

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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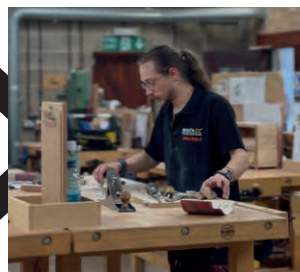
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news story or event at**
www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

New bus service introduced in Wellingborough

North Northamptonshire Council has joined with CommMiniBus to launch a new route serving communities across Wellingborough.

The new W3 route runs Monday to Friday between Wellingborough town centre and the Kingsway area, with buses stopping along Abbey Road, Kingsway, Princess Way and Berrymoor Road. During off-peak hours the route extends to Sainsbury's to help shoppers access the supermarket. The new service has been partially funded by the council.

Chris Wong, spokesperson for CommMiniBus said: "Our team is delighted and ready to welcome residents on board this new service, which provides an additional travel option for residents."

Cllr Chris McGiffen, the council's Executive Member for Highways and Travel, said: "As a council, we are committed to connecting communities – this new route is a welcome addition to our network and is a great way for people to get to work, pick up some shopping, or meet up with family. I would encourage residents to use this new route as an alternative mode of transport."

FORMER EVACUEE RETURNS TO HIGHAM FERRERS AFTER 80 YEARS

Higham Ferrers Town Council was delighted to welcome a very special visitor on Thursday 4th June, when officers had the pleasure of meeting former resident Derick Budd, whose connection to the town dates back to the Second World War.

Derick is no stranger to the headlines. In January 1946, he made national news as the last wartime evacuee to leave Higham Ferrers.

Arriving in the town as a six-year-old in 1940, Derick was evacuated from London and lived on Milton Street with Mr and Mrs C. J. Dixon. During his time in Higham Ferrers, he attended Higham Council School, where he earned a scholarship to Wellingborough Grammar School before eventually returning home after the war.

Derick first reconnected with Higham Ferrers Town Council in 2025. The Council's Assistant Clerk, Emily Arrow, was delighted to correspond with him and

shared photographs from the town's VE Day anniversary celebrations. The display, created by local Yarnbombers, featured colourful bollard covers, toppers, bunting, bench covers and a striking post-box topper showcasing local landmarks. The photographs sparked fond memories for Derick, particularly of the town's VE Day street party held on 8th June 1946.

This was not Derick's first return visit to Higham Ferrers. In the 1990s, he visited the town with his late wife, Maureen, introducing her to Mr and Mrs Dixon and sharing some of the places that featured prominently in his childhood memories.



Following Maureen's passing earlier this year, Derick was accompanied on this visit by one of his daughters and her husband.

During their time in Higham Ferrers, the family revisited Milton Street, where Derick

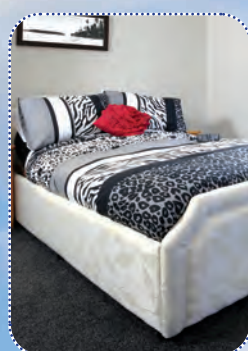


had lived as an evacuee, as well as what is now Higham Ferrers Junior School and the Town Hall. They also planned to enjoy lunch at the Carriage House as part of their visit.

Eighty years after leaving the town, Derick was visibly

delighted to be back in Higham Ferrers. It was a privilege for Town Council officers to meet Derick and his family and hear his cherished memories of the community that played such an important role in his early life.

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Fly-tipping crackdown delivers results in Ecton and across North Northamptonshire

North Northamptonshire Council has successfully combatted fly-tipping at a rural hotspot near Ecton following the installation of a gate and access restrictions.

The bridleway linking Ecton village to Earls Barton, was previously subject to persistent ongoing illegal dumping of waste, has seen a complete end to fly-tipping.

Historically, the remote site had seen frequent disposal of waste including building materials, cannabis-related items and nitrous oxide canisters. Despite enforcement

action, the issue persisted until the introduction of these measures, which have now delivered a lasting solution.

This success forms part of wider progress made by the council in tackling environmental crime across North Northamptonshire.

Between January and March 2026:

- 39 Fixed Penalty Notices issued between £500 and £1,000 for fly-tipping
- One fly-tipping investigation led to 9 persons being identified as responsible for a 6ft deep pile of household

rubbish behind a block of flats in Wellingborough. All 6 received Fixed Penalty Notices and the landlord was instructed to pay for the clear-up and install target hardening measures.

- Covert surveillance, including cameras in void council properties, has been expanded
- Six new sites have been surveyed for the deployment of covert cameras
- All illegally sited clothing banks have been removed from Wellingborough leading to an improvement

in the environment at these sites with further plans to extend the project.

- The team have dealt with 72 reports of abandoned vehicles in this period.
- Cllr Ken Harrington, the council's Executive Member for Waste and Environmental Services, said: "The case in Ecton is a fantastic example of how targeted action and strong partnerships can deliver real results for our communities.

The transformation at the site shows that we will not tolerate fly-tipping and are committed to using every tool available – from enforcement and surveillance to prevention measures like gating – to protect our environment.

"I would like to thank our officers, partners and residents who continue to report incidents and support this vital work. We will continue to take firm action against those responsible while investing in long-term solutions that keep our neighbourhoods clean and safe."



Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Council, said: "We are aware that the majority of residents in North Northamptonshire take pride in our wonderful area – both the countryside and urban areas. But sadly, a minority do not and their irresponsible actions cost the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of pounds each year.

"We remain committed to adopting a zero-tolerance stance and will take action – gathering evidence via tried and tested methods, including surveillance."

Residents are encouraged to continue to report fly-tipping and environmental crime online via the council's website.



GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Beware of mistranscriptions! Did you know... the first census to be transcribed nationally was not the 1841 as you would expect, taking it in date order, but the one from 1881. It was jointly carried out by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Federation of Family History Societies. In order to minimise transcription errors, two volunteers independently transcribed the census, which were then compared by a third person. Any discrepancies would be sorted out by this third volunteer. All this took place before computers were widely available in homes and so many copies appeared on microfiche in Archives and Family History centres. I am lucky in that I have this complete census on microfiche (as well as a microfiche reader).

However, by the year 2000 (after any Millennium bugs were quashed...) work was underway for the 1901 census to appear online. The Public Record Office (now the National Archives) did not have the resources to undertake this and so contracted out to the Enterprise and Supply Services – a division

of HM Prison Service! Work was slow and so it was contracted out further where English was not the first language of those performing the task. Words were written as they appeared to be seen and did not necessarily make sense. Knowledge of places was alien to these people and so, although we may know of the names of villages and towns where we are researching, they did not. I am also still sorting out my Ludbrooks and Sudbrooks – the letters L and S can look similar in some handwriting... Once published online, the census proved to be so popular that the system crashed and was taken out of action for 8 months. Some of the errors were sorted out during this time, but not all.

Don't forget – if you find a transcription error (in whatever transcription), please report it to the provider so that they may correct it for future researchers.

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JUNE

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

JULY

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

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
Sun 9 Skegness Carnival
Mon 10 Norfolk Broads River Trip, Wroxham & Horning
Wed 12 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

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JULY

6-10 JULY CONCORDE, LOWRY & RHS GARDEN - £599PP

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.

12-16 JULY - HISTORIC KENT & THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND - £699PP

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 Docklands, Hever Castle, Leeds Castle and Kent & East Sussex Railway.

20-24 JULY - DISCOVER DUNDEE - GLAMIS CASTLE & ST ANDREWS - £699PP

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 to Glamis Castle and a tour of St Andrews.

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 Betty's tearoom or relax with a visit to the luxurious Turkish baths. Holiday includes entrance to Newby Hall and Wensleydale Creamery.

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HEADTURNING HEMLOCK MORRIS DANCERS HIGHLIGHT OF FAIR AND THE AUDIENCE JOINED IN

The visiting Morris dancers might have worn black, but their mood was far from sombre.

The Hemlock Morris Dancers were the highlight of Higham Ferrers Tourism Committee's recent annual Chichele Garden Fair and they were having so much fun, and the fascinated crowd liked them so much, that the audience even joined in one of the dances when invited.

For most in the audience, it was the first time they had seen Morris dancers sporting a gothic look to their outfits.

Most were expecting them to be wearing the usual crisp white shirts and breeches, not a wardrobe of black, purple and green or rag coats, feathers and even patterned face paint.

As the group's "squire" (leader) Solly Pires explained later, it is unusual for a side who do Cotswold-style Morris dancing to have a gothic look - and it even surprises other Morris dancers who don't know them. (They also dance Border-style from the



With the music playing and the bells on their legs jangling, the Hemlock Morris Dancers go through their paces

Welsh borders, which is more typical of sides who dress the way they do).

The audience were also surprised to see women in the group, although Solly said that this is now very common.

"Many sides who were men-only found that their numbers were dwindling, so dropped the gender restriction and found that their numbers soared as women flocked to join," he said.

Based in Bedford, the Hemlock Morris Dancers started in 2009 to give women the chance to be involved after women in the audience expressed an interest in joining following a performance

by the Bedford Morris Men.

The Hemlock Morris Dancers were paying their first visit to Higham Ferrers, but it won't be their last as they have already been booked for next year's garden fair.

The visiting Revellers Steel Band, which performed last year, were also a big hit and they too have been invited to return next year.

"We receive an entertainment allowance from the Higham Ferrers Town Council which enables us to invite such fascinating groups," said Carol Fitzgerald of Higham Ferrers Tourism.

HIGHAM PUPILS CHOOSE A FAVOURITE BLUE PLAQUE SITE TO LEARN SOME HISTORY

With Higham Ferrers boasting a wealth of Blue Plaque buildings, there was no shortage of "favourites" for Higham Ferrers' school-going artists.

"And in making your choice, much will be learned of the history of our town," Carol Fitzgerald of Higham Ferrers Tourism told pupils from local schools who entered its annual Chichele Art Competition.

The theme of this year's competition was "My Favourite Blue Plaque Building," which was suggested by the sponsor, Nina Wilson of Wilson Browne Solicitors, which is based in the town's Market Square and last year gained its own Blue Plaque as being the birthplace of Battle of Britain fighter pilot, Edward Dixon Crewe.

Blue Plaques are awarded to buildings or sites to commemorate a special



Toby Bailey in Year 6 at Henry Chichele Primary School took first prize in his category with his drawing of the Market Cross, receiving his prizes from Mayor Cllr Chris O'Rourke, Kathy Meredith, left, the mayor's consort, and sponsor Nina Wilson of Wilson Browne Solicitors

person or event associated with the location. Nina Wilson judged the entries with local artist Molly Scarborough.

With the winners from Higham Ferrers Junior School and Henry Chichele Primary School chosen, their work went on display during Higham Ferrers Tourism's recent Chichele Garden Fair at the town's Chichele College.

The town's new mayor,

Councillor Chris O'Rourke – a former member of Higham Ferrers Tourism – along with Nina Wilson, presented the winners with their prizes – a certificate, money and a bag of goodies.

After being exhibited at Chichele College during Higham Ferrers Tourism's 'Secret Gardens' event the artwork is due to go on display at the Wilson Browne offices.

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Legendary Great Western “King” makes first visit to Nene Valley Railway

The Nene Valley Railway is delighted to announce that GWR Class No. 6024 King Edward I will make its first-ever visit to the railway on 10th and 11th October, offering visitors a rare opportunity to see and travel behind one of Britain’s most famous express steam locomotives.

Fresh from an extensive overhaul and recent return to steam, the locomotive will haul passenger trains throughout the weekend as part of the railway’s special Travel with a King event.

Built at Swindon Works in 1930, King Edward I is one of the legendary Great Western Railway “King” Class locomotives, widely regarded as some of the most powerful steam locomotives ever built to operate on Britain’s railways. Designed to haul the heaviest and most prestigious express trains on the Great Western main line, the class quickly became synonymous with speed, power and reliability.

Today, only a handful of King Class locomotives survive, making any opportunity to see one in steam a significant occasion. Following a lengthy restoration and overhaul, 6024 has recently returned to both heritage railway and main line operation.

A spokesperson for the Nene Valley Railway said: “We are incredibly excited to welcome King Edward I to the Nene Valley Railway for the first time. The King Class locomotives represent the pinnacle of Great Western Railway steam locomotive design and have a legendary status amongst railway enthusiasts.

“To welcome a locomotive of this significance, particularly so soon after its return to steam, is a real privilege. Whether you are a dedicated enthusiast



or simply someone who appreciates seeing history come to life, this promises to be a memorable weekend.”

Throughout the event, visitors will be able to travel behind King Edward I on heritage passenger services, enjoying the sight, sound and spectacle of one of Britain’s most iconic steam locomotives at work. The visit will also include a special Cornish Riviera Express Jolly Fisherman evening dining train, offering passengers the opportunity to enjoy traditional fish and chips whilst travelling behind the locomotive.

The locomotive attends courtesy of the Royal Scot Locomotive & General Trust, whose continued support helps bring historic locomotives to new audiences across the country.

Tickets for Travel with a King and the Cornish Riviera Express Jolly Fisherman can be booked via the Nene Valley Railway website:

- Travel with a King: <https://nvr.org.uk/product.php/564/Travel-with-a-King>
- Cornish Riviera Express Jolly Fisherman: <https://nvr.org.uk/product.php/565/The-Cornish-Riviera-Express-Jolly-Fisherman>

NENE VALLEY RAILWAY LAUNCHES RESILIENCE FUND TO SECURE ITS FUTURE

Nene Valley Railway has launched a new Resilience Fund, calling on the public, local businesses, and supporters to help safeguard the future of one of the region’s best-loved heritage attractions.

For nearly 50 years, the railway has preserved Britain’s railway heritage and welcomed tens of thousands of visitors a year. But like heritage railways across the UK, it receives no government funding and depends on a combination of ticket income, donations, and the dedication of over 350 volunteers. That model is under growing strain.

Ticket sales alone do not cover the full cost of running the railway. Behind every journey lies a complex and expensive operation:

- Steam coal now costs around £3.50 per shovel, equating to roughly £335 per round trip, with prices continuing to rise.
- Visiting locomotives can cost thousands of pounds per day to hire.
- Essential overhauls, required every 10 years, can exceed hundreds of thousands of pounds.
- Refurbishing a single passenger carriage can cost £20,000+ before structural work.
- Track renewals can exceed £120,000 per ¼ of a mile.
- These are not optional expenditures. They

are the minimum required to keep the railway operating safely.

The railway’s Back on Track Appeal, launched in the wake of Covid-19, helped stabilise finances, but rebuilding reserves to a secure level remains an ongoing challenge. The Resilience Fund has been created to complete that work and build a stronger foundation for the years ahead.

Michael Purcell, Chairman, said: “Ticket sales help enormously, but they have never been enough on their own. The Resilience Fund is about making sure we are here for the long term, protecting what we have built and ensuring we can continue to offer something genuinely special for our community and visitors.

“If you value what this railway represents, now is a good time to show it.”

Supporters can contribute through a one-off donation, a regular monthly gift, membership, corporate sponsorship, or simply by visiting the railway and encouraging others to do the same. Volunteers with time and skills to offer are also always welcome.

Without continued public support, heritage cannot be preserved. With it, the Nene Valley Railway can continue to inspire, educate, and create lasting memories for generations to come.

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HOUSEBUILDER DONATES £1,500 TO CHARITY SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

David Wilson Homes has donated £1,500 to Oundle Mencap Holidays, a charity that offers a week-long residential summer holiday for children and young people aged eight to 18 with learning disabilities.

Every August, the charity welcomes 40 holiday makers, 50 junior volunteers, 25 senior volunteers, 12 group leaders and 10 members of the specialist support team. The volunteers arrange a vibrant mix of on-site activities including, arts and crafts, music, climbing, and archery as well as exciting trips out to the seaside and local theme parks.

Lily Postlethwaite, Fundraising Co-ordinator at Oundle Mencap Holidays, said: "We were absolutely thrilled to learn that we would be receiving this donation. This very generous £1,500 will make a significant difference to our charity, which is volunteer-run and relies entirely on grants from trusts and small-scale fundraising throughout the year.

"We would like to thank

David Wilson Homes from the bottom of our hearts for choosing Oundle Mencap Holidays for this donation. Our charity brings joy not only to the children we support, but also to their families and the dedicated volunteers who give their time and expertise."

The central aim of the charity is to create a safe, fun, inclusive and engaging environment that offers stimulating learning experiences for every holiday maker. The impact of the week is far-reaching for the holiday makers and their families, who enjoy a valuable respite from direct care.

In addition, its volunteers gain a deeper understanding and a fresh perspective on disability, as well as invaluable life skills, in particular patience and how to properly communicate with others.

David Wilson Homes'

donation was made through its Community Fund scheme via The Barratt Redrow Foundation. It 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 thrilled to be able to support Oundle Mencap Holidays and help provide an invaluable experience for young people.

"As a housebuilder, we remain committed to supporting charities within the communities we build. It has been incredibly rewarding to see this charity's gratitude and the meaningful difference they are making."

The charity, which is located near the developer's River

View at Oundle development, received £1,500, providing significant funding as it costs

around £60k to put on this week-long holiday for 40 holiday makers each year and

the grant received helps to fund children's places on the week.



The young people and volunteers attending Oundle Mencap Holidays' summer residential

To learn more about the charity, visit the website at [Oundle Mencap Holidays](http://OundleMencapHolidays.org). For more information about any developments in the area, visit the website at [David Wilson Homes](http://DavidWilsonHomes.co.uk) in Northamptonshire.



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Nene Valley News - EVENTS

> SUNDAY 21ST JUNE, 9.30AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park. Contact Claire 07505 855116. 6-mile circular walk from Higham Ferrers to Chester House.

> 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 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 1ST JULY, 2PM-4PM

Practical Gardening Club - Join the Practical Gardening Club! Session 7. Lawn care and alternatives. www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> THURSDAY 2ND JULY & THURSDAY 16TH JULY, 10.30AM-12NOON

Refreshments in the Courtyard - Delicious homemade cakes, a choice of tea, coffee, speciality tea or juice and a relaxing stroll around our beautiful 18th-century, tranquil gardens - All for only £6.

> SATURDAY 4TH JULY, 11.15 AM-12.30PM

Museum Guided Tour at the Home of William Cowper - Enjoy a fascinating guided tour set in William Cowper's former home, where he lived from 1768 to 1786. Usual admission applies.

> WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY, 2PM-4PM

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

> SATURDAY 18TH JULY, 10 AM-11.30 PM

Mindfulness, Yoga Movement and Meditation - Venue: Museum Summer House Garden Museum. 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

> SATURDAY 18TH JULY, 2PM-3.30PM

Yoga with Fernanda for all levels - Venue: Museum Summer House Garden Museum. Bookings taken by Nook by Nature.

Meet Paddington™ on the Nene Valley Railway

Families are invited to enjoy a marmalade-filled day out as everyone's favourite bear, Paddington™, visits the Nene Valley Railway on Sunday 23rd August.



Meet Paddington™ at the Railway combines unlimited travel on heritage trains with the opportunity to meet Paddington himself throughout the day, creating a memorable experience for visitors of all ages.

Guests purchasing a Day Pass will enjoy unlimited hop-on, hop-off travel on the railway's heritage services, giving families the freedom to explore the line at their own pace. Whether travelling on the train, discovering the railway's stations, or simply relaxing in the picturesque surroundings, the event offers a flexible day out suitable for the whole family.

Paddington™ will be making personal appearances at intervals throughout the day on the platform at Wansford Station, providing opportunities for photographs and unforgettable memories with one of Britain's most beloved children's characters.

Visitors are welcome to bring their own picnic to enjoy on board the train, in one of the railway's picnic areas, or at any of the stations along the line. For those looking to make the day even easier, picnic bags can be pre-ordered when booking and collected from the Wansford Café.

A spokesperson for the Nene Valley Railway said: "We know that family days out can quickly become expensive, which is why we have made a conscious decision not to increase our Day Pass prices for this event. We want as many families as possible to be able to enjoy meeting Paddington whilst also experiencing everything the railway has to offer."

Visitors can save money by booking their Day Passes in advance through the Nene Valley Railway website, with on-the-day tickets costing more.

Advance booking is recommended to secure the best value tickets and avoid disappointment.

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NEW OUTDOOR ACTIVITY RIG INSTALLED AT QUEENSWAY PARK

A new outdoor calisthenics rig is now in place at Queensway Park in Wellingborough, giving local people a free and accessible way to be active.

North Northamptonshire Council has worked collaboratively with Northamptonshire Sport, The Compound Wellingborough and funding partners Greatwell Homes and the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner to ensure the facility was installed to create positive opportunities in the area and helping to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The new rig was funded thanks to a £10,000 grant from Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone, alongside partnership funding from Greatwell Homes.

Calisthenics focuses on bodyweight exercises such as pull-ups, dips and squats, helping to build strength, balance and mobility. The rig is a purpose-built outdoor structure with bars and stations designed to support these movements, making it easy for people of all ages and abilities to take part. This type of rig is also designed to be accessible for wheelchair users.

Local people played an important role in shaping the development of the calisthenics rig at Queensway Park. Through engagement with groups including Up2U Youth Club, and with pupils and staff from Weavers Academy and Ruskin Academy, partners captured the views of young people and the wider area, ensuring the installation reflects the needs of those who will use it most. Also involved in the facility development were The Compound CIC, a community-focused organisation specialising in calisthenics and street workout training.

Kamlesh Pamar, Lead Coach and Mentor of The Compound in Wellingborough said: "It's been a journey to see this Calisthenics project finally come into fruition. A big thank you to all those who have supported it along the way. The benefits of this project will help the community get stronger, healthier, happier and come together through Calisthenics training."

Councillor Brian Benneyworth, Executive Member for Housing, Health and Leisure at North Northamptonshire Council said: "The installation of the new physical activity rig at Queensway Park is a strong example of the council, partners and the community working together to create a safer, more active neighbourhood. We are pleased to support this project and look forward to it becoming a well-used asset for local residents."

Danielle Stone, the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, said: "I want residents to feel safe and have pride in their communities. In the last few years my office has invested in CCTV and alley gates to prevent anti-social behaviour in Queensway. It was also clear from discussions with local stakeholders that there was a need for more activities to be provided for young people. So I am delighted to help fund this calisthenics rig alongside our partners."

North Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Sport, and Sport England delivered the installation in partnership. North Northamptonshire Council, as landowners, managed the capital works and will take responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the facility.

Meet your new Members of Youth Parliament

The votes have been cast and two amazing candidates have been chosen to represent young people across North Northamptonshire at the highest level.

Ivanna Obi (17) has been re-elected as a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), and Kendra Okelola (15) has been elected for the first time, following a public vote held on Monday 18th May 2026.

Ivanna and Kendra will represent young people across North Northamptonshire and be able to attend Westminster when Youth Parliament is sitting and represent their peers and community at the highest level. They will also sit on North Northamptonshire's Youth Advisory Council.

The election was organised by North Northamptonshire Council, in partnership with the Department of Culture, Media & Sports (DCMS) and the National Youth Agency (NYA).

The candidates – 14 in total, all aged 11 to 18 years old – were given the opportunity to write about what they think are the big issues affecting life in North Northamptonshire, and beyond, and what they hope to achieve if elected.

All manifestos were anonymous and published online – with voting having taken place over one day via the council's website. The elected MYPs will be in position up until 31st March 2027.

Ivanna said: "It feels amazing to be elected. I am so proud to be able to represent my constituency and young people. I want to gauge the issues that

young people face in North Northamptonshire, and from there I want to actively create solutions such as youth centres, clubs, and competitions. I hope to encourage young people to take part in activities that they haven't done before, and giving them a chance to succeed, and for equal opportunities as well. I'm going to bring my enthusiasm, my passion for young people into this role, and continue making active change and empowering young people so they know that they are the core of our society."

Kendra said: "I was very surprised when I found out I had been elected, but I'm really excited to start. My aim is to talk to young people and understand their needs and what they want done to make North Northamptonshire a better place in which to live."

"I think secondary spaces are important to young people. Education is also important and young people being more aware of the society they live in. I'd like to thank all the voters who have put their faith in me; I will try my best to honour my manifesto and not let any of my voters down."

Two Deputy MYPs will soon be elected from the Youth Advisory Council, and announced when confirmed.

To find out more about being a Member of Youth Parliament visit the council's website, or email engagementandparticipation@northnouthants.gov.uk

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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 have made an Order the effect of which is 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 have made an Order the effect of which is 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 20th day of June 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

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MOULTON COLLEGE HOSTS CITB'S SKILLBUILD COMPETITION

Students and apprentices from across the UK visited Northamptonshire-based Moulton College last month to compete in one of the construction industry's most prestigious skills events.

Delivered by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), SkillBuild is the UK's largest and longest-running multi-trade competition, giving construction students and apprentices the opportunity to showcase their skills across a range of specialist trades.

Moulton College hosted 48 students and apprentices as part of the SkillBuild Regional Qualifier, with competitors taking part in Bricklaying, Carpentry, Furniture and Cabinet Making, Joinery, and Stonemasonry challenges. With each of the 17 regional heats now completed, the highest-scoring competitors in each specialist skill will progress to the SkillBuild UK National Final later this year.

Some of Moulton College's own students are now eagerly waiting to hear if they will compete in the final, including bricklaying student Kaydon McLennan, who won his heat; Matthew Denton and Matthew Pisano, who

placed first and second respectively in the Furniture & Cabinet Making event; and stonemasonry student Ben Teale, winner of the York College regional qualifier held in March.

Richard Ball, Head of Faculty - Construction Trades and Heritage Skills at Moulton College, says: "We are really proud of all of the Moulton College students who competed in this year's SkillBuild, and would like to congratulate those who will now go on to the finals later this year. A huge thanks also to our staff who have guided and supported our students to success."

Richard adds of the event: "We were delighted to work with CITB to host one of this year's SkillBuild Regional Qualifiers. It is a valuable competition that tests not only technical ability but also time management and problem-solving skills."

"At Moulton College, we work with our students to develop the skills, confidence and experience they need to thrive in their future careers. Taking part in and hosting competitions like CITB's SkillBuild is an important part of that journey."

SkillBuild plays a pivotal role in highlighting the breadth of career opportunities available within construction and in celebrating the next generation of industry talent. CITB's Construction Workforce Outlook forecasts that more than 47,000 additional construction workers will be needed across the

UK each year by 2029, underlining the scale of opportunity for people considering a career in the sector.

Robert Smith, Product Manager for Careers at CITB, said: "It is always inspiring to see the talent and passion that SkillBuild brings out in competitors."

"The industry needs a steady

and strong flow of talent to deliver critical infrastructure and support the government's ambition to build millions of new homes.

"SkillBuild is a brilliant opportunity for construction trainees to demonstrate their skills, develop new ones, and showcase what the construction industry has to offer."

PHOTOGRAPHY: MOULTON COLLEGE



Moulton College recently hosted a SkillBuild Regional Qualifier



Trades represented include bricklaying. Pictured is Moulton College student Kaydon

Moulton College runs a range of construction courses. For more information, visit www.moulton.ac.uk

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