

# Nene Valley

## news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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INCLUSION  
HUB OPENS IN  
WELLINGBOROUGH

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Your Voice Matters...

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a consultation which invites suggestions from residents and stakeholders on what the new Local Plan for the area should contain and how future stages of consultations and engagement should look.

North Northamptonshire Council are required to prepare a Local Plan to guide development and growth in the local area – everything from homes and jobs to schools and infrastructure. It must also support conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment and include measures to address climate change.

This consultation is an opportunity for all those with an interest in how North Northamptonshire will develop and look in the future to have their say as the new Local Plan for North Northamptonshire will guide decisions in the period up to 2045.

This initial consultation follows the council's Executive approving the move to the new plan-making process, which was introduced at the end of 2025.

The consultation will run until 1st July 2026 and can be viewed via the council's consultation and engagement hub.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST BECOMES AN ADVANCED FOUNDATION TRUST

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) has been successful in its application process to become one of the first Advanced Foundation Trust's in the country, following a robust assessment by NHS England.

The development of Advanced Foundation Trusts (AFT) is part of a wider vision to reinvigorate the foundation trust model, as set out in the 10 Year Health Plan. Advanced foundation trusts will be the new marker of excellence for providers that drive delivery of the NHS's three shifts: from hospital to community, from analogue to digital, and from sickness to prevention; improve access and health inequalities; and work with partners to improve population health.

For NHFT, the recognition reflects the strength of the partnerships and pathways of care it has built across Northamptonshire and beyond with patients, carers, service users, community and voluntary groups, other NHS providers and local

authorities over many years.

Angela Hillery, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, said: "This is an important milestone for NHFT and a reflection of the commitment of our teams and partners, who work every day to provide safe, quality care and make a difference for the communities we serve.

"Becoming an Advanced Foundation Trust gives us a strong platform to continue innovating, working across organisational boundaries and improving care for local people.

"In Northamptonshire, we are committed to continuing our work with NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board and partners across the system to continue to strengthen the knowledge and skills needed to

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS  
Foundation Trust's Berrywood  
Hospital site in Northampton



support the county's population health and improving outcomes."

There is an ambition for all NHS providers to achieve AFT status by 2035. As a first-wave adopter, NHFT will help shape how this model develops in practice. AFT status is expected to bring greater autonomy and financial freedoms, alongside more opportunity to transform and improve care pathways for local communities.

As an AFT, NHFT will also be eligible to hold an Integrated Health Organisation (IHO) contract, which would give it responsibility for improving the health of a defined population and the associated health budget. NHFT is one of two organisations in the first wave of AFTs undergoing this additional assessment, with a decision likely later in the year. NHFT is also working closely with the ICB to explore this together.

For more information about NHFT visit [www.nhft.nhs.uk](http://www.nhft.nhs.uk)

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# New 'Virtual House' will revolutionise independent living

Imagine being able to explore a 'virtual house' and discover devices and household aids that can help you live more independently.

North Northamptonshire Council is introducing new interactive technology that allows people to browse specialist equipment and practical aids that can support everyday living at home.

The 'Virtual House' is an immersive online tool that offers a 3D virtual tour of a house that's filled with assistive equipment, practical aids, and home adaptations designed to support daily living.

Working in a similar way to Google Street View on Google Maps, users can move through a home, room-by-room, and explore a wide range of equipment suited to different needs.

Examples include safety equipment in the kitchen, mobility aids in the bathroom, or smart sensors and communication devices in different parts of the home.

During the virtual tour, people can click on the various tags and find out more information about each item and how to self-refer to teams within adult social care or other organisations for support.

Cllr Chris Kellett, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Adults and Health Partnerships, said: "We know that many people find it hard to know what equipment is available to help at home, or to imagine how it might fit into their own lives. The Virtual House makes this much simpler. It shows practical, everyday examples of things that can help people stay safe, comfortable and independent at home.

"It gives residents and their families clear information, at a time that suits them, so they can make the choices that are right for them and feel more confident about their wellbeing."

**Find out more about Virtual House on the council's website.**

## GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY  
JAN PEARSON

I have an ancestor – my great grandfather's cousin Jane – whose age was recorded in the censuses thus:

1841 – 9

1851 – 19

1861 – 28

1881 – 39 So far so good. Then things take a strange turn...

1891 – 39

1901 – 39

1911 – 69

1921 – 80

Whilst I can understand an age being a couple of years out, it is most odd that she remained the same age for 20 years! In both 1891 and 1901, she was a servant – a Housemaid – for two different families. It was the Head of the House who would have completed the census return and the chances are that he was more interested in getting the facts correct about his immediate family rather than any servant. I know that I have the right person in these censuses, as her surname was not that common

and she is the only one around who was born anywhere near the town stated. However, it is certainly a lesson in not taking all that you see on the census at face value!

Don't get too hung up about places of birth on censuses either. Some people moved when they were quite young and so may only know of the town in which they grew up and assume that was where they were born. Also, it could be completely incorrect! I have seen instances where ditto marks have been used with enthusiasm by the enumerator, causing the whole family to have been born in the same place as the Head – or even the neighbour at the top of the page! If all other factors are correct, the chances are that you have found the correct family. It is always worth checking the census in the 10 years before and after the one that you are reading, especially if they were known to stay in the area.

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[www.genealogy-specialists.com](http://www.genealogy-specialists.com)

# PRE-SCHOOL CHARITY RECEIVES £1,500 BOOST FROM HOUSEBUILDER

A housebuilder has donated £1,500 to Sun Beams Delapre Pre-School to support its work providing affordable, high-quality childcare for the local community.

David Wilson Homes made the contribution to the charity, which offers full-day childcare and wrap-around provision, including a breakfast club and an after-school club. It supports children aged two to 11 years, ensuring continuity of care for families.

For over 22 years, Sun Beams has remained committed to supporting children's learning, development, and wellbeing, helping every child to reach their full potential.

Nikki Windle, Manager and SENDCO at Sun Beams Delapre Pre-School, said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to David Wilson Homes and the staff involved in selecting us through the Community Fund scheme. This generosity is truly appreciated and will make a meaningful difference to the children and families we support every day.

"It was a very positive and uplifting moment for the whole team when we found out we had been chosen to receive the donation, as it felt like recognition of the hard work and commitment we have shown to supporting children and families within our community.

"This funding helps us to enhance our inclusive provision by ensuring we have appropriate sensory equipment to support children with special educational needs and autism. It will enable them to self-regulate, feel secure, and fully access learning opportunities. Donations allow us to invest in resources and improvements that may not be possible through standard funding, particularly in

an area of deprivation."

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

Ben Kalus, Managing Director at David Wilson Homes South Midlands, said: "We are pleased to support Sun Beams Delapre Pre-School through our Community Fund scheme. The pre-school plays an important role in providing affordable, high-quality childcare for local families and we hope this donation helps them continue their vital work within the community."

The donation of £1,500 will be directed towards two priority areas for Sun Beams Delapre Pre-School. One area is its ever-growing sensory provision, as they support a high number of children with special educational needs and autism. Sensory resources play a vital role in helping these children to regulate, engage, and access learning effectively.

The second priority area was the outdoor garden space, which is beginning to sink in places and requires the replacement of the artificial grass to ensure it remains safe and accessible for all children.

**To find out more about the work of the charity, visit the website at Sun Beams Delapre Pre-School. For more information on developments in the area, visit the website at David Wilson Homes in Northamptonshire.**



# RB Travel

01536 791066

|               |                                              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>JUNE</b>   |                                              |
| Tue 9         | Kings Lynn Market & Norfolk Lavender         |
| 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                                   |
| <b>JULY</b>   |                                              |
| Sat 4         | Llangollen Railway & Classic Car Show        |
| Sat 4         | Llangollen Horse Drawn Boat Trip             |
| 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                                   |
| Thu 30        | Postal Museum, London                        |
| Fri 31        | Chester                                      |
| Fri 31        | Chester Zoo                                  |
| <b>AUGUST</b> |                                              |
| 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                                      |
| Sun 9         | Skegness Carnival                            |
| Mon 10        | Norfolk Broads River Trip, Wroxham & Horning |
| Wed 12        | Canterbury                                   |
| Wed 12        | Whitstable                                   |
| Thu 13        | Southwood                                    |
| Thu 13        | Windsor OR Windsor Castle                    |
| Fri 14        | Rutland Belle River Cruise & Stamford        |
| Sat 15        | Eastbourne Airshow                           |
| Sat 15        | Hunstanton                                   |
| Sun 16        | Great Yarmouth                               |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JULY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>6-10 JULY CONCORDE, LOWRY &amp; RHS GARDEN - £599PP</b><br>Copthorne Hotel, The Quays, Clippers Quay, Salford. Half Board including Excursions. The Quays is Greater Manchester's unique waterfront destination, an emerging and vibrant hub of culture, sport and shopping. MediaCityUK, home to BBC North, ITV, Coronation Street and a host of other innovative businesses, is a leading international destination for the creative and digital sector, based in the heart of the neighbourhood. With vibrant nightlife, fine dining, and even its beach in the summer months. Holiday includes a boat cruise and entrance to RHS Bridgewater and Concorde.                                                        |
| <b>12-16 JULY - HISTORIC KENT &amp; THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND - £699PP</b><br>Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Chatham. Half Board including Excursions. Chatham is one of the Medway towns located within Medway. It was established as a royal dockyard by Queen Elizabeth I in 1568 and most of the dockyard actually lies within Gillingham. It became a shipbuilding yard; from then until the late 19th century and many hundreds of vessels were launched there, including HMS Victory which was built there in the 1760's. Holiday includes entrance to Chatham Dock, Hever Castle, Leeds Castle and Kent & East Sussex Railway.                                                                                              |
| <b>20-24 JULY - DISCOVER DUNDEE - GLAMIS CASTLE &amp; ST ANDREWS - £699PP</b><br>Woodlands Hotel, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. Half Board including Excursions. This beautiful, historic and vibrant region is now well-known thanks to the brilliant V&A (design museum), historic ships and museums. There's also plenty of culture with theatres, arts centres, coffee shops and cool bars, as well as walking routes and striking architecture. Dundee is ridiculously well located with some of Scotland's most amazing and diverse landscapes all within a short distance. Holiday includes entrance in to Glamis Castle and a tour of St Andrews.                                                                      |
| <b>AUGUST/SEPTEMBER</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>31 AUGUST-4 SEPTEMBER - HARROGATE &amp; THE YORKSHIRE DALES - £699PP</b><br>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. |

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# Bilton Court: Exceptional Care with Veteran Framework Friendly (VFF) Accreditation

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**Bilton Court offers peace of mind and a real sense of home, where we treat everyone as the special person they are. Our friendly team are available to answer any questions regarding care. More information is available at [www.anchor.org.uk/BiltonCourt](http://www.anchor.org.uk/BiltonCourt). Follow the home on Facebook at Facebook. Simply contact Bilton Court on 01933 558 520 or call in. Bilton Court care home is located on Queensway, Wellingborough NN8 3FR.**

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MB | Sister of Resident | May 2026

**"My brother is really well looked after"**

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\*carehome.co.uk score correct as at 28.05.26.

9.7

Bilton Court  
carehome.co.uk  
score\*

**anchor**

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# Spotlight on > Homes & Gardens



Samson Outdoor Living

## > TRANSFORM OUTDOOR LIVING ACROSS THE NENE VALLEY

As more homeowners look to make the most of their outdoor space, one local specialist is helping transform gardens into stylish, functional extensions of the home.

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Whether you're entertaining guests, creating a relaxing retreat, or simply looking to add value and visual impact to your property, the team at Samson Awnings combines expert advice with high-quality European products to deliver outstanding results.

What sets them apart is their commitment to helping customers experience these solutions first-hand. Their impressive local showroom allows visitors to explore working displays, compare styles

and finishes, and gain inspiration for their own outdoor space.

Sharing the same premises is their sister company, The Electric Gate Centre, which has recently unveiled its own showroom. Here, homeowners can discover and test a range of automated gate systems that enhance both security and kerb appeal - making it a convenient destination for those looking to upgrade both the front and rear of their property.

Together, these two specialist businesses offer a unique, designed approach to modern living - right on your doorstep.

To explore the possibilities, visit: [www.samsonawnings.co.uk](http://www.samsonawnings.co.uk) / [www.theelectricgatecentre.co.uk](http://www.theelectricgatecentre.co.uk) or step into the showroom and see the difference for yourself. 6-8 Meadow Close, Finedon Road, Wellingborough NN8 4BH.

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Oundle Carpets & Flooring, Unit 4-6, Eastwood Rd, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4DF. Tel: 01832 275009, Email: [sales@oundlecarpets.com](mailto:sales@oundlecarpets.com), or visit the website at [www.oundlecarpets.co.uk](http://www.oundlecarpets.co.uk)

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Regent Street Wrought Iron Works

also discuss any other security arrangements a customer may feel are necessary.

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Furniture Centre



Furniture Centre

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# Happy 50th Raunds Library

*Raunds Library celebrates 50 years in its present building.*

Raunds Library came into being in its present building back in 1976 and was run by the County Council. In 2017 they decided to cut back on libraries and ours was one to close. This brought anger and dismay to residents, and at a public meeting, followed by a public consultation, residents strongly expressed their view that they wanted to keep our library. Four local residents got together and formed Raunds Community Library Trust, a registered charity. Soon a gallant team of local volunteers was formed and has grown over the years.

When the new North Northamptonshire Council came into being they had to work with the situation they had been left with. However, they were keen to give the Trust a chance to find a way forward, so gave a Tenancy at Will as a stopgap measure.

During the Covid years the volunteers continued to operate the library using a Call and Collect system to meet regulations. Deliveries to the housebound also continued.

In 2023 we were lucky to have a local college keen to use the building for their students and to work with the Trust to keep the library running. The college met all the costs and this continued until 2025, but by this time the college were finding the costs too much, so they had to leave.

This left the charity and the library in a very precarious position. It costs about £30,000 a year to run the library even though there are no paid staff and all volunteers and trustees work for free.

However, in November 2025 the Trust took the bold step to take on the lease and all the costs. This was only



possible thanks to the extreme generosity of a local individual who has given funding for three years.

Where we go after that time is a big unknown at present.

Nevertheless, we are full of optimism and would like to invite you to our 50th Birthday event on Saturday 13th June from 12-4pm at the library.

Long may we continue to serve the people of Raunds.



# Plans for Rothwell Library to be run by Rothwell Town Council

**Rothwell Town Council has unanimously voted to enter discussions to take on the lease of Rothwell Library.**

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

The lease for Rothwell Library is currently held by Creating Tomorrow Trust, a multi academy trust specialising in SEND education, with students able to gain work experience through the day-to-day running of the library, alongside a group of library volunteers.

The Trust's priorities have evolved since 2019, and as their lease is drawing to an end, they have been working with Rothwell Community Library volunteers to find a new organisation to take over the lease of the library.

As a result, North Northamptonshire Council is now engaged in very positive discussions with the Rothwell Town Council with a view to the Town Council taking on the lease.

Jo Garner, The Town Clerk said: "Members have unanimously agreed that this represents a significant opportunity for Rothwell Town Council. Relocating to the Library building provides enormous potential to expand the excellent work already underway, particularly in advancing our Health and Wellbeing agenda.

"We are very much looking forward to this opportunity to work with the dedicated group of Library volunteers who

have sustained the service so passionately. By bringing our teams together, we will be able to strengthen what already exists and develop an even broader range of services for the benefit of our residents."

Cllr Greg Wilcox, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive member for Communities, said: "Across North Northamptonshire, libraries play a vital role at the centre of our towns and villages, offering shared spaces for the whole community. I am pleased that a positive way forward has been agreed for Rothwell Library as part of our Community Managed Libraries programme."

The details of the agreement are still to be finalised, but it is envisaged that the Rothwell Town Council will take on the lease from September 2026.

Anyone interested in volunteering would be very welcome and can visit the library for more details of how to get involved.

# Your Health - Why everything hurts more as we get older

**WORDS BY CLAIRE SHORT**

There comes a point in life when getting out of a chair makes a noise. And the noise is from you, not from the chair.

Many people assume that aches and pains are simply the price we pay for getting older. Your knees creak, your back stiffens, your shoulder complains every time you reach for a cupboard. It is tempting to blame age and accept it as inevitable.

The truth is a little more encouraging.

As we age, your body changes. Your muscles become weaker, your joints can develop arthritis and your tendons become less springy. Recovery often takes longer than it did when you were twenty.

However, age itself is not usually the main cause of pain.

Research suggests that many of the things we associate with ageing are actually linked to changes in activity levels, strength and fitness. In simple terms, we move less, become weaker, then wonder why our bodies protest when we ask them to do things.

Some of the most common reasons older bodies become sore include:

- Loss of muscle strength
- Reduced flexibility and balance
- Arthritis and joint wear



- Previous injuries catching up with us
- Spending too much time sitting

The good news is that many of these factors can be improved.

Chartered physiotherapist Pierre Bonnaud reminds us that the body responds remarkably well to exercise at any age. Whether you are 40, 60 or 80, muscles can become stronger, balance can improve and joints often become more comfortable when they are used appropriately.

If everything seems to hurt more than it used to, it might be that your body needs help, movement and attention – more than it did a few decades ago.

My advice is to talk to a physiotherapist or osteopath and find out what changes you can make to your normal activities, so that you get stronger and more mobile again.

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The Ashgrove Clinic, 11 Market Square, Higham Ferrers, NN10 8BT



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



# Nene Valley News - EVENTS

## > SUNDAY 7TH JUNE, 10.15AM

### Whitefriars Church Morning Worship -

Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden, NN10 0HX

## > SATURDAY 13TH JUNE, 12NOON-4PM

### 50th celebration of the opening of Raunds Library -

Raunds Library, High Street, Raunds NN9 6HT. Contact 01933 623747. Stalls, games, raffle, music and more.

## > SATURDAY 13TH JUNE, 10.30AM

### Countryside Walk of 3 to 4 miles from outside the Cock public house.

Denford NN14 4EQ. Organised by Whitefriars Church, Rushden and all are welcome. 07843 307873.

## > SUNDAY 14TH JUNE, 10.15AM

**Whitefriars Church Table Church** - with breakfast and discussion, at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

## WHAT'S ON AT:

### COWPER & NEWTON

## > WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE, 2PM-4PM

### Practical Gardening Club

## > THURSDAY 4TH 18TH JUNE,

### 10.30AM-12NOON

### Refreshments in the Courtyard

## > SATURDAY 13TH AND SUNDAY

### 14TH JUNE, 10.30AM-4PM

### National Garden Scheme Open Gardens Weekend

## > SATURDAY 13TH JUNE, 11.15AM-12.30PM

### Museum Guided Tour at the Home of William Cowper

## > SATURDAY 20TH JUNE, 10.30AM-12NOON

### Guided Walk around Olney – South End

Visit [www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk) for more information on all events.

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

# Oundle Fringe Festival

Friday 26th June to Sunday 5th July 2026.

There's a fantastic line-up at Oundle Fringe Festival this year, with over 50 events ranging from jazz, blues, soul, folk, rock, bluegrass and Americana to classical music. There's also a Regency tea dance, open mic and poetry sessions, a treasure trail and exhibitions featuring original work by local artists. And nearly everything is free!

Highlights include blues and soul from Kansas-born and Leicester-raised Deiah Marie; blues, folk and Americana from Stella Hensley and the Magical Amigos; cool jazz from the Epigone Jazz Ensemble; progressive rock, alt-folk and alternative rock from Stevie Jones and Dean Sheldrick; contemporary folk from CarterDolby and high-energy country, bluegrass, rock'n'roll and indie music from the fantastically talented Dusty Seagulls, winners of the Oundle Fringe 2025 Battle of the Bands who this year get a gig of their own. New for 2026 are a series of classical concerts by local professional musicians plus a performance by



Deiah Marie sings sultry blues and soul at the Chequered Skipper, Ashton



Cambridgeshire band Stella Hensley and the Magical Amigos play the Shuckburgh Arms

Oundle Loves Singing.

Events take place in pubs, cafés and restaurants all over the town and in nearby villages and feature both established performers and those who just starting out. Young performers include Oundle School Lower Sixth pupil Lilly Dixon singing at Dexters on 27th June, Italia Conti 3rd year student Amelia Mae Glendinning from Castor with a family show of Disney hits at Oundle Library on 27th June, and this year's Battle of the Bands for 14-19 year-olds at The Ship Inn on 26th June and 4th July.

You can also strip the willow at a ceilidh with Five String Thing, take part in the Fringe's Big Folk Session, learn the dances of the Jane Austen period with dancers from Rutland Renaissance, take part in the Open Mic session, share your poems at the Pint of Poetry session, or test your music and literary on knowledge with the lighthearted Fringe quiz.

Full programme at [www.oundlefringe.org](http://www.oundlefringe.org)

# TOP MALE CHOIR SWELLS RANKS BEYOND 100 FOLLOWING SELL-OUT £10,000 FUNDRAISER

Northampton Male Voice Choir (NMVC) has made history by swelling its ranks to over 100 choristers – making it one of the largest in the UK.

This milestone achievement follows a massive recruitment drive held to coincide with NMVC's 80th Anniversary Concert on 18th April.

A special guest choir of new recruits called Men United In Song 2026 was set up and specially trained over 13 weeks to perform alongside the main choir.

From that project, 28 men have now joined NMVC, pushing membership over 100 for the first time.

Musical Director Stephen Bell said: "We are incredibly lucky to be able to welcome a fantastic number of hard-working and dedicated choristers to the ranks of NMVC.

"These new choristers have already been part of a brilliant charity choir which has raised £10,000 for Prostate Cancer UK. I am really looking forward to seeing where this new and improved choir can go in 2026 and beyond."

NMVC Chairman Mark York said: "As we usher in this new era, we are proud not only of being one of the biggest male voice choirs in Britain, but also one of the best."



Northampton Male Voice Choir with vocal coach Julie Unwin

# YNBB in Peterborough Cathedral

Yarwell & Nassington Britannia Band will play in Peterborough Cathedral on Saturday 13th June and here they share their plans.

"We are very excited that the Cathedral have invited us to come and play in this glorious building. What a treat to listen to brass band music in such a beautiful setting on a summer's evening.

"The Cathedral is raising funds for their building and we get a chance to play our favourite pieces in the biggest venue in the area. So please come

and support us, it will be a very special night for us and we would love to celebrate it with you.

"If you are planning to come, then please order your tickets now to ensure you get the seats that you want. It will only take a minute. Tickets are already available online starting from £12.50 plus booking fee. Visit [www.ticketsource.com/peterborough-cathedral-events/yarwell-and-nassington-britannia-band/p-lowxd](http://www.ticketsource.com/peterborough-cathedral-events/yarwell-and-nassington-britannia-band/p-lowxd)

"Thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you in the Cathedral."

# 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 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, the Council have got it covered this summer across local leisure facilities. Join in this summer – get active, have fun, and make unforgettable memories!

Find out what's happening near you and get involved: [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/holidayactivities](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/holidayactivities)



## NENE PARK TRUST HONoured WITH A KING'S AWARD

Nene Park Trust is one of only 185 organisations nationally to be recognised with a prestigious King's Award for Enterprise in 2026. The Award acknowledges the company's outstanding achievement in Sustainable Development.

Employing 99 people, Nene Park Trust was founded in 1988 to ensure that the Nene Park estate of land and greenspaces would be managed and protected forever. Part of the Trust's core purpose is to conserve and safeguard wildlife with a mission to provide open spaces that enrich lives, bring communities together, and positively change our world. This award recognises that a local charity can deliver environmental, social and economic impact at a scale and quality that stands alongside national and international organisations.

With sustainability embedded in its strategy and masterplan, The Trust's "double bottom line" approach means that every investment balances commercial returns with social and environmental impact. With bold ambitions, it aims to be net zero by 2030 and net positive by 2040 and has a commitment to double biodiversity-managed land by 2050.

Matthew Bradbury, CEO of Nene Park Trust says: "We are immensely proud to receive The King's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable

Development. To be honoured alongside national and international businesses says something powerful about the role a local charity can play in tackling the issues that matter most: climate, nature, community and wellbeing. It honours the work of our staff, volunteers and partners in looking after our cherished landscape. For our visitors, I hope it offers reassurance that the Park they love is being cared for thoughtfully, with the future in mind. For the Trust, it's tremendous motivation to keep delivering impact that makes a real difference for people, for nature, and for our region."

The King's Awards for Enterprise – previously known as The Queen's Awards for Enterprise – were renamed in 2023 to reflect His Majesty The King's commitment to continuing the legacy of HM Queen Elizabeth II in celebrating exceptional UK businesses. Now in its 60th year, the King's Awards for Enterprise remain the UK's most prestigious business accolades. Successful organisations may use the esteemed King's Awards Emblem for the next five years, signalling excellence to customers, partners, and global markets.

**Applications for the 2027 round has opened. Further information is available at: [www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise](http://www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise)**

## North Northamptonshire council libraries to offer free SIM cards to help residents get online

Libraries across North Northamptonshire are set to support residents facing digital exclusion by offering free SIM cards to those who are unable to access the internet.

SIM cards provided by major network operators Vodafone, Virgin Media O2 and Three, will be available at selected council-run libraries. The scheme aims to support people experiencing digital poverty by helping them stay connected.

A SIM card is a small chip that can be inserted into a smartphone, tablet or some laptops to connect to a mobile network, allowing users to access the internet, make calls and send texts without needing a home broadband connection.

The scheme is part of partnership work with the Good Things Foundation and its National Databank initiative. It is intended to support residents who struggle to stay connected due to financial or access barriers.

The following libraries are currently participating in the scheme:

- Irthlingborough Library
- Kettering Library
- Oundle Library
- Rushden Library
- Wellingborough Library

While Corby Library is not part of the initial rollout, work is underway to introduce the scheme there.

Residents aged 18 or over from low-income households may be eligible if they:

- Have no or limited access to the internet at home
- Have no or limited access to the internet when away from home

- Are unable to afford their existing monthly contract or data top-up

Library staff will be on hand to guide residents through a simple sign-up process and register them on the National Databank platform. No formal evidence is required, making it easy for those in need to access support.

Cllr Gregory Wilcox, Executive Member for Communities at North Northamptonshire Council said: "Being able to get online is not a luxury but essential for everyday life, from accessing services and applying for jobs to staying in touch with friends and family. This scheme ensures that residents who are struggling financially are not left behind digitally."

Depending on the provider, SIMs may include data, calls and texts for a limited period ranging from one month to up to a year, or a one-off data allowance.

Once activated, the SIM cards enable residents to get online and access essential services, including North Northamptonshire Council's digital offer. The library digital offer includes the Library Plus app and Borrowbox, which gives access to e-magazines, e-newspapers, e-books, e-audiobooks and a wide range of online library resources.

The scheme is designed as a temporary stepping stone to help residents regain digital independence.

Residents who feel they could benefit from the SIM scheme are encouraged to visit their local participating library and speak to a member of staff.

## Your new beginning starts here at Roman Court, opening soon in Oundle

Are you over the age of 55? We have new Extra Care properties available for rent and to purchase through shared ownership, from £30,020 for a 10 percent share.

This new Extra Care scheme will have on-site facilities for residents to enjoy, such as:



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Find out more today:



0183 223 8090



[info.romancourt@housing21.org.uk](mailto:info.romancourt@housing21.org.uk)

Roman Court, 2 McVicar Close, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4FU

\*Other monthly charges apply.





# FOUNDATION OPENS BRAND NEW SOCIAL INCLUSION HUB IN WELLINGBOROUGH

*A new social inclusion hub has been officially opened by Northampton Saints Foundation in Wellingborough, providing support to help young people re-engage with education, and rebuild their connection to learning.*

The new hub, located in Glamis Hall, Wellingborough, was officially opened on Wednesday 6th May by Jordan Letts, the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer and Emilie Harbottle, Head of Education and Inclusion.

The official opening was attended by Foundation staff, trustees, partners and Northampton Saints centre Tom Litchfield, who came together to celebrate the launch of the Wellingborough Hub, and the continued growth of Northampton Saints Foundation's impact within the community.

As a charity arm of Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club, the Foundation uses the power of sport and the values of rugby to inspire, support and educate thousands of individuals each year.

The Engage programme supports young people aged 7-16 who are disengaged from education, many of whom have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Young people are provided with up to 15 hours a week with a 1:3 staff-to-learner ratio, providing a personalised and child-centred approach. Through structured sessions and activities, the Foundation helps to develop and encourage confidence, resilience

and re-engagement with learning and education.

Northampton Saints Foundation has already established six Engage Hubs across Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes that support around 300 young people each academic year. Wellingborough was identified, with the support of Northamptonshire Police, as an area of need. By opening the hub in Glamis Hall, they can continue to work to get young people back into educational settings.

Northamptonshire Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner have highlighted growing concerns around youth violence and disengagement across Northamptonshire. In 2024, the Youth Violence Intervention Unit reported that anti-social behaviour made up 36.2% of referrals involving young people needing targeted support, highlighting the increasing demand for early intervention and positive community provision.

At the same time, nationally, school absence rates remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels, with The Centre for Social Justice (March 2026) reporting that 176,000 students missed more than 50% of classes. Today, through its Engage Hubs, the Foundation remains committed to helping lower these figures by

providing young people with a safe, supportive environment to reconnect with education and achieve positive outcomes.

Speaking about the launch of Wellingborough's Engage Hub, Emilie Harbottle said: "We are so excited to announce the opening of our new Engage Hub in Wellingborough. We have worked closely with different professionals to find the perfect location for our seventh hub, and it already feels like home. The hub was established as an area of need to support young people who struggle to be in school full-time. This personal development programme works with young people to build confidence and resilience, all whilst using the values of rugby."

The new Engage hub, which has received funding from Margaret Giffen Charitable Trust and Northamptonshire Community Foundation – Young People's Fund, sets out to continue the impact already shown across Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes, in 2024/2025, with 89% of children who were enrolled into the Engage Programme having made a positive progression into their education pathways. Since January 2026, 22 young people have already been supported by the Foundation's Wellingborough Hub, with one



positive progression back into education having already been made.

The Foundation looks forward to sharing more impact, stories, and

news from the new Engage Hub, as they continue to support and create opportunities for the young people who need it most.

**If you would like to learn more about the Engage programme and make a referral, please contact [engagemanagers@northamptonssaintsfoundation.org](mailto:engagemanagers@northamptonssaintsfoundation.org) or click here.**  
**To see more about the official open event head to, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBWbHrHyL4c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBWbHrHyL4c)**

## Foodie Fridays return to Ferry Meadows

*Foodie Fridays are back at Ferry Meadows from Friday 5th June, bringing a summer full of great food, live music and feel-good Friday evenings all the way through to the end of September.*

Join in each week for a fantastic mix of street food, refreshing drinks from resident craft bar, The Tippy Towed, and live performances from talented local musicians. Whether you're catching up with

friends, treating the family or just looking for a relaxed way to start the weekend, Foodie Fridays have something for everyone.

This year, the event will take place in a new spot outside the

Visitor Centre at Ferry Meadows. With a changing line-up of food traders and performers each week, there's always a fresh flavour to try and new sound to enjoy.

Food will be served from

3pm, with live music from 5pm until 8pm. Regular updates on what's coming up will be shared, so keep an eye on Nene Park Trust's Facebook and Instagram channels for the weekly line-ups.

"We can't wait to welcome you from Friday 5th June. Come hungry, bring your friends and family, and make the most of those long summer evenings at Ferry Meadows."





# Higham's peregrine chicks get names

The four peregrine chicks that hatched in the tower of St Mary's Church, Higham Ferrers, recently reached an important milestone when they were ringed by members of the Rockingham Forest Ringing Group.

The process involved temporarily removing the chicks from the nest so they could be weighed, measured and fitted with small identification rings on their legs. These rings allow conservationists to track the birds throughout their lives and learn more about where they travel, survive and eventually breed. This is particularly important for peregrines as they came very close to disappearing from large parts of the UK during the 1950s and 1960s.

Although the chicks may have looked slightly bewildered by the attention, the procedure was carried out quickly and safely by licensed experts. Once completed, the young falcons were returned to the nest quickly and gently.

Ringing plays an important role in understanding peregrine populations across the UK. Information gathered from ringed birds helps researchers monitor breeding success, movement patterns and long-term conservation trends.



The chicks are growing fast and already have little feathers growing! Over the coming weeks they will continue growing feathers, strengthening their wing muscles and building the skills needed for their first flights from the church tower.

**You can follow their progress live through the peregrine camera stream at [ashgrovehealth.co.uk/falcons](http://ashgrovehealth.co.uk/falcons). You can also see the leg ringing process on Ashgrove's YouTube channel.**

## 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](http://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](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk)

### Family NOTICES

*Nene Valley News can help you make those important family announcements.*

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(WEST STREET, 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 West Street, Oundle as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of West Street, Oundle from The Lane to Westhaven.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 23rd June 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 The Lane, Church Street and High Street.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref: 26/27 – N126 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/441

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(BROOK STREET, STANWICK)

(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 Brook Street, Stanwick as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Brook Street, Stanwick from Brookwell to Church Street.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 30th June 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 1 day.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Raunds Road.  
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref: 26/27 – N127 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/468

Dated this 6th day of June 2026  
KAMILA COULSON-PATEL  
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

To advertise in  
Nene Valley News call  
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## From expectation to reality: Delays in today's property market

*Property transactions are often expected to complete within a matter of weeks, yet exchanges can now take up to 19 weeks. This growing gap between expectation and reality is understandably frustrating for clients.*

Delays typically arise because conveyancing is not controlled by a single party. Instead, it involves multiple stakeholders—including solicitors, lenders, estate agents and management companies—each playing a crucial role. Reliance on third parties for searches, mortgage offers and management packs can slow progress.

Incomplete or unclear documentation may lead to further enquiries, while property chains can cause knock-on delays across linked transactions. Additionally, increasingly stringent regulatory requirements, such as Anti-Money Laundering and source-of-funds checks, add further complexity.

Conveyancing has evolved into a highly regulated, multi-layered process where coordination and compliance are just as important as legal work.

While some delays are unavoidable, early

preparation can make a significant difference. Instructing your solicitor promptly, completing paperwork accurately, and providing clear financial evidence at the outset can help keep matters moving efficiently.



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# Moulton College innovators crowned winners of Delapré Food Festival competition

*A team of students from Moulton College is celebrating after being named winners of the prestigious Delapré Food Festival competition.*

Designed to showcase the creativity and entrepreneurial talent of Northamptonshire's next generation of food professionals, Moulton College students Chloe, Erin and Michael competed with teams from Northampton and Tresham Colleges to create an original food product with commercial

potential, complete with branding, pricing and marketing plans. As a further twist, entries also had to include a connection to Northamptonshire.

The Moulton College team stood out in a highly competitive field with their Northamptonshire Scone, which utilised locally

sourced ingredients. The students were praised by the judges from Delapré Abbey Preservation Trust for their creativity, commercial awareness and technical baking skills.

Now their success has led to an invitation to sell their products at the upcoming Delapré Abbey Food Festival, which takes place 6th-7th June, providing a valuable real world trading experience and public showcase for their work. In addition, the winning product will be stocked at The Orangery Café at Delapré Abbey for the following six months.

The competition forms part of Moulton College's wider commitment to employer-led learning, ensuring students gain practical industry experience and leave education equipped with the skills needed for future careers.

Jennie Porter, Head of Faculty for Business, Hospitality and Professional Training at Moulton College, says: "This is a fantastic achievement for our students and a real testament to their hard work, creativity and professionalism. Opportunities like this are invaluable – they allow students to apply their skills in a real commercial context and build confidence working with industry professionals."

Jennie adds: "The success of the bakery competition also strengthens the partnership



between Moulton College and Delapré Abbey, creating further opportunities for our students to gain experience, develop employability skills and showcase their talents to a wider audience."

**To find out more about professional bakery courses at Moulton College please visit [www.moulton.ac.uk](http://www.moulton.ac.uk)**



## OPEN EVENTS

Higham Ferrers Campus

**Saturday 13 June 2026**

9am - 12noon

- Take a tour of our excellent facilities
- Meet our tutors
- Find out about our transport service

**Interested in Animal Welfare, Business, Equine, Foundation Learning, Land-based, Professional Bakery, Sport or Uniformed Public Services?**

Check out our website for open days at our Moulton campus.

**Moulton**  
COLLEGE

**HIGHAM FERRERS CAMPUS**  
Chelveston Road, Higham Ferrers,  
Northamptonshire NN10 8HN

**MOULTON CAMPUS**  
Gate 3, Pitsford Road, Moulton,  
Northamptonshire, NN3 7SX

Pre-register at [moulton.ac.uk](http://moulton.ac.uk)

APPRENTICESHIPS  
BRICKLAYING  
CARPENTRY  
PLUMBING

