplied with good shops, restaurants and sports and entertainment facilities. It is a town of parks and gardens and many trees. The star attraction is unquestionably its stretch of soft sandy beach. The iconic Bournemouth Pier offers all manner of seaside fun, with retro amusement arcades, colourful souvenir shops and tempting ice-cream stalls.

19–23 OCTOBER - EASTBOURNE & THE BLUEBELL RAILWAY - £599PP

The Lansdowne Hotel, Eastbourne. Half Board including Excursions. Eastbourne - one of Britain's most elegant resorts with that special quality that makes it stand out from the rest. The three-tiered promenade and the magnificent Carpet Gardens are the envy of all the other seaside towns. Sheltered by Beachy Head and the South Downs, its climate is mild and the sunshine record good. There is always plenty to see and do - shops, shows, concerts, museums, dancing, boating, bowls, putting or walking, the list is endless!

NOVEMBER

22–25 NOVEMBER - AN ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS IN DISNEYLAND® PARIS - FROM £985PP (based on 1 adult + 1 child per room, bed and breakfast) please ask for other options

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Your Health – Kane missing a shot is like a back scan!

Your back hurts and everyone is telling you that you need a scan. Or your cousin's hairdresser's dog walker had a scan and it showed they had a disc prolapse.

We seem to have developed an almost magical belief that whatever a scan shows reveals our destiny.

But life isn't that simple. Scans are wonderful things when they're needed. They can identify fractures, infections, tumours and significant disc problems. They help doctors and therapists like me make important decisions every day.

The surprising bit is that most people with back pain don't actually need one.

Research has shown that many people with absolutely no pain at all have bulging discs, arthritis, disc degeneration and other

changes visible on MRI scans. In fact, if we scanned enough healthy people walking around Northamptonshire, we'd find all sorts of alarming sounding things that aren't causing any problems whatsoever.

Sports Injury specialist Jay Sheridan says to think of it like watching a football match. If Harry Kane misses a shot, you can review every camera angle available. Slow motion. Ultra slow motion. Drone footage from space.

But all that technology still won't tell you why he missed.

Was he tired? Distracted? Under pressure? Did he simply mis-time it? The explanation is not always visible.

A scan works in a similar way. It can show us structures. It doesn't always explain pain.

We might see arthritis, bulging discs or other

changes, but that doesn't automatically mean we've found the cause of the symptoms.

There are, however, times when a scan is important. We may recommend one if you have:

- Significant leg weakness
- Changes in bladder or bowel function
- Severe trauma
- Symptoms suggesting a more serious medical condition
- Pain that isn't behaving as we'd expect

For most people, a thorough assessment tells us far more than an image alone.

A good clinician isn't just looking for what's wrong. They're looking for what's relevant. Just as football fans know there's more to a match than a single replay, there's often more to back pain than a single scan.

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

Headway East Northants helps rebuild lives after injury

Every ninety seconds, someone is admitted to a UK hospital with an acquired brain injury. Their lives are changed in an instant. For individuals and families in Northamptonshire, Headway East Northants provides vital support, signposting and hope during what can be a challenging journey.

Based in Irthlingborough, Headway East Northants supports adults with an acquired brain injury – any damage to the brain occurring after birth. This includes traumatic injuries such as accident or assault, and non-traumatic injuries such as strokes, tumours or infections. They provide a welcoming, judgement-free environment at their centre, where clients rebuild confidence, develop skills, and connect with



others who understand their challenges.

Effects of brain injury are often hidden and can lead to cognitive, behavioural, physical and emotional changes. Through their specialist support, activities, social outlets and person-centered approach, Headway East Northants helps survivors regain as much independence and life enrichment as possible.

Support extends to families and carers, recognising that brain injury affects not only the survivor, but everyone around them.

As a local independent charity, fundraising is critical to maintain its services and ensure their support remains available to those who need it most. Check out their London Marathon charity running places if that's a challenge on your bucket list!

Headway East Northants proudly continues to make a positive difference to the lives of Northamptonshire brain injury survivors. To find out more and learn for yourselves how they can help, visit www.headwayeastnorthants.org.uk, call 01933 652311 or give them a 'like and follow' on social media!

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Spotlight on > Summer Days Out

hello
Summer

> NENE VALLEY RAILWAY

Summer is shaping up to be one of the busiest and most varied seasons ever at the Nene Valley Railway, with something for everyone from family adventures and heritage train travel to dining experiences and hands-on driving opportunities.

Families can enjoy regular Thomas Branch Line Weekends on the last weekend of each month, while younger visitors can look forward to Trainmaster on 29th July and Thomas and his Teddy Bears' Big Adventure on 31st July. For those seeking a relaxing day out, our popular Freedom Travel

services allow unlimited travel on heritage trains, with opportunities to explore stations, cafés, shops and attractions across the railway.

Food lovers are well catered for, with our ever-popular Flying Codman afternoon fish & chips services, including a special 60163 Tornado-hauled departure on 10th July, alongside Afternoon Teas, the Summer Strawberry Special and a variety of evening dining trains.

Railway enthusiasts can look forward to an exciting programme of special events. Early July sees the arrival of 60163 Tornado and 55009 Alycidon

for our Best of British programme, followed by the East Coast Main Line Weekend on 11th and 12th July. Later in the summer, Into the Night – Mixed Traction offers the rare opportunity to experience heritage trains after dark.

For those wanting a more hands-on experience, a wide range of driving experiences are available, including HST, Pacer, Class 14 and freight train driving experiences, while our unique Pump Trolley Experience continues to attract visitors from across the country.

Whether you're looking for a family day out, a nostalgic railway journey or a unique experience, there's never been a better time to visit the Nene Valley Railway.

For more information visit www.nvr.org.uk

> GET ACTIVE THIS SUMMER ACROSS NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Looking for fun, affordable ways to keep the kids active and entertained this summer? North Northamptonshire Council and partners' Summer Holiday Activity Programme is packed full of exciting opportunities for young people of all ages!

From splashing around in the pool to trying something new, there's



something for everyone:

- Swimming & Family Floats – Dive into fun and enjoy quality time together
- Intensive Swimming Lessons – Boost confidence and skills in the water
- Surf & Turf Activities – The perfect mix of land and water adventures
- Turn Up & Play Football Sessions – No booking, just come along and play
- Teen Fitness Sessions – Stay active, build strength, and meet new friends
- Mindfulness Sessions – Relax, recharge, and take care of your wellbeing
- Holiday Clubs – Action-packed days filled with fun and new friendships
- Plus, don't miss our FREE events, including:
 - Xplorer Adventures

• Active Families Fundays

Whether you want to try something new, stay active, or simply have fun with friends and family, there's something for all young people this summer across local leisure facilities.

Join in, get active, have fun, and make unforgettable memories!

Find out what's happening near you and get involved: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/holidayactivities

RUSHDEN CLASSIC CAR SHOW 2026

Come along to the Rushden Classic Car Show on Sunday 2nd August at Hall Park, Rushden, and enjoy a fantastic day out for all the family. With more than 400 classic cars and



Nene Valley Railway

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★ WHAT'S ON ★



BEST OF BRITISH WITH 60163 TORNADO

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th July 2026

LNER Class A1 No 60163 Tornado hauls our passenger services



THE FLYING CODMAN WITH 60163 TORNADO

Friday 10th July 2026

Afternoon fish & chip service hauled by 60163 Tornado



BEST OF BRITISH WITH 60163 TORNADO & DELTIC NO 55009 ALCIDON

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th July

LNER Class A1 No. 60163 Tornado and British Rail Class 55 Deltic No. 55009 Alycidon haul our passenger services



EAST COAST MAIN LINE

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th July

British Rail Class 55 Deltic No. 55009 Alycidon, Class 45 No. 45041 Royal Tank Regiment and InterCity 125 High Speed Train (HST) in action, along with brakevan and footplate rides



THOMAS BRANCH LINE WEEKEND

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th July

Travel behind Thomas on his Branch Line to Yarwell and back



TRAINMASTER

Wednesday 29th July

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THOMAS & HIS TEDDY BEAR'S BIG ADVENTURE

Friday 31st July

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NEXT MONTH: Paddington Bear, Murder on the Railway, Into the Night, Kids for a Quid

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motorcycles on display.

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All classic car and motorcycle exhibits must be booked in advance. Vehicles arriving without a prior booking will be directed to public parking. To book your vehicle, visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/rhts.

Public admission is by donation at the gate, with a suggested minimum

contribution of £4 per person or £10 per family. Limited on-site public parking is available for a £10 donation per vehicle, which includes entry to the event.

For further information, please email administrator@rhts.co.uk or call 0300 302 3150.

> PROMISE OF A SUMMER HOLIDAY: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PROMISE IS MADE PRIOR TO DEATH?

The promise of a summer holiday can be an exciting prospect for family members, particularly when a loved one has offered to fund the trip or leave money to make it possible. However, what

happens when that person dies before the promise is fulfilled?

In contentious probate cases disagreements, promises made during a person's lifetime can sometimes become the subject of legal challenges after their death. A grandparent, parent or other relative may have promised to fund a family holiday, contribute towards travel expenses, or leave money in their Will for future travel plans. If those intentions are not properly documented, disagreements may arise between beneficiaries and family members, and you may not receive your promised money.

The key lesson is simple: significant gifts and financial commitments should be clearly recorded. Proper estate planning can reduce uncertainty, minimise arguments and help preserve family relationships after death. Where disputes do arise, our specialist contentious probate solicitors at Wilson Browne can provide expert guidance on the options available to resolve matters effectively and sensitively so you may be able to go on that holiday after all.

Join a national conversation on climate change in Oundle

This July, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art and DOCS+ invite audiences to take part in the People's Emergency Briefing, a powerful film screening and community discussion exploring the realities of climate change and how we can respond together.

Taking place at Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle, on 22nd July, the event centres on a compelling 45-minute film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts to explain the latest evidence on climate change, nature loss and their impacts on everyday life.

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing held at Westminster Central Hall in 2025, attended by more than 1,200 MPs, peers and leaders from business, faith, science and civil society. Featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times, the film includes contributions from naturalist Chris Packham, entrepreneur Deborah Meaden and a range of expert voices from across the UK.

Topics covered include extreme weather, food security, public health and the rising cost of living, helping audiences understand how global environmental changes are already affecting communities across the country.

Following the screening, audiences will be invited to join an open discussion about local responses and opportunities for action. Special guests include climate psychologist Dr Siobhan Currie, Stuart Dainton from The National Forest, and Sarah Parr, Project Manager for Resilience and Innovation Northants, Northamptonshire's flood resilience programme.

Doors open at 6pm, with the screening



beginning at 7pm. In recognition of the importance of the conversation, tickets have been reduced to just £5 to cover running costs.

For more information and tickets visit: www.wegotickets.com/f/19020

OUR CLIMATE, OUR FUTURE

22 July 2026
7pm

Queen Victoria Hall
7 West Street, Oundle
Northants, PE8 4EJ









RUSHDEN HISTORICAL TRANSPORT SOCIETY
Supported by Rushden Town Council



Rushden Classic Car Show

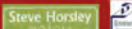
Sunday 2nd August 2026

Hall Park, Rushden

11am - 4pm



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SOLICITORS





MAYOR OF HIGHAM FERRERS ENJOYS A BUSY START TO CIVIC YEAR

Since being elected, the Mayor of Higham Ferrers has enjoyed a busy schedule representing the town at a variety of community and civic events across the area.

On 12th May, the Mayor attended the Rushden Mayor Making Ceremony at Rushden Hall, where

Councillor Janet Pinnock was formally sworn in as Mayor of Rushden.

The following week, the

Mayor and Mayoress attended a reception at the Guildhall, Northampton to welcome the new Mayor, Councillor Mike Hallam, to office.

On 16th May, they attended the Raunds Mayor's Show, which marked Councillor Richard Levell's final engagement as Mayor of Raunds. The event was extremely well attended and provided an opportunity to celebrate his year in office.

A particularly special occasion took place on 21st May, when local newsagent Vijay celebrated his retirement after 41 years of service to the community. Hundreds of residents gathered at the Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club to wish Vijay and his wife, Bina, a happy retirement. The Mayor and Mayoress presented Vijay with a celebration cake and a

certificate in recognition of his many years of dedication to the town.

On 30th May, the Mayor supported the annual Love Your Market event. Market traders generously provided produce for a raffle hamper, with every customer making a purchase on the day automatically entered into the draw. At midday, the Mayor selected the lucky winner.

Later that afternoon, the Mayor and Mayoress attended the Chichele Garden Fair, held in glorious sunshine. Alongside Carol Fitzgerald, Chair of Chichele Management, and event sponsors Wilson Browne, they presented prizes to local schoolchildren who had entered a competition to create drawings and paintings inspired by the town's Blue Plaque heritage.

The Mayor would also like



Northampton Guildhall

to remind residents that the Farmers' Market takes place on the last Saturday of every month, except in December when it is held on the third Saturday.

For more information about upcoming community events, including the Mayor's Party

Band Music Night on 24th July, please visit the Town Council's Facebook page. These events help raise funds for the Mayor's two chosen charities, Higham Gateway Club and Can-Do Care Day Centre, while bringing the community together throughout the year.



Chichele College Awards

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SHARE YOUR VIEWS IN ANNUAL SEND SURVEYS

Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), along with their parents and carers, are being encouraged to share their experiences as part of annual surveys.

Two surveys are available to complete – one open to parents and carers supporting a child or young person aged 0–25 with SEND, and one open to children and young people aged 0–25 years old with SEND.

By completing the surveys, participants will help shape the future of SEND services and support across North Northamptonshire, and help highlight what is working well and where improvements are needed.

The surveys, launched by Northamptonshire Parent Carer Voices (NPCV) in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council, NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board, and Northamptonshire Children's Trust, provide an opportunity for families and young people across the area to share their experiences of education, health and social care services.

Feedback gathered will play a vital role in ensuring services remain inclusive, responsive and focused on the needs of children, young people and their families.

The surveys are open until 5th August 2026, and all responses are anonymous and confidential. Claire Baxter, Director at NPCV, said: "Behind every survey response is a child, a young person, and a family with experiences that matter. Your feedback gives us the evidence we need to

champion your views, challenge where things are not working, and celebrate what is making a difference. By sharing your experiences through our SEND survey, you are helping us work towards a future where every child and young person with SEND receives the support, understanding, and opportunities they deserve."

Survey responses will help to:

- Highlight strengths in current services
- Identify areas where support needs to improve
- Influence future policies, provision and support for families

Last year's surveys established a baseline following the weaknesses identified by Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) during the 2024 Local Area SEND inspection. The findings helped inform the Local Area Partnership's improvement priorities and ongoing SEND Priority Action Plan.

This year's surveys will measure the progress made since then, helping to understand where improvements have been achieved, where challenges remain, and whether the changes introduced are making a positive difference for children, young people and families.

The findings will be independently analysed and developed into a report, which will be shared with families, the Local Area Partnership, the Department for Education, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.

Take part in the surveys via www.npcv.co.uk/send-annual-surveys-2026

ADULT LEARNING SERVICE PRAISED BY OFSTED FOR STRONG PERFORMANCE AND INCLUSIVE SUPPORT

Northamptonshire Adult Learning Service has been recognised for delivering high-quality, inclusive education that strongly supports some of the most vulnerable learners in the community, following a recent Ofsted inspection.

The service provides learning opportunities for adults aged 19+, across both North and West Northamptonshire offering courses that help individuals develop new skills, build confidence, and support lifelong learning. In doing so, it promotes independence and wellbeing within individuals, families, and communities, while also supporting progression into the world of work. In addition, the service offers a Study Programme for learners aged 16 to 19 as an alternative to other further education routes.

The inspection was carried out under Ofsted's renewed inspection methodology where providers are no longer given a single overall grade. Instead, performance is assessed against key evaluation areas and defined standards.

At a whole-provider level, Northamptonshire Adult Learning Service was judged to be operating at the expected standard across inclusion, leadership and governance, with

safeguarding arrangements confirmed as standards met.

At provision level:

- Adult provision was assessed as meeting the expected standard for curriculum, teaching and training, participation and development, while achievement was identified as needing attention.
- Education programmes for young people were judged to be operating at the expected standard across all areas.

These findings highlight consistent strengths across most areas of the service, alongside a clearly identified priority to improve achievement outcomes on adult skills courses, with actions already underway.

The inspection highlights the service's commitment to inclusivity, strong leadership, and effective learner support, alongside positive outcomes for young people and adults engaging in education and training.

Inspectors found that leaders have successfully created an inclusive curriculum tailored to local needs, particularly for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and adults facing barriers such as isolation, low confidence, or health challenges. The report also highlights ambitious and community-focused

leadership, with strong partnerships across local services helping shape responsive and relevant courses.

Leaders and board members were commended for their clear commitment to improvement, including recent curriculum redesign and enhanced data monitoring, which are already contributing to improved learner retention and engagement.

Cllr Greg Wilcox, North

Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Communities, said: "This is very positive news indeed. The service has achieved Expected Standard in all but one area and inspectors recognised we have already taken steps to improve adult skills achievement levels, despite it being too soon to see the results yet.

"We now have a fully comprehensive strategic and operational response in place which is designed to be practical,

monitored and most importantly outcome focused. We will address all inspection findings in a clear, timely, and measurable way and secure rapid improvement where areas require attention."

The team has already implemented a post Ofsted action plan which will provide the evidence and audit trail for the follow-up inspection in around 13 months' time.

New platform for harpist's songcraft

The latest release on author Alan Moore's new music label, Other Shoe Records, is the second album by Northamptonshire raised Quincey May Brown.

Careful, Pockets showcases Brown's witty, perceptive lyrics and harp-based arrangements across nine tracks. Now based in Manchester, Brown's songwriting and live performances have been praised for their sonic richness and finesse.

Pushing beyond simple folk conventions, Brown zones in on unusual details to frame them in playful ways and distils complexities through striking imagery. Careful, Pockets is described as a collection of stories on loss, human nature and childhood scrapes.

Other Shoe Records is supporting artists with a connection to Northampton. The label's debut release was noise-rock band 72%'s album 'I'm Not Happy and That's On You Three'. For more information visit <https://othershoe.org>.



To listen to Careful, Pockets and order the LP visit quinceymaybrown.bandcamp.com

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Nene Valley News - EVENTS

> SATURDAY 4TH JULY, 2-4PM

Entrepreneurs who changed Rushden - Free talks by Andrew Presland and Kat Perry at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden, NN10 0HX. 07943 307873 and www.rushden.life.

> SUNDAY 5TH JULY, 10.15AM

Whitefriars Church Morning Worship - At Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 0HX.

> SUNDAY 5TH JULY, 9.05AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact: Mary 07849 689214. Choice of a 3 or 7-mile walk around Sywell Country Park.

> THURSDAY 9TH JULY, 7.30PM

'God, the Bible and Everything (in 60 Minutes)' - With James Cary, comedian, at St Mary's Church, Rushden NN10 0QU. £5. www.rushden.life.

> SUNDAY 13TH JULY, 2.30PM

Countryside Walk of 3 to 4 miles - From outside All Hallows' Church, High Street, Upper Dean Church PE28 0LL. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden and all are welcome. 07843 307873.

> FRIDAY 24TH JULY, 2PM

Steve Dimmers Magic with Melody Show Raunds Library, High Street Raunds NN9 6HT. Designed to complement the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge which begins on 4th July. Contact 01933 623747.

> THURSDAY 30TH JULY, 6.30PM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park. Contact: Daphne 07709 569415. 4-mile evening walk around Higham Ferrers, followed by post-walk refreshments.

> SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST, 9.00AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact: Cindy

07752 993777. 6-mile walk from Ecton following Northampton Round to Cogenhoe returning via the River Nene.

WHAT'S ON AT:

COWPER & NEWTON

> WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY, 2PM-4PM

Practical Gardening Club - Join the Practical Gardening Club! Session 8. Site visit to Fieldgate.

> SATURDAY 18TH JULY, 10 AM-11.30PM

Mindfulness, Yoga Movement and Meditation - Venue: Summer House Garden. Bookings taken by Nook by Nature. See the link at www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> SATURDAY 18TH JULY, 10.30AM-12NOON

Guided Walk around Olney – South End www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> SUNDAY 19TH JULY, 11AM-12PM

Sound Bath Experience with Fernanda - Venue: Summer House Garden. Bookings taken by Nook by Nature. See the link at www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY, 2PM-4PM

Practical Gardening Club - Join the Practical Gardening Club! Session 9. Preparation for Autumn. www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> FRIDAY 24TH JULY, 7PM-9PM

Piping Up and Harping On! - Tickets £12 online and from the shop. Traditional and historical music on an unusual array of instruments, with stories from oral traditions – storytelling for grown ups! www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> SATURDAY 25TH JULY, 2PM-4PM

Foraging, Garden Wandering and Herbal Remedies (Adults and Kids) - Venue: Museum Summer House Garden Museum. Bookings taken by Nook by Nature. See the link at www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

Turn miles into meaning in the Big Summer Cycle Challenge

This summer Nene Park Trust is launching an exciting six-week fundraising Big Summer Cycle Challenge, encouraging families of all ages to come and enjoy being out in their local green spaces, on wheels, supporting the work of Nene Park Trust.

The challenge gives young people and their families the chance to make a difference to their local park through the donations they collect. Running during the school summer holidays from 18th July to 31st August, there is plenty of time to sign up and complete your chosen cycling distance. Whether you pledge to cycle five miles, twenty or a hundred miles over the summer, it's all about getting outdoors with family and friends, having fun and raising money for Nene Park Trust and the work they do, while you're out pedalling.

Feel free to ride anywhere you choose as part of the challenge; ride your favourite paths around Ferry Meadows or choose your own favourite routes in other parts of Peterborough or the area where you live. Every mile counts towards your fundraising goal.

Any amount raised helps towards looking after the Park, its wildlife, habitats and activities. £20 provides a nest box for owls, tits and

other small birds in the Park; £25 helps fund habitats for hedgehogs by managing scrub and leaving safe overwintering areas; £40 provides pond dipping equipment, helping the Trust to continue to offer free pond dipping sessions to all children during the holidays.

It's easy to sign up for the challenge. Just fill out the form available on the Nene Park Trust website – www.nenepark.org.uk/appeals/the-big-summer-cycle-challenge and the team will be in touch with more details. You can collect cash sponsorship donations or set up a fundraising page online – it's up to you.

Those taking part in the challenge will receive extra benefits too.

Receive a 20% discount on cycle hire at Nene Outdoors for the duration of the challenge.

Collect six different stickers

from the Visitor Centre throughout the challenge.

Receive a certificate at the end of the challenge celebrating your achievement.

If you raise £35 or more in sponsorship you will receive a Nene Park Trust pin badge to wear proudly, showing everyone you've helped make a difference.

Nene Park Trust's Senior Fundraising Officer Lucy Thornton Reid said: "We're really excited to see how many families get involved in this challenge over the summer holidays, pedalling around the Park together on two or three wheels. The donations collected will help us continue to maintain Ferry Meadows and the wider Nene Park for the local community and wildlife to enjoy and benefit from, forever – so thank you to everyone taking part!"



Find out more about the Big Summer Cycle Challenge at www.nenepark.org.uk/appeals/the-big-summer-cycle-challenge. Happy Cycling!

APEING AROUND AT WISTOW MAZE



In celebration of Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, Leicestershire's famous Wistow Maze has been designed in the shape of a Gorilla.

Visitors have to find 12 quiz boards hidden amongst the three miles of pathways, featuring animals from Attenborough's pioneering nature series, as well as interesting facts about the man himself.

A great family day out, visitors can pit their wits against the giant



8-acre maize maze with its high-level bridges and towers and also take part in a variety of mini mazes and games in the Activity Funyard, which includes a space-hopper track, hoopla and a football shooting game.

With the Wistow Rural Centre opposite, consisting of a café, garden centre, model village and numerous shops, there is something for all ages.

At the end of the season, the maze is harvested for cattle



fodder and then redesigned the following spring using GPS satellite technology.

Opens: Mon 20th July-Sun 6th Sept (daily), and the weekend 12th-13th September, 10am-6pm. Free Parking. Admission charges: Child £8.95, Adult £10.95, Family Ticket (2+2) £37. More information on: www.wistow.com or ring 07884 403889.

RUSHDEN & DISTRICT VETERANS GROUP'S ARMED FORCES DAY

Rushden & District Veterans Group organised this year's celebrations of Rushden's Armed Forces.

Unfortunately, the Parade and Drumhead Service was cancelled following the Met Office issue of an Amber Extreme Heat Warning, which was not due to expire until 2100 hrs on Saturday 27th June.

The RDVG rightly felt that many of the would-be parade participants were very young or well into their senior years, therefore vulnerable; and they have a responsibility to ensure both their public safety and that of road marshals, ushers, etc.

That said, on Rushden Armed Forces Day itself, the Rushden Historical Transport Society's Goods Shed was in full swing with many stalls of various kinds: arts and crafts, face painting, jewellery,

Rushden Town Council, Brain Health, not to mention military stalls, such as the RNA, RBL, SSAFA, Help for Heroes, etc.

They were entertained by Rodney Dell, a much experienced and delightful

local singer who entertained stall holders and visitors to the Goods Shed for well over two hours. Rod was very well received, and we're sure service branches will be seeing and hearing him again.

Across the road, Beat

Route Radio was present on the platform, and everybody there had a great time singing, hopefully drinking sensibly and having a great time. Unfortunately, many of the stall holders heard the fun but didn't get a chance to

experience it.

On behalf of the RDVG, RBL Rushden Branch Chair Jake Baker wishes to extend a special thanks to Richard Aspley and his team from Event Safety Group Ltd for providing security on the

day and to Lauren Gilbert, who is Asda's Community Champion, who, despite the cancellation of the parade, donated over 200 bottles of chilled water for all to help themselves to during the very hot day.



A new wonderland emerges: Alice's Adventures opens next month

A fresh and imaginative theatrical experience is set to arrive at The Place Theatre, Bedford next month as Alice's Adventures prepares to open, inviting audiences into a Wonderland that feels both enchantingly familiar and boldly re-envisioned.

Inspired by Lewis Carroll's classic novels yet built upon an entirely original script and a newly composed musical landscape, this production presented by Standing In The Wings offers a distinctive take on a beloved world — not as a traditional musical, but as a richly crafted play with music that blends storytelling, character, and sound in a uniquely compelling way.

Adding to its originality, the production embraces a striking steampunk aesthetic, infusing Wonderland with brass, leather, cogs, and plenty of goggles! The costumes and set design transform the familiar world into something visually daring and atmospheric, giving audiences a Wonderland where whimsy meets machinery and imagination intertwines with invention. This bold design choice deepens the sense of adventure and offers a fresh visual identity that sets the production apart.



What makes Alice's Adventures particularly special is its deep connection to the local community. Every aspect — from the writing and composition to the cast, creative team, and backstage crew — has been shaped by artists from Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. The production stands as a testament to homegrown talent and collaborative creativity, demonstrating how ambitious, high-quality theatre can flourish when powered by local voices.

Family audiences can expect vivid storytelling, inventive staging, and a musical world composed specifically for this premiere — one that enhances the drama without turning the piece into a conventional musical. Designed to captivate families, theatregoers, and admirers of Carroll's whimsical universe, the production promises a journey through Wonderland that feels refreshingly new while honouring the spirit of the original tales. With anticipation building and tickets already selling steadily, early booking is strongly encouraged.

Alice's Adventures performs:
Thursday 16th and Friday 17th July, 7pm
Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July, 3pm and 6pm.
Tickets start at £11 and are available online via www.standinginthewings.co.uk

Your Voice Matters... extension of dog control Public Space Protection Order

North Northamptonshire Council is currently consulting on whether an existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog control should be extended for a further three years.

The current PSPO was introduced in 2023 for the whole of the North Northamptonshire area and covers:

- Dog fouling on land
- Dogs on leads in certain identified areas of public land
- Dogs on leads upon request
- Exclusion of dogs on certain areas of public land

It does not include restricting the number of dogs that can be taken onto land.

Now, the council is seeking to extend the PSPO for a further three-year period.

There are no amendments proposed at this stage.

Cllr Kirk Harrison, the council's Executive Member for Regulatory Services, said: "We appreciate that



most dog owners in North Northamptonshire are responsible. The existing order ensures that everyone can enjoy our open spaces and all dog owners know what rules are in place.

"Now we are looking to the next three years and whether the current Public Space Protection Order should stay in place and would welcome feedback from residents — including dog owners, town and parish councils and anyone with an interest in the

dog control PSPO."

The consultation is now live and will run until 27th July 2026 and can be accessed via the council's consultation hub. Alternatively, you can respond by emailing envprotection@northnorthants.gov.uk or post to North Northamptonshire Council, PSPO for Dog Control extension consultation, Environmental Protection, Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 1BP.

A copy of the current dog control Public Space Protection Order is available on the council website.

SHAPE DANCE FOUNDER RECOGNISED IN KING'S HONOURS WITH BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

May Cardwell, a lifelong dance professional and much-loved figure in Corby, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the King's Birthday Honours in recognition of her exceptional services to dance and the local community in Corby.

May has devoted her life to inspiring a love of dance, both on stage and in the community. Following a successful career on the national and international dance scene, she was approached by the local council to run dance classes on their behalf.

Over half a century ago, May established what would become SHAPE Dance, creating opportunities for local children and young people to learn tap, ballet and modern dance in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Her dedication and vision has enabled thousands of people to develop confidence, creativity and a lifelong passion for dance, as well as offering a strong sense of community and support for young people.

Although she has stepped back from regular teaching, May remains at the heart of SHAPE Dance.

May said: "Being part of the Shape Dance programme for over 50 years has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I have loved every moment of working within the Corby community, sharing the joy of dance and helping to inspire generations of children along the way. One of my proudest achievements is seeing so many young dancers grow into confident, talented teachers themselves — it's incredibly rewarding to watch

them develop into the fantastic professionals they are today.

"I truly couldn't have achieved any of this without the unwavering support of the council, as well as the dedication of dancers, parents and teachers, both past and present. This recognition means so much to me, but I honestly feel it belongs to everyone who has been part of the Shape Dance journey over the years. Together, we've built something very special."

Councillor Brian Benneyworth, Executive Member for Housing, Health and Leisure at North Northamptonshire Council said: "This honour is richly deserved. May's dedication over many decades has had a significant impact on the community in Corby and North Northamptonshire. Through her passion, generosity and commitment, she has opened up opportunities for thousands of children and young people. We are incredibly proud to see her recognised in the King's Honours."

James Saunders Watson, the King's-Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire said: "Many congratulations on this well-deserved and prestigious honour."

Today, SHAPE Dance forms part of North Northamptonshire Council's leisure provision, and May continues to contribute her time and expertise through her ongoing role with the council.

Information about the SHAPE Dance school founded by May Cardwell, can be found on the council's website.

Five Top Tips for helping your baby feed well

Most babies do not arrive with an instruction manual, and feeding can sometimes be more challenging than parents expect. Breastfeeding consultant and osteopath Kate Schuetz-Walton, who runs Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic and works at The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham, regularly helps families navigate those early weeks.

Here are five simple tips from Kate that might help:

1. Watch your baby, not the clock

Babies are individuals. Looking for feeding cues such as rooting, sucking on hands or becoming more alert is often more helpful than focusing on strict feeding schedules.

2. Comfort matters

A comfortable position for both mum and baby can make a remarkable difference. If feeding is painful, it is worth seeking advice rather than hoping



things will improve on their own.

3. Feeding is about more than milk

Babies need food, but they also need comfort, reassurance and connection. Feeding is one of the many ways babies learn that the world is a safe place.

4. Don't assume it is tongue tie

Tongue tie can affect feeding, but it is not the only possible cause. Positioning, muscle tension, birth experiences and

other factors can also play a role. A thorough physical assessment helps identify what is really going on.

5. Ask for help early

Many feeding problems are easier to resolve when support is sought sooner rather than later. A small adjustment can sometimes make a big difference.

With tongue tie problems being diagnosed so readily these days, if you want a full body assessment for your baby, talk to Kate, or one of the five paediatric osteopaths at Ashgrove.

Parson Latham's Oundle Educational Grants

Grants of up to £400 are available to students, of all ages, who are residents of the Parish of Oundle & Polebrook.

Grants are awarded to students towards apprenticeships, degrees, music lessons, extra-curricular subjects, computer software, sports and much more.

Successful applicants need to have spent at least 2 years or more of their education at a state school.

To apply for a grant, download an application form from the website-

www.parsonlathamscharity.org.uk

Return the completed form to the Clerk-

Zara Shacklock

Email- clerk.lathams@outlook.com

Or by post to

Parson Latham's Hospital, 24 North Street, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4AL

All Applications to be received by Friday 11th September 2026.

OVER 200 CELEBRATE DIAMONDS ANNUAL WALKING FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

More than 200 players, officials, and passionate supporters descended upon Islip's Community Sports Ground earlier this month as the AFC Rushden & Diamonds 2026 Annual Walking Football Tournament delivered a spectacular day of non-contact, competitive football.

Designed to showcase the rapidly growing sport across Northamptonshire, the tournament spanned two distinct age categories – the Over 50s and Over 60s. Operating strictly under Walking Football FA rules to guarantee a safe environment, the event highlighted how the sport blends physical fitness, mental well-being, and social interaction with a genuine love for the game.

The tournament format for the Over 50s saw teams battle through intense qualifying groups, with the top two sides from each group fighting their way into the semi-finals. This culminated in a trophy win for the Stratford Strollers, with the Rothwell Pirates finishing as valiant runners-up.

Meanwhile, the Over 60s division saw Stamford take top honours overcoming a formidable Kettering WFC side.

The event was fully supported by the local community, offering free admission for spectators, all-day refreshments, and a popular 'Booze Barrow' raffle. AFC Rushden & Diamonds Chairman Rob Usher and Vice Chairman Alex Raspin joined the event in person to present the trophies and medals to the winning squads. The landmark annual event was also heavily supported by local sponsors

Higham Sports and Social Club and Nene Legal of Rushden.

Reflecting on the overwhelming success of the tournament, AFC Rushden & Diamonds Walking Football Chair Alan Wookey praised the collaborative effort: "I would like to extend a very big 'Thank you' to everyone involved in making our Walking Football Tournament at Islip such a great success," he said. "We were incredibly excited to bring the walking football community together for a fantastic day of sportsmanship and competition. Walking football is not just about staying physically active – it is a vital tool for mental well-being, helping players build new friendships and socialise."

AFC Rushden & Diamonds Walking Football invites new players of all gender and abilities to come out, get active, and learn a new sport.

When: Every Monday, 7.15pm-9pm

Where: The Ferrers School, Queensway, Higham Ferrers, NN10 8LF

Cost: First session is FREE (subsequent sessions are £4.00 per week, plus a £10 annual associate membership fee)

For more details, visit www.diamondswalkingfootball.co.uk or email walkingfootball@afc-diamonds.com

For more information about the AFC Rushden & Diamonds Walking Football go to www.diamondswalkingfootball.co.uk

Choir hero smashes Snowdon hike record and raises £5,500

Hero Gerry McCory from Northampton Male Voice Choir (NMVC) has officially become the fastest disabled person ever to hike Mount Snowdon.

Dad-of-four Gerry, who had a leg amputated below the knee in 2016, set a new record of 2 hours 36 mins to conquer the 3,560ft peak of England's highest mountain - smashing the existing time of 4 hours 8 mins.

His gruelling challenge in sweltering 27° heat has so far raised £5,500 towards NMVC's adopted charity Prostate Cancer UK, and Teddies For Loving Care – which provides cuddly bears to sick children in hospital.

A psychotherapist to some of Britain's top sports stars and athletes, Gerry, 50, was given a standing ovation and cheered to the rafters on his return by fellow members of the 100-strong choir.

Gerry, who has played professional wheelchair rugby for Northampton Saints, said: "I set myself a new challenge every year, but this was the craziest so far.

"I was in excruciating pain, but I'm stubborn and wouldn't let it break me."



Peak fitness: Gerry McCory reaches top of Snowdon

NMVC Chairman Mark York said: "We are blessed having Gerry Mac in our ranks. His grit, determination and leadership inspires every member of this choir."

NMVC Musical Director Stephen Bell said: "What

Gerry has achieved is super-human. There is no limit to what he will take on."

Gerry, a tenor section leader with NMVC, has raised £96,000 for charities in 10 years. His next challenge is to hit £100,000.

Gerry McCory's Just Giving Page can be found at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/gerry-mac

FLAGS RAISED TO SUPPORT ARMED FORCES WEEK

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

Armed Forces Day flags were raised at all four of the council offices, with a small flag



raising ceremony taking place at the Corby Cube attended by representatives from across the council. Guests included Deputy Lieutenant Shah, the Leader of the Council and representatives from across the council.

Armed Forces Week is a chance for individuals and organisations to show support for all those who make up the Armed Forces community, from currently serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets.

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "It is always a privilege to attend a ceremony to commemorate the start of Armed Forces Week and this year was no exception.

"It gives us an opportunity to stop and pay tribute to the exceptional men and women from across the Armed Forces community."

The council is a proud member of the Armed Forces Covenant and was awarded the Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award for the support towards the Armed Forces community.

You can find out more about how the council supports the Armed Forces across the area on the council's dedicated Armed Forces Covenant web pages. Find out more about Armed Forces Day and events near you by visiting armedforcesday.org.uk

Nene Valley news

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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

(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 Shelton Road, Hargrave as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Shelton Road, Hargrave from the junction of road to Mere Farm.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 20th July 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 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 road to Mere Farm, Raunds Road, Church Street, Church Road and B645.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N068
Steve.Fowler@northnonthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/537

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(INKERMAN WAY, OUNDLE)

(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 Inkerman Way, Oundle as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Inkerman Way, Oundle from outside no.5 to no.7.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 22nd July 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 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: n/a.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N067
Steve.Fowler@northnonthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/541

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

(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 Robbs Lane, Lowick as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Robbs Lane, Lowick from number 18 to Drayton Road.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during the checking of boundary boxes for leaks.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 22nd July 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 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 Drayton Road.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N095
Steve.Fowler@northnonthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/542

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(MILL ROAD & MAIN STREET, YARWELL)

(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 Mill Road and Main Street, Yarwell as set out below.

LENGTHS OF ROADS TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: Those lengths of Mill Road and Main Street, Yarwell – full closure from and to Nassington Road.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 27th July 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 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 3 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Nassington Road.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N074
Steve.Fowler@northnonthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/553

Dated this 4th day of July 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

km

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National win for NHFT-led CAMHS Collaborative at first NHS Excellence Awards

A partnership of children and young people's mental health providers – led by Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) – has been named a national winner at the inaugural NHS Excellence Awards.

The East Midlands Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Provider Collaborative saw off competition from six other regional winners to pick up the Improving Health Outcomes category award at a ceremony in Manchester on Wednesday 10th June.

The success shines a spotlight on the Collaborative's outstanding impact and dedication to supporting young people's mental health throughout the region.

The East Midlands CAMHS Collaborative brings together NHS and charity partners to deliver community and inpatient services that support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people across the region. By working collectively in close partnership

with service users and their families, the Collaborative has transformed community-based CAMHS services to ensure more young people can get the care and support they need closer to home – and reducing the need for them to be admitted to hospital for specialist care.

Since its launch in April 2021, the Collaborative's work has delivered the following improvements:

- Inpatient admissions have reduced by 61%, meaning fewer young people need hospital care
- Average length of stay is 80% lower, meaning more young people can return home and continue their daily lives sooner
- Referral-to-admission waits have fallen by 85%, ensuring young people who do need

inpatient care are able to receive this quicker

- Average distance from home to inpatient care is now 12% shorter, meaning more young people stay closer to family and community networks

Dr Sachin Sankar, Clinical Lead for the East Midlands CAMHS Collaborative, said:

"This award is recognition for what is possible when organisations come together with a shared purpose: to deliver the very best care for children and young people with mental health needs. Everybody involved in CAMHS throughout the region has played their part in this success – not least our service users and their families. Together we are committed to build on what we have achieved so far to continue to improve outcomes

and experiences for our young people."

Simon Harris, Director of New Care Models for the East Midlands CAMHS Collaborative said: "This national win is an incredible honour. It reflects the hard work, passion and commitment of every colleague across the Collaborative who strives to improve care for children, young people and their families every day. We are immensely proud of what we have achieved together and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our services to deliver the best possible support for those who need it."

The NHS Excellence Awards are the only awards run by, and for, the NHS. They recognise, celebrate and share innovative work taking place across health and care. The awards shine a



light on local teams, projects and individuals who are driving improvements, with the aim of sharing learning and inspiring others to adopt successful approaches in their own areas.

More than 2,500 entries were submitted for the awards nationwide across 10 categories. Each entry was reviewed by a judging panel with seven regional winners

going forward to the finals ceremony. The East Midlands CAMHS Collaborative was one of 10 overall national winners named on the night.

This latest success for the East Midlands CAMHS Collaborative comes after it was named Provider Collaboration of the Year at the prestigious Health Service Journal Awards in November 2025.

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